

The EPA Brownfields Programs Produces Widespread Environmental and Economic Benefits



EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely cleanup, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Revitalizing brownfield sites creates benefits at the site and throughout the community.

For example, through fiscal year 2012, on average, **\$17.79 are leveraged** for each EPA Brownfields dollar expended; on average, **7.30 jobs are leveraged per \$100,000** of EPA Brownfields funding expended on Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund cooperative agreements.

Brownfields Program Accomplishments as of June 2013 Including State and Tribal Program:

- Properties Assessed: 20,449
- Cleanups Completed: 872
- Acres Made Ready for Reuse: 39,906
- Dollars leveraged: \$20.1B
- Jobs Leveraged: 90,017

Since FY 2006, Accomplishment Report by [State and Tribal Response Program](#) Using CERCLA Section 128(a) Funding:

- Enrolled over 42,000 properties
- Completed more than 68,800 cleanups
- Made over 644,000 acres ready for reuse



Flat Branch Park, Columbia, Missouri

Five pilot studies conducted by the Brownfields Program on **Environmental (Air and Water) Benefits from Brownfield Redevelopments**, indicate brownfield sites tend to have greater location efficiency than alternative development scenarios resulting in a **32 to 57 percent reduction in vehicle miles traveled**, thus reducing pollution emissions including green house gasses. These same site comparisons show an estimated **47 to 62 percent reduction of stormwater runoff**.

Additional study funded by the Brownfields program to assess the impact of Brownfields grants on residential property values, concluded **residential property values increased between 2 and 3 percent** once a nearby brownfield was assessed or cleaned up. The study further concluded that cleaning up a brownfield can increase overall property values within a one mile radius by \$0.5 to \$1.5 million. Also, Initial anecdotal surveys indicate a reduction in crime in recently revitalized brownfield areas.

Opportunity to expand assessment program and achieve leverage funds and jobs has increased. Policy clarification provides the use of site assessments dollars for environmental site assessments in conjunction with efforts to **promote area-wide planning** among areas and corridors of brownfield sites. The use of funds for these purposes is particularly important to help those economically distress areas. Moreover, in certain instances when environmental site assessments reveal immediate threats to the environment or human health, a more programmatic use of EPA Removal funds to address these threats could be implemented.