GET INVOLVED

1. Stay informed – Subscribe to the quarterly newsletter for property updates, upcoming events, and information about the project. You can subscribe to the newsletter by visiting the website: greenvillesc.gov/brownfields

2. Attend a meeting - We will host several public meetings during the project to answer questions and share updates. A volunteer citizen task force will lead the project and meet quarterly to select sites to be assessed.

3. Attend an event – Join us for a movie night at Sustainable Cinema, or for one of the guest speaker events at Sustainable Conversations. These fun, educational events are designed to address current hot topics in our community.

4. Tell us what you think - Do you have questions about a possible brownfield in your neighborhood? Do you have a suggestion or comment to share about the brownfields project? Your questions and comments will help us make the best use of the opportunities provided by this grant.

The Brownfields grant helps take the risk out of investing in brownfields.

Funds are available for Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments. Additionally, the completed Phase I assessment can open access to the state’s Voluntary Cleanup Program and Loan Fund.

The Voluntary Cleanup Program may be able to help limit your liability for cleanup of contamination discovered on a brownfield property you’d like to purchase and develop. This limitation of liability may in turn help satisfy banks’ and lenders’ requirements and allow disbursement of your development funding to be approved. Additionally, the property may qualify for state or federal tax credits.

Contact us to learn more.

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Jobs, quality of life, and the variety of services available in our community are positively impacted when we identify and address brownfields. Brownfields are properties where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Assessing, cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment and community health, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off undeveloped woodlands and farms outside the city.

Brownfields can be old gas stations, auto shops, dry cleaners, industrial sites – anywhere chemicals, solvents, fertilizers, and fuels may have been used regularly or stored. While most of these sites pose little to no risk to the community, the potential for unknown cleanup costs can deter would-be developers from turning these sites into something new to benefit the community.

Since 2000, the City of Greenville has received approximately $1.4 million from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) brownfield grants. These grants have helped ensure a healthy environment, and have been leveraged into more than $60 million in economic development and more than 176 jobs in the city. In 2014, the City was awarded a $400,000 grant to continue to conduct environmental assessments and outreach for the next three years. The focus of this grant will be the West Side, an area disproportionately impacted by brownfields and the focus of the recently completed Connections for Sustainability grant planning program.

With an EPA brownfields investment of $58,400, the QuickTrip on Rutherford Street yielded an additional $4 million in capital improvements and 20 full-time jobs.

The resources below may be available to help assess, cleanup, and redevelop brownfields within the city. Contact us at 864-467-4428 for more information.

**Assessment Funds:** assistance with Phase I and II assessments. Priority parcels are those located in the West Side, or that are likely to be redeveloped within a year.

**Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund:** for non-profit borrowers, 25% of a loan up to $100,000 may be forgiven. For-profit borrowers may be eligible for loans at below market interest rates.

**EPA Cleanup Grants:** competitive grants for up to $200,000 for cleanup.

**SC Abandoned Building Tax Credit:** for commercial properties; tax credit equal to 25% of the cost of rehabilitating property against either (1) state income taxes and corporate license fees, or (2) property taxes.

**SC Brownfields Tax Credit:** up to $50,000/year, with a 10% bonus in the final year of cleanup.

**Voluntary Cleanup Program:** may be able to help limit your liability for cleanup of a brownfield property.

Additionally, the following federal tax credits may be used to help fund brownfield redevelopment: New Market Tax Credit, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.