

# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant

## What is a brownfield?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the EPA offers the definition as: “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.”<sup>1</sup> The City of Norfolk is viewing the redevelopment of these brownfields properties through a resilience lens as the City designs the community of the future, creates economic opportunity, and strengthen neighborhoods.

## Brownfield Assessments in the City of Norfolk

Through the EPA Assessment Grant, the City of Norfolk conducted multiple Phase I/Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) throughout the City and efforts are ongoing. As of Fall 2020, the City has conducted 8 Phase I ESAs and 5 Phase II ESAs in targeted areas of the City to include Chesterfield Heights, East Downtown/Harbor Park, and St. Paul’s Quadrant.



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

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.

## Why are Phase I and Phase II ESAs beneficial?

Through Phase I & Phase II ESAs, the City of Norfolk is provided with critical information regarding currently existing environmental conditions of various sites within Norfolk. Through the provision of this information, the City of Norfolk is able to execute strategic and resilient decisions.



## Next steps:

With the provided information from the Phase I & Phase II ESAs, the City of Norfolk will facilitate the development of site and reuse planning for strategically selected sites evaluated through the assessment process. Additional site assessments and community outreach will occur.

