Brownfields and land reuse sites are areas that may be contaminated with chemicals from past or current uses. The National Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative works with cities, towns, and neighborhoods to help redevelop these sites. We turn them into spaces such as schools, parks, and gardens, protecting residents from dangerous substances and improving public health.

Brownfields Can Harm Your Health
There are over 500,000 brownfields and land reuse sites in the U.S. These sites range in size from less than one acre to thousands of acres. Living near them can lead to health problems.

Environmental damage
- Lack of options for physical activity
- Limited access to healthy foods
- Higher risk of disease (like cancer and lung disease) and earlier death

Poor housing quality
- Poor air quality

We help communities rebuild
ATSDR and its group of expert volunteers, the Brownfields & Reuse Opportunity Working Network (BROWN), work with communities to help redevelop brownfields and land reuse sites.

Success Stories
The National Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative has led over 60 projects to improve community health all over the United States. Here are a few examples:

Boise, Idaho
Before: Abandoned church formerly used as a meth lab
After: Center for children’s art education

Kenosha, Wisconsin
Before: Abandoned brass factory
After: New school and homes

Graniteville, South Carolina
Before: Land devastated by a 2005 chlorine spill
After: Community gardens

Mulberry, Florida
Before: Brownfields in a medically underserved area
After: Community health clinic

We’ve also assisted on over 400 other sites — consulting with communities about possible exposures and contamination from brownfields:

Want to make your community healthier and safer by renewing and redeveloping it?
To learn more about the National Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative, visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields or email us at atsdr.landreuse@cdc.gov

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

ATSDR is Transforming Communities Across the Nation
Brownfields and land reuse sites can be transformed into healthy and safe community spaces. New buildings, community gardens, and parks can turn these areas into places such as schools, parks, and gardens, protecting residents from dangerous substances and improving public health.

New buildings
- Create healthy and safe community spaces

Community gardens
- Make it easier to get healthy foods

Parks and trails for walking and biking
- Increasing physical activity and safety

Vacant lots and houses
- New buildings

Old gas stations
- Community gardens

Abandoned factories
- Parks and trails for walking and biking

Polluted waterfronts
- Environmental damage