

Brownfields

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a Brownfield?

"Brownfields" are areas within a city that are not in use or have not been fully-developed because of constraining circumstances. Often, these areas are entirely vacant, underutilized or simply not targeted for development because of previous industrial use. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the EPA defines "A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."¹

What is the City of Norfolk's plan for revitalizing Brownfields in the City?

The City of Norfolk is viewing the redevelopment of these brownfields properties through a resilience lens as we design the community of the future, create economic opportunity, and strengthen neighborhoods.

What efforts are included in Brownfields revitalization?

Through the Brownfields programs, the City is conducting Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessments throughout the City in support of reuse and redevelopment of Brownfield sites. In addition to environmental site assessments, the City utilizes federal and state grant funds for other Brownfield efforts to include site and reuse planning and site remediation.

What are Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA)?

A Phase I ESA includes a historical review of records, interviews with site owners and occupants, local government officials, and a site inspection. A Phase II ESA evaluates soil and water conditions to identify any contamination present.



¹ "Overview of EPA's Brownfields Program." EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, 8 July 2020, www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview-epas-brownfields-program.