



The EPA defines a brownfield as a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

The City of Houston's Brownfields Redevelopment Program (BRP) reflects the agenda of the EPA's program, is sustained through federal grant funding, and operates in conjunction with other City departments, and is an important resource to revitalizing Houston's underserved and blighted neighborhoods.

Overcoming Challenges

Challenges unique to brownfields redevelopment include environmental liability concerns, financial barriers, cleanup considerations, and reuse planning. Through federal grant funding, the EPA's Brownfields Program removes some of these barriers and serves as an empowerment tool for land and community revitalization.

BRP Mission

- Revitalize core neighborhoods
- Catalyze sustainable economic growth
- Ensure a safe and clean environment
- Improve quality of life for Houston residents,
- Create thriving, livable neighborhoods in this world-class city

BRP Successes

Since 2005, the BRP has redeveloped over 75 sites, including Minute Maid Park, Discovery Green, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, and the Downtown Aquarium, and has generated more than \$5 million in tax revenue.

PROGRAM CAPABILITIES

Through key partnerships and federal funding, the BRP is able to offer developers and community stakeholders the following services to support redevelopment efforts:

- Education and Regulatory Guidance
- Community Engagement
- Technical Assistance
- Project Financing Strategies
- Phase I & II Environmental Site Assessments
- Cleanup Planning



PROGRAM PRIORITIES

BRP prioritizes projects with tangible outcomes that promise to support neighborhood revitalization or restoration efforts, using the following priorities as a guide for allocating resources to developers and communities interested in brownfields redevelopment support:



Protection of Human Health and the Environment.

Projects that reduce and control the potential exposure of toxic chemicals to human and ecological receptors. Additionally, the BRP prioritizes supporting projects that protect human health and the environment by promoting clean energy, improved air quality, and building infrastructure resilient to severe weather, natural disasters, and sea-level rise.



Environmental Justice.

The cleanup of contaminated sites in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by multiple brownfields sites will greatly reduce the adverse human health and environmental impacts in these neighborhoods.



Community Involvement & Partnerships.

Continuous community involvement and stakeholder engagement is essential for a successful BRP and may help to ensure or accelerate land revitalization efforts. Partnerships with private and other public entities are also a proven strategy for leveraging multiple resources to ensure project success.



Urban Smart Growth Principles.

Smart growth strategies are central to brownfields redevelopment and to help communities grow in ways that expand economic opportunity while protecting human health and the environment (U.S. EPA, May 2016). Examples of urban smart growth principles include improved access to affordable housing, increased transportation options, lower transportation costs, expansion of permeable surfaces and green space, and walkable and bike-able neighborhoods.



Results Oriented.

Outcomes from Brownfields funded projects should have measurable accomplishments, such as, number of jobs created, tax revenue generated, open space created, amount of contaminants removed, acres of wetlands restored, etc.

Deidre VanLangen Program Manager
Brownfields Redevelopment Program
City of Houston Department of Public
Works & Engineering
(832) 394-9029

Deidre.VanLangen@houstontx.gov



APPLICATION & CONTACT INFORMATION

We want to hear about your brownfields redevelopment project! Find application forms and more information about eligible projects at <http://www.houstontx.gov/brownfields/>

Or contact the BRP directly to discuss your project and obtain more information about the resources available for support.