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# PRESS RELEASE

## County Brownfield Impact Report recognizes community redevelopment achievements

*New report celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority with review of projects and their economic, environmental and community benefits*

**TRAVERSE CITY, MI** – Since its establishment in 1997, the Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has facilitated 23 brownfield projects, including five which are fully complete. These projects have and continue to provide economic, environmental, and community benefits. Specifically, when brownfield sites are redeveloped the community retains and adds jobs; property values increase, expanding local tax base and attracting further development; the community becomes healthier, more vibrant, and prosperous through increased investment and the cleanup of contamination; urban sprawl slows and pollution, emissions, and runoff are reduced due to the centrality and density of brownfield sites; and, community revitalization catalyzes further cleanup and redevelopment.

Highlights of the program include:

### **Economic Impact**

- The community has realized \$455 million in private investment, spurred by \$88 million in approved local, state, and federal brownfield redevelopment incentives - *equaling a combined \$543 million in total investment.*

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- For every public dollar invested, there has been, on average, \$5.20 of private investment.
- \$126,920,095 in new taxable value has been generated.
- The result of this private-public partnership has been a flourishing community with 1,870 new full-time jobs and 136 part-time jobs while retaining 120 jobs.

#### **Environmental Impacts**

- Over 380 acres of land assessed and/or cleaned up.
- It is estimated that by reutilizing existing land over 1,350 acres land was protected from sprawl development.

#### **Community Impacts**

- Providing value to neighbors
- Protecting public health
- Meeting market demand
- Improved public infrastructure and public spaces
- Spurring neighboring revitalization

Jean Derenzy, Executive Director of the County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and interim Deputy County Administrator said, “The question I hope citizens ask after reading this report is how do we use the program next to take on community issues – including everything from affordable housing to new public spaces. I believe our community should be proud by its accomplishments and will remain committed to redevelopment.”

John Sych, County Planning Director, who prepared the report, stated, “The program is key in implementing the County Master Plan goal of making investments in areas of existing infrastructure and higher density of land uses. Furthermore, it’s not only about making wise land use decisions and cleaning the environment, but how the public can partner with private interests and use projects as catalysts for community revitalization.”

**The full Brownfield Impact Report may be found here: [www.grandtraverse.org/planning](http://www.grandtraverse.org/planning)**

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