

The Kansas Brownfields Program and Kickapoo Tribe Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement

The Kansas Brownfields Program recently entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IA) with the Kickapoo Tribe. This agreement will allow KDHE, in an advisory capacity, to provide training and technical assistance in the assessment and cleanup of Brownfields properties located on Kickapoo tribal land. The IA became effective on June 19, 2012, with Secretary Moser's signature and will remain in effect for the duration of the Kickapoo's Brownfields Grant.

EPA Competitive Grant Guidelines, August 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program will be releasing guidelines for this upcoming year's grant competition in mid-August 2012. Eligible entities interested in applying for an EPA grant will have sixty days from the release of the grant guidelines to submit a proposal. For more information regarding the EPA grant competition process and for a copy of the grant proposal guidelines, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm/>. You can also contact KDHE Brownfields if you need assistance or guidance regarding the grant application process.

Meet the Staff



Maggie Weiser, State Brownfields Coordinator

Maggie Weiser is the new Brownfields Coordinator for KDHE. Prior to joining the Brownfields Program, Maggie was a project manager in the KDHE State Cooperative Program for nearly five years. Maggie brings extensive knowledge and field-related experience to the position, having worked as an environmental scientist for the Kansas Department of Transportation Environmental Services Section and for GeoCore, Inc. (Salina, Kansas). Maggie received a bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas. She can be reached at (785) 296-5519 or by email at mweiser@kdheks.gov.

Brownfields News

Revitalizing Contaminated Property to Support a Local Urban Garden & “Work to Earn” Program

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The KDHE Brownfields Program and its contractor GSI Engineering, LLC (GSI) along with assistance from the Kansas State University (KSU) Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) program developed a cleanup plan for revitalizing a contaminated property in northeast Kansas City, Kansas, into an urban garden for the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association. The 5th Street and Haskell Ave Urban Garden Brownfields site occupies approximately one acre of previously developed residential property on the northeast corner of the intersection of Haskell Avenue and North 5th Street in Kansas City. The site was a lead-contaminated property with overgrown brush and surface fills, demolition voids, and foundation remnants associated with historical use.

Previous investigations conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2010 and 2011 identified lead contamination in the surface and near surface soils at varying concentrations ranging from less than 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) to approximately 2,000 mg/kg. The purpose and primary objective of the Brownfields Cleanup was to remove the most concentrated areas of lead-impacted soil combined with surface neutralization to bring lead concentrations in soil below the KDHE RSK residential soil Tier 2 Level of 400 mg/kg. Following cleanup, the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association planned to use this property as an urban garden utilizing numerous raised beds.



The site before, during, and after excavation.

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Youths participating in the Work to Earn program planting vegetables in raised garden beds. The Brownfields Program has helped restore this property to productive use, providing work opportunities and fresh food to neighborhood children.

KDHE conducted field activities from June 20 through June 25, 2012. Five areas consisting of approximately 2,700 square feet (ft²) and 132 tons consisting of contaminated soil was hauled off-site for disposal at a permitted landfill. Clean, organic soil was brought in to fill excavated areas. Residual lead impacts in areas within and surrounding the excavation areas were blended with organic topsoil blends to neutralize elevated lead concentrations left in place. This approach was implemented based on consultation with the KSU, TAB Program. Surface blending areas comprised approximately 7,500 ft² throughout the site. Approximately three to four inches of topsoil were blended at the surface in most areas. KDHE conducted confirmation sampling of the excavated and blended areas, and results showed less than 400 mg/kg of lead in soil.

In addition to the above mentioned soil removal and surface blending activities, materials to construct some raised garden beds were delivered to the Site on June 25, 2012. The Oak Grove Neighborhood Association sponsors an area youth gardening “Work to Earn” program. As a result of this Brownfields Cleanup, the children participating in this program were able to construct their own raised garden beds, plant their own crops, and will continue to maintain a portion of the urban garden for their own use throughout the summer. This project demonstrates another approach taken by KDHE’s Brownfields Program to reuse, revitalize and redevelop underutilized property across the state.

Brownfields News

“When we talk about environmental justice, we mean calling a halt to the poisoning and pollution of our poorest communities, from our rural areas to our inner cities. When our children’s lives are no longer cut short by toxic dumps, when their minds are no longer damaged by lead paint poisoning, we will stop wasting energy and intelligence that could build a stronger, more prosperous America.”

President Bill Clinton

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Kansas Brownfields Program Reaches Out to Cities and Counties

This past spring the Kansas Brownfields Program participated in two outreach opportunities.

March 6, 2012, KDHE held a Brownfields regional workshop in Lyons to increase awareness of redevelopment issues and opportunities in the area.

The Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) annual conference was held on March 29, 2012, in Wichita. The Brownfields Program presented a one hour breakout session that focused on the Brownfields Program and its relevance to water districts. Often Cities or water districts may find it necessary to acquire or reuse a property for water/wastewater projects. Through this outreach opportunity, the Brownfields Program was able to network with and reach out to local government employees.

Brownfields 2013 Conference

The National Brownfields Conference will be held in Atlanta May 15-17, 2013, at the Georgia World Congress Center. For registration and trip planning information, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org/>.

Upcoming Outreach Event

The Kansas Brownfields Program will present a one hour breakout session at the 2012 Kansas Environmental Conference to be held in Wichita on August 7-9, 2012. The session will provide a basic overview of the KDHE Brownfields program. Information presented will include the benefits of conducting due diligence environmental assessments prior to commercial/industrial property transactions, how to access the KDHE Brownfields Program to conduct free environmental assessments, and examples of real life Kansas Brownfields success stories.

More information about the Kansas Environmental Conference, including links to online registration, can be found at http://www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment_conf.html.