



RETOOLING CRAIG

BROWNFIELDS PROJECT

ABOUT THE PROJECT

EPA has awarded the City of Craig a \$300,000 brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct due diligence activities, as well as identify broad hurdles to revitalization. Grant funding will also be used for cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES

- Inventorying, characterizing, and assessing sites to determine the presence or absence of environmental contamination
- Identification of redevelopment sites
- Redevelopment planning to identify feasible land uses
- 3D visualizations to generate understanding about opportunities
- Cleanup redevelopment planning
- Community engagement



TIMELINE

The City of Craig recently kicked off the project with Ayres Associates on November 23, 2021. This project will be a multi-year process and is anticipated to run through the October of 2024.



GET IN TOUCH

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EPA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

The momentum generated by the EPA Brownfields Program is leaving an enduring legacy. The program has provided guidance and incentives to many municipalities across the nation in support of economic revitalization. EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean-up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is 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.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE DOWNTOWN CRAIG

Craig's economy is changing. The downtown core has numerous brownfield parcels adjacent to the railroad struggling for new investment amid the residual coal dust that has settled over town. Buildings that were once vibrant in the energy economy's heyday are now struggling to find new occupants. This project will focus on where our community began, in downtown at the crossroads of Victory Way and Yampa Avenue, to explore opportunities for revitalizing brownfields into opportunities for a sustainable future.

One of the largest barriers to redevelopment of areas impacted by brownfield sites is the cost it takes to assess and manage the cleanup of these sites. The goal of this project is to gather environmental information, collaborate with stakeholders, identify priority sites, and develop remediation strategies that can spur activity and encourage long-term redevelopment and investment in the downtown.

WHO'S INVOLVED?

The City has enlisted a partner in this effort, the United States Environmental Protection Agency or EPA. The EPA has a national program that provides communities such as ours, grant support to address redevelopment goals and plans that may be hindered in areas where historic activities have left behind remnants of contamination. Those remnants may have been left by: Old Rail Yards, Blacksmith Shops, Obsolete Industrial Plants, Laundry Operations, Gas Stations, and Manufacturing Facilities. The City will also be working with the following partners throughout the planning process: Moffat County Housing Authority, Steamboat Regional Transportation Authority, Memorial Regional Health, United Way of Moffat County, and Moffat County.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CRAIG RESIDENTS?

This is truly a community project and participation, questions, and open discussion are vital to its success. All types of interest and participation are anticipated and some of the rewards are highlighted below. There will be a number of public engagement opportunities throughout the project's lifecycle. Check out the project's webpage for project related updates and information on how to get involved.

- **Quality Place** – Improve the vitality of downtown and create connections to adjacent neighborhoods.
- **Improved tax base** – Putting new businesses on vacant land.
- **Economic gain** – Surrounding neighborhoods often increase in value when these areas are improved.
- **Increased tourism** – In areas that may not currently be attractive.
- **Health of the environment** – Cleaning up areas of contamination.
- **Safer Neighborhoods** – Areas that are rundown attract crime, rehabilitation brings safer neighborhoods.
- **Community Pride** – It's a place people want to be.

PROPERTY OWNERS

If you own a property that might be a good candidate for this project, or if you would like more information, contact Shannon Scott, Economic Development Manager for the City of Craig.