

A scenic view of a river with a purple kayak in the foreground, a bridge on the right, and a hillside with trees and a building in the background. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Revitalizing River Towns Through Brownfield Redevelopment

February 26, 2026

ABOUT BROWNFIELDS

The U.S. EPA defines a **brownfield** as “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”

**More than 450,000
ESTIMATED sites in the
United States (U.S. EPA)**



BENEFITS TO ADDRESSING BROWNFIELDS

**Cleanup
Contaminants**

**Increase Property
Values**

**Turn Health & Safety Liabilities
into Community Assets**

**Enhance Economic & Tax
Base Development**

**Eliminate
Eyesores**

**Preserve Green Space &
Prevent Sprawl**

**Create New,
Local Jobs**

INDUSTRY ON THE RIVERFRONT

Why?

- Efficient Supply Transportation
- Use of Water in Manufacturing Process
- Power Water Turbines & Steam Engines
- Convenient Waste Disposal



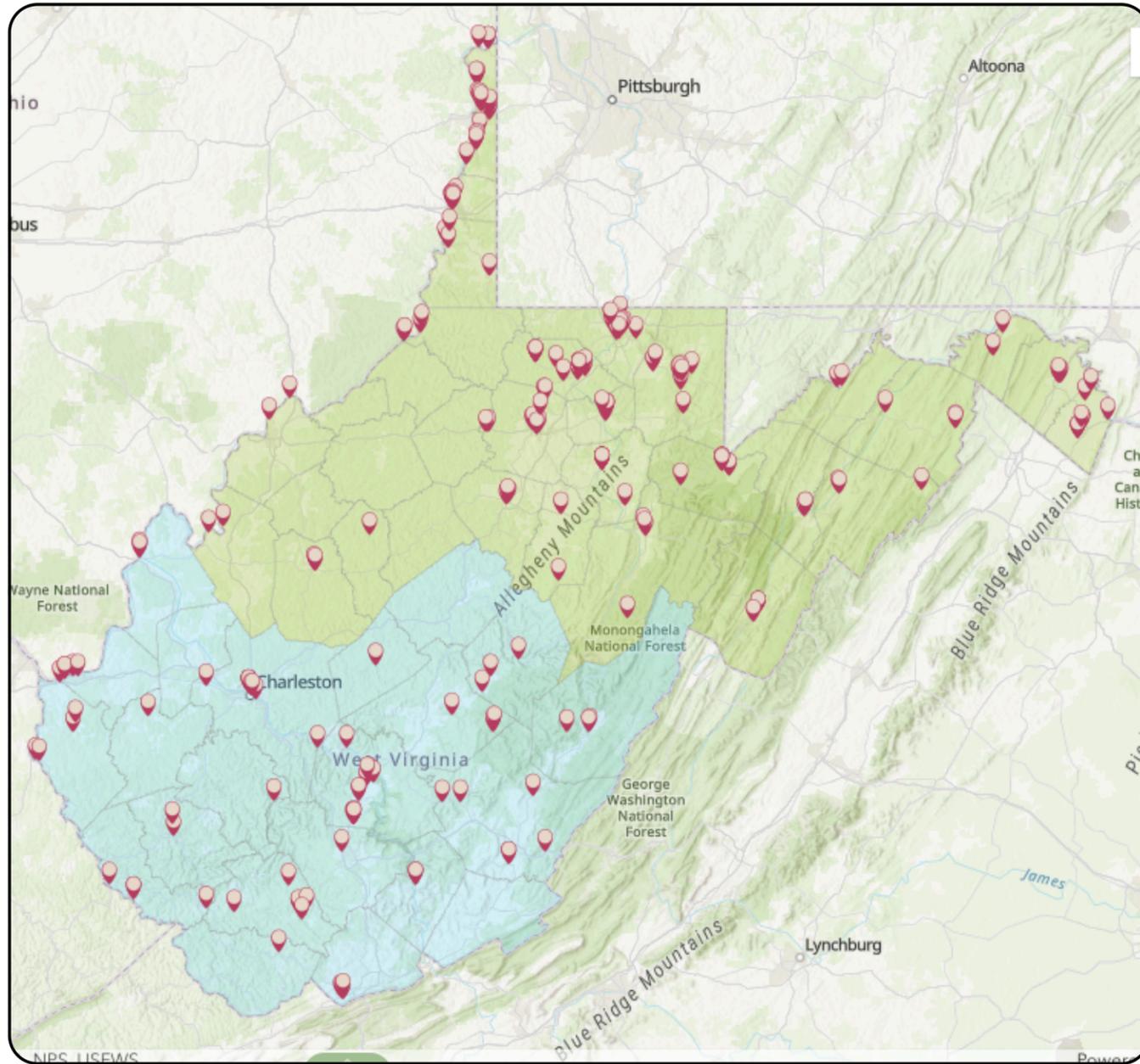
RIVER TOWN REVITALIZATION

Outdoor Recreation Reuse Ideas

- Kayak & Canoe Launches
- Fishing Docks
- Rail Trails & Bicycle Racks
- Parks & Pocket Parks
- Playgrounds & Splash Pads
- Ball Courts & Fields
- Outdoor Gyms
- Skate Parks
- Community Gardens & Orchards
- Farmers Markets & Pavilions



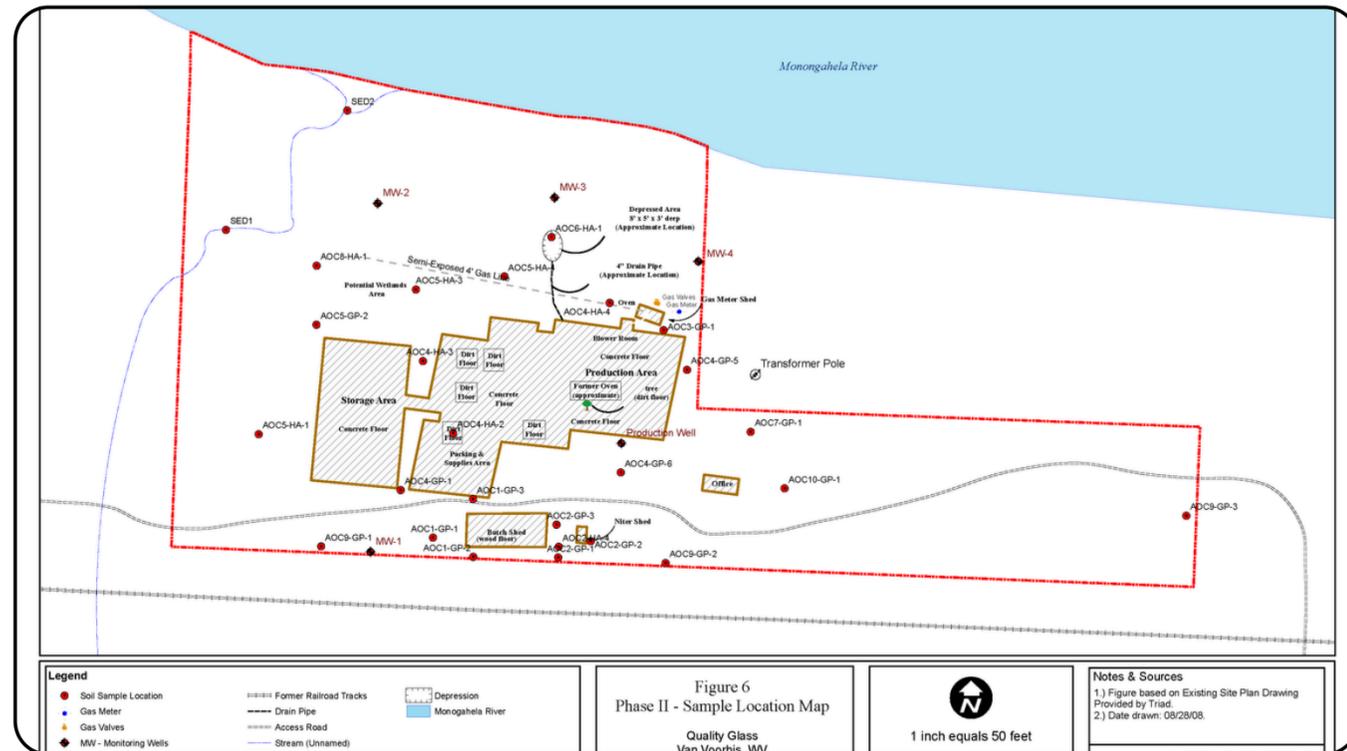
WEST VIRGINIA PROJECT EXAMPLES



- Morgantown, WV
 - Quality Glass Plant
- Fairmont, WV
 - Fairmont Box Factory & Adjacent Properties

[Brownfields Assistance Center at WVU Project Map](#)

QUALITY GLASS PLANT (BEFORE)

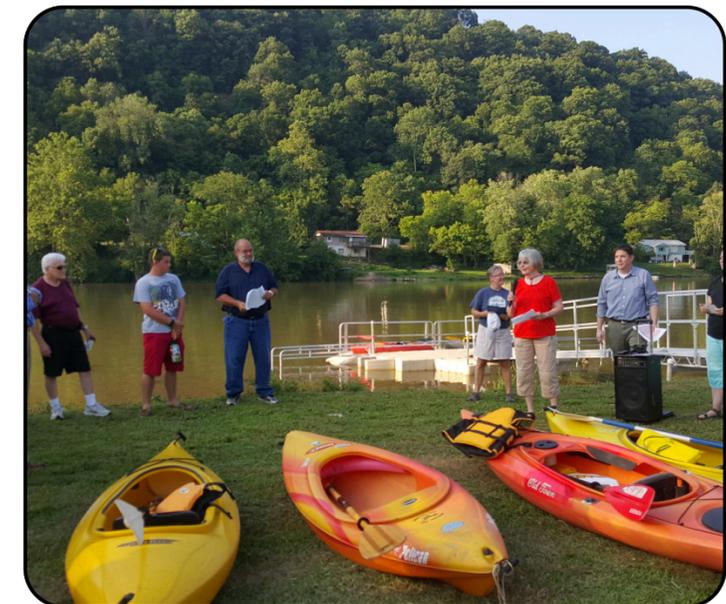
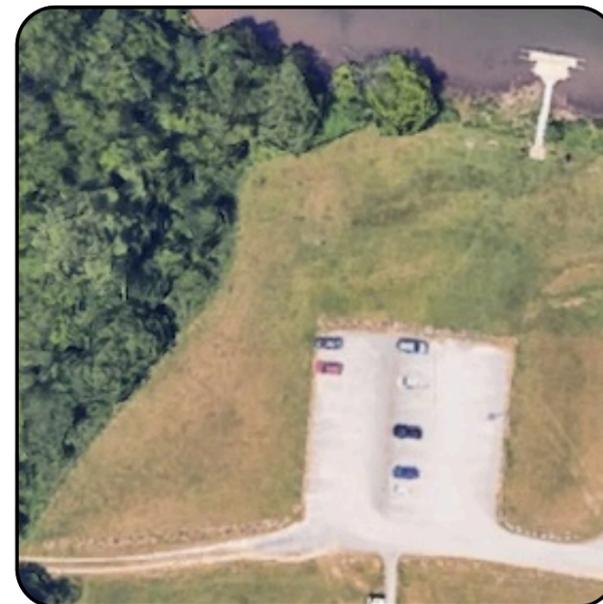


- 1930–1987: Glass Manufacturing Facility
- 1994–2006: Environmental Assessments Found Cadmium, Lead, Arsenic, Antimony, & Asbestos
- 2012: Remediation Completed



KAYAK LAUNCH (AFTER)

- 2016: Kayak Launch Opened
- Present Day: [Mon River Rail-Trail](#)
Van Voorhis Trailhead & Parking Lot



FAIRMONT BOX FACTORY (BEFORE)



- 1918: Glass Melt Shop & Recycling Facility
- 1927–1968: Cardboard Box Manufacturing Facility
- 2008–2025: Assessments Found Arsenic, Lead, PAHs, & PCBs in Soil
- 2025: Structure Demolished



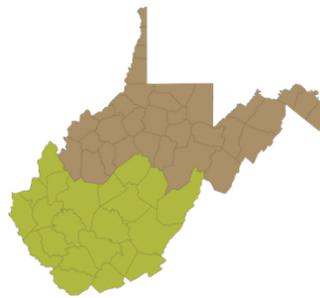
MOMENTUM ADVENTURE PARK (AFTER)



- 2023: [Beltline District Brownfield Revitalization Plan](#)
- 2026: [Momentum Adventure Park & West Fork River Trail Extension Plans Announced](#)



OUR BROWNFIELDS PROGRAMS



MID - ATLANTIC
TAB
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITIES



The Brownfields Assistance Centers at West Virginia University and Marshall University were created in 2005 by the West Virginia Legislature to promote economic development and environmental and public health protection through innovative redevelopment of brownfield sites. The Centers collaborate and coordinate closely to provide training and technical assistance, facilitate site preparation efforts, engage community stakeholders, and identify and pursue project funding.

Mid-Atlantic TAB (Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities) is a collaboration between leading programs. The TAB Program provides technical assistance to communities and stakeholders to help address their brownfield sites and to increase their understanding and involvement in brownfields cleanup, revitalization and reuse. The TAB Program is funded by EPA and available to all stakeholders for free.



FREE SERVICES



Education

- All Topics Around Brownfield Redevelopment Process
- Webinars, Workshops, Trainings, & Newsletters



EPA Grantee Support

- Training on Brownfields Grants
- Grant Application Reviews
- Navigating Grant Management & Reporting Requirements



Community Engagement

- Outreach Strategies
- Collaborating with Community & Stakeholders
- Facilitating Brownfields Meetings



Project Support

- Site Design & Planning
- Identifying Financial Resources
- Interpreting Technical Reports



Area-Wide Support

- Inventory Training & Tools
- Planning Across Multiple Properties

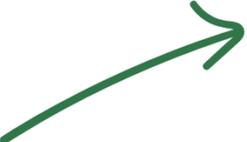
THANK YOU



Becca Phillips
Brownfields Assistance Center
& Mid-Atlantic TAB
becca.phillips@mail.wvu.edu



LinkTree to
Website &
Social Media



**Brownfields Assistance
Center**



Mid-Atlantic TAB