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## Other districts

Other Brevard County cities with existing brownfield districts include Cocoa, Melbourne, Palm Bay, Rockledge and West Melbourne. In Melbourne, Planning and Economic Development Director Cindy Dittmer said the brownfield designation played a significant role in helping bring three aviation companies and 660 high-paying jobs to Melbourne International Airport.

# Spaceport park eyes brownfield designation

BY DAVE BERMAN  
FLORIDA TODAY

TITUSVILLE — After designating the city's two airports as brownfield districts that can provide financial incentives for businesses creating jobs, the Titusville City Council already is considering adding another.

The Brevard County Commission wants the county's Spaceport Commerce Park to also be designated a brownfield district. Such a designation would enable tenants of the industrial park to receive a tax refund of up to \$2,500 for each new job created, as part of a state incentive program.

The brownfield district — to be called the Titusville Industrial Development Enhancement area or TIDE — has unanimous support from the Spaceport Commerce Park Authority.

The industrial park is in south Titusville, near Space Coast Regional Airport.

In a letter to Titusville officials seeking support for the Spaceport Commerce Park brownfield designation, County Commission Chairman Robin Fisher, who represents North Brevard, said: "In light of the current economy and the loss of jobs at the space center, it is vitally important that we do all we can to spur economic development and job creation. The brownfield area designation can be an important tool."

The city council must hold two public hearings before voting on the plan.

Brownfield districts do not have to contain hazardous materials, but rather can be industrial or commercial properties where there is merely the perception that such materials may be present.

The Titusville City Council last week voted 4-1 to designate Space Coast Regional Airport and the Arthur Dunn Airpark as brownfield districts. Both airports are operated by the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority, which is trying to attract more companies and jobs to airport property.

Council member Martha Long voted against the measure. She said she supports the concept, but felt the airport authority should have made a more systematic effort to notify nearby property owners of the plan, to determine if they had any concerns, particularly in the residential north Titusville neighborhood near Arthur Dunn Airpark.

Authority Executive Director Michael Powell told the council his agency did more than was legally required to notify neighboring property owners about the brownfield plan, but promised to take the extra step of contacting those near the airport property lines to tell them of the council action. ■

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