



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

LAND BANK

Community Briefing

News from the Montgomery County Land Bank
Fall 2022

Communities to Receive Tech, Legal Support for Brownfield Cleanup



The Land Bank has launched an initiative to help jurisdictions proactively address contamination on brownfield sites and eventually return the properties to productive use. The recent award of a \$500,000 grant from the [USEPA's Community-wide Brownfield Assessment Program](#) and an MCLB commitment of \$50,000 makes this program possible.

The services being offered include technical expertise, legal support and financial resources to take the first steps toward remediation. The program is designed to assist communities, especially smaller ones that don't have the experience and staffing to deal with the complexities of the environmental remediation process.

The grant, which comes with **no match requirement**, provides funding to pursue Phase 1 studies and/or Phase 2 sampling for contamination.

Montgomery County communities have been invited to learn more about program details at an information meeting on Nov. 15.

"The vision is for the Land Bank to become a regional resource for brownfield resolution," said Executive Director Mike Grauwelman. "We hope our efforts to restore troubled real estate will become the catalyst for redevelopment opportunities that benefit communities."

Brownfield Advisory Committee Appointed



The Land Bank has established an advisory committee comprising respected professionals and local experts to help identify brownfield locations that meet the intent articulated in the original USEPA grant proposal, which was to focus on river corridors. The committee includes these members:

Carrie Scarff

Director of Operations, Five Rivers Metro Parks

Keith Klein

Senior Development Specialist, City of Dayton

Martin Kim

Director of Community & Regional Planning, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

Dan Foley

Director of the Great Miami Riverway, Bike Miami Valley

Tawana Jones

CED Operations Manager, Montgomery County, Ohio

Emily Crow

Development Director, Harrison Township

Josh Rauch

City Manager, City of Riverside

These consultants will support the Land Bank's work:

Larry Smith

Principal, Healthy Urban Communities LLC

Chris Walker

Environmental Counsel, Walker Environmental Law LLC

State Demolition Program: Eyesores Coming Down



After receiving the maximum award of \$500,000 from the state of Ohio's 2022 [Demolition and Site Revitalization program](#), the Land Bank has set in motion yet another demolition program to remove blighting structures. By mid-2023, neighborhoods in the nine participating communities will see the removal of 62 dilapidated structures not located on brownfields.

The initial legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly guaranteed \$500,000 for each county in a first round of funding. Additional funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. The department has made an initial announcement and is expected to award the remaining funds this fall.

New Member Joins Land Bank Board



Brian Sharp, director of Market Development for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Professional Realty, has been appointed to the Land Bank Board of Trustees. He brings extensive real estate expertise and credentials, including Graduate Realtor Institute, Senior Real Estate Specialist, Military Relocation Professional, Pricing Strategy Analyst and C2EX.

Brian studied at Sinclair Community College, Wright State University and Hondros College. He serves as an Ohio Realtors director, an ombudsman and member of the Dayton Realtors Finance and Grievance Committee.

Committed to community revitalization and serving local residents, Brian is active in numerous community organizations, including the Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dayton Playhouse Inc. and the Miami Valley Presbytery, where he serves on the board of directors.

Brian replaces John Lumpkin, Jr., who resigned earlier this year.

Ohio Land Bank Association Coming to Town



The Montgomery County Land Bank will host the [Ohio Land Bank Association's](#) 2023 annual conference next April in Dayton. Last year's conference in Cleveland attracted 350 participants, including community and economic development professionals, subject matter experts and officials who deal with distressed real estate.

The Ohio Land Bank Association supports and promotes Ohio's 61 land banks, providing a collective, unified voice and advocating for the work of all county land reutilization corporations.

Stay tuned for details!