

What is a **Brownfield**?

A “**brownfield**” is a property that is, or may be perceived to be, contaminated. Brownfields are vacant and underutilized properties previously used for industrial or commercial activities that may have resulted in contamination from petroleum or hazardous substances. Often seen as eyesores, these sites may consequently stall an area’s progress and development. Brownfields can also be seen as **redevelopment opportunities** with the potential to transform community liabilities into assets through revitalization that brings new life to an area.

What are the **program goals**?

- Support local economic development initiatives via brownfield reuse and revitalization projects that stimulate investment and provide new employment opportunities.
- Transform blighted areas into safe, viable spaces that enhance our neighborhoods.
- Analyze and identify solutions for a range of problems posed by brownfield sites, from environmental contamination to potentially dangerous built environments to negative public perception of an area.
- Restore the environment and protect human health.
- Create partnerships that will leverage future development efforts.
- Use public input to identify priority redevelopment areas and sites.



Community Member Fact Sheet

Brownfield Site Reuse & Revitalization Program

PHRCD Coalition

Why is **your input** needed?

A pool of great ideas and visions along with observations of opportunities help local municipalities and potential developers realize community desires, needs and possibilities. Community input serves as the foundation for creating a clear path forward that ultimately leads to restoring abandoned and blighted properties currently detracting from investment. Over the long-term, making these sites attractive to developers will stimulate local investment, create jobs, increase access to local amenities, and improve overall public perceptions for our community.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is managing the program?

The program is managed by a Coalition led by Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development (PHRCD) and supported by Fulton, Knox, McDonough, and Warren Counties, and the Cities of Macomb and Monmouth.

The Coalition will work with property owners, developers and other community stakeholders to identify and prioritize brownfield sites in need of environmental assessments and site cleanup/reuse plans to support redevelopment. Participation is voluntary.

How is the project funded?

The project is funded by \$600,000 of Brownfield Assessment Grants awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2018.

What can grant funds be used for?

Grant funding can be used for conducting environmental site assessments and developing site cleanup/reuse plans that support property sale or redevelopment activities for priority sites.

What sites are eligible for grant funds?

Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis. Eligible sites may include (but are not limited to):

- Former manufacturing & industrial sites (e.g. shuttered mills & factories)
- Vacant or underutilized commercial facilities (e.g. aging strip malls, warehouses, etc.)
- Former gas stations & auto-related businesses
- Former mine sites
- Old rail yards & truck depots
- Salvage yards, landfills & unpermitted dump sites
- Aging buildings with asbestos, lead-based paint or other regulated materials

What sites are not eligible for grant funds?

Sites included on the EPA National Priority "Superfund" List, under a Consent Decree with the state, or targeted for any federal or state enforcement action are not eligible for grant funding.



What are the program requirements and timeline?

Sites will be prioritized for grant funding based on several factors, including community benefit and redevelopment potential.

Prioritized sites must meet certain eligibility requirements to qualify for grant funding. PHRCD will submit an eligibility form to EPA on the property owner's behalf requesting approval to use grant funds. If the property is approved for grant funding, the property owner will work with the Coalition's environmental consultant (Stantec) to coordinate the environmental assessment and/or related activities. The owner will receive a report with findings and recommendations.

The program and funding is committed through September 2021.

How do I obtain additional information?

For more information or to submit a site for grant funding consideration, contact:

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