

Successful brownfield redevelopment in Wabash

On May 3, 2009, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in Wabash for the new Wabash County YMCA facility. It was built on a former brownfield property that the city donated to the YMCA. The Wabash County YMCA had previously shared space at the Honeywell Center in Wabash for its programs. The YMCA is now housed in a 75,000 square-foot building featuring basketball courts, indoor tennis and soccer areas, and two swimming pools. More than 100 people are employed at the new facility.

The new YMCA sits just across the street from the new John Drook Bike and Skate Park that was also built on a former brownfield property. The first phase of the park opened in the spring of 2008, and the second phase opened in spring of 2009. The park is approximately 2.8 acres and provides greenspace as well as modules that are very popular for bikers and skaters. The greenspace also provides extra space for the YMCA to utilize for special events as needed.

Both the YMCA and the park properties were contaminated by former industrial uses. For nearly a century, the former Bront and Mafcote properties were productive industrial sites, making a variety of products such as toys and furniture. The sites were impacted by contamination, including petroleum and metal constituents. The City of Wabash had a vision for how the blighted properties could be redeveloped for community use and took action to address the contamination at the sites. The city applied for and was awarded brownfield grants and loans from the Indiana Brownfields Program and the former Indiana Department of Commerce to assess and remediate contamination on the properties. The Indiana Brownfields Program then issued Site Status Letters verifying that the contamination at each site had been adequately addressed, enabling the sites to be redeveloped.

For more information about these Wabash redevelopment projects, please contact Lynette Schrowe at lschrowe@ifa.IN.gov.



The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new YMCA building



The John Drook Bike and Skate Park



The former Bront building was demolished to make way for the new YMCA facility.