For Immediate Release: June 5, 2026

Fairfield County Awarded $1 Million Brownfield Remediation Grant to Transform Former Petroleum Site into Community Recreation Space

BREMEN, Ohio – The Fairfield County Commissioners are pleased to announce that the Fairfield County Land Reutilization Corporation has been awarded $1 million through the State of Ohio's Brownfield Remediation Program to support the cleanup and redevelopment of the former Barclay Petroleum property in the Village of Bremen.

The funding, announced by Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jim Tressel, and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik, will allow for the remediation of a nearly 10-acre former petroleum pump station that has long remained underutilized due to environmental contamination concerns.

The project will include the removal of remaining concrete slabs and pavement, extraction of petroleum-impacted soils, disposal of historic gathering lines and concrete-filled drums, and installation of clean backfill to meet environmental standards. Upon completion of the cleanup and the state's No Further Action process, the property is expected to be transferred to the Village of Bremen for public recreational use.

Planned improvements include expanded recreational amenities such as soccer fields, a softball diamond, walking trails, ADA-accessible pathways, and future creek access opportunities for residents and visitors.

"This investment represents a major win for Fairfield County and the Village of Bremen," said Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix. "By transforming a contaminated and unusable property into a safe, vibrant recreational destination, we are improving quality of life for residents, supporting economic growth, and creating new opportunities for families and visitors to enjoy our community."

The Fairfield County Land Reutilization Corporation, or "Land Bank" is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to strategically acquire properties and return them to productive use. As part of

its mission, the Land Bank seeks to reduce blight, increase property values, support community goals, promote economic development and improve the quality of life for County residents.

“This funding will be helpful to us in fostering our mission here in Fairfield County by allowing us to transform this property into a beautiful, functional community space,” said Jim Bahnsen, Chair, Fairfield County Land Bank. “We are grateful to Governor DeWine and our state partners, who helped make this opportunity possible.”

The Brownfield Remediation Program, part of Governor DeWine’s Ohio BUILDS Initiative, supports the assessment and cleanup of abandoned or underutilized industrial and commercial sites across Ohio. Since 2021, the program has awarded nearly $780 million to support more than 840 projects statewide.

Founded in 1800 (three years before Ohio became a State), Fairfield County was the 8th county formed in the Northwest Territory. Today, more than 900 employees serve, connect, and protect the more than 158,000 citizens of Fairfield County, providing high-quality services and outstanding customer service at exceptional value to taxpayers. Fairfield County fosters economic and fiscal sustainability and works to enhance the County's reputation as a high performing, learning, and caring organization. For more information about the county, its services and employment opportunities, please visit https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/

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