

## **Brownfield Sites**

Brownfields are characterized as older industrial sites that are either vacant, underutilized, or have uses that may no longer be appropriate for the site. Due to changes in markets, the manufacturing process or business decisions of the original occupants, the sites are often no longer viable for their original use.

Brownfields impact the stormwater drainage process when pollution becomes a factor, as brownfields may be contaminated or be perceived to be contaminated. For example, sites formerly housing gas stations or factories may leave traces of fuels, oils and/or chemicals on site. Stormwater will pick up any pollutants that it comes in contact with during the drainage process and can carry these contaminants into local watercourses.

Soil contamination on brownfield sites can also be a factor when considering that most fresh water interacts with soil at some point, whether it infiltrates through it or runs past it. If soil is contaminated when water interacts with it, the water is certain to carry pollutants with it into the storm drainage network and eventually our watercourses.

The development of brownfield sites requires a multi-phased site assessment in order to develop a record of site condition to determine if a site may be developed or not. The City of Mississauga does not provide site assessments for this process, but can help property owners with information pertaining to requirements for a site assessment and getting in contact with a qualified person to perform the assessment.