



Former Foote Homes, Memphis, Tennessee

Foote Homes was the last Section 8 housing project in Memphis to be demolished to make way for modern mixed-income housing, located just south of downtown Memphis at the intersection of South Lauderdale and St. Paul. In 1940, Foote homes was built and later abandoned, leaving this approximately 30 acre property blighted and in disrepair.

In 2015, a \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant was granted to the City of Memphis through the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This program leverages significant public and private dollars



The boarded-up Foote Homes prior to demolition.

to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. This program also helps communities transform severely distressed public housing into viable mixed-income neighborhoods that include effective schools, public transportation, improved access to jobs, and other public assets.

Funding was leveraged through a variety of agencies that included the Memphis Housing Authority, the City of Memphis, the Tennessee Housing and Development Agency, McCormack Baron Salazar, Chase Bank, RBC Capital Markets, the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis, and Urban Strategies Memphis Hope in a projected \$200 million.

The Division of Remediation’s involvement was primarily involved with ensuring that future residential properties would not be environmentally impacted. Nearby concerns included potential impacts from nearby properties that were former dry cleaning locations. On-site concerns were addressed through the Division’s Brownfields Voluntary Program that included petroleum-impacted soils and in addition to switches, thermostats, and smoke detectors in the old buildings.

Artist’s rendering of the future mixed-income housing development on the former Foote Homes site.

