

## A keystone of the Brownfields

**Program** is removing the uncertainty of liability for prospective buyers who did not pollute the property, to allow them to move forward with clean-up and redevelopment.

Uncertainty about liability can be more paralyzing than the actual cost of study and clean-up.

The Brownfields Program is about solving problems that threaten environmental quality, public health, community character, private enterprise, and the local economy.

New Hampshire's BROWNFIELDS COVENANT PROGRAM provides a "Covenant Not to Sue" from the NH Dept. of Justice to persons who voluntarily undertake investigations and clean-up action.

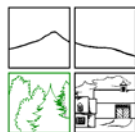
Brownfields staff at the NH Dept. of Environmental Services are the experts on the Covenant Program. For more information, please contact NH DES staff or visit the NH DES website.

Please visit the BROWNFIELDS page on the SWRPC website:

[www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org)

## Southwest Region Brownfields Assessment Program

A program of the  
Southwest Region Planning Commission



### SWRPC

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With grant funding provided by the  
U.S. EPA Brownfields Program



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Technical assistance provided by the  
NH Dept. of Environmental Services  
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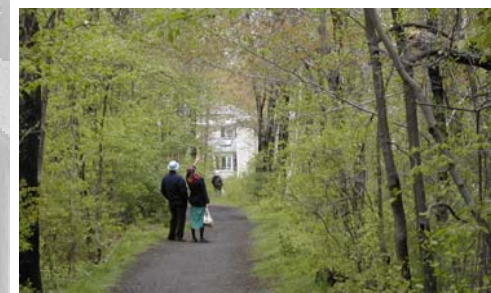


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## Brownfields Redevelopment

A Path to Opportunity



Southwest Region  
Brownfields Assessment  
Program

# Southwest Region Brownfields Assessment Program

**Business and industry, lending institutions, and government at all levels recognize that contaminated industrial properties threaten public health, environmental quality and economic prosperity. Communities large and small have properties that once provided jobs, tax revenue and community character, but now stand empty or are under-used because of known or suspected contamination.**

**The Small Business Liability Relief & Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2001 directs technical and financial federal assistance to eliminate this barrier to safety and prosperity.**



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Brownfields Program provides assessment grants, revolving loan funding, clean-up grants and technical assistance** at the National, State, Regional, and Local levels.

The **Southwest Region Planning Commission** received a Brownfields Assessment Grant to inventory and assess Brownfield sites in the Region's 36 municipalities.

An **Advisory Committee** with members from local government and development interests guides the Planning Commission's program.

## Southwest Region Program GOALS

- **Protect Environmental Quality**
- **Eliminate Public Health Threats**
- **Create / Retain Local Jobs**
- **Restore / Enhance Local Tax Revenue**
- **Protect Community Character:**  
*Redevelopment vs. New Development*
- **Historic Preservation**

## ASSESSMENT

Phase I Environmental Assessments are the first step in Brownfields Redevelopment. Phase I Assessments document the history and existing conditions of the property and surrounding properties. Phase II assessments involve environmental studies of conditions identified in Phase I Assessments.

## REMEDIAL ACTION

Clean-up and re-use of Brownfields requires strategic planning that considers the observed site conditions – above and below the surface; cost of materials and processes; environmental permitting; liability issues; financial resources; and plans for future uses.

## CLEAN-UP

Clean-up may involve removing contaminated materials, treatment of contaminated materials and/or containment of hazardous substances.

## RE-USE

The ultimate goal of the Brownfields Program is to restore properties to productive uses. Uses of cleaned-up Brownfields range from business and industry to housing, community facilities, and public green space.



## How to Participate

1. **Contact SWRPC Brownfields staff**  
- see reverse side of this brochure -
2. Complete a **Site Nomination Form**.
3. To be selected for assessment by the Advisory Committee, property owners must provide written consent for the Commission to proceed with assessment work.



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