



Brownfields

Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized industrial and commercial properties with actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) manages the Brownfields loan program and offers technical support to communities.



Targeted Brownfield Assessments are conducted by the Illinois EPA Office of Site Evaluation using Brownfield funds at the request of communities throughout Illinois. These investigations are conducted at no charge to the community and include the collection of soil and groundwater samples to determine the property's redevelopment potential.

The Illinois Brownfields Redevelopment Loan Program offers low interest loans to support efforts by local governments and private parties to clean up Brownfields sites that have already been assessed for contamination. These cleanups typically take place under the Illinois EPA voluntary Site Remediation Program (SRP). The loans will pay for limited investigation, remediation, and demolition costs at Brownfields sites. The Illinois EPA administers the loan program, which includes soliciting loan applications and managing funds.

Illinois EPA Brownfields staff regularly assist cities in taking on Brownfields, such as vacant factories and closed gas stations. City leaders who are eager to return Brownfields to productive use soon find it can be a complicated process. Local governments may lack the expertise and resources needed to locate funding, negotiate property transactions, perform environmental investigations and cleanups, and resolve legal concerns.

Illinois EPA Brownfields staff can assist city officials to:

- Explain cleanup options, regulatory program requirements, and environmental liability status;
- Help municipalities secure public and private financial assistance; and
- Guide potential loan recipients through the Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment process.

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