

Over the past 4 years, with participation in 4 state and local grants programs, we have demolished over 70 abandoned, blighted and tax delinquent structures in Springfield Township. Under the Moving Ohio Forward State Grant we removed 52 residential structures with associated accessory buildings, we removed 6 utilizing the Summit County Land Bank Discretionary Grant Fund, 2 structures were demolished under the Summit County Community Development Matching Grant Fund Program and 4 parcels were cleared through the Ohio Housing Finance Authority Grant and 7 are in the process of being acquired to be demolished. We are continuing to utilize this grant to further our efforts to increase property and neighborhood values by removing abandoned, tax delinquent and blighted structures. A majority of the structures demolished under the Moving Ohio Forward Grant were completed without cost to the Township or the property owner. The average assessment for the properties that were paid at 100% was \$3703.00, no more than half of the demolition cost. Many structures were removed with the owner signing a waiver which shortened the process and gave the Township or Summit County Land Bank immediate permission to proceed with the demolition process. Several properties were donated to the Township and will remain open space, redeveloped or may be offered to adjoining properties through the Summit County Land Bank Side Lot Transfer Program to increase lot size and reduce density. In many cases demolishing structures aided the property owner in marketing their properties that otherwise would have been less attractive for buyers due to the additional cost of removing structure(s) and septic systems. This side lot transfer is a new program through the Summit County Land Bank. It allows vacant and tax delinquent parcels to be acquired by local jurisdictions, agencies or adjacent property owners in good standing for a minimal cost to increase the size of their current parcel, use for public purposes or develop.

As of June, 2016, there were over 150 tax delinquent properties in Springfield and this is all potential revenue that is lost to the township. All of these grants and programs help increase property values by reducing blighted properties. Once these nonproductive parcels are sold or redeveloped they are once again generating tax dollars for our schools, roads, fire, police, parks and other local services. These improvements help in attracting new businesses, new development and redevelopment of our existing residential and business areas.

LIONS PARK - We have new homes being constructed in a newly acquired residential subdivision in Springfield. Lions Park subdivision is located off Marion Rd. and will have 54 new single family homes. This subdivision was started and left unfinished many years ago and now a new developer is completing the project. The development is adjacent to Lions Park in the Village of Mogadore and will have pedestrian access to the park as well as the green space within the development. We look forward to welcoming new residents!