

Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation

The Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation (or Land Bank) is a community improvement corporation whose purpose is to promote and facilitate the reclamation, rehabilitation and reutilization of vacant, abandoned, tax-foreclosed or other real property in Erie County.

By strategically acquiring properties and returning them to productive use, the Land Bank works to reduce blight, increase property values, strengthen neighborhoods, and improve the quality of life for all Erie County residents.

Local Funding

The Land bank in 2022 and 2023 had a dedicated funding sourced for the first time in its history. This is thanks to the Erie County Treasurer and the Erie County Commissioners for allocating Delinquent Tax & Assessment Collection (DTAC) funds to the Land Bank.

The Erie County Commissioners in the fall of 2021, with the recommendation of the Erie County Treasurer, approved the resolution allocating 5% of the Erie County DTAC revenue back to the land bank. In 2022, the Land Bank allocated \$135,050.00 and \$168,600.00 in 2023.

Securing Outside Funding

In 2022, the land bank secured nearly \$700,000 from the state of Ohio for the purpose of demolition and revitalization activities at two properties in Erie County. The Land Bank will use this funding with the former Meier's Wine Cellar building on Campbell Street in Sandusky for redevelopment, and to completely clear the former school house on State Street in Vermilion. Both sites have end use plans in place that will better the community and will spur future development in the area.

In 2023, the Erie County Commissioners appointed the Erie County Land Bank as the lead entity for the State of Ohio's Department of Development Building Demolition and Site Reutilization and Brownfield Remediation Programs. This will be the second year that the state has funded both of these programs for the demolition and revitalization of residential, commercial, light industrial, and institutional properties throughout Ohio. The Ohio General Assembly allocated, and Governor DeWine approved \$150 million for demolition and revitalization, and \$350 million for revitalization of brownfield sites, \$175 million for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. The program allocated \$500,000 for demolition and \$1 Million in 2024.

2022 in Review

- Sold 16 properties to private owners.
- Transferred 17 properties to community partners for the purposes of future redevelopment.
- Secured \$700,000 in State Funding for the demolition and revitalization grant.

2023 in Review

- Sold 3 properties to private owners.
- Transferred 7 properties to community partners for the purposes of future redevelopment.
- Appointed as lead entity for the State Demolition and Brownfield Grants.

In 2022 and 2023, the land bank demolished or reimbursed community partners directly for the demolition of seven blighted and abandoned structures in Sandusky, Perkins Township, Huron, Florence Township, Oxford Township, and Groton Township.

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