ENERGY ASSISTANCE BUILDING (703 N. PIEGAN STREET)



PROPERTY LOCATION & HISTORY

The Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) office lies diagonally opposite the northwest corner of All Chiefs Park in Browning, MT. Similar to the Developmental Disabilities Center located just to the south on N. Piegan Road, the LIHEAP office building is a single story brown structure with a ramp leading to the front door. This building was originally used as housing for Indian Health Services workers prior to becoming office space for the Blackfeet Tribe. The property is in a great location considering its proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities, local government offices, and the Blackfeet Community Hospital.



Site

REDEVELOPMENT VISION

Given that the LIHEAP office is set to move into another space soon, the current building may be used by the tribe for other purposes. Proposed ideas for this building include additional office space for the tribe or an alcohol and drug addiction treatment center. Maintaining the building as office space makes sense considering the proximity of the site to other local and tribal government offices. On the other hand, an alcohol and drug addiction treatment center would create new services in Browning for those in need so they would not have to travel to other parts of the state to receive essential services. A treatment center would also increase public health and awareness of substance abuse for Browning youth.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

In 2020, the Blackfeet Tribe was awarded a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to conduct site assessments on six to ten vacant or underutilized sites in or near Browning, including the Energy Assistance Building site. The grant funds will also be used to support community outreach and develop future cleanup plans if needed. The Blackfeet Environmental Office (BEO) is overseeing the site assessments and managing the work performed under this grant award. The BEO also oversaw the grant funding and work for the cleanup project that recently took place in Heart Butte. The BEO is committed to its community and is excited to help improve Browning for the benefit of the tribe.



OLD DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CENTER (659 N. PIEGAN STREET)



PROPERTY LOCATION & HISTORY

A small brown house with a ramp leading to the front door lies across North Piegan Road from the northwest corner of All Chiefs Park in Browning, Montana. This building was originally used to house Indian Health Services workers and then became a residence for those with developmental challenges in recent years. The building is in a great location in Browning considering its proximity to All Chiefs Park, local and tribal government offices, public schools, and health services. The Blackfeet Tribe would like to reuse the structure but is concerned about possible building materials contaminants (e.g., asbestos and lead-based paint).



BROWNING

REDEVELOPMENT VISION

Given its location, there are many ways this building could be redeveloped. Some ideas include a homeless shelter, a transitional housing program, or tribal office space. All three are great options considering the building has long been used to meet housing needs and its proximity to other tribal office spaces on the other side of All Chiefs Park. This redevelopment opportunity would enhance services available to the Browning community. It also has the potential to coincide with other local community initiatives such as Browning Public School's Families in Transition (FIT) program that works to support youth experiencing homelessness to ensure they receive a free, equitable education. Regardless of the fate of this building, redevelopment will benefit Browning and its citizens.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

In 2020, the Blackfeet Tribe was awarded a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to conduct site assessments on six to ten vacant or underutilized sites in or near Browning, including the Old Developmental Disabilities Center. The grant funds will also be used to support community outreach and develop future cleanup plans if needed. The Blackfeet Environmental Office (BEO) is overseeing the site assessments and managing the work performed under this grant award. The BEO also oversaw the grant funding and work for the cleanup project that recently took place in Heart Butte. The BEO is committed to its community and is excited to help facilitate improvements to the town of Browning.





TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (ALL CHIEFS ROAD)



PROPERTY LOCATION & HISTORY

The Blackfeet Nation has deep-seeded roots and traditions in north-central Montana. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) is tasked with protecting and maintaining this culture and history. Located in Browning, Montana, the THPO office building is directly east of All Chiefs Park and just south of the main tribal office building on All Chiefs Road. The single story log building was originally used as the Tribal Court offices prior to becoming the THPO base of operations.



BROWNING

REDEVELOPMENT VISION

Given the age of the building, an assessment is needed to evaluate potential risks to human health or the environment. Once assessment is completed and any necessary renovations are made, the goal is to transform the building as an addition to the Southern Piegan Health Clinic. The Health Clinic is currently situated one-block south of the THPO building and is looking to expand its services. By utilizing the THPO building, the tribe will be able to increase the amount of medical care available to the Blackfeet community and ultimately enhance their public health efforts and services.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

In 2020, the Blackfeet Tribe was awarded a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to conduct site assessments on six to ten vacant or underutilized sites in or near Browning, including the THPO site. The grant funds will also be used to support community outreach and develop future cleanup plans as needed. The Blackfeet Environmental Office (BEO) is overseeing the site assessments and will be managing the work performed under this grant award. The BEO also oversaw the grant funding and work for the cleanup project that recently took place in Heart Butte. The BEO is committed to its community and is excited to help advance redevelopment plans for Browning.



FREE SCHOOL (AGENCY ROAD)



PROPERTY LOCATION & HISTORY

On the north side of Agency Road, between Grandpa Road and Duck Lake Road, sits an abandoned three-story building. Commonly referred to as the "Free School", the structre was once used as a ration distribution center and later operated as a school until the mid-1990s. However, the building has been vacant ever since. The current condition of the building poses a health risk to local youth because it has become a hub for illicit drug use and unhealthy behaviors. The building is structurally sound and is ideally located for business near the heart of Browning. However, there are concerns about renovating the Free School building given its age and the potential for asbestos and lead-based paint. Available information suggests that an underground storage tank may be present on the property.



BROWNING

REDEVELOPMENT VISION

Given its ideal location in town and the large size of the structure, there are a multitude of options for redeveloping the former Free School site. Proposed ideas include a mini mall or a bison processing plant. Both options would benefit the local economy by creating new job opportunities and providing in-town services. Additionally, a bison processing plant could partner well with the Blackfeet's Innii Initiative whose goal is to celebrate the cultural and ecological significance of bison. This option would not only spark economic growth but would also help the tribe accomplish their goals of rekindling their traditional relationship with linnii.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

In 2020, the Blackfeet Tribe was awarded a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to conduct site assessments on six to ten vacant or underutilized sites in or near Browning, including the former Free School site. The grant funds will also be used to support community outreach and develop future cleanup plans if needed. The Blackfeet Environmental Office (BEO) is overseeing the site assessments and managing the work performed within this grant award. The BEO also oversaw the grant funding and work for the cleanup project that recently took place in Heart Butte. The BEO is committed to its community and is excited to help facilitate redevelopment in Browning.





MAINTENANCE BUILDING (14 COMMODITY TRAIL)



PROPERTY LOCATION & HISTORY

Situated across the street from the vacant Free School property is a two-story building that houses the Blackfeet Tribe's Maintenance Department. The structure is located on the south side of Agency Road between Grandpa Road and Duck Lake Road, in Browning, Montana. As with many older buildings, there are concerns that the structure may contain asbestos, lead-based paints, or other hazardous building materials. However, the building is structurally sound and is located in a central part of town.



BROWNING BROWNING

REDEVELOPMENT VISION

Ideally this building would become the new fire management facility for Browning and the surrounding area. Creating such a facility would strengthen Browning's public safety offerings. This new facility would also provide space for more strategic efforts in helping combat the ever-growing threat of wildfires to central Montana's communities and resources. Ultimately, this facility would enhance public health, environmental health, and resource protection.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

In 2020, the Blackfeet Tribe was awarded a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to conduct site assessments on six to ten vacant or underutilized sites in or near Browning, including the Maintenance Building site. The grant funds will also be used to support community outreach and develop future cleanup plans as needed. The Blackfeet Environmental Office (BEO) is overseeing the site assessments and managing the work performed under this grant award. The BEO also oversaw the grant funding and work for the cleanup project that recently took place in Heart Butte. The BEO is committed to its community and is excited to help improve the built environment in Browning.



CATTLE DIP VAT (7-23 STARR SCHOOL ROAD)



PROPERTY LOCATION & HISTORY

The former Cattle Dip Vat site is located just north of Browning, Montana near the southwest corner of Duck Lake Rd. and Starr School Rd. From the 1920s to the 1940s, the site housed dip vats full of an arsenic solution that was used to rid cattle of ticks. High levels of arsenic in soils are cause for concern because arsenic could potentially leech into local water resources. Increased levels of arsenic in soils and water supplies are a threat to public health. Today the property consists of vacant fields and a series of trails (the Pikuni Walking Park). The Blackfeet Tribe began creating the park space and added some trails, but progress was halted due to concerns about lingering arsenic contamination from the former dip vats.



Starr School Road BROWNING

REDEVELOPMENT VISION

The tribe began creating a community park space to increase recreational opportunities for the town of Browning. Long-term plans for the park include additional walking trails and a skate park area. Assessment of the property will allow the tribe to better understand if arsenic contamination is present and whether cleanup efforts are required. With this information, the tribe will be able to address any concerns and then continue building the park without health and safety concerns. This development will enhance the community by increasing recreational opportunities, providing access to outdoor public spaces, and ensuring that public health remains a top priority.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

In 2020, the Blackfeet Tribe was awarded a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to conduct site assessments on six to ten vacant or underutilized sites in or near Browning, including the former Cattle Dip Vat site. The grant funds will also be used to support community outreach and develop future cleanup plans if necessary. The Blackfeet Environmental Office (BEO) is overseeing the site assessments and managing the work performed under this grant award. The BEO also oversaw grant funding and work for the cleanup project that recently took place in Heart Butte.

