Introduction

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Fort Scott/Bourbon County Riverfront Authority, City of Chanute and City of Ottawa were selected to receive a federal Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant in the amount of $600,000. This unique partnership allows KDHE to administer the grant and hire qualified environmental consultants to conduct environmental site assessments (ESAs) of properties located in Coalition partners' communities. The goal of the grant is to promote improvement and redevelopment of underused or vacated properties, the assessment of which is the first step in the effort to redevelop such properties into viable commercial, civic, and recreational centers. Ultimately the process of redeveloping Brownfields properties can create new jobs and increase local tax bases fostering future economic development opportunities. The Coalition members are seeking community involvement in the process.

What is a Brownfields?

As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a brownfields is "**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."** Often it is the PERCEPTION of contamination that keeps properties from being redeveloped. Once the "stigma" is gone, properties can be returned to productive use.

Former Used Car Lot

Where do Brownfields Exist?

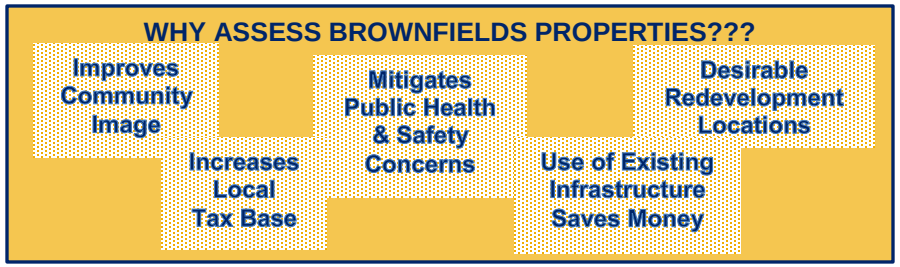
Almost all communities in Kansas are affected by brownfields sites although not always visible. Abandoned and underutilized properties exist in big communities, small towns, suburbs, and in rural areas which may include former gas stations, dry cleaners, industrial and commercial areas, manufacturing facilities, abandoned fuel tanks, residential areas, or greenspaces and parks.

How does this Benefit your Community?

The mission of the Kansas Brownfields Coalition is to empower Coalition communities and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work as partners to redevelop underused or vacated properties. The grant will assist in providing financial support and technical assistance for brownfields activities by promoting partnerships, assessing environmental conditions, strengthening the economic marketplace, sustaining reuse of underutilized properties and protecting public health and the environment.

How does this Brownfields Grant Benefit You?

An ESA is a *free* service. The grant is funded by the U.S. EPA to conduct Phase I and, if necessary, Phase II ESAs on eligible brownfields properties at *no cost* to you. Your property becomes re-developable and more marketable. In addition, these assessments will fulfill the due diligence requirements often required as part of a property transfer or acquisition.



What's included in an Environmental Assessment?

A Phase I ESA is a preliminary examination of a property to determine the potential for contamination. It includes a review of existing and historical land uses and records, a site visit to visually inspect the property, and interviews with current and past owners. Based on these findings a Phase I ESA Report is generated outlining any *recognized environmental conditions (RECs)* associated with the property that may complicate the intended outcome for the property. If RECs are not identified, the property is immediately cleared for reuse/redevelopment. If RECs are identified, a Phase II assessment may be necessary which includes the collection of actual soil and/or groundwater samples for chemical analysis. Grant funds will also be used to facilitate cleanup and redevelopment planning for properties where contamination has been identified above regulatory levels and to assist property owners with determining the appropriate state programs to address contamination issues. However, remediation, waste disposal, and site reconstruction/restoration are *not* included in the grant program.

Before
City Parking Lot

Brownfields Process

After
Movie Theater

Brownfields Grant GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

The goals of this grant are to assist rural-based areas with redevelopment of underutilized and blighted properties and address community environmental problems. In addition, the Coalition aims to achieve the following objectives:

- protect/improve environmental conditions and natural resources,
- improve quality of life by reducing environmental contaminants,
- develop parks, trails, and greenspace,
- develop affordable housing, and
- stimulate commercial and industrial growth.

Who to CONTACT:

Do you have an eligible property? If so, contact one of the Coalition Members or visit our website:
http://kdheks.gov/brownfields/2013coalitiongrant.html

KDHE: Kait Salley, Brownfields Coordinator
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2013 Brownfields Coalition Grant

KDHE City of Chanute City of Ottawa
Fort Scott/Bourbon County Riverfront Authority

Brownfields Environmental Assessment

leads to

Revitalization of Kansas Communities

Fort Scott Bourbon County Riverfront Authority Redevelopment Conceptual Plan