



CITY OF GULFPORT BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Brownfields are real property with the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants which may complicate the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of the property. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land and improves and protects the environment.

Sometimes the mere possibility of contamination on a site presents an environmental stigma that is enough to prevent redevelopment of the property. These properties often are abandoned or underutilized sites. They become a burden to the community in the form of unpaid property taxes, illegal dumping, unmaintained buildings, and may even offer the potential for environmental health risks. The effort to investigate the presence of contamination and estimate cleanup costs can be overwhelming.

However, with the help of federal funding, hundreds of Brownfields redevelopment projects across the country are improving the quality of life for local communities. Benefits include higher property values, improved employment opportunities, a larger and more-economically stable customer base; as well as better access to transportation, health care, schools and fresh foods.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the City of Gulfport a \$400,000 Brownfield Assessment Grant to help identify pollutants on publicly and privately-owned properties, and to develop cleanup and/or reuse plans if contamination is found. The EPA's grant is comprised of two parts: \$200,000 to be used for sites with potential petroleum impacts/stigma, and \$200,000 to be used for sites with other potential hazardous impacts/stigma.

With the use of federal and state funding, and the suggestions from area stakeholders, the City will provide property owners and developers technical assistance to help with community outreach, site identification, assessment, and cleanup planning. Site-specific tasks may include:

- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (typically includes soil and groundwater testing – based on Phase I ESA findings)
- Asbestos / Lead-Based Paint / Indoor Air Quality Screenings
- Underground Storage Tank Removal (as part of Phase II ESA activities)
- Site Reuse Planning
- Cleanup Planning

While the City's grant focus is on the 49th Street Corridor, funding is available for all eligible properties within the City limits. If you have any questions, please contact:

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