

Stephenson County Brownfields Program

What is a Brownfield?

A Brownfield is 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.

What does Brownfield redevelopment do?

When a community takes the time to clean-up and reinvest in Brownfields properties, local tax bases increase, it facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, and both improves and protects the environment.

For more information on the US EPA's Brownfield Program and its accomplishments, please visit their website at www.epa.gov/brownfields

All above info found at www.epa.gov

Did You Know?

- There are an estimated 450,000 Brownfields locations in the US
- 82 potential Brownfields locations have been identified in Stephenson County
- Freeport, Illinois is home to the following Brownfields redevelopment sites:
 - Tutty's Crossing
 - CMC Heartland Property
 - Rawleigh Complex

The BRAC Has Been Established

Throughout the summer of 2004, a series of community meetings were held to elevate public awareness about the hazards and proliferation of Brownfields in northwestern Illinois. Basic information was provided as well as tools available to communities, developers, and not-for-profit agencies to combat the further decline of these viable properties. County and community leaders recognized the need to take environmentally unsound and underutilized properties and convert them into county assets.

After Stephenson County was awarded the Brownfield Grants for the United States Environmental

Agency (US EPA), a BRAC, a Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee, was established for the purpose of planning the long and short-term strategic goals of our Brownfields redevelopment.

Members of the BRAC include representatives from the municipalities throughout the county, County Board members, redevelopers, economic development entities, and not-for-profit corporations that assist commercial and residential developers. Interested citizens and environmental advocates were also encouraged to join the BRAC.

The BRAC will be responsible for helping to guide

policy and to develop the strategic plans that will influence the direction the county heads in the Brownfields arena over the next ten years. Initially their duties will be to designate and prioritize the areas of contamination that have been identified as Brownfields so that Stephenson County can begin the process of redevelopment.

4.5 Acres of Greenfields are Saved for Every One Acre of Brownfields that is Redeveloped.

Where Does the Brownfield Grant Money Go?

Stephenson County received two (2) \$200,000 grants from the US EPA to locate, clean-up, and revitalize contaminated sites. The budget for these grants was set up to fund the following activities: site in-

ventory and site prioritization, Phase I assessments, health and safety plans, quality assurance project plans, Phase II assessments, site remediation/investigation reports, reuse studies, and to fund com-

munity outreach programs. If you are interested in looking at the grant itself, it is available in the Stephenson County Administrator's office. If you have questions regarding the grant, please call 815-235-8277.