



# Brownfields and Urban Gardening: Is It Safe?

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*Farmers Market at the Waypoint  
Visitors' Center in Bellows Falls,  
Vermont.*







# Brownfields vs garden practice

- Site history re: contamination
- Phase I ESA
- Phase II ESA
- Volunteer organization
- Planning raised beds
- Key questions:
  - Who will prepare site for garden?
  - Who will garden?
  - What are the soil sources?
  - Others?



# Thoughts for Going Forward

- Previous projects
  - BF - Gardens, farms, greenhouses, farmer's markets, supermarket, food bank
  - SF – gardens/farms
- General Information
  - K6 grant – Kansas State
  - TBA & BF ARC, JT
  - LR \$
  - SCP \$
  - CARE – BF dollars
  - OSRTI – USDA ARS
- Partners & Capacity Building
  - State and Tribal programs
  - Extension service
  - Coalitions - Food Security, Healthy Community, Sustainability, Green Jobs
- Research
  - Soil testing (Cleveland, TBA, ARC)
  - Soil amendments (Indy)
  - Soil big picture webinars (R5)
  - Uptake and bioavailability (K State, ORD, USDA, ARS)
  - Soil screening levels & Exposure Models (ORD)



# Challenges

- Glossary may be required
- Cross Disciplinary Projects needed
- State and Tribal program leadership
- Who decides - EPA, USDA or FDA?
- How do we best serve community needs for information?
- Research Partners and \$\$ Needed
  - Soil contaminants?
  - Exposure scenarios?
  - Populations?
  - Human health risk?
  - Ecological risk?
  - Plant uptake?
  - Soil amendments – biosolids, soil amendments, 'clean fill', certified soils?
  - Urban Livestock – urban chickens first?
  - Animal forage?
  - Environmental benefits of improving urban soils?
  - Environmental models?
  - Small scale economic models



# Going Forward

## Brownfields Revitalization – Urban Agriculture and Food Connection

**Assessment**  
Vacant Lots,  
Property and  
Structures



**Cleanup**  
Deconstruction,  
Removal,  
and Waste  
Management



**Redevelopment  
and Reuse**  
Agriculture, Garden,  
Community Kitchen, Community  
Cannery, Farmers Market, Food  
Retail, Composting Facility



Community  
Collaborations For  
Sustainable  
Re-development  
and Healthier  
Communities



**WHO?**  
Foundations, Local Health  
Department, Planning  
Department, Public Works,  
Community-Based  
Organization, Food Security  
Organization



**WHAT?**  
Community Food Security  
Assessment, Food System  
Mapping, Market Analysis,  
Land Inventory



**WHY?**  
Public Health, Nutrition, Community  
Empowerment, Social Cohesion,  
Economic Development,  
Environmental Stewardship,  
Green Economy



## Reinventing Community Connections with Agriculture and Food