

Redeveloping Brownfields – How DNR Identifies Contaminated Properties

What do the Menomonee Valley in Milwaukee, harbor redevelopments in Kenosha and Sheboygan and Green Bay's Tundra Lodge have in common? They are all successful development projects that started on a brownfield.

Brownfields are abandoned, idle or underused commercial or industrial properties with real or perceived environmental contamination. They are often in good locations, offer existing infrastructure and have great redevelopment potential.

Some brownfields need a cleanup. Others are already cleaned up with some residual contamination and have "continuing obligations". Continuing obligations are legal requirements for owners to maintain certain conditions, or to obtain state approval before making changes.

The Department of Natural Resource's (DNR's) Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program has an on-line database that will help developers identify contaminated and cleaned up properties. The easily navigated Contaminated Lands Environmental Action Network ([CLEAN](#)) provides basic information about property locations, conditions, and whether they have continuing obligations.

Finding contamination should not be a serious impediment to purchasing and redeveloping Wisconsin land. Visit the [RR Program](#) web pages to learn more about liability exemptions and clarifications, tax credits and incentives, continuing obligations and to read success stories about Wisconsin brownfield redevelopment projects.