

BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

There are many challenges and obstacles to overcome in redeveloping a city. One of those is to deal with environmental issues that complicate the development, redevelopment or transfer/sale of urban real estate. Properties whose development is complicated by actual, potential or perceived environmental issues are known as Brownfield sites.

Due to our rich industrial heritage, there are many Brownfield sites throughout the City. For example,

- At least 100 potteries have been identified as operating in the City of Trenton throughout our history. These potteries manufactured everything from electrical fixtures to bathtubs and toilets to teacups and dinner plates. Potteries use glazes to give color to the final wares. These glazes contain metal-based pigments that, when discarded as broken or rejected wares, can contaminate the soil. Broken pottery appears to have been used as common fill throughout the City.
- In 1916, the City of Trenton was second to Akron, Ohio in the production of automobile tires. In addition, many other rubber factories existed in Trenton that manufactured hoses and other rubber products. The old rubber industry used many organic compounds and metals in their operations, which may find their way to impact soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water
- Other major manufacturing in Trenton has included wire rope, metal foundries, automotive parts (brakes, car bodies, batteries, etc.) and many other industries that supplied, supported and maintained our primary industries.
- In addition, most manufacturing facilities in Trenton were run on coal, and many coal yards existed in the City of Trenton to supply industries as well as 19th century homes for heating and cooking. Coal ash from burned coal is commonly found throughout Trenton and typically contains contaminants such as metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).
- Over 150 former gas stations have been identified in the City of Trenton. Many of these sites may still contain underground storage tanks and other equipment or containers that can potentially contaminate soil and groundwater.

These Brownfield sites can be a potential threat to the health of the community and the environment. In addition, they represent a significant blighting influence to neighborhoods. Since 1995, The City of Trenton has been active, with the help of State and Federal governmental programs, private and non-profit developers, and public participation, in managing the renewal of these sites.

Our mission is to assess, investigate and clean up (remediate) these former commercial and industrial sites in order to make these sites available for redevelopment. We are proud of our track record so far: obtaining over \$20,000,000 in State and Federal grants to help us make sites available for redevelopment.

The City of Trenton has also won four prestigious Phoenix awards for Brownfield development, more than any other city in the U.S.

Sites that have won Phoenix Awards are:
Waterfront Park in 1999; the Crane site in 2001; the Marriott Lafayette Yard Hotel (2002); and the Battle Monument Area-Wide Redevelopment Area (2004).

LOOK FOR MORE REDEVELOPMENT OF OLD COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SITES, INCLUDING:

- The Assunpink Greenway, a 99-acre park on old industrial land
- The Magic Marker site, with 42 new homes and a linear park
- New industrial developments on the old Kramer site and on Enterprise Avenue

The City of Trenton of Trenton's Brownfields Program continues to be a success thanks to our Federal and State partners, and involved citizens and community groups.

For more information:

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