

# INTRODUCTION

## What is a brownfield?

“Brownfield” means an abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial, commercial, or institutional property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by known or potential releases of hazardous substances or petroleum.

## Why clean up brownfield properties?

Cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields can improve blighted neighborhoods, make use of communities’ existing infrastructure, and create jobs, making the redevelopment of these vacant or abandoned properties a key part of many communities’ plans for revitalization. Additionally, cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment.

## Is assessment or cleanup assistance available?

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) offers assistance for local governments, community groups, developers and environmental professionals to learn more about the assessment, cleanup and reuse of brownfields. Through a U.S. EPA grant, Ohio EPA may be able to provide environmental investigation and field screening at brownfield sites in Ohio’s communities at no cost to them. Information on these Targeted Brownfield Assessments, and how a community can qualify for an assessment, may be found on the Ohio Brownfields program’s [Grant Assistance](#) web page.

Information on additional resources for funding brownfield redevelopment may be found in the [Ohio Brownfield Redevelopment Toolbox](#) document.

## Is there a list of all the brownfields in Ohio?

Ohio EPA maintains a voluntary, statewide inventory of brownfield properties. Properties included in the Ohio Brownfield Inventory may be in various stages of assessment and cleanup.

Information for the Ohio Brownfield Inventory includes details such as location, past use, utilities available and proximity to major roads, airports and public transportation. For detailed information on Ohio’s Brownfields, interested parties can visit the [Ohio Brownfield Inventory](#) web page.

Because there is no requirement to notify Ohio EPA if you own a brownfield property, there is no **complete** list of all properties that meet the definition of brownfield for the state.

In addition to the online inventory, Ohio EPA also produces the Guide to the Ohio Brownfield Inventory. This guide, now produced in CD format, provides a general overview of brownfield properties included in the inventory. A copy of this guide can be requested from Roxanne Anderson at 614-644-2938 or [Roxanne.anderson@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Roxanne.anderson@epa.ohio.gov).

## **Why should I include my property in the inventory?**

Ohio EPA developed the Ohio Brownfield Inventory to serve as a free marketing tool for those who are working to improve Ohio's environment through the cleanup and development of these often under-used properties. By increasing awareness, we hope to encourage remediation, redevelopment and reuse of even more properties and further improve the viability of Ohio's communities.

Ohio EPA is working to compile a more comprehensive list of brownfield properties in Ohio. We consistently receive inquiries from developers who are interested in locating brownfield properties in our state. By providing information for the brownfield inventory, you will introduce developers and other potential buyers to your property.

## **How can I add my property to the inventory?**

Anyone may submit property information for inclusion in the online inventory and the guide by completing the [Ohio Brownfield Inventory application](#).

## **I'm a developer. What resources are available to help me redevelop brownfield properties?**

The online Ohio Brownfield Inventory Database provides additional site specific information about the properties listed in this Guide. Ohio EPA does not keep records about the cleanup and redevelopment progress on any particular site. The local community or private entity contact for the property you are interested in is your best resource for additional information regarding that property.

## How clean does the property need to be for redevelopment?

Site cleanups that go through the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) are remediated based on the property end use. Your property contact should be able to coordinate working with the property's VAP Certified Professional to determine the appropriate level of cleanup for your development end use. Information about the VAP is available at <https://epa.ohio.gov/derr/volunt/volunt#119213118-program-infoservices>.

## Are there other Brownfield Inventories available?

Ohio's Brownfield Inventory is the only statewide list of brownfields. However, some Ohio cities and counties may keep brownfield inventories of their own.

## How can I get more information?

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Roxanne Anderson  
Ohio EPA, DERR  
P.O. Box 1049  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049  
Phone: 614-644-2938  
[Roxanne.Anderson@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Roxanne.Anderson@epa.ohio.gov)

*Revised April 2021*