

Brownfields

Brownfields are pieces of property that without proper clean up, cannot be redeveloped, expanded or reused due to the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. If efforts to clean up, reinvest and redevelop these sites are pursued, development pressures are shifted away from undeveloped land. This improves and protects the environment, returns non-productive real estate assets to productive use, and promotes the economic development of many economically distressed areas.

<http://epa.gov/brownfields/>

Sports facilities provide excellent choices when redeveloping brownfields. Some examples of successful brownfield redevelopment sites include Harbor Yard sports complex in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the Washington Nationals Stadium.

The Harbor Yard sports complex was built on the existing site of Jenkins Valve Corporation. Jenkins Valve Corporation was one of the world's largest manufacturers of industrial valves. However, in the 1980's, the plant shut down and left behind an abandoned, contaminated 18 acre site. In 1994, the site received funding to clean up and redevelop the site. Today, this brownfield has been developed into the Harbor Yard sports complex which includes a minor league baseball park, indoor skating rink, arena and museum.

The Washington National's Stadium is also characterized as a brownfield redevelopment site. The site was enrolled in the Voluntary Clean Up Program, which provides an opportunity to leave the 25 acre site a better environment than when it was received. Environmental remediation efforts will continue to be a part of daily operations.

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/brownfieldstoolkit/casestudies/csnatlCSports.pdf>

http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/was/ballpark/green_ballpark.jsp