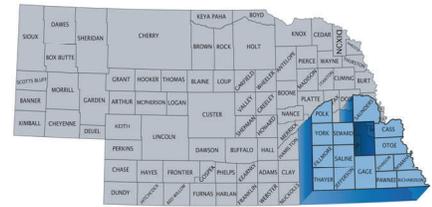


SEND D

Southeast Nebraska Development District



What's A Brownfield?

Brownfield is one of those words that we are hearing more about as we deliver services. The word itself may at first leave one wondering what is being talked about. But once you hear the definition, you can picture something we regularly see or that we pass in our normal course of activity. Straight from the EPA website, the formal definition of a **brownfield site** is: *"With certain legal exclusions and additions, the term "brownfield site" means real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."*



Now, upon hearing the definition, the image of a former gas station site, or a former grain bin site, or old abandoned industrial facilities come to mind.

Recent NDEQ and EPA information sessions have spotlighted the opportunity for assessments to be conducted to determine what (if any) contamination might exist at such sites. One such example of an assessment

leading to development of what was once an avoided site is seen in Adams. The new Adams fire and rescue building is being built upon a site that was once the former site of a service station. Adams leadership made the effort to find out what they would be dealing with and now this prime location in Adams has been returned to a productive use.

Of special note is that often a site that folks have been avoiding or thought had presented a problem is often found to not contain a contaminant.

SEND D staff is looking to gather information on and help local units of government get connected with such Brownfield assistance to address the questionable sites you may be looking at for development. A SEND D area local economic development leader returned from a recent EPA training session raising the question: "Why not organize SEND D area jurisdictions and pursue EPA Regional Brownfield funds to create a SEND D Regional Brownfields Revolving Loan fund?"

If you have a site that meets the definition of a **brownfield site** and you would like to explore the opportunity to assess that site with the target of addressing contaminants found at the site, please contact Kevin Burnison at the SEND D Humboldt office (402) 862-2201 or via email senddhumboldt@windstream.net Your feedback will be combined with others from across the SEND D area to determine whether a regional brownfield effort makes sense, or whether a continued approach of one-on-one contact with NDEQ and EPA might be the better approach.



AUGUST 2013 NEWSLETTER



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SENDD Staff Available for Assistance

If your community or leadership group could benefit from an outside party sharing in your strategic planning efforts, SENDD staff is available to help. If you are a leader of your local development corporation, chamber of commerce, municipal governing board, or community betterment club and you feel there is a specific community need that would benefit from exposure and review from an outside perspective, feel free to contact SENDD staff to line up a time to sit down in your community with you and/or with your group. Either individually or in conjunction with an agency partner, SENDD staff can be available as an outside resource to look at local community or economic development issues.

The first step is LISTENING. Be prepared to bring specifics to the table to share with SENDD staff. SENDD staff will listen to your insights and then look to work with you to identify the next step. Sometimes that may involve referring you to another agency that specializes in a particular issue, or sometimes the answer can be found down the road, and we will refer you to another jurisdiction who recently dealt with the same challenge.

FEEDBACK: Often the role of SENDD is to share information learned while dealing with an issue in another community. For example, discussions about financing improvements on main street may lead to discussions about how other communities accomplished it. The answer might come from discussions about how one community got USDA funds to finance a project, while another utilized NDED funds. Some feedback leads to a simple referral to another agency, while others may lead to long-term SENDD staff involvement, teaming with local leaders and other service providers to address a specific need.

Whether you are driven to seek assistance for a single issue or whether you are looking for assistance with a broader needs identification and/or strategic planning process, feel free to contact SENDD staff for a discussion about what role SENDD might be able to play. The SENDD staff is ready and able to respond to your requests for assistance. Contact SENDD staff at the Humboldt office at (402) 862-2201 or the Lincoln office at (402) 475-2560.

Upcoming Meetings

SERN Quarterly Meeting @ Seward Civic Center

The Southeast Nebraska Resource Network will hold its quarterly meeting in Seward, NE on Wednesday, August 21, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford Street.

SERN is a group of development resource and service providers, and volunteers interested in the betterment of Southeast Nebraska. SERN members meet quarterly to share information about successes, initiatives, resources, and programs for the region. SERN Meetings are an excellent opportunity for local community leaders, volunteers and municipal staff to be connected with Federal, State, and Local resource and service providers to discuss ideas and opportunities for potential projects in SE Nebraska.



Each SERN Meeting includes updates and announcements from the southeast regional resource and service providers, and local officials/leaders. The feature presentation will be from Bethany Blackburn—Unite 16: Community Entrepreneurship Opportunities (CEO). She will talk about the their program to strengthen entrepreneurship, leadership, and networking skills of high school students in Seward County.

Anyone with an interest in community and economic development in Southeast Nebraska may become a SERN Member and attend SERN Meetings. To be added to the SERN Email Distribution list or for more information about SERN, please contact the SERN Chairperson: Jen Olds at 402-475-2560 (jolds@sendd.org).

Please e-mail RSVP to sewardcoecdev@gmail.com no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 19, 2013. RSVP to include attendance independently for each event: business meeting, lunch, and/or feature presentation. Lunch cancellations must be made 48 hours prior to the event. No-shows will be billed.

Southeast Nebraska Partners for Progress Meeting

The Southeast Nebraska Partners for Progress group will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, August 27 at the Auburn City Hall at 5:30 p.m. The 5 counties participating in the group are Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson. Please RSVP to Stephanie Shrader at 402-873-4293 or by email at Director@NebraskaCityAreaEDC.org.