



Summit County Land Bank Awarded \$1 Million in State Funding for Brownfield Remediation Project.

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — The Summit County Land Bank is one of 75 counties receiving state grants to clean up contaminated properties and prepare them for new life. In total, \$61 million is being awarded to support 160 projects.

The funding is part of the 11th round of the [Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program, which was created by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine in 2021](#). These awards include \$45.8 million for 84 cleanup and remediation projects and \$15.3 million for 76 assessment projects.

“Sites like these do no good when they’re left alone to contaminate the soil and impact the health of our neighborhoods,” **said Governor DeWine**. “Throughout the past five years, we’ve changed the trajectory of hundreds of properties that once held our communities back, turning long-neglected eyesores into places of possibility.”

"Any time we're able to take a forgotten property and give it new life, it opens the door to new opportunities for the people who call that community home," **said Lt. Governor Jim Tressel**. "When we transform these sites, we're investing in stronger local economies, stronger neighborhoods, and a stronger future for communities across Ohio."

The Brownfield Remediation Program has provided nearly \$780 million to support 841 projects in 87 counties since its launch. Funding is used to assess and clean up industrial, commercial, and institutional brownfield sites that are abandoned, idled, or underutilized due to a known or potential release of hazardous substances or petroleum. Following site remediation, properties can be redeveloped to revitalize neighborhoods and attract new economic development.

This award will support the Summit County Land Bank with the Quaker Square Remediation Project. The project will conduct mold, asbestos, and biological-waste remediation, along with selective interior demolition, at the historic Quaker Square complex in downtown Akron. The environmental cleanup will prepare more than 400,000 square feet of vacant structures for future mixed-use redevelopment opportunities that could include housing, hospitality, retail, office space, and enhanced public gathering areas.

The revitalization effort is anticipated to support substantial private investment, generate up to 1,000 jobs, and contribute to the continued momentum of downtown Akron’s redevelopment efforts while preserving one of the city’s most iconic landmarks.

“This award demonstrates the value of strategic public investment in properties that have the potential to create lasting community impact,” **said Summit County Fiscal Officer Kristen Scalise and Board Chair of the Summit County Land Bank**. “The Summit County Land Bank remains committed to supporting projects that strengthen neighborhoods, encourage redevelopment, and create long-term value for residents across Summit County.”

The remediation project marks a critical first phase in preparing the property for future redevelopment while maintaining the historic significance of the former Quaker Oats mill complex, which has remained a recognizable symbol of Akron's industrial heritage for decades.

"Quaker Square has long been an iconic part of Akron's identity and history. This remediation project is an important first step toward bringing new life and new opportunity back to the property," **said Patrick Bravo, Executive Director of the Summit County Land Bank.** "By addressing environmental challenges now, we are helping create a foundation for transformative redevelopment that can generate jobs, attract investment, and once again make Quaker Square a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike."

Local leaders emphasized the broader impact the project will have on economic development, housing opportunities, and continued investment throughout the region.

"Projects like the Quaker Square remediation initiative are critical to advancing economic development throughout Summit County and the City of Akron," **said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro.** "By investing in environmental cleanup and site readiness, we are creating opportunities for private investment, job creation, housing, and long-term economic growth. This project demonstrates what can be accomplished when public and private partners work together toward a shared vision for our community."

"Quaker Square is one of Akron's most recognizable landmarks, and this funding is an important step toward unlocking its future potential. Redeveloping this property has the opportunity to bring new energy, investment, housing, and activity to downtown Akron while preserving an important part of our city's history. We're grateful to our state and local partners for helping move this transformational project forward," **said Akron Mayor Shammass Malik.**

Project partners also emphasized the importance of preserving the historical legacy of Quaker Square throughout the redevelopment process.

"Quaker Square has been part of Akron's story for generations," **said Kyle Craven, Vice President of Craven Construction Company.** "It started as a major industrial hub, later became one of the first major adaptive reuse projects in the country, and eventually became a place where students lived. It is a unique piece of our city's history. This remediation work is an important part of the overall redevelopment, allowing us to protect that legacy while preparing Quaker Square for a new chapter."

"The Brownfield Remediation Program continues to show what's possible when state and local partners come together with a shared vision for a better future," **said Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik.** "By working alongside local leaders to clean up and prepare these sites for redevelopment, we're helping remove long-standing barriers to progress and unlock new opportunities for our communities and the great people who call them home."

This round of funding was made possible with support from the Ohio General Assembly in the most recent biennium budget bill, House Bill 96, which allocated \$200 million toward the program. As required by the bill, \$1 million has been reserved for applicants in each of Ohio's 88 counties for Fiscal Year 2026, with awards being made via a merit-based process.

Projects that assess or remediate brownfield properties are eligible for funding. Entities that contributed to the contamination of properties are not eligible to apply.

The Brownfield Remediation Program is part of Governor Mike DeWine's Ohio BUILDS Initiative, which focuses on supporting targeted solutions that impact quality of life, such as water infrastructure improvements, broadband expansion, brownfield redevelopment, and the demolition of blighted buildings.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio's people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at development.ohio.gov.

About Summit County Land Bank

The Summit County Land Bank is a nonprofit community improvement corporation dedicated to returning vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use. Through strategic partnerships and redevelopment initiatives, the organization works to strengthen neighborhoods and communities, support economic development, and improve quality of life throughout Summit County. For more information, visit www.summitlandbank.org.

###

For Immediate Release:

June 3, 2026

For more information contact:

Mason Waldvogel

Mason.Waldvogel@development.ohio.gov



For Quaker Square Remediation information, contact:

Patrick Bravo

pbravo@summitlandbank.org