

**BROWNFIELD
TASKFORCE
MEMBERS:**

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Phase I of the Brownfields Program Completed

The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency), designated development entity for the City of Norwalk, was awarded a \$400,000.00 combined Brownfields Assessment grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2006. "Brownfields" are generally defined as abandoned, idle, or underutilized industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

The Agency has utilized these funds to promote awareness of Brownfields issues, streamline the environmental site assessment process, and stimulate remediation and development of Brownfields throughout the City.

The 12-person Norwalk Brownfields Taskforce (NBT) was formed and Phase I of the program has been completed. The first Phase included completion of a comprehensive inventory of known and potentially contaminated sites in the City and prioritization of those sites for assessment.

The Inventory was created using publically available information obtained from municipal, state, and federal databases as well as input from the NBT. Prioritization of sites on the Inventory was completed using a numerical ranking system that incorporated environmental and redevelopment characteristics of the sites.

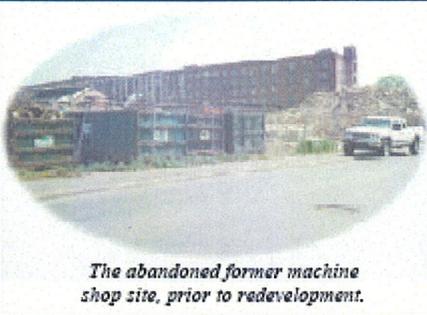
Phase II of the Brownfields Program Begins

The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) has initiated Phase II of the Program. This phase involves development of a community relations program, Brownfields management program, completion of environmental site assessments, and preparation of redevelopment packages as a means of attracting investment interest to facilitate redevelopment activity.

The goal of the Program is to perform assessments for (20) prioritized sites. The Agency and NBT have selected 20 sites from the Inventory that appear eligible for assessment activities. Four of these sites are owned by the City of Norwalk and the remaining sixteen sites are privately owned. Property owners for these prioritized sites were recently notified of the completed Inventory and funding opportunities available through the Norwalk Brownfields Program. They were encouraged to contact the Agency if assessment activities are warranted for their property. The Agency and NBT will continue to prioritize sites for assessment based on responses from property owners.

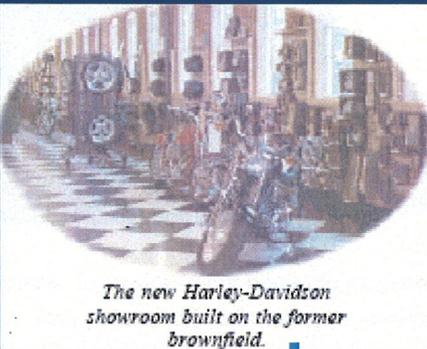


Palco Hat (photograph): a former Brownfield site in Norwalk that is now occupied by the Norwalk Police Department. Remediation of this former Brownfield was funded through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Urban Site Remedial Action Program.



The abandoned former machine shop site, prior to redevelopment.

With the cooperation of the city, EPA, a private developer, and the community, a new Harley-Davidson dealership and maintenance facility replaced formerly abandoned lots in Stamford's industrial community. The cooperative effort that led to this success story illustrates why Stamford was selected as a Showcase Community in 1998 by the Brownfields National Partnership.



The new Harley-Davidson showroom built on the former brownfield.

The Benefits of Brownfields

Since its inception in 1995, EPA's Brownfields Program has grown into a proven, results-oriented program that has changed the way contaminated property is perceived, addressed, and managed. EPA's Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to assess, clean up, and sustainably reuse Brownfields.

It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the United States. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped open land, and both improves and protects the environment. Initially, EPA provided small amounts of seed money to local governments that launched hundreds of two-year brownfield "pilot" projects. Through passage of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, effective policies that EPA had developed over the years were passed into law. The Brownfields Law expanded EPA's assistance by providing new tools for the public and private sectors to promote sustainable brownfields cleanup and reuse.

EPA's investment in the Brownfields Program has resulted in many accomplishments, including leveraging more than \$6.5 billion in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment funding from the private and public sectors and creating approximately 25,000 new jobs. The momentum generated by the Program is leaving an enduring legacy. The Brownfields Program and its partners have provided guidance and incentives to support economic revitalization, and empowered communities to address the brownfields in their midst. EPA's Brownfield Program continues to look to the future by expanding the types of properties it addresses, forming new partnerships, and undertaking new initiatives to help revitalize communities across the nation.

BE A PART OF THE BROWNFIELDS REVOLUTION

Help support economic and community development in your City. Get involved today. For more information contact:

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Taskforce Meetings

- ◆ February 11, 2008 — Brownfields Forum which serves as the kick-off Phase II of the Brownfields Program. 2-8 pm, Police Department Community Room.
- ◆ May 13, 2008 (tentative) — Agenda and location to be determined
- ◆ August 12, 2008 (tentative) — Agenda and location to be determined