



# Sites in Reuse

## Cascade Park Gasification Plant Superfund Site

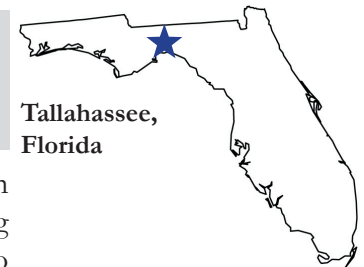
Intersection of Gadsden & Bloxham, Tallahassee, Florida 32301



*Images from left to right: View from the site looking northwest toward downtown Tallahassee; remedial activities at the site began with a ground breaking ceremony on November 15, 2005; and the scenic St. Augustine Branch traverses the site.*

**Site size:** Approximately 7.8 acres

**Planned Site Reuses:** Recreation and open space



Tallahassee,  
Florida

### INTRODUCTION

The remediation of the Cascade Park Gasification Plant Superfund site has become a key component of an ecological and cultural heritage planning effort in Florida's capital city. With ongoing coordination and support for site remediation from EPA Region 4, the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, Blueprint 2000, and a group of local stakeholders have developed a conceptual revitalization plan for the Cascade Park site.

The Cascade Park site occupies a culturally and ecologically significant place in the history of Tallahassee. Located south of the state capitol building, the site is named for a scenic waterfall along St. Augustine Branch. In 1823, the City of Tallahassee's founders discovered the cascade and were inspired to select a nearby site as the location for Florida's capital. Historically, the Cascade Park site was also the location of an important community recreation field and gathering place for Tallahassee's residents.

Today, the City of Tallahassee is planning a new recreational park system, which aims to preserve the city's natural resources and to celebrate the Cascade Park site's cultural heritage. The city and Blueprint 2000, a local, taxpayer-funded Intergovernmental Agency, have developed a community-wide plan, linking recreational trails, community gathering places, public parks, and stormwater management facilities. The city's Capital Cascades Trail Master Plan incorporates the reuse of the Cascade Park site,

illustrating how remediation and community visioning processes can combine to transform abandoned industrial sites into valuable community resources.

### SITE HISTORY

From the early 1900s until the mid-1950s, the City of Tallahassee operated a manufactured gas plant (MGP) on the southeastern edge of the Cascade Park site, near the intersection of Gadsden and Bloxham Streets. The plant converted coal reserves into gas to provide lighting and heating fuel for the city's residents. Certain waste products associated with this process were released at the site, and municipal solid wastes were deposited in a city-owned landfill on the southern portion of the site. Industrial MGP operations ended at the Cascade Park site in the 1950s.

Historically, the northwestern portion of the Cascade Park site was used for recreational purposes. In 1926, the Centennial Field athletic park was constructed to celebrate Tallahassee's 100th anniversary. Throughout the mid-twentieth century, Centennial Field was the home of several little league baseball and football teams, a minor league baseball franchise, and various Florida State University teams. Since the closure of Centennial Field in 1975, the Cascade Park site has remained vacant.

