The WV Brownfields Awards recognize the hard work and great achievements in brownfields redevelopment from across the state. These awards recognize individuals and communities who have made major contributions to the redevelopment of brownfields in West Virginia.

Community Engagement
The 2019 WV Brownfields Award in Community Engagement recognizes a partner or community who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to community engagement, working closely with communities to identify and implement redevelopment priorities.

This year’s recipient is Matt Ford, President of the Meadow River Valley Association. Matt has worked as a Licensed Remediation Specialist on brownfield sites throughout West Virginia since 2007, working to assist struggling communities near his hometown of Rainelle, West Virginia.

Matt was instrumental in the formation of the Greater Greenbrier Long-Term Recovery Committee, the first organization of its kind in West Virginia. During his time as Co-Vice Chair of GGLTRC, Matt assisted with monthly gatherings that helped provide recovery and relief information following the devastating flood in June 2016. Matt now serves as the President of Meadow River Valley Association and is leading multiple teams consisting of over 150 individuals, other nonprofit organizations, businesses, and committees focusing on efforts such as early childhood development, local food production, addiction recovery, housing, small business development, and redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized properties. MRVA is currently working on plans for the redevelopment of the former school campus and was recently selected by the WV Community Development Hub to participate in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh’s Blueprint Communities Program.

Matt also serves on the Board of Directors for Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation and was appointed by the Greenbrier County Commission to be the Meadow River Rail Trail Team Leader.

Nominate your project or colleague!
The WV Brownfield Awards are presented every year at the WV Brownfields Conference. These awards provide an important opportunity for us to celebrate the great work happening in the field of brownfield redevelopment, and to honor the innovation, passion, and excellence of community volunteers, elected officials, and service providers from across West Virginia. We encourage you to consider nominating your project, community, or colleagues for recognition in coming years. Learn more about the WV Brownfield Awards and previous award winners at www.wvbrownfields.org.
Economic Development
The 2019 WV Brownfields Award in Economic Development recognizes a project or community partner that has demonstrated excellence in economic development on one or more brownfield sites.

This year’s recipient is the City of Milton. The City of Milton has owned the 180-acre former Morris Memorial Hospital property for several years. The hospital was built in 1936 to treat polio victims and included a full working farm that supplied food to the facility. The hospital closed around 1960 and operated later as a nursing home, then sat vacant.

The City worked with the WV Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University to secure an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment grant funding to perform Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessment studies to identify environmental impacts at the site. The site is now under construction for the Grand Patrician Resort, an estimated $30 Million investment for Phase I of the project that includes a hotel with a restaurant, a 500-person convention center, a chapel for destination weddings, a nine-hole golf course replicating famous par three holes from around the world, and other resort amenities. Future phases include a 3,500-seat coliseum based on the design of the Roman Coliseum, spa, indoor swimming pool, baseball and softball fields, amphitheater, and more. The original hospital structure, including its elaborate cut-stone masonry, is being saved and incorporated into project design.

Environmental Impact
The Environmental Impact Award recognizes a project, organization, or community that has made a significant impact on the cleanup of environmental hazards through single or multiple projects. This year’s recipient is the Barkers Creek Industrial Park.

The Barkers Creek Industrial Park in Tralee was abandoned in 2000 and had previously been the site of a pressurized wood treatment facility and a storage location for equipment and trucks associated with a solid waste collection company. The Wyoming County EDA purchased the site in 2011 with the intention of redeveloping the brownfield as an industrial park.

The Wyoming County EDA received a US EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant for the site and in July of 2018, Main Street Builders began the cleanup of the site. Since then, workers have removed test barrels, installed silt fences, delineated contaminated areas, demolished concrete pads and block buildings, installed new fire hydrants, paved access roads, and much more. All brownfield remediation work was completed by September of 2018, and all site work was completed shortly thereafter.

The site, which sits near the planned route of the Coalfields Expressway, is over 10 acres and will soon be available for business leases. The park can accommodate businesses ranging from 6,000 to 50,000 square feet. In February 2019, the Wyoming County EDA received approval from WV DEP to for a temporary tenant with a 2-year lease to move into office units on site.
Local Leadership

The 2019 Local Leadership Award recognizes a neighborhood, city, or county leader with a strong commitment to brownfield redevelopment.

This year’s recipient is Martin Howe, former City Manager of Clarksburg, WV. A native of Clarksburg, Mr. Howe graduated from Washington Irving High School and is a graduate of Fairmont State University (Class of 1995). His double major in Management and Marketing led to a 5 year position of increasing responsibilities with General Growth Properties at two different locations in Michigan.

Martin returned to West Virginia in 2000 to pursue private sector opportunities closer to home. He later was appointed to a compliance position with the state government by the late Thomas Keeley. The Clarksburg City Council hired Martin as City Manager in September 2005, a position in which he served until August 2019. This 14 year tenure placed him as the longest serving city manager in Clarksburg.

Martin has led Clarksburg’s efforts to clean-up and attract businesses to locate or expand on 3 brownfields sites in the city, has supported local efforts to revitalize the Monticello neighborhood, and supported rail trail developments. Under Martin’s leadership from 2005-2019 the city administered millions of dollars in EPA brownfield clean-up funds grants and leveraged significant private investment on those three sites. These grants were used to conduct community involvement activities, develop cleanup plans, and remove contaminated waste from the former Adamston Flat Glass factory at Adams Avenue and North 26th Street and the Quality Foundry property at 100 Stiles Street. The factory cleanup was completed in 2010, and the property has since been converted into a shopping plaza development that has created more than 130 local jobs.

Martin Howe is married to Valerie and they have three children, Jackson, age 15, Martina Giuliana, age 14 and Mary Claire, age 6.
Redevelopment Partner
The Redevelopment Partner Award recognizes an individual, organization, agency, or other institution that has demonstrated a strong commitment to brownfield redevelopment and worked closely with the BACs to facilitate brownfield redevelopment across the state.

This year’s recipient is the West Virginia University Department of Public Administration. The Department helps fulfill the aspirations of the citizens, communities, and governments of West Virginia and the region through graduate programs, faculty and student engagement in public service, and research. The Department offers Master of Public Administration (MPA), Master of Legal Studies (MLS), Graduate Certificate in Community Development Policy & Practice, and Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Administration. From its first graduates in 1970, the WVU MPA program has prepared over 1,600 professionals for public service leadership positions in West Virginia, nationally, and internationally. The research and service engagements conducted by Department of Public Administration faculty and students include state and global policy analysis, research for state and federal agencies, campus-community service learning activities, and service in state, national, and international professional organizations. In the past decade, over 280 MPA students have completed 85 projects that supported 41 distinct community and public service organizations through the MPA Capstone Seminar, including multiple projects that supported the mission of the WV Brownfields Assistance Center.

The WVU Department of Public Administration has been a long-standing partner to the Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center, providing strong support through student groups, graduate research assistants, and faculty expertise since 2010. In that time, the NBAC has worked with ten capstone groups who have explored broad ranges of issues related to brownfield redevelopment, from existing program evaluation to trends in other states. Their work has helped to inform the ongoing discussions on the creation of a Site Certification program in WV, as well as helped to measure the impact of investment and technical assistance by the Center’s programs. Faculty members have served on multiple project-level Brownfield Redevelopment Teams and worked closely with community projects to provide their expertise and the work of their students on multiple occasions, helping not only to increase the effectiveness of NBAC’s programs but also to help expand the understanding of brownfields by their students.

www.wvbrownfields.org