



From **Sprawling Urban Junkyard** to **Sustainable, Thriving Industry**

Menomonee River Valley,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Spanning 3 miles and 1,200 acres, the Menomonee River Valley in downtown Milwaukee was once Wisconsin's hub for industrial production.

During the mid-1800s, a marsh in the area was filled to create land to support transportation and business. In the 1960s, many of the businesses started closing down, leaving abandoned buildings and environmental hazards behind.

Faced with environmental and public health challenges, economic depression, and a rundown infrastructure, the city and its partners created a development plan for the

Valley in 1998. The plan included strategies for creating jobs, improving environmental conditions, managing public investment, and improving the overall health of the community. Public health monitoring became increasingly important to the city in order to measure success in improving health.



Health impacts of the Menomonee River Valley redevelopment:

- ✓ **Provided** greenspace and recreational opportunities
- ✓ **Created** new jobs and promoted economic growth
- ✓ **Helped** ensure safe work environments for new businesses
- ✓ **Resulted** in partner-collected baseline data to track indicators of community health



Funding:

- EPA Brownfields Program
- Public and private investment
- Joyce Foundation (Chicago)



For the full story, visit:

http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/docs/ATSDR_LandReuse.pdf



Photo: Menomonee Valley Partners



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