

# BROWNFIELD INVESTMENTS FUEL ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Brownfield sites exist in nearly every community in Minnesota and result from past industrial, commercial and waste management activities.** Brownfield sites range from small corner gas stations to large industrial facilities. The higher cost, longer timeline, and contamination liability concerns associated with brownfields act as disincentives to sale and re-use. Transferring and redeveloping brownfield sites produce significant public benefits, including:

- Short-term and long-term job creation
- Revitalization of tax base/tax revenue
- Local economic growth and investment
- Renewed use of existing commercial properties
- Efficient use of existing infrastructure
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Property value increases
- Reduced threat to public health
- Reduced sprawl
- Air and water quality improvements

## PAST SUCCESS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITY

1995

### 1995-2010:

Over 6,000 brownfield sites enrolled in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) cleanup programs; over 4,000 sites investigated and/or cleaned up, yielding over 32,000 acres of revitalized land.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) awarded \$118 million to complete more than 275 brownfield cleanups with the following results:

- > **\$3 Billion in Private Investment Leveraged - \$25 private investment for every \$1 granted**
- > **20,678 New Jobs Created**
- > **12,331 Jobs Retained**
- > **2,939 Acres Cleaned Up and Revitalized**
- > **\$73 Million Increase to Local Tax Base**

DEED provides the main source of brownfield funds in Minnesota. Other state brownfield funding sources are: MPCA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

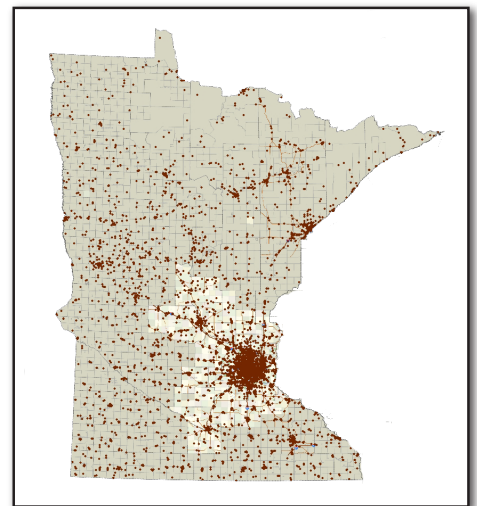
Brownfield funds have been a catalyst for business development from Fortune 500 companies (Medtronic, Best Buy, US Bank) to small businesses (Summit Brewery-St. Paul, Clyde Iron Works-Duluth, Minnesota BioBusiness Center-Rochester, and many others).

2010

2011

### 2011:

Over 10,000 known contaminated or potentially contaminated sites exist in Minnesota.



**Brownfield Sites: 2011**

### COST OF DOING NOTHING - IDLE BROWNFIELDS -

**Local effects** = reduced job opportunities, tax base, decreased community activity and vibrancy, increased blight and potential for crime, and increased risk of exposure to contaminants.

**Regional/state effects** = increased public infrastructure costs, traffic and air pollution, diminished ability to grow local businesses or attract major corporate employers.

**Brownfield redevelopment efforts have been a success in Minnesota, but there is much more to do. Coming out of the current recession, brownfield redevelopment can be a key engine for economic growth and job creation. Minnesota needs to rejuvenate funding levels to DEED, the Metropolitan Council, and all other dedicated brownfield-focused sources to allow the continuance of the robust production we are known for nationally - production that has provided marketable land and buildings for substantial private sector business and jobs growth.**