

ASTSWMO/Ohio EPA Community Gardening on Brownfields Toolbox

- Access online at: http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/30/SABR/docs/Toolbox_ASTSWMO%20-%20Ohio%20version%20--%20finalApr2013.pdf
- Toolbox is organized as follows
 1. **Intro/Purpose and Focus of the Toolbox** - designed for use by State and Local Community officials who have experience with Brownfield redevelopment
 2. **Getting Started** – questions and where to find the answers in the document
 3. **Utilizing a Urban Property for Gardening** – importance of AAI/Phase I if you are thinking of buying the property
 4. **Know your Property**- how to conduct some of the Phase I-type historical reviews easily and without having to hire an environmental consultant (since many groups who set up community gardens can't afford a consultant). This section also gives information on USEPA assessment grants and State assessments that are conducted free of charge.
 5. **Sampling and Other Considerations** – what potential contaminants to be concerned about on your property depending on what it was used for. What areas to sample or remediate prior to gardening or areas to avoid gardening in if sampling/remediation is too costly of an option. Also contains information on direct contact with contaminated soils and uptake of contaminants into plants.
 6. **Risk Management Practices** - gives examples of different zoning and ordinances some cities have employed to ensure urban gardening is done safely. Information is also provided on alternative gardening approaches, such as soil augmentation and raised beds, which help ensure contaminants do not cause harm to gardeners or those who eat the vegetables and fruits.
 7. **Common Sense Practices** - inexpensive and easy to implement practices or items, such as properly washing vegetables/fruits and wearing dust masks, that will help ensure safety of the gardeners and those who eat the vegetables and fruits.
 8. **Case Studies** – learn from successes (and a few failures) at other community gardening sites.

