

**River Hills Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission
EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant
FACT SHEET**

River Hills EDD & RPC Brownfields Coalition has received a \$550,000 EPA Brownfields Coalition Grant with coalition members that include all counties in our jurisdiction. The assessment grant will provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, prioritize, assess and develop cleanup plans for brownfield sites in the region. Grant funding is available through October 1, 2019.

Why Coalition Assessments?

- Increases access to assessment resources for communities that might have limited resources to administer a brownfield grant and/or manage brownfields projects.
- Helps a county to focus assessment dollars on geographical areas with the greatest need over a given time. The larger pool of funding allows the coalition to shift geographic focus to new areas, as revitalization needs are identified.
- Services that may be funded by the grant:
 - Phase I & Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and Cleanup Planning
 - Demolition/rehab specifications for blighted buildings
 - Underground Storage Tank assessment that may include removal of tanks
 - Insurance Archeology for insurance recovery claims
 - Section 106 Environmental Review for Historic Structures
 - Wetland investigations
 - Engineering services to support site-specific constructability and site use evaluations
 - In order to access boring locations, clearance of shrubs and brush may be conducted
 - Building Condition Assessments to determine renovation requirements
 - Pavement evaluation and recommendations for purposes of cleanup planning.

Brownfield Basics: A brownfield is “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” (“Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act”, PL 107-118, 11 January 2002.) *In layman’s terms, a brownfield is a property that is difficult to develop because it is contaminated or believed to be contaminated.*

Typical brownfields addressed by regional coalitions include:

- Abandoned industrial properties, former dry cleaners, old gas stations, vacant schools, former hospitals
- Properties at community gateways and Main Street areas
- Abandoned or tax delinquent properties
- Privately owned properties where potential environmental issues are a barrier to the sale of a property or redevelopment
- Sites identified for acquisition by local governments to satisfy due diligence requirements.

For more information, please contact Nicholas Creevy, Community Development Specialist, River Hills EDD & RPC. 812-288-4624 or ncreevy@riverhills.cc.