

Indiana Brownfields Program Trails and Parks Initiative



***At a Glance:**
The purpose of the Indiana Brownfields Program Trails and Parks Initiative is to provide environmental assessments to political subdivisions and non-profit organizations for brownfield properties where trails, parks, or other greenspace/recreational reuse is planned.*

***What is a Brownfield?**
A brownfield is a property where redevelopment or reuse is complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Revised 12/8/09

Introduction

In May 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency selected the State of Indiana to receive \$400,000 in grant funding to perform environmental site assessments at brownfield properties contaminated or potentially contaminated with hazardous substances or petroleum products. With this funding, in addition to \$200,000 in matching funds provided by the Indiana Finance Authority, the Indiana Brownfields Program established its Trails and Parks Initiative.

The Indiana Brownfields Program is administering the initiative and has contracted with qualified environmental consulting firms to perform environmental assessment activities at eligible brownfield sites throughout Indiana. Environmental assessments are often necessary before acquiring and redeveloping properties that may be contaminated due to past operations at the site or neighboring sites. Properly assessing a property before redevelopment is important to ensure the health and safety of those who will utilize the property in the future.

What kind of brownfields are being targeted for assessments?

- Brownfield sites where trails, parks, or other greenspace/recreational reuse is planned
- Brownfield sites/projects that do not involve parties responsible for the contamination
- Brownfield sites that are not eligible for Excess Liability Trust Fund (ELTF) assistance (applicable to certain petroleum sites)

How can my community request an assessment?

Political subdivisions and non-profit organizations may apply at any time. Application guidelines are available online at www.in.gov/ifa/brownfields/2541.htm.

Note: this is not a grant program; Phase I and/or Phase II environmental site assessments will be performed by environmental consultants on contract with the Indiana Brownfields Program.

How will sites be prioritized to receive an assessment?

Applications will be evaluated according to criteria such as:

- Redevelopment plans, including sustainable reuse as a park, trail, or other greenspace/recreational reuse
- Local support for the project
- Demographic factors

What are Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments?

A Phase I environmental site assessment is intended to identify existing or potential environmental contamination. It examines past uses of the property and adjacent properties through the search of regulatory records, maps, and aerial photography. It involves a walk-through of the site, but no collection of samples. A Phase II environmental site assessment investigates environmental conditions identified in the Phase I assessment typically with the collection of soil, groundwater, and surface water samples, which are submitted to laboratories for analysis.

