ANNUAL REPORT
2015
NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA
BROWNFIELDS ASSISTANCE CENTER
The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center provides help to overcome redevelopment barriers on brownfield sites such as old gas stations, abandoned buildings, and former glass or pottery factories. If you’re not sure if a property is a brownfield, please call us and ask!
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www.wvbrownfields.org
WHAT IS THE NBAC?

In 2005, the West Virginia Legislature created the Northern and Southern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers. The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (NBAC) at West Virginia University (WVU) promotes economic development and environmental and public health protection through innovative redevelopment of brownfields sites in West Virginia’s 33 northern counties. The West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University is responsible for the state’s southern counties.

As a program of the West Virginia Water Research Institute, located at WVU’s National Research Center for Coal and Energy, NBAC is ideally positioned to tackle the issues associated with the successful redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized properties.

Using funding from the West Virginia Legislature and additional funds leveraged from other sources, such as the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the NBAC offers extensive assistance to communities to facilitate the redevelopment of brownfields properties by providing:

- Training and technical assistance;
- Community stakeholder engagement;
- Grant writing assistance; and
- Help leveraging project funding.

The NBAC is currently working on over 60 specific projects in 32 West Virginia communities spanning 23 counties. The NBAC implements five core program areas including technical assistance, outreach and education, BAD Buildings program, West Virginia Redevelopment Collaborative, and Site Ready program.

CORE PROGRAMS

The NBAC provides technical assistance to West Virginia communities through:

- An inventory of brownfields sites;
- A website that provides education and information on brownfields development in West Virginia;
- Training and educational opportunities such as the annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference;
- Grant writing assistance, technical expertise (site assessment reviews and remediation planning), community engagement, and site preparation;
- Coordinating efforts to secure federal brownfield funding; and
- Coordinating with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and West Virginia Development Office to establish and track key brownfield economic statistics.

The West Virginia Redevelopment Collaborative (WVRC) assembles multi-disciplinary teams of academic faculty, public agency, and private sector experts to provide West Virginia communities with expertise and guidance through the redevelopment process. The WVRC Financial Analysis and Strategies Teams (FAST) Track helps develop project funding and marketing strategies to implement Collaborative Redevelopment Plans. For more information on this program, please contact us or visit the program website at www.wvredevelopment.org.

The Brownfields, Abandoned, and Dilapidated (BAD) Buildings program addresses barriers to identifying, prioritizing, and redeveloping BAD buildings and provides a model to create abandoned buildings programs at the community level. For more information on this program, please contact us or visit the program website at www.wwbadbldgs.org.

The Site Ready Program is a collaborative, regional effort to accelerate the redevelopment of former industrial sites in the Ohio River Valley.
NEW NBAC STAFF

ANNE WITHEROW

In August, NBAC welcomed Brownfields Redevelopment Specialist, Anna Withrow, to the team. Withrow manages and assists with various redevelopment projects by working with local project stakeholders to perform site analyses, facilitate visioning meetings, and create conceptual plans, along with various other tasks to move redevelopment projects forward. Withrow earned her master’s degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design at West Virginia University.

KATE GREENE

NBAC wrapped up 2015 by welcoming new Economic Redevelopment Specialist, Kate Greene. In this role, Greene oversees downtown redevelopment projects and initiatives, including community interaction and outreach, capacity building, developing relationships with partners, and engaging with public and private sectors to coordinate data-driven development in rural downtown communities. Greene comes to the NBAC following her work as Executive Director of Main Street Fairmont.
2015 AT A GLANCE

NBAC helped facilitate a partnership between WVU and the city of Fairmont to open a downtown storefront to showcase community design efforts.

At the WVRC Amazing Race Event held in Morgantown, four WVRC FAST Track project teams met with professional consultants, developed strategies, and received mini-grants for their projects.

NBAC hosted visionings for the Penmarva site, in Kingwood, where community stakeholders brainstormed options to convert an abandoned grocery warehouse into a recycling center; and the former Stamms Service Station, in Salem, where participants discussed options for redeveloping the property into an Ambulance Dispatch Center.

The Morgan County Board of Education selected a contractor for the cleanup of the ballfields complex. Remediation is now under way and the complex is projected to be in use by Fall 2016.

EPA granted the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle $600,000 for the cleanup of three priority brownfield sites.

NBAC was awarded over $450,000 in funding from the Benedum Foundation, BB&T, Appalachia Funders Network, Downtown Appalachia, Redevelopment Expert Exchange, Joint Task Force Implementation and technical assistance.

Five WVRC FAST Track project teams were launched at the Shark Tank event in Flatwoods, where teams were awarded mini-grants and devised project plans for the year ahead.

At the WVRC Amazing Race Event held in Morgantown, four WVRC FAST Track project teams met with professional consultants, developed strategies, and received mini-grants for their projects.

NBAC staff provided prioritization and redevelopment insight at community meetings as part of the city of Morgantown’s Community Wide Assessment Grant implementation.

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NBAC welcomed Public Relations Coordinator Andrew Stacy to the team.

Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist Anna Withrow joined the NBAC Team.

Participants from five municipalities launched BAD Building Teams to combat dilapidated building issues in their communities at the August BAD Building Summit of the Northern Panhandle.

At the WVRC Amazing Race Event held in Morgantown, four WVRC FAST Track project teams met with professional consultants, developed strategies, and received mini-grants for their projects.

NBAC applied for $1.3 million in program support and helped West Virginia communities apply for over $2 million in EPA project funding.

NBAC staff participated in the National Brownfields Conference in Chicago, IL. Staff attended sessions, networked with professionals from all over the nation, and presented well attended and received sessions covering the BAD Buildings and Collaborative models.

NBAC hosted the 10th annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference in Morgantown. With 250 participants, the event had the highest state conference attendance to date.

After several months of negotiation with former property owner, CSX Transportation, Inc., a key community gateway property was transferred to the Town of Bath for remediation and redevelopment into a community trail-head.

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The WVRC awarded 9 of 16 project grants in 2015 at a series of events where communities were matched with finance and marketing professionals who worked with them over the last year to implement plans for redevelopment financing and marketing.

PROJECTS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE IN 2015:

**FAIRMONT BELTLINE, FAIRMONT**
City officials worked with students and professors from Fairmont State University and West Virginia University to develop a sense of place and pride of neighborhood in the Beltline area of Fairmont, home to several brownfields and once the industrial center of the city.

**BARKERS CREEK INDUSTRIAL PARK, TRALEE**
The Wyoming County Economic Development Authority (EDA) is working with private developers, industry experts, and design professionals to complete plans for design and marketing the site to potential tenants. The EDA is currently completing remediation at the site using EPA Cleanup funds.

**AGATE MARBLE PARK, PARKERSBURG**
The city of Parkersburg is currently seeking a private developer to turn this former marble factory into a greenspace destination, with a boardwalk, restaurants, and retail space. The City will market the site using a new tool, Brownfields Listings, which was featured at the 2015 National Brownfields Conference.
BENDIX BUILDING, RONCEVERTE
The city of Ronceverte is working with representatives from Main Street Ronceverte, the Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University, and others to pursue cleanup funding from the EPA to address contamination issues at the site. Due to its current state of dilapidation, the main priority at this site is mitigating its deterioration so that a mixed use redevelopment can be possible.

WOODBURN SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT, MORGANTOWN
The city of Morgantown is working with experts in site acquisition, grant writing, and marketing to continue to attract tenants to the building. Local nonprofit music academy PopShopWV moved into the space with the help of a creative lease structure developed with the assistance of the FAST Track team.

BFG BUILDING, RICHWOOD
The city of Richwood is working with its FAST Track team to address liens on the property, which have been the most significant hurdle to redevelopment at the site. Once those liens are paid or released, the City can begin work to attract a developer for the site.

KINGWOOD PROJECT GETS NEW MOMENTUM WITH WVRC ASSISTANCE
WesBanco support for the Collaborative Model for Redevelopment continued in 2015 with work on the West Virginia Northern Trail-Head Project in Kingwood, which received a $1,000 grant in the fall of 2015. Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (NBAC) Redevelopment Specialist Anna Withrow completed a site redevelopment master plan to guide the project toward site redevelopment. Site ownership was also transferred from a non-local private owner to the Preston County Parks and Recreation Commission (PCPaRC), the current project lead. PCPaRC is maintaining project momentum in 2016, with plans for a community outreach event and continued efforts to secure redevelopment funding for the project.

WVRC LAUNCHES REDEVELOPMENT EXPERT EXCHANGE
In 2015, the WVRC launched the Redevelopment Expert Exchange (The Exchange), a new program designed to facilitate redevelopment experience-sharing between West Virginia communities. The Exchange matches redevelopment leaders from across the state with communities facing similar opportunities and challenges, allowing communities to learn from the best practices and experiences of their peers across the state. The Exchange also features monthly webinars on specific redevelopment topics. In-person Exchanges and webinar topics are determined by need and/or request by a particular community.

In November, The Exchange brought representatives from the city of Wheeling to Fairmont to discuss vacant property registry policies and ordinances. Representatives from both city councils and planning departments discussed each city’s ordinance, how the ordinance in Wheeling has been implemented, Fairmont’s plans for a vacant property registry, and more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO REQUEST AN EXCHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR TO SIGN UP FOR A WEBINAR, VISIT WWW.WVREDEVELOPMENT.ORG.
WESTON, FAIRMONT TACKLE ABANDONED BUILDING INVENTORIES

Since its formation in 2014, the Weston Brownfields, Abandoned, and Dilapidated (BAD) Buildings Team has created an inventory of over 100 problem properties. In 2015, the volunteers have identified key hurdles to address including out-of-state property owners and a lack of identified reuse options for key properties. The Team focused its efforts on the Arnold Street neighborhood by targeting five severely blighted properties. The demolition and rehabilitation of these properties is crucial to the completion of an adjacent park and children’s playground. The Team is working to gain site control of these properties to ensure the safety of this community green space. Volunteers reached out to property owners and were met with positivity. One property owner has agreed to donate his property to the City for demolition and another property owner has agreed to begin to rehabilitate his building. A third problem property was identified as the remains of a burned down building, which the City committed to demolishing and in-filling.

The City of Fairmont targeted and demolished several highly visible priority properties along major routes throughout the city. Some properties were demolished in order to make adjacent buildings more commercially viable, while others were removed to reduce blight and improve neighborhood well-being. Still others were rebuilt entirely and now serve as new community assets, such as additional housing or locally owned businesses.

NBAC PARTNERS WITH WEST VIRGINIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND TO HELP COMMUNITIES ACCESS $5 MILLION TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY BLIGHT

The NBAC partnered with the West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) to promote the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative (WVPRI), a $5 million revolving loan fund for demolition and deconstruction of blighted buildings. The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center’s (NBAC) BAD Buildings Model will be offered to communities interested in accessing PRI funding but lacking the information needed to apply for a loan. The BAD Buildings Technical Assistance will help communities survey and identify possible blighted buildings and create and prioritize a BAD Buildings Inventory. Additional partners include the West Virginia Community Development Hub, which will provide community capacity building expertise, and the WVU Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic, which will help communities overcome legal hurdles.
The BAD Buildings website was launched in 2015 and features the BAD Buildings Toolkit, including the BAD Buildings Model, tools, and resources to guide communities. The website also features success stories from across the state of communities tackling blight. For more information visit WWW.WVBADBUILDINGS.ORG.

The NBAC and its partners scheduled a series of six Property Rescue Initiative Technical Assistance Workshops across the state. The first workshop was held in October in the Kanawha Valley and drew over 100 participants for a day-long series of panels and discussions on topics including municipal tools to fight blight, how to mobilize local volunteers, how to engage your elected officials, and how to creatively finance and reuse blighted property. The next five workshops will be held in the first quarter of 2016.

The WVU Law Clinic completed WV LEAP, started in collaboration with the NBAC. The WV LEAP Toolkit, available online, addresses common legal hurdles faced by communities as they work to address blighted problem properties.

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In 2015, the BDC continued management of the TS&T and Brooke Glass Site Ready projects. There was also a $12,500 Site Ready grant allocated for the BDC to be used for the Wheeling Corrugated site in Beech Bottom. In 2015, RCI continued Site Ready projects in Pennsylvania including: the McKees Rocks CSX Site, the Rochester Riverfront, and Hazelwood 2nd Avenue, as well as overall technical assistance and community development in Allegheny and Beaver Counties. RCI was also awarded a $12,500 Site Ready Grant for the New Kensington Riverfront.

NBAC is preparing to award the two remaining Site Ready Grants to the BDC for the Williams Country Club and Jimmy Carey Stadium in Weirton, and work to complete all 10 projects by the end of the program term in the Spring of 2017.
The WVLSC was successfully launched in 2015 with the assistance of the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center staff, and is now a fully functioning nonprofit organization.

For more information on the WVLSC and its programs, visit: www.wvlsc.org.
The 2015 West Virginia Brownfields Conference was hosted by the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (NBAC) on September 14 and 15 at the Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown. With over 200 attendees, the Conference had the highest attendance rate of any previous state brownfields conference. The event featured a Redevelopment Exchange Workshop, a session on rails to trails redevelopment, a keynote address by WVU Provost and Vice President of Student Affairs, Joyce McConnell; Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Randy Huffman, and multiple networking and exhibiting opportunities.
Center Directors George Carico, Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall, and Patrick Kirby, NBAC, (above) received the 2015 WEST VIRGINIA BROWNFIELDS SUPERHERO AWARDS for their dedication, skill, and passion of brownfields development in West Virginia. Under the leadership of George and Patrick, the Centers have helped communities pursue and receive over $7 million in EPA funding alone. George and Patrick have helped educate the broader population of West Virginia on issues of brownfield redevelopment and frequently travel outside the state to share best practices from West Virginia communities. Brownfield projects in West Virginia could ask for no better advocates and champions than George and Patrick, and the impact of their commitment to West Virginia communities is clear in their work over the past decade.
ASSISTANCE CENTERS PRESENT FIRST WEST VIRGINIA BROWNFIELDS AWARDS

Looking back on 10 years of brownfields work in West Virginia, the Brownfields Assistance Centers presented the first West Virginia Brownfields Awards at the 2015 West Virginia Brownfields Conference to recognize hard work and great achievements in brownfields redevelopment from across the state. These awards recognized individuals and communities who have made major contributions to the redevelopment of brownfields in West Virginia.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Recognizes a project or community partner that has demonstrated excellence in economic development on one or more brownfield sites. The 2015 recipient was Christy Laxton, executive director of the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority (EDA). Under Christy’s leadership, the Wyoming County EDA was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant in 2006. The EDA identified Brownfields sites across the county, creating the Brownfields Stakeholder Advisory Board, working with community members from across Wyoming County, and received an EPA Cleanup grant in 2014.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Recognizes a partner or community who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to community engagement, working closely with communities to identify and implement redevelopment priorities. The 2015 recipient was the West Virginia Community Development Hub (The Hub). The Hub has worked closely with both Brownfields Assistance Centers on a number of brownfield projects, frequently partnering in communities served by both programs. The Hub is currently working hand-in-hand with the NBAC as leaders in statewide initiatives to address abandoned and dilapidated buildings through the work of the Abandoned Property Coalition.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Recognizes a project, organization, or community that has made a significant impact on the cleanup of environmental hazards through single or multiple projects. The 2015 recipient was the Brooke-Hancock Brownfields Task Force. The Task Force was established in 2008 as a 20-member, voluntary group. This Task Force has led the regional brownfield development program, administering three EPA Brownfields Assessment grants, assessing over 22 sites and leveraging over 300 new or retained jobs. Their efforts have secured over $800,000 in federal funding and leveraged more than $1 million in additional EPA assessment and cleanup funds on specific sites in the Northern Panhandle.
LOCAL LEADERSHIP
Recognizes a neighborhood, city, or county leader with a strong commitment to brownfield redevelopment. The 2015 recipient was Mayor Steve Williams of Huntington. Under the leadership of Mayor Williams, Huntington has received $600,000 in federal funds to spark reuse of 78 acres of underutilized, former manufacturing facilities located along the Ohio River. The vision for these brownfields sites includes new recreational and riverfront facilities; retail and hotel development; research and development facilities; green infrastructure for storm water management; and an “advanced polymer center” that will commercialize new technologies, foster entrepreneurship and train highly-skilled workers.

REDEVELOPMENT PARTNER
Recognizes an individual, organization, agency, or other institution that has demonstrated a strong commitment to brownfield redevelopment and worked closely with both West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers (the Centers) to facilitate brownfield redevelopment across the state. The 2015 recipient was Marlo Long of BB&T. Marlo has worked with the Centers for many years, serving as a member of the Advisory Board for the Brownfields Assistance Center (BAC) at Marshall. Marlo has also provided expertise and guidance to the NBAC, serving as a Collaborator with the West Virginia Redevelopment Collaborative and as a key partner on downtown revitalization projects, including the BAD Buildings program and the Downtown Redevelopment Working Group.

VISIONARY
Recognizes an exemplary individual or organization that has shown innovation and vision in the redevelopment of brownfields with major statewide impact. The 2015 recipient was state Senator Robert Plymale. In 2005, Plymale was the key architect in the legislation that created the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers. Plymale saw the need and the opportunity to promote and encourage the reuse of brownfields to benefit community and economic development. His strong belief in the expertise that Marshall University and West Virginia University can provide the state led him to create an innovative model for the implementation of technical assistance.
$62.3 Million leveraged by WV

7.4 Jobs leveraged per $100,000 of public EPA Brownfields Funding (2001-2015)

$13 Million given by EPA

EPA Funding increases dramatically following creation of the WVBACs in 2005

Having only 0.5% of the nation’s population

West Virginia leveraged 1.0% of the nation’s Brownfields jobs from (1998-2015)

In 2015, the WVBACs assisted communities in obtaining $1.7 million in EPA Brownfields funding
2015 NBAC Funding Sources

- **63%** Private
- **37%** State
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The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center is a program of the West Virginia Water Research Institute at West Virginia University.