



BROWNFIELDS AND YOUR COMMUNITY

The presence of abandoned or underused properties can cause a myriad of problems for local officials. Not only are the sites eyesores, they frequently pose serious health and safety concerns due to dilapidated conditions and the potential for contamination.

The properties also often occupy prime real estate but are avoided due to financial and legal burdens associated with their cleanup. EPA offers financial assistance to cities facing these difficulties with a goal of returning the brownfields back to productive reuses.

The EPA awarded the City of Oskaloosa a \$300,000 Assessment Grant to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup planning on brownfields. These funds provided an opportunity for the City, key stakeholders, and interested citizens to work together towards a common revitalization goal.

Eliminating difficult stigmas attached to the sites help our community become more sustainable by stabilizing declining neighborhoods, avoiding expensive infrastructure extensions required by greenfield development, and proactively protecting the environment. Most importantly, the work can reduce exposure risks for our citizens.

SUCCESS STORIES

Numerous property owners in Oskaloosa benefited from their participation in the EPA Brownfields Program.

This project has already:

- Cleared over 100 acres of land for reuse opportunities after the assessments
- Leveraged over \$1.5 million in private and public redevelopment funding
- Received participation commitments from over 20 private property owners
- Investigated residential, commercial, and industrial properties
- Helped contain potential threats to human health and the environment
- Utilized advanced technology to identify former mining operations
- Advanced several property transfers

PROJECT WEBSITE

Citizens can track project progress on the City's brownfields website. The highly-interactive tool utilizes a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform to visually display data including sites targeted for investigation, sites with completed assessment activities, etc. All environmental investigation reports are also available for review or download. Check back frequently as the City is committed to keeping the website up-to-date with project information.

Visit the website at:

oskaloosaiowa.org/brownfields



Assessment Grant activities helped a property owner investigate the previously-unknown contents of deteriorated drums left on the site upon acquisition.

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