



[Region 8 Brownfields and Land Revitalization Website](#)

## Region 8 Western Brownfields Wire – Spring 2021

[Brownfields Grant Selections Announced](#) | [Training Opportunities and Technical Assistance](#) | [Grant Opportunity](#)  
[Brownfields Accomplishments](#) | [Contact Us](#)

### **Brownfields Grant Selections Announced**

EPA is excited to announced that \$66.5 million will be awarded to 151 communities nationwide through EPA's brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment and Cleanup grant competition. In Region 8, a total of \$5.8 million will be awarded to 13 communities. Congratulations to the Region 8 communities listed below. For more information, read [EPA's press release](#), [grant awardee information](#), and specific press releases linked below.

- [City of Trinidad](#), Colorado: \$600,000 coalition assessment grant and \$500,000 cleanup grant
- [Canon City](#), Colorado: \$800,000 multipurpose grant
- [Salt Lake County](#), Utah: \$600,000 coalition assessment grant
- [Turtle Mountain Band of the Chippewa Cree Indians](#): \$500,000 cleanup grant
- [Libby School District 4](#), Montana: \$388,000 cleanup grant
- [Dakota College at Bottineau](#), North Dakota: \$358,500 cleanup grant
- [City of Mandan](#), North Dakota: \$300,000 assessment grant

- [Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation](#): \$300,000 assessment grant
- [City of Spanish Fork, Utah](#): \$300,000 assessment grant
- [Hinsdale County, Colorado](#): \$300,000 assessment grant
- [City of Craig, Colorado](#): \$300,000 assessment grant
- [City of Loveland, Colorado](#): \$300,000 assessment grant
- [City of Missoula, Montana](#): \$300,000 assessment grant

---

*"We are so grateful to the EPA for their continued assistance in the redevelopment of Trinidad and Las Animas County to strengthen and expand our economic base through the adaptive reuse of so many of our historic structures."*

– Trinidad City Manager Mike Valentine

---



Pictured above: Interior of the Fox Theatre in Trinidad, Colorado. Photo credit: Fox West Theater West

Congratulations to Kansas State University (KSU) for being selected as Region 8's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) provider for another 5 years ([press release](#)). KSU TAB provides support free of charge to Region 8 communities to help overcome brownfields challenges. Those interested should contact [Maggie Egberts](#) or visit the [KSU TAB website](#) to learn more about the assistance, resources, and trainings they offer.

On March 15, 2021, EPA announced the selection of Groundwork Denver to receive \$178,000 in grant funding for an environmental job training program in Sheridan, Colorado. Groundwork Denver is one of 18 organizations selected to receive \$3.3

million in funding to build a skilled environmental workforce in economically distressed communities across the nation. For more information, read the [press release](#).

## **Training Opportunities and Technical Assistance**

### **[Jumpstart your Brownfields Grant Application: A Virtual Grant Writing Workshop](#)**

Are you planning on submitting a proposal for a Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup or Revolving Loan Fund grant? If so, EPA Region 8 and KSU TAB are partnering to provide a grant writing workshop at no charge to attendees. The virtual workshop will be offered as a two-part series and will be held on June 10 and July 20, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MDT. To register for day 1, click [here](#) and to register for day 2, click [here](#).

### **[The National Brownfields Training Conference, December 8-11, 2021](#)**

Save the new date of December 8-11 for the conference! Yes, the dates have changed again and the conference will be held in person in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Brownfields Conference features an educational program of speakers, discussions, mobile workshops, and other learning formats. This year, the conference will also feature special sessions on local economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Click here to visit the [conference website](#).

### **[The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, August 16-19 2021](#)**

The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF) will be a virtual gathering again this year. Last year's virtual TLEF was a big success and included twice as many attendees as normally attend the in-person forum. Proposals for the sessions will be accepted until May 14, 2021. Click here to [submit a TLEF proposal](#) and visit the [TLEF website](#) in early summer to register.

### **[EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessments](#)**

EPA provides environmental assessment services free of charge to communities through the Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program. Services typically include Phase I and II assessments and cleanup planning. TBA applications are accepted online throughout the year. Click [here](#) and get started with a TBA application! See below in the Brownfields Accomplishments section of the WBWire, to read more about several projects that received TBA assistance.

## **Environmental Justice Grant Opportunity**

The application period for two Environmental Justice grants is now open. Proposals for both grant programs are due on **June 1, 2021**.

### **Environmental Justice Small Grants**

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Grants are awarded up to \$75,000, and proposals are due June 1, 2021. To learn more, click [here](#).

### **Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants**

The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, academia, etc.) to develop solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issue(s) at the local level. Grants are awarded up to \$200,000, and proposals are due June 1, 2021. To learn more click [here](#).

Click the [Story Map: EPA Environmental Justice Grants and Communities](#) for examples of past successful Environmental Justice grant projects.

## **Brownfields Accomplishments**

Despite all the challenges of the past year, we've been impressed by how brownfield partners across the region have continued important brownfields work and have adapted to meet the needs of their communities. Below, we have highlighted just a few of our brownfield partners' projects.

## Affordable Housing in Missoula, MT

---

*“For twenty years EPA has been an essential partner in returning Missoula’s damaged properties to productive use. With land for housing at such a premium Missoula can’t afford to ignore properties that can be cleaned up and reused. We’re really grateful to EPA and excited to use this tool to help redevelop properties within the City’s existing footprint.”*

– Missoula Mayor John Engen in response to the City being selected for a Brownfields Assessment Grant in 2021.

---

### Trinity Project in Missoula, MT

The Trinity affordable housing project in Missoula, MT includes two properties: the Mullan property and the Cooley property. The Trinity-Mullan portion of the Trinity Project will include 130 residential units of which 30 will be supportive housing units and 100 will be for workforce housing. The Mullan property will also include a navigation center to provide intensive supportive services. The Cooley portion of the Trinity Project will include 72 apartment homes that will be for families and Missoula’s workforce. Both properties have utilized EPA Brownfield assistance for due diligence. Missoula County used their EPA brownfields assessment grant to provide environmental due diligence via a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment to Missoula Housing Authority prior to the Housing Authority taking ownership of the Mullan portion of the property. Homeword, Inc. recently received an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) for a Phase I for the Mullan portion of the property to assist with due diligence in anticipation of a property transaction. In 2019, Homeword, Inc. utilized an EPA TBA for Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments at the Cooley portion of the Trinity Project prior to acquiring the Cooley property. For more information on the Trinity affordable housing project, read the [Missoula Current’s article](#) and the [project overview on the City of Missoula’s webpage](#).

### Plans for the Scott Street Parcel in Missoula include the largest permanently affordable land trust in Montana

In 2020, EPA conducted a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment through the TBA program to assist the City of Missoula with due diligence prior to the City’s purchase of the Scott Street Parcel property in August 2020. The Scott Street Parcel is one of several parcels of land that are part of the historic Missoula White Pine Sash State Superfund facility. The property was developed as part of a wood treatment facility from 1920-1996. The site is being cleaned up by the responsible party and a portion of the site has been cleaned up to residential standards. The portion of the site that has been cleaned up to residential standards will include 3 acres with 70 units of permanently affordable homes and 6 acres of market rate housing. The 70 units of affordable homes will be

the largest permanently affordable land trust in Montana. The other portion of the property will be retained by the City to consolidate city services. For more information on the proposed land trust redevelopment, read the [Missoula Current article](#).

#### **[Brownfield RLF/Preserve Historic WY Celebrate Remediated Bell Building](#)**

The City of Cheyenne Brownfield Revolving Loan Coalition provided a subgrant to Preserve Historic Wyoming for the cleanup of the Bell Building located in the historical downtown area of Cheyenne. Preserve Historic Wyoming plans to modernize and renovate the building into several residential units. [Read the City's press release](#) and [the Wyoming Tribune Eagle article](#).

#### **[Focus Points Family Resource Center to Develop an Urban Agriculture Training Program](#)**

In the spring of 2019, EPA conducted a large-scale TBA evaluation of 2.4 acres of land between the Focus Points Family Resources Center's main building and the adjacent railroad tracks to determine suitability for urban agriculture. The TBA paved the way for the Center to move forward with site design and development for training gardens. In March 2021, EPA announced \$70,000 of grant funding to develop their urban agriculture program. Read [EPA's press release](#) and the [Denverite article](#).

#### **[Developing a Plan for the Abbey located in Cañon City, Colorado](#)**

The Abbey is a beautiful property with approximately 180 acres of land and 33 buildings in Cañon City, Colorado. The Abbey of the Holy Cross was a former Benedictine monastery that operated for 120 years until the Abbey closed in 2006. The centerpiece of the Property is the Abbey Monastery. Currently, the historic buildings are mostly vacant. However, there are multiple uses of the buildings including an event center, commercial leased space for offices and exercise class, wine production, and government offices and training facilities for the Colorado Department of Corrections. The property also contains farmland and vineyards. The redevelopment of the Abbey Site, immediately adjacent to Canon City's historic core, offers an excellent opportunity for revitalization which can guide future growth and redevelopment throughout Fremont County. In January 2020, Fremont County used their EPA assessment grant to conduct brownfield assessments on the property to evaluate petroleum contamination and hazardous building materials on the property. EPA then provided technical assistance from September 2020 through February 2021 to develop a conceptual redevelopment plan for the Former Benedictine Abbey Campus with a focus on a cohesive design concept including reuse of historic Abbey buildings, maintaining view planes, and green infrastructure concepts. Significant

flooding occurred in the community in 2013 and again in 2015, identifying the need for green infrastructure approaches. The re-envisioned site will have a new recreation center and much needed housing. We look forward to seeing the property become an asset to the community with multiuse redevelopment, thoughtful connections and viewsheds to enhance historic plazas and structures, and improved connections to recreational corridors. EPA's technical assistance included the development of the conceptual master plan for the campus property (pictured below left) and a perspective site rendering of the property looking towards the monastery from the main entrance (pictured below right).



### Safe to Grow

The Safe to Grow Story Map highlights community garden projects in Region 8 that have received EPA assistance for soil testing. Stories of garden projects from the Spirit Lake Tribe in North Dakota; Missoula, Montana; and Denver, Colorado are shared. Be ready to see some amazing before and after photos. [View the Safe to Grow Interactive Story Map](#).



Pictured Above: River Road Farmstead, Missoula Montana  
Photo Credit: Garden City Harvest

### **Contact Us**

For more information about U.S. EPA Region 8's Brownfields Program, please visit [the Region 8 Brownfields Webpage](#), [Region 8 Brownfields contacts](#) or contact Stephanie Shen with the EPA Region 8 Brownfields Team at [shen.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:shen.stephanie@epa.gov).

