



**MINNESOTA BROWNFIELDS**



**AND**

**HENNEPIN COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT**

**COMMUNITY GARDENS AND SOIL SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT**

Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department in conjunction with Minnesota Brownfields' Brownfields Gap Financing program provides financial support to community gardens for assessment of potential environmental contamination, including soil sample collection and analysis and remediation. The program is funded by a Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund grant to Minnesota Brownfields, a nonprofit organization that facilitates environmental assessment for reuse of properties that benefit the community. Funds are currently available.

Community gardens are typically tax-forfeited property in urban areas that are used by the community to grow plants. Unfortunately, the widespread occurrence of environmental contamination in urban areas and the concentration of community gardens within these areas results in the potential for gardeners and their families to be exposed to unhealthy concentrations of various contaminants. The assessment of community garden sites is used to ensure, as much as is possible, that the users of community gardens and their families are not exposed to unacceptable levels of contamination, either through consumption of produce or accidental soil ingestion.

Assessments can range from an evaluation of the historical use of the property to soil sample collection and analysis. Typically, the potential contaminants of concern at community garden sites are metals consisting of arsenic and lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The purpose of site specific sampling is only to assess whether or not the site is suitable for gardening activities and if there are potential exposure issues to gardeners.

For purposes of this program, eligible community gardens sites must be:

- either owned or controlled by a public entity or a nonprofit organization;
- parcels must be located in Hennepin County; and,
- applicant requesting the grant must secure a city council resolution from the municipality where the project is located (a generic resolution for City of Minneapolis is already available).

Privately owned properties, including all residential sites, are not eligible for grant assistance.

An application must be submitted to Minnesota Brownfields in order to be considered for funding. For more information, please contact:

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An application can be obtained from:

<http://mnbrownfields.org/our-work/brownfield-gap-financing/>