

# Health Monitoring Committee

## In 2011, the US Environmental Protection Agency awarded Janesville a \$400,000 Communitywide Brownfields Assessment Grant to

inventory and investigate properties that are, or have the potential to be, contaminated with hazardous and/or petroleum substances. The City is using this grant to develop and implement a long term Comprehensive Brownfields Program to guide the prioritization, assessment, clean-up, and redevelopment of contaminated

sites; and to monitor the impacts of these brownfields on our community's overall health. The goals of the proposed program are to protect public health and the environment, remove blight, and clean-up sites in order to be reused for economic and community purposes. A Health Monitoring Committee (HMC) has been created to monitor the Program's successes in achieving these goals.

The HMC has been developed in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Rock County Health Department, Mercy Health System, and other local organizations interested in community health. The HMC will directly measure changes in environmental, social, and public health that result from brownfields assessments, remediation and redevelopment. Over the long-term, the HMC will document improvement in health and welfare conditions in Janesville, build knowledge of the health benefits of brownfields remediation and reuse, and stay abreast of ongoing issues, public concerns, and environmental injustices in the community. The HMC will document health improvements by tracking four public health issue areas: environment, land reuse, safety/security/health, and communication/risk communication. Examples of health issue area data could include quantifiable changes in: contamination entering local waterways, flooding and overflows through improved stormwater management, instances of odors from brownfield sites, number of blighted sites, number of lead-poisoned children, number of hospitalizations for asthma, usage of community parks, usage of riverfront open space, and job growth on underutilized sites.

**More Information.** The HMC provides updates on Program findings via quarterly Committee meetings, newsletters, and press releases, and all Committee meetings are open to the public. If you'd like more information or would like to get involved, please contact the following individual or check our website for updates:



**[www.ci.janesville.wi.us/redevelopment](http://www.ci.janesville.wi.us/redevelopment)**

**Al Hulick, Management Analyst**

**608-755-3059**

**[hulicka@ci.janesville.wi.us](mailto:hulicka@ci.janesville.wi.us)**



CITY OF JANESVILLE  
*Wisconsin's Park Place*

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## (RE)BUILDING A HEALTHY JANESVILLE -- OPEN HOUSE

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**What:** An opportunity to give the City of Janesville YOUR ideas and input on how the clean-up of polluted areas and run-down buildings can improve the health of Janesville residents

**When:** Tuesday, October 9, 2012 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

**Where:** Janesville Municipal Building  
City Council Chambers, Fourth Floor  
18 N. Jackson Street

**RSVP:** Terry Nolan, City of Janesville, 608-755-3095, [nolant@ci.janesville.wi.us](mailto:nolant@ci.janesville.wi.us)

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**The City of Janesville wants to hear from you!** Please join your neighbors and area businesses at an evening open house on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm at the Janesville Municipal Building. Your input is needed to better understand how cleaning-up pollution and run-down buildings can improve the health of Janesville residents. During this meeting, attendees will view creative concept plans and vote on their favorites. This event offers door prizes and is open to the general public. Light refreshments will be served, and children are welcome to attend with their parents.

The City of Janesville, in cooperation with the Rock County Health Department and other local organizations, is undergoing a city-wide project with the goal of protecting public health and the environment, removing blight, and cleaning up brownfield sites in Janesville. Brownfield sites are properties that are, or have the potential to be, contaminated with hazardous substances because of past or present uses. The success of our efforts will not only be measured in the number of brownfield sites identified and assessed, but also in how the City can address environmental and social injustices that may be related to brownfield sites in our community.

Some health issues that may be related to brownfield redevelopment include: lead poisoning in children that live in older rundown housing, poor physical fitness of youth due to limited opportunities for recreation within walking distance, or exposure to toxic chemicals from older industrial sites that have not been cleaned up. Redevelopment actions that might address these issues include: the addition of affordable downtown housing, the repair and maintenance of sidewalks for more walkable neighborhoods, creating more access points to the river and more parks downtown, clean-up and improvement of water quality in the Rock River, or fixing-up and re-using rundown properties.

During the open house, you will have an opportunity to find out more about the City's Brownfields Redevelopment Project (<http://www.ci.janesville.wi.us/redevelopment>) and to give the City your input.

We look forward to having you participate in this exciting process for our community. Please RSVP to Terry Nolan.



**Janesville Comprehensive Brownfields Program  
Health Monitoring Public Open House  
October 9, 2012**

The initial public meeting for the Health Monitoring Program was held on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm until 8:00pm in the Janesville Council Chambers. In all, about 30 people attended the meeting including staff from involved City, County, State, and Federal agencies.

The purpose of the open house was to share information about health monitoring and the brownfields program, get initial feedback about community issues, and make one-on-one contacts with attendees to set up future meetings and presentations. Heidi Holden, Neighborhood Action Team, invited the Health Monitoring Committee to attend a future Neighborhood Action Team meeting.

The meeting agenda included a short presentation by City and County staff introducing attendees to the Comprehensive Brownfields Program, and then featured a presentation by Laurel Berman from the Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry (ATSDR). Dr. Berman spoke about health issues common in brownfield impacted communities, and how revitalization can impact community health. Dr. Berman explained the ATSDR Action Model, which has been used successfully around the country, and which Janesville is using for the Health Monitoring Program.

Rene Bue, Bilingual Outreach Coordinator for the Hedberg Public Library, asked about how the Program will accommodate Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals. Karen Cain, Health Officer from Rock County Health Department, replied that the ATSDR grant the County received has translation services in its budget.

Various posters and displays were set up around the meeting room to inform and engage the public. Some of the Health Monitoring Committee member agencies had displays about their organization and activities, such as the Rock River Trail and Rock County's Transform Rock County Initiative. Many of the displays were interactive, asking participants to vote or make comments regarding a variety of redevelopment ideas and concepts. Below are the results of the poster displays.

		Public Meeting (10/9)Likes
<b>Poster Recreation</b>	Bicycle Friendly Janesville	8
	Special Events and Opportunities	2
	<b>More Use of the Parks</b>	
<b>Environment</b>	A Cleaner, Healthier River	10
	Clean up Brownfields	7
	<b>Fishing Docks</b>	
<b>Business</b>	New Retail Shopping Opportunities	5.5
	<b>Comment: Look to Beloit/Monroe about their downtown revitalization</b>	
	Being Able to Go Out to Eat and Have Fun Downtown	8.5
	<b>Comment: More businesses facing the river and outdoor, European dining</b>	
<b>Health and Safety</b>	People can safely walk to schools/stores/work	1
	<b>Comment: more bike trails, being able to walk to school, more sidewalks</b>	
	Grocery Store downtown with healthy, local food options	10
	<b>Comment: Reform the farmers market (new location)</b>	
	<b>Comment: Lead testing, Community Gardens, Rain Gardens, Healthy, Affordable Homes, Safe Housing, Health Education</b>	
<b>Redevelopment on Centerway and North Parker</b>	More/better access to trail and parks for exercise	
	Get buildings out of floodplain	
	Get rid of blight	
	A year round public market in the Schlueter Building (an operating industry) --> <b>"love this idea!"</b>	

***All ideas suggested by the public for this poster***