

What are Brownfields?

It is quite common to hear someone refer to a property as a Brownfields. The term is often misunderstood and has become a “catch all” for any piece of property that is contaminated. By definition, a Brownfields site is **real property of which the expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by contamination or perceived contamination on the property.** Almost all communities in Kansas, whether they are big, small, rural, etc. are affected by Brownfields sites. Many sites are not easily identifiable.

Brownfields Properties in Kansas



Typical: Former service station and auto repair facility.



Not so obvious: Vacant lot, past uses unknown, proposed future use as a community park.

Knowing what constitutes a Brownfields property and the resources and opportunities available for communities to deal with them is important.

Kansas Brownfields Program

The Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) administers a State Brownfields Program that is funded through a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant. KDHE can provide Brownfields Targeted Assessments (BTA) to eligible applicants on projects that benefit community need or job creation. BTAs provide a means to evaluate potential environmental liabilities associated with a particular property that may complicate redevelopment or reuse objectives. The **perception** of contamination often keeps properties from being redeveloped. Once the “stigma” is gone, properties can be returned to productive use.

Brownfields Targeted Assessments

The KDHE Brownfields Program can provide an ASTM 1527-13 Phase I and/or Phase II BTA, a.k.a, Environmental Site Assessments (ESA), at **no cost** to the project or community. A Phase I BTA is a preliminary examination of the property which includes a site visit, review of existing and historical

property uses, title searches, interviews with current and past owners, etc. A Phase I BTA report is generated outlining recognized environmental conditions (RECs) associated with the property. If environmental concerns are identified during the Phase I, a Phase II BTA may be necessary which includes sampling of soil, groundwater, or other media for chemical analysis. BTAs are crucial components in fund leveraging for communities, business, and entrepreneurs and are designed to meet all due diligence requirements. BTAs can evaluate issues such as asbestos, mold, and lead-based paint which could complicate project planning and execution.

A KDHE Brownfields Targeted Assessment Application can be found on our webpage at: <http://www.kdheks.gov/brownfields/index.html>.

Eligible Participants

The Brownfields Program typically works with local municipalities (City, County), not-for-profit and quasi-government entities to assess properties. However, a privately owned property may be eligible for funding if the applicant is one of the above-mentioned entities, or if one of the entities writes a letter of support for the project.

Eligible Projects

The KDHE Brownfields Program targets projects that have community benefits and support in terms of job creation, economic dependence, green initiatives, or some other community need. Some examples include libraries, community buildings, fire stations, main street storefronts, commercial real estate, parks and recreational paths, all of which are key elements to rural community development or small start-up businesses. The program encourages the redevelopment and reuse of potentially environmentally contaminated properties.

Program success stories can be found at:

<http://www.kdheks.gov/brownfields/accomplishments.html>.



Brownfields Technical Assistance to Communities

In addition to performing Brownfields assessments on eligible properties, KDHE's Brownfields Program can provide other assistance such as:

- Technical assistance related to federal competitive grants;
- Determining appropriate environmental programs for specific properties;
- Cleanup options;
- Conducting Brownfields workshops across the state; and,
- Individual assistance for communities to discuss specific Brownfields redevelopment concerns.

Who to Contact

For information about how KDHE can assist you with specific Brownfields project in your community, please contact one of the persons listed below or visit our website: <http://kdheks.gov/brownfields/index.html>.

Seth Mettling, Brownfields Coordinator

Phone: 785-296-5519 Email: seth.mettling@ks.gov

Andrea Schiller, Unit Manager, Bureau of Environmental Remediation

Phone: 785-296-0489 Email: andrea.schiller@ks.gov

For general questions about KDHE and cleanup or redevelopment programs, please contact:

Jorge Jacobs, Bureau of Environmental Remediation

Phone: 785-296-0721 Email: jorge.jacobs@ks.gov

Brownfields News

To sign up for the KDHE Brownfields Programs' electronic listserv, go to:

https://www.accesskansas.org/mailman/listinfo/brownsfields_program.

For other periodic Brownfields Program news, please visit KDHE's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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BROWNFIELDS BASICS

Underutilized



To Redeveloped



**FOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT
IN KANSAS**