

Why revitalize brownfield sites?

- Increase property values
- Reuse existing infrastructure
- Encourage public/private partnerships and redevelopment opportunities
- Eliminate blight impacts to neighboring properties
- Support job creation and retention
- Strengthen the community
- Address and help reduce threats to public health and the environment from known or undocumented contamination
- Minimize potential impacts to surface and drinking water sources



TopekaKansas

Want more info? Contact:

Dan Warner, AICP
Planning Division Director
(785) 368-3006
dwarner@topeka.org

City of Topeka



Brownfield Assessment Program



What is a brownfield?

The U.S. EPA defines a brownfield as “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”

Most industrial sites and commercial sites will meet the definition of a brownfield if they are abandoned, vacant, or even just underutilized.



Did you know?

- Approximately 30% of sites assessed by previous U.S. EPA brownfield grant recipients were found to be clean enough that no environmental cleanup was needed prior to redevelopment
- On average, 80% of brownfields sites will not be redeveloped without some type of initial public assistance; i.e., either pro-actively addressing the sites, or fleshing out environmental concerns and potential costs associated with them
- Brownfield redevelopment is one of the most important sustainable land use practices, saving developers and local tax payers' significant infrastructure costs through reuse, versus greenfield (sprawl) development
- SBA & HUD studies suggest that, on average, 1 job will be created for every \$13,000 - \$17,000 in public investment in brownfield redevelopment

Topeka's Brownfield Assessment Program

Who pays for this work?

For eligible priority sites, 100% of the costs can be covered for approved activities.

How can this assistance enhance the value of my property?

Phase I & II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) allow property owners to quantify the amount of contamination on a property (if any). For properties with little to no contamination, this knowledge may increase marketability. For sites with significant contamination, property owners can realize increased value through cleanup, tax incentives, and received liabilities.

Will an ESA require that I take action?

The program is voluntary. In certain cases Phase II results may trigger reporting requirements to agencies. If a Phase II is recommended and you provide approval for the work, Stantec will discuss the pros and cons associated with potential outcomes.

Will I have control over the work done?

Yes, you will have the right to stop participation in the program at various phases of the assessment process.

What's the catch?

There is NO CATCH! ESAs and/or related activities can be conducted using grant funds at no cost to the property owner. Participation is voluntary and no grant match is required!



How can the City assist with other brownfields revitalization projects?

The City can assist with a wide range of environmental assessment, cleanup, and reuse planning activities using funding from U.S. EPA. Other support, including environmental cleanup, demolition, and infrastructure improvements may be available on a project by project basis through other State or Federal funding and assistance programs.

Available Funding

The City was awarded its second \$300,00 U.S. EPA Brownfield Community-wide Assessment Grant. These funds can be used to:

- Develop a Brownfield inventory
- Evaluate eligible sites impacted by petroleum or hazardous substances
- Conduct environmental site assessments (Phase I or II ESAs)
- Conduct site investigations, remedial action, and reuse planning
- Asbestos and lead-based paint surveys

As previously noted, other funding assistance may be available from the State of Kansas, the U.S. EPA, or other agencies to assist with cleanup and development of sites assessed using U.S. EPA funds. Contact us today to see if your property qualifies for brownfield redevelopment funding.