

Iron Range Brownfields Coalition

The Iron Range Brownfields Coalition is a group consisting of members of the City of Ely, City of Eveleth, City of Virginia, Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, and the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.

The coalition focuses their efforts on the Taconite Assistance Area.



Awareness & Engagement

We cultivate enthusiasm and understanding around brownfields by sharing knowledge, raising awareness, and inspiring communities and stakeholders to see the opportunity in revitalizing underused properties.

Collaboration & Partnerships

We bring together public, private, nonprofit, and community partners to strengthen relationships, foster communication, and build a united approach to brownfield redevelopment.

Funding & Resources

We work to identify, coordinate, and leverage funding opportunities—federal, state, local, and private—to support successful brownfield assessment, cleanup, and reuse projects.

Policy & Process Improvements

We advocate for effective policies and recommend improvements to processes that reduce barriers, streamline redevelopment, and create more equitable and efficient outcomes.

Upcoming Events

August 13th, 2025: Lunch and Learn in Virginia, MN
September 20th, 2025: Lunch and Learn in Eveleth, MN
October 30th, 2025: Lunch and Learn in Hibbing, MN

For more information, visit
<https://www.ramsmn.org/advocacy-and-legislation/brownfields-and-land-redevelopment/>

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Brownfield Redevelopment on the Iron Range: A Region Ready for Revitalization

The Iron Range has a long history of collaboration around brownfield redevelopment, dating back to the late 1990s with the formation of the Brownfields Task Force. These early efforts secured federal funding to identify sites and laid the foundation for continued regional coordination through the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and later, the Iron Range Brownfields Coalition.

Over time, momentum fluctuated, but recent years have seen renewed energy and alignment. In 2024, the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) and the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation joined forces with the Coalition to re-ignite efforts. Recognizing a need to re-engage stakeholders and spark new projects, the group hosted a regional brownfields conference—drawing over 100 participants from across industries and communities. The event successfully raised awareness, built connections, and confirmed the appetite for redevelopment in our region.

Building on this momentum, the Coalition is expanding its outreach and solidifying a lasting home for brownfield work. Upcoming “lunch and learn” sessions will spotlight local brownfield success stories, featuring developers, city leaders, and technical experts. These events are designed to inspire, inform, and further catalyze investment in site redevelopment across the Iron Range.

The Iron Range is demonstrating strong coordination, renewed momentum, and a clear commitment to advancing brownfield redevelopment.



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