



RCRA Corrective Action Cleanup + Productive Use

Economic Profile

Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant Chattanooga, Tennessee

BEFORE

TNT production facility

AFTER



Fulfillment Center



Automobile Manufacturing



Metal Stamping & Fabrication



Government Offices



Nature Park

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

The Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant was built to support the World War II effort, producing TNT from 1941 to 1947. Much of the site was vacant until a 2001 RCRA corrective action order prompted cleanup and redevelopment.

TNT manufacturing contaminated soil and groundwater at the site, but collaboration between EPA, the Army, the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, local government and private industry partners resulted in a successful cleanup.

After cleanup was completed in 2010, businesses such as Amazon and Volkswagen quickly invested in the area. Redevelopment has brought more than 8,000 employees to the site and is yielding \$2.9 billion in revenue per year.



EMPLOYEES

8,111



ANNUAL SALES

\$2.9 billion



ANNUAL WAGES

\$551 million

For more information about RCRA and the economic benefits of site reuse, visit www.epa.gov/hw/learn-about-corrective-action





CHATTANOOGA HAS ADDED THOUSANDS OF NEW MIDDLE CLASS MANUFACTURING JOBS AND NEARLY 3,000 ACRES OF WOODED NATURE TRAILS WITHIN MINUTES OF DOWNTOWN, THANKS TO THE CLEANUP AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTEER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT.

Tim Kelly, Mayor of Chattanooga

During redevelopment, the Army transferred 3,000 acres of the site to the city of Chattanooga and Hamilton County for commercial reuse. In just a few years, business investments transformed the area into an economic powerhouse. In 2009, Volkswagen USA constructed a \$1 billion auto assembly plant certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. The plant currently employs 3,800 people. In November 2020, Volkswagen Chattanooga began constructing a \$22 million facility at the site that will be the company's North America electric vehicle battery testing center. Altogether, Volkswagen's investment has resulted in billions of dollars in income growth and tax revenues for the area.

Two more major companies followed in Volkswagen's tracks. In 2010, Gestamp Corporation built a \$90 million stamping plant to produce metal automotive components, which has created 465 jobs. Amazon then created a \$90 million order fulfillment center in 2011, employing nearly 2,200 people. Since then, other major employers have flocked to the site, including large public organizations such as the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Hamilton County Patrol Division.

The Army also set aside half the site as a nature park for recreation, historic preservation and wildlife protection. In 2010, the Enterprise South Nature Park opened miles of walking and biking paths to the public. The nature park emphasizes its World War II heritage through several historical displays. It also shelters two protected flowers: pink lady's slipper and the large-flowered skullcap.



Volkswagen Chattanooga broke ground for its Battery Engineering Lab in November 2020. The lab is the first of its kind that Volkswagen has built in the United States.



Pink lady's slipper is a commercially exploited flower that is protected by the Enterprise South Nature Park. The park provides a range of soil and climate conditions suitable for the flower.