What is a brownfield?

A brownfield is a property where past use may have contaminated soil or water. Brownfields are found in cities, small towns, rural areas, commercial and industrial areas, neighborhoods, and along waterways.

Often, they are former:

- Gas Stations
- Auto Repair Shops
- Dry Cleaners
- Industrial Facilities
- Warehouses
- Vacant Lots

910 acres of land in Portland are potential brownfields.* Of those acres:

- 94 ACRES City Center
- 233 ACRES Superfund Areas
- 253 ACRES Commercial Corridors
- 330 ACRES Industrial Land

Why redevelop brownfields?

Brownfield revitalization improves human and environmental health, protects water quality, increases the tax base, reduces sprawl, spurs economic development, creates jobs, eliminates blight, and helps keep business in Portland.

Why redevelop brownfields?

$1 of public investment in brownfields

$10 returned in state and local tax revenue*

1 acre of brownfield redevelopment in place of greenfield development** leads to:

- 4.5 acres of "saved" greenfields
- 47-62% less stormwater runoff
- 32-57% fewer vehicle miles traveled

Redevelopment of all brownfields in Portland could result in:*

- 31,000 new jobs
- $40 million in additional tax revenues
- 39,000 tons of CO2 emissions reduced annually

About the program

Since 1998, Portland's Brownfield Program has provided environmental investigations on more than 70 properties totaling over 100 acres and contributed to the development of:

- 17 Parks/Green Spaces
- 12 Community Gardens/Urban Farms
- 26 Non-profits
- 31 Small Businesses
- 780 Affordable Housing Units

$3.8 million of EPA funding has been awarded through the program

Funds were granted to:

- 20% Public entities
- 49% Private property owners
- 31% Non-profits

Since funding, redevelopment of those sites is:

- 24% In process
- 11% Pending
- 65% Complete

*Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability; August 8, 2012
** www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview/Brownfields-Beneﬁts-postcard.pdf

The Portland Brownfield Program provides technical and financial assistance to assess and clean up brownfields. We work with private property owners, non-profits, community groups, small business owners, developers and public agencies.

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