



Information for Future Citizens



As families grow, our cities get bigger. Just like children, cities grow bigger and need more room. For more than 200 years, we have been able to go to the edge of the community and build new buildings for homes and businesses. This continuous growing out away from the center of a community is called “urban sprawl”.

Our planet is very large, but we must think about the future. If we continued to build cities outward, we would eventually use up all of the green spaces. Cities would some day grow together, become one big city. Our natural resources would not provide places for animals and plants to live or parks for humans to play.



Some of the places where our parents and grandparents lived and worked growing up have been abandoned. Many factories and places that used to provide jobs to families are gone or are empty. Some of those places have been polluted or just thought to be polluted. No one wants to build anything new there. These places are called “brownfields.”

The name does not come from their color. Brownfields are property that is the opposite of the green fields and forestlands we have been building on at the edge of our cities. Brownfields properties are usually located near rivers, highways, railroads or people. All necessary for a successful business.



We recycle many things such as plastic, paper, glass, metals, cars, and even computers. Communities and private businesses are now working together to recycle Brownfields. Together with the community, these Brownfields properties are being reused to provide new businesses, jobs, and homes like they did for our grandparents.



The people of the community, including children, must be involved to make the best re-use of Brownfields. Help recycle Brownfields properties in your community!



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<http://www.moline.il.us/departments/planning/economic/businessincentives.asp>