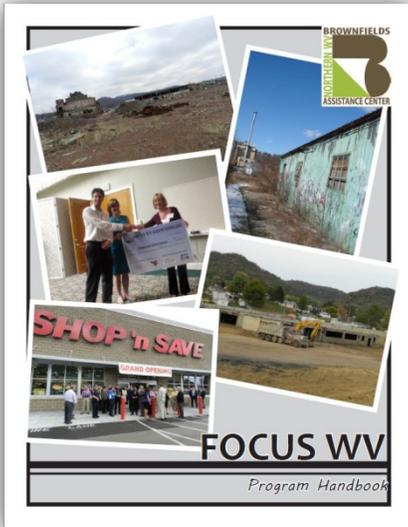


NBAC FOCUS Handbook Released



The NBAC recently completed its successful Foundations Overcoming Challenges and Utilizing Strengths (FOCUS) WV mini-grant program. From 2009-2013, the FOCUS program funded 41 brownfield redevelopment projects by providing \$365,000 in direct funding assistance to local non-profits, municipal entities, and redevelopment authorities. These projects have leveraged over \$7 million in additional project funding and have resulted in successful redevelopment across the state, including the redevelopment of the Adamston Flat Glass property into a Shop'n Save in Clarksburg, the demolition and planned redevelopment of the former TS&T Pottery factory in Chester, and a hugely successful reforestation model for abandoned mine land properties in a partnership with the Wes-Mon-Ty RC&D and US Forest Service.

The NBAC has created the FOCUS WV Handbook which will be unveiled at the WV State Brownfields Conference. This Handbook compiles the lessons learned, best practices, and unique redevelopment strategies identified over the four-year program. It also includes the model used successfully by FOCUS grantees, refined and improved over the years, which has now been enhanced through the WV Redevelopment Collaborative and will be the foundation for the upcoming BAD Buildings Program. The Handbook includes case studies of some of the most successful projects, highlighting the importance of brownfield redevelopment in West Virginia.

WV Brownfields Inventory Now Public and Online

The WV Brownfields Inventory (Version 2.0) was released on the WV Brownfields website in May 2013. We are now proud to present our interactive map and current list of brownfields properties. Each site listing features address, property size, physical location, assessment status, and utility information along with site photos.

The map allows users to search, sort, select, and download property information; measure distances and areas; print maps with or without user-defined measurements; and zoom to statewide area or county level area.

For any questions using the map, stay tuned for a user handbook or contact Derek Springston at 304-290-7068 or Charles.Springston@mail.wvu.edu.

WVRC Expands through Partnership with Main Street WV



In March, the West Virginia Redevelopment Collaborative (WVRC) launched its latest expansion to implement the collaborative redevelopment in Main Street communities across the state. The expansion comes on the heels of a successful first year of funded projects.

WVRC Coordinator Carrie Staton and NBAC Director Patrick Kirby have worked closely with Monica Miller and Nikki Williams at the WV Development Office to structure the program to fit the needs of Main Street communities. At a launch event in March, three Main Street communities were selected to receive funding and technical assistance on key brownfields projects in their downtowns.

“Main Street WV is a natural partner for the WVRC,” says NBAC director Patrick Kirby. Both programs are committed to redevelopment issues, Kirby says, and have the potential for significant community impact. “Downtown redevelopment is a key part of community redevelopment across West Virginia. Many Main Street communities have been revitalizing their downtowns for many years. We are excited to partner with them to maximize the impact of resources in the state.”

This summer, three Main Street communities hosted WVRC Road Shows where community stakeholders and redevelopment experts were invited to share their visions for strategic downtown properties. In the next several months, these communities will work with the WVRC and their Brownfields Redevelopment Teams to move the projects closer to redevelopment:

- In Fairmont, a team of experts and community stakeholders will develop a plan for the adaptive reuse of the historic Fairmont Fire Station.
- In Martinsburg, a team will transform a dilapidated foundry into a mixed use location for retail and restaurants.
- In Charleston, West Side Main Street will work with local and professional experts to turn an abandoned gas station lot into a community asset that will provide a connection between two downtown districts, while encouraging pedestrian traffic in Downtown Charleston.

Ranson/Charles Town Receive 2012 Phoenix Award at 2013 National Brownfields Conference

On May 16, the Ranson & Charles Town Commerce Corridor Project was honored to receive the prestigious brownfields 2012 People's Choice Phoenix Award at the National Brownfields Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The Commerce Corridor Project had already received the 2012 Phoenix Award for EPA Region 3, which includes projects from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Project team members accepting the award included EPA Region 3 officials, community members, city officials, project developers, and environmental consultants. More information on this project is available at www.ransonrenewed.com.

