

# Understanding Rural Brownfields

## What is a brownfield?

A brownfield is simply a piece of land that has been contaminated. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines 'brownfield' as "abandoned, idle, or underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is confounded by real or perceived environmental contamination". Although brownfields are sometimes perceived to be an urban problem, brownfields occur in rural areas too. Piles of tires, old barrels, containers of pesticides, and material spills are all examples of brownfields that occur in rural areas.



## Why are brownfields a problem in the Sac and Fox Nation?

Brownfields and illegal dumping are problems in the Sac and Fox Nation and Indian Country in general for multiple reasons. Polluters and/or residents perceive lower risks while dumping on reservations versus non-tribal land, do not want to take the time or money to legally dispose of materials, or are not aware of legal disposal options. Please properly dispose of (or recycle) materials at the Sac and Fox Nation Environmental Department, Brown County Household Hazardous Waste (785-547-3552) or Atchinson County Solid Waste at (913-367-1666).

Source: Dorworth, L.E. Mar 2004. "Brownfields: A Rural Community Problem". Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University Calumet. <http://www.planningwithpower.org/pubs/fnr245.pdf>

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\*\*\*PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY  
INFORMATION REGARDING  
CONTAMINATION OR ILLEGAL  
DUMPING IN THE COMMUNITY.\*\*\*

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