

Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant

On December 16, 2019 the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation, also known as the Stark County Land Bank, was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) to clean up an abandoned gas station located at 2433 Columbus Road NE in Plain Township. This grant, which is being administered by the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) on behalf of the Land Bank, is being utilized to undertake assessment and remediation activities, including asbestos abatement, building and canopy removal, underground storage tank removal, and soil and water remediation activities. The ultimate goal of this grant is to create an environmentally-sound site that is economically reusable for future redevelopment.



The property was developed as a gas station and operated as such until 2008, when operations ceased, and has since been vacant. In 2016, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment Grant was utilized to conduct property assessments of the site. These assessments identified potential asbestos in the existing building shingles, three (3) underground storage tanks, and detections of petroleum compounds in exceedance of applicable standards in both soil and groundwater samples. As the EPA grant was for site assessment only, remediation was not an eligible activity under that grant.



The newly-awarded ODSA grant is allowing the County to undertake remediation steps at this site, with the final objective being to return it to an economically viable property. An environmental consultant was selected in March 2020 to oversee the project, and in July 2020 the underground tanks were removed and all existing structures demolished. The project is currently undergoing further testing to determine next steps for remediation. The project is anticipated to be completed by December 2021.