



Finding the Green for Greenspace



Communities seeking financing for brownfields-to-greenspace projects can turn for help to federal, state, and local government agencies as well as to private investors and nonprofit organizations. This chapter begins with detailed descriptions of federal agencies that can provide not only financial resources but also technical assistance. Federal partners and especially federal funding can mean the difference between success and failure when brownfields are targeted for greenspace redevelopment. State programs also improve the feasibility of redeveloping greenspaces. Programs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Illinois are presented as examples of the kinds of state assistance available to communities nationwide.

In addition to discussing federal and state agencies with resources to fund or support brownfields-to-greenspace redevelopment, this chapter describes a wide variety of financing tools useful for local governments. It concludes with an explanation of nongovernmental resources that can help communities find the green for greenspace.

Federal partners

A wide range of federal agencies, including those that may not have an obvious connection to brownfields or environmental concerns, offer programs to help local communities establish greenspaces. Listed below are examples of federal agency programs that may apply to brownfields-to-greenspace projects. The list, while long, should not be considered exhaustive.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports brownfields and other development initiatives through its many agencies and regional offices. USDA is the primary agency working in rural America, but through its Forest Service, promotes restoration and conservation of forest lands and open spaces in both rural and urban areas.

Urban Resources Partnership

The Urban Resources Partnership of the USDA provides federal resources to community-based and community-driven environmental projects in traditionally underserved neighborhoods of metropolitan areas. Working with other federal agencies, as well as state and local agencies, and stakeholders in the private sector, USDA contributes funding and technical assistance to education and restoration efforts in cities throughout the country. This partnership promotes the reuse of brownfields and other blighted properties.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry program of the U.S. Forest Service provides technical assistance to urban areas to establish, maintain, improve, expand, and protect urban and community forests and related greenspace.

Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Community Initiative

Jointly administered through USDA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Empowerment Zones (EZ) and Enterprise Community (EC) Initiative emphasizes

the revitalization of disadvantaged communities. Rural and small community EZ/EC efforts are run by USDA and urban EZ/EC programs are administered by HUD.

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The mission of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is to conserve and wisely manage the nation's coastal and marine resources. To this end, NOAA has engaged in brownfields redevelopment from a number of perspectives, as described in the following paragraphs.

Coastal Zone Management Program

NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Program provides technical and financial assistance in voluntary partnerships with states. The goal of these partnerships is to help states with NOAA-approved Coastal Management Plans to protect and revitalize coastal resources. Funds cannot be used for remediation or redevelopment *per se*, but they can be used for feasibility studies, site assessments, and master plan development.

Coastal Resource Coordinator Program

The Coastal Resource Coordinator Program engages NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration to protect coastal resources from the effects of hazardous contamination that may be found on brownfields sites. Services include assessment and remediation of affected coastal sites.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal government leader in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. It heads the Interagency Working Group on Brownfields and coordinates the fifteen federal partners in the Brownfields National Partnership. This partnership links environmental remediation, economic development, public health, and community revitalization efforts to address the multifaceted nature of the brownfields problem.

Expanding EPA's Greenspace Goals



In January 2002 new brownfields legislation, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, was enacted into law. It requires that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency weigh the redevelopment goals of sites when deciding whether to provide grants for brownfields projects. One criterion to be considered in the ranking of grant applications is "the extent to which a grant would facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for non profit purposes." The inclusion of greenspace as a criterion for grant selection raises the prominence of brownfields-to-greenspace projects on EPA's agenda.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, 42 USC Section 9604.

Brownfields Showcase Communities Initiative

One of EPA's most prominent programs in brownfields redevelopment is the Brownfields Showcase Communities Initiative. This program provides coordinated resources, information, and funding to targeted communities. State and local community stakeholders are encouraged to actively participate in cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields processes and in the creation of revitalization strategies. The Showcase Communities Initiative:

- Promotes environmental protection, restoration to the land, air and water, greenspace development, and other objectives through the assessment, cleanup, and sustainable reuse of brownfields;
- Links federal, state, tribal, and local efforts and nongovernmental actions supporting community initiatives to restore and reuse brownfields; and
- Develops national models demonstrating the positive results of public and private collaboration to address brownfields challenges.

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots and Supplemental Assistance Awards

EPA uses Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots to administer funding to communities with brownfields concerns. This funding helps communities (1) assess and identify brownfields, (2) educate community members on the status and significance of brownfields redevelopment, and (3) provide means of creating unique, local financing programs. Pilot communities receive up to \$200,000 over two years to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning at brownfields sites and to involve and educate the community.

EPA provides Supplemental Assistance Awards to support local governments and communities wishing to continue their brownfields assessment efforts. These awards are capped at \$150,000, and an additional \$50,000 may be awarded for assessment activities relating to greenspace projects, including site investigation, characterization, reuse planning, and community involvement.

Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Demonstration Pilot Program

The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Demonstration Pilots allow EPA to assist states, tribes, and local governments with low-interest loans of up to \$1 million for brownfields cleanup projects.

Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Under the Clean Water Act, EPA provides funds for state revolving loan funds (SRFs) for clean water projects. These SRFs are low-interest loans and may be used for site assessments, reduction of non-point source pollution, constructing wetlands, and other purposes. Eligible activities under the non-point source pollution reduction umbrella include property acquisition for greenspace purposes and conservation easements.

Environmental Education

EPA awards up to \$25,000 to educational institutions including colleges, universities, and not-for-profit educational broadcasting organizations, that are increasing citizens' awareness of environmental issues and providing them with the skills to make responsible decisions.

Environmental Justice Small Grants

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice provides up to \$20,000 to eligible entities (local governments, tribal governments, community-based organizations, other nonprofit organizations, churches, and schools) that are working on, or plan to carry out projects to address, environmental justice issues.

U.S. General Services Administration

The Public Building Service of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for managing all building, developing, and leasing policies on federal properties, including property management and disposal. Through its public benefit conveyances (for public parks and recreation areas, wildlife conservation areas, and historic monuments, for example) GSA allows federally owned properties to be transferred to state and local governments at discounts of up to 100 percent of fair market value.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been a leader in supporting brownfields cleanup and redevelopment at the local level. It has a network of regional and field offices with professional expertise in community and economic development, transportation, public health, housing, and a number of other fields by which it extends technical assistance to local governments and community organizations. HUD programs applicable to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment are described below.

Community Development Block Grants

HUDs' Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides annual grants to cities, urban counties, and states to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic activities for low- and moderate-income communities. The annual funding allotments for CDBG are split between states and local jurisdictions called "entitlement communities," which are urban and their surrounding metropolitan areas. HUD determines the amount of each grant by a formula that uses several objective measures of community needs such as the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas. CDBG funds may be used for a wide variety of activities including site assessment, remediation, redevelopment, and planning, as long as the

activities meet one of the following objectives for the program:

- benefit low- and moderate-income persons
- prevent or eliminate slums or blight
- have a particular urgency because existing conditions in the community pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the residents.

Section 108 guaranteed loans

Section 108 guaranteed loans act as a second-tier funding mechanism to recipients of CDBG financing and are designed to stimulate private investment in redevelopment communities. Entitlement communities and states may use these secured loans to finance large-scale redevelopment projects that often address multiple facets of community revitalization. These funds must be administered to address community needs as specified in CDBG financing.

Brownfields Economic Development Initiative

The Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) finances projects that contribute to near-term economic benefits for low and moderate-income communities by creating jobs or increasing the tax base. BEDI funds are very flexible and can be used for the full scope of brownfields activities. For example, BEDI funds help communities:

- Acquire brownfield sites
- Demolish/deconstruct existing buildings

Turning brownfields into community gardens using CDBG Funds



Green Thumb, the nation's largest community gardening program, is funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Part of New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation since 1995, Green Thumb currently has more than 650 member gardens serving 20,000 residents of New York's five boroughs. Green thumb provides technical assistance, training, materials, and direct grants to neighborhood gardens throughout the boroughs of New York.

Many other cities also boast community gardening programs. For more information about programs around the country, visit the American Community Gardening Association Web site at www.communitygardens.org.

- Install needed infrastructure (water and sewer lines, roads, etc.)
- Construct/rehabilitate housing
- Conduct job training
- Provide business loans
- Create public facilities (such as public parks, child care and senior care centers, medical clinics, and community centers)
- Attract business start-ups and expansions.

Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Community Initiative

Jointly administered through HUD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Empowerment Zones (EZ) and Enterprise Community (EC) Initiative emphasizes the revitalization of disadvantaged communities. Urban EZ/EC programs are administered by HUD, while rural and small community EZ/EC efforts are run by USDA.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is the government's principal conservation agency, charged with protecting and providing access to natural and cultural resources. DOI manages the majority of publicly owned lands, including the national park system.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) of the National Park Service helps communities

acquire parkland, water resources, and open space for conservation and recreation. States can use LWCF matching grants in a variety of ways: to acquire and develop lands with high recreation potential, to build or redevelop recreation and park facilities, to create riding and hiking trails, to enhance access to recreation, and to conserve natural resource areas.

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service, also known as Rivers and Trails, provides technical assistance to local governments, nonprofit organizations, community groups, tribes, and states to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. Example projects include enhancing ecological habitat, restoring urban forests, and creating greeways.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program of the National Park Service provides up to \$50,000 in funding and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities without adequate recreation opportunities. Grants are provided to local governments to rehabilitate existing recreation facilities and to encourage comprehensive planning, operation, and maintenance of recreation programs. These grants cannot be used for land acquisition or to build new recreation facilities. However, some of

Rivers, trails, and an urban greenway in Rhode Island



The Woonasquatucket River Greenway Project in Providence, Rhode Island, is a centerpiece of Providence's Brownfields Showcase Community efforts. Once a covered and channelized river, the Woonasquatucket was uncovered and moved. A greenway with a bike trail was then created to provide necessary recreational and greenspace access. The greenway has become a transportation corridor between outlying areas and downtown Providence. Assistance from the Department of Interior's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as from other nongovernmental supporters, helped to make this project a success. Rivers and Trails provided technical assistance to the community organizations involved in the project, supported events such as the Woonasquatucket River Greenway Festival to raise the awareness of citizens in the greater Providence area about the efforts, and helped develop environmental education materials on the Woonasquatucket River watershed for elementary and middle school students and teachers.

the UPARR grants, such as the innovation, recovery action program, and at-risk youth recreation grants can be used to develop programming for recreation (for example, environmental education or interpretive programs), and to improve amenities such as security features and lighting, at urban parks.

U.S. Department of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) seeks to advance national growth through efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation and to protect the natural environment from adverse impacts of DOT-funded activities.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

The CMAQ program is designed to reduce transportation-related pollution. The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration partner with states and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to promote increased transportation options and programs as well as projects to reduce the environmental impacts of transportation-related development. Controlled by the MPO and the state department of transportation, CMAQ funds are available to a wide range of government and nonprofit organizations. These organizations often plan or implement air quality programs and projects as well as provide CMAQ funding to others to implement projects.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

Building on the initiatives established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, or ISTEA, the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century of 1998, or TEA-21, seeks to counteract the negative effects on communities of highway construction. This six-year extension of ISTEA until 2003, allows states to apply up to 40 percent of federal surface transportation funds to enhancement activities. Enhancements include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety and educational activities for pedestrians and cyclists, conversion of abandoned rail corridors into greenways and trails, the preservation of historic

and archeological sites, and conservation of ecologically sensitive and scenic areas.

Recreational Trails Program

TEA-21 offers a Recreational Trails program that provides funds to states for the development and maintenance of recreational trails for both motorized and nonmotorized trail users. States can also use a portion of these funds for the operation of educational programs to promote trail safety and environmental protection.

Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program

TEA-21 funds can be applied to planning grants, implementation grants, and research to investigate and address the relationships between transportation and community and system preservation. States and local governments are eligible for planning and implementation grants that reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment, and reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments.

Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways

This provision of TEA-21 allows for federal aid funds to be used for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Such projects are eligible to compete with other state or metropolitan planning organization (MPO) transportation projects. (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/>).

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Brownfields Tax Incentives

The Brownfields Tax Incentives program of the U.S. Treasury leverages private sector investments for brownfields redevelopment projects. Taxpayers can deduct or not report environmental remediation expenditures under certain circumstances. Projects in eligible districts include EZ/EC communities, EPA Brownfields Demonstration Assessment Pilot communities, communities identified as having poverty rates of 20 percent or higher, or those with fewer than 2,000 residents in which more than 75 percent of lands are zoned for commercial or industrial uses.

State Programs

There are a myriad of state programs designed to promote brownfields redevelopment and greenspace creation or preservation. Select examples are briefly described below.

Clean Ohio Fund

Approved by voters in a ballot initiative in 2000, the Clean Ohio Fund authorizes the state to issue \$200 million for brownfields redevelopment activities and \$200 million for greenspace preservation. There are four initiatives under the fund:

- **The Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund**—for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment;
- **The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program**—for preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors;
- **The Clean Ohio Trails Fund**—for creation and completion of trail systems and preservation of natural corridors;
- **The Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program**—for preservation of farmlands through the purchase of development rights.

Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program

Pennsylvania's Land Recycling Program provides liability relief for current or prospective property owners and extends liability protections to lenders, economic development agencies, and others with a financial interest in redeveloping brownfields. Key initiatives under this program include:

- **The Industrial Sites Reuse Program**—provides grants and low interest loans for environmental assessments and remediation of former industrial sites.
- **Brownfield Inventory Grants**—issues grants to local governments and redevelopment authorities to inventory brownfields in their jurisdictions. The brownfields are then listed on PA SiteFinder, a Web-based clearinghouse of available properties.
- **Keystone Opportunity Zones**—reduces or eliminates state and local taxes to stimulate job creation and community revitalization in eligible targeted areas throughout the state.

- **Growing Greener Initiative**—provides funding for farmland and open space preservation, maintenance of state parks, and cleanup of abandoned mines and watersheds degraded by acid mine drainage and other contaminants.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

Trust Fund

Approved by state voters in 1992, Colorado's GOCO program dedicates a portion of state lottery proceeds to projects that preserve, protect, and enhance the state's wildlife, parks, rivers, trails, and open spaces. Primary initiatives funded by the trust fund include:

- **The Legacy Initiative**—for the benefit of large scale, multi-year projects that integrate outdoor recreation, wildlife, open space, and local government projects.
- **Local Government Grants**—for counties, municipalities, and special districts to acquire, establish, expand, and enhance park, outdoor recreation, and environmental education facilities.
- **Open Space Grants**—for projects that protect land and natural areas such as urban open space, riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land.
- **Wildlife Grants**—for efforts to preserve and protect Colorado's wildlife through recovery efforts, protection and restoration of critical wildlife habitats, wildlife education programs and wildlife viewing programs.
- **State Parks**—grants for outdoor recreation projects that build, maintain or improve state parks.
- **Trails Grants**—for projects that build, enhance, maintain, or expand trails around the state.
- **Planning and Capacity Building**—for the development of plans to preserve or enhance open space, parks, and outdoor recreation areas, or to help build the capacity of organizations to do so.

Green Illinois

Established by Executive Order in 2000, the Green Illinois Program encourages community environmental planning in an effort to make state

government in Illinois a model of environmental stewardship. Green Illinois promotes efforts to reduce waste, increase use of alternative fuels, and improve energy efficiency. The use of products and procedures that are environmentally sustainable and economically efficient is advocated.

Part of Green Illinois, the Green Communities Demonstration Program provides grants up to \$125,000 to community groups to help them address local environmental issues. Under the Green Communities Demonstration Program, communities use visioning techniques to develop local environmental plans for:

- Parks and recreational areas including bike trails, walking trails, and greenways;
- Protection and restoration of natural areas, including natural habitats, wetlands, woodlands, forests, stream corridors, river corridors, and open spaces; or
- An environmental issue facing the community as a whole, such as brownfields.

Financing tools for local government

Local funds or financial incentives can supplement the assistance communities receive from federal and state agencies for brownfields-to-greenspace projects. Federal and state resources are rarely sufficient to take a project from start to finish, and such funding is often dependent upon the availability of matching contributions from local sources.

Local governments can employ a myriad of financing tools to fund or stimulate flow of capital to brownfields-to-greenspace projects. These tools include:

- Wetlands mitigation banking and habitat banking
- Development impact fees
- General obligation bonds
- Revenue bonds
- Tax increment financing
- Tax abatements
- Special taxing districts
- Zoning and permitting

Mitigation banking

According to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, which include wetlands, cannot be permitted if an alternative exists. Therefore, construction, land development, or agricultural activities that would degrade wetlands are not permissible unless steps have been taken first to avoid and then to minimize impacts on wetlands. For projects with unavoidable wetlands impacts, developers must compensate for the destruction of wetlands through the creation of new wetlands or the restoration of existing wetlands. These requirements can provide financial incentives to local governments and communities to create or restore wetlands as part of their greenspace plans. For example, in Vintondale, Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation purchased six acres of mitigation wetlands on former brownfields at \$15,000 per acre for a total of \$90,000. This funding enabled AMD&ART, the local coordinator of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment efforts, to create a perpetual care fund for the wetlands as well as initiate other enhancements. Existing wetlands associated with brownfields properties could be used for wetland banking or wetlands could be created on brownfields for the purpose of offsetting destruction of other wetlands.

The Endangered Species Act prohibits any actions including habitat modification, that may harm an endangered species. As discussed in Chapter 2, Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are required whenever construction or land development activities are proposed that would injure a species on the endangered species list or that would significantly modify their habitat. HCPs outline the mitigation measures to be taken such as preservation of existing habitat, creation of new habitat, creation of buffers surrounding existing habitat, and land use or access restrictions. Like wetlands banking, ecologically significant greenspace areas may be viable as habitat banks to offset disturbances to critical habitats.

Development impact fees

Many local governments impose fees on developers of new construction. These fees are used to

pay for local services, including providing the roads and public transportation, utility infrastructure, and schools to support new residents.

Impact fees can also be assessed and applied towards the creation and maintenance of parks, preservation of open space, and construction of greenways and trails. For example, the city of Long Beach, California, charges developers park fees on all residential development.¹ State legal authority may be necessary before local governments can assess impact fees for greenspace. The fees can be applied toward the mitigation of adverse impacts of new developments that consume open space. For example, development fees could be applied toward brownfields cleanup and greenspace creation in areas adversely affected by new developments or to ensure sufficient open space within new development areas.

General obligation bonds

General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer (for example, the local government) and are supported by the issuer's taxing power. They generally require the approval of voters or the legislature. The benefit of general obligation bonds is that they provide all of the funds up front to facilitate the purchase of properties, and the costs are repaid from tax revenues over several years. However, local governments are limited in the amount of debt they can assume. Competition results between the various local priorities in need of financing. As their name implies, general obligation bonds are not tied to a specific project. For this reason, they are often frowned upon by taxpayers.

Revenue bonds

Unlike general obligation bonds, revenue bonds are based on taxes levied for a specific project or on revenues anticipated from future user fees. For example, funding for a new baseball stadium might come from a revenue bond, and a portion of the ticket and concession revenues might go toward repayment of the bond. Revenue bonds are not limited by a debt ceiling. The borrowing

costs of revenue bonds are higher than general obligation bonds.

Tax increment financing

Local governments use tax increment financing (TIF) for economic revitalization efforts, usually in distressed areas. This financing mechanism relies on the assumption that tax revenues collected from a given area, or district in the future, will be higher than those collected today because property values will be higher as a result of economic revitalization. Bonds are issued to raise capital to fund redevelopment activities, and the new tax revenues generated are earmarked to redeem the bonds. When a local government or redevelopment agency defines a redevelopment district, local tax assessors then freeze property values in the designated district to establish the revenue base, which is in effect for a given period of time, usually ten to twenty-five years. The local government agrees to raise taxes at an incremental rate, as opposed to all at once following property improvements. However, the taxes received by the local government remain at the predevelopment rate, and the revenues from the incremental tax increases are used to service the debt and repay cleanup and redevelopment costs. Depending on the goals of the local government, the TIF district might include brownfields designated for a mixed use development that includes a park or a garden. Because repayment of the bonds relies on taxes, the reuse must include taxable uses like a factory, housing, or shops and restaurants.

Special taxing districts

Cities can create special service areas or taxing districts in order to raise funds for services, improvements, or facilities that would benefit the specific area. In a special taxing district, property owners agree that a real estate levy or special fee will be imposed on them that will benefit them with services or improvements. Special taxing districts might be used to fund the cleanup of a brownfields site and its conversion into a park. Businesses surrounding a brownfields property may decide that the site is hurting their business so they might agree to tax themselves to clean it

¹ http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/bdc/impact_fees.htm

up and turn it into a garden that would be attractive to potential customers.

Zoning and permitting

Local government agencies receive requests from developers for permits or for exceptions from zoning laws. In exchange for considering such requests, local officials can make requests of developers. For example, local officials can request that developers make portions of their property available for public use, or that they create or upgrade public recreational facilities. Local officials should not hesitate to use this bargaining power, since it is a cost-effective way to achieve public greenspace benefits without depleting local coffers.

Nongovernmental resources

Brownfields redevelopment into greenspace is supported by multiple nongovernmental funders specifically focused on creating and restoring greenspace because of the public benefits. Local governments should tap these funding sources along with the public funding sources discussed earlier. The following list identifies nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations committed to greenspace creation. The list, which is by no means exhaustive, is designed to lead readers to diverse sources of information and assistance on greenspace projects.

The American Community Gardening Association (ACGA)

A national nonprofit membership organization of professionals, volunteers and supporters of community gardening in urban and rural communities.

www.communitygarden.org

American Trails

The only national, nonprofit organization working on behalf of all trail interests. Members want to create and protect America's network of interconnected trails.

<http://www.AmericanTrails.org>

America Walks

A national coalition of local advocacy groups dedicated to promoting walkable communities.

www.americawalks.org/

National Center for Bicycling and Walking

A nationwide organization dedicated to creating more bicycle-friendly and walkable communities.

www.bikewalk.org

National Recreation and Park Association

An organization dedicated to the advancement of parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

<http://www.nrpa.org/>

Rails to Trails Conservancy

A conservancy to enrich America's communities and countryside by creating a nationwide network of public trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors.

<http://www.railstotrails.org/>

<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/>

Trust for Public Land

The only national nonprofit group working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being.

www.tpl.org

Wallace Reader's Digest Funds' Urban Parks Initiative and the Urban Parks Institute

An initiative to increase the quality and quantity of parks for public use, especially in underserved neighborhoods.

<http://www.wallacefunds.org>

<http://pps.org//upo/>

Conclusions

Even the most experienced brownfields practitioner can benefit from the assistance available at the federal, state, and local levels. The ability to take advantage of these programs in support of brownfields redevelopment as greenspace

and to leverage funding may make the crucial difference between an idea and a completed project.

Not every federal program is applicable to every brownfields-to-greenspace project. In fact, many tools and resources are targeted at specific types of projects, such as those addressing water issues or habitat restoration. Local officials and community members, however, should cast a wide net in seeking project support from federal, state, and local programs because many opportunities that may not have the brown-

fields or greenspace label will nevertheless be appropriate.

Local communities should seek out all possible funding sources, including those from all levels of government as well as from nongovernmental organizations. Many nongovernmental organizations are dedicated to the creation and preservation of greenspace whether parks, recreation areas, greenways, or natural open space. These resources should be explored when seeking assistance and support for brownfields-to-greenspace endeavors.

