

Save-A-Lot Grocery

For the first time in over 35 years, families on Rockford's west side have the ability to purchase groceries in their neighborhood when the Save-A-Lot Grocery Store opened in August 2015 at 1701 W. State Street. Not only did the store provide much needed high quality food and produce to a designated food desert, it also marked completion of the successful recycling of an underutilized property.

The Save-A-Lot site is centered on land that was once occupied by two corner filling stations, dating back to the late 1950s. Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments were completed in 2007 using US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Funds prior to acquiring the subject land parcels. The assessment work identified impacts from the past uses, including petroleum VOCs, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons, and lead. The sites were enrolled in the Illinois EPA's voluntary clean-up program. In September 2014, the clean-up objectives were completed and a No Further Remediation Letter was issued by the Illinois EPA.

Construction of the store allowed for the creation of approximately 20 new jobs in an area troubled with high unemployment. Save-A-Lot then worked closely with the United Way of Rock River Valley and Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church to encourage Ellis Heights residents to apply for the newly created jobs at the store.

