

Taking Action

If you are interested in leading or supporting the redevelopment of a brownfield or land reuse site in your community, consider the following questions before you start planning.

- 1. What's having a negative impact on the health, safety, or happiness of people in your community?
- 2. How can redevelopment address these issues?
- 3. What corresponding benefits would you expect as a result of the redevelopment?
- 4. What data can you gather to measure the impact of the redevelopment on the health, safety, or happiness of people in your community?



Together, these questions form the basis of the Action Model, a tool developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that anybody can use to improve their community. For more information, visit our website or see www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/model.html.

How Can ADHS Help?

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) works with federal, state, and local agencies to identify health concerns, mitigate potential exposures, and address communities' questions related to brownfields and land reuse sites in their neighborhoods.

ADHS accomplishes this through a variety of activities, including conducting health education and outreach, performing site visits, and creating risk assessment reports (also called health consultations). For more information, visit our website at www.azdhs.gov/brownfields.



Please contact ADHS' Office of Environmental Health if you are interested in learning more about brownfields and land reuse sites or would like to request assistance from ADHS.



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Brownfields and Land Reuse

Office of Environmental Health
www.azdhs.gov/brownfields



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

“A brownfield is a grain of sand around which the pearl of community develops.”

- Clark Henry, Brownfields Coordinator, City of Portland, Oregon

What are Brownfields and Land Reuse Sites?

Brownfields and land reuse sites are properties that are abandoned, underused, or not considered for redevelopment because of the real or perceived risk of their contamination. Properties that have previously received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program are called brownfields, whereas properties that have not are simply called land reuse sites. No matter what name is used for them, these properties can have a negative impact on the local economy and community health.

Putting Health and Safety First

Brownfield and land reuse sites may contain physical and chemical hazards. Before a site is redeveloped, an environmental assessment is completed. The assessment details the cleanup and/or treatment that should occur, if any, so that the site can safely be redeveloped and used again. A variety of resources and information are available to assist in assessment and cleanup efforts. Visit www.azdhs.gov/brownfields to learn more.

Public Health Involvement

Activities to redevelop brownfield and land reuse sites are typically led by local planning and zoning, community revitalization, and economic development agencies. Public health agencies support redevelopment efforts by assuring the protection of the public's health.

Community Benefits

The specific benefits of redeveloping brownfield and land reuse sites will depend on the individual project. The benefits to communities of previous redevelopment projects have included:

Increased Access to Green Spaces



The development of parks, trail runs, or restored wildlife habitats provides space for community gathering, physical activity, and access to nature.

Economic Growth



Brownfields and land reuse sites that are redeveloped by or for businesses translate to increased investment in the local economy, which may include the creation of new jobs.

Increased Access to Fresh Food

Brownfields and land reuse sites located in so-called food deserts have been redeveloped to become places for community gardens, grocery stores, and farmers markets. This has given communities new access to fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables.



Discouraging Crime

Disused properties are sometimes harbors for crime. Redevelopment allows communities to reclaim these properties and make them productive and positive spaces once again.



Neighborhood Beautification



Cleaning up and transforming disused properties with the stigma of environmental contamination improves the look and feel of neighborhoods. Although intangible, these benefits contribute to the overall quality of life in a community.

