

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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EPA selects Summit County for \$1.2 Million Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—County Executive Ilene Shapiro is pleased to announce the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded a Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant to Summit County. The grant will empower local efforts to assess, clean up, and revitalize underused properties that may be impacted by environmental contamination.

The grant will fund 30 Phase I and 20 Phase II environmental site assessments, as well as five comprehensive Area-Wide Plans targeting the Romig Road Corridor, Akron Airport Area, Cuyahoga Falls/North Akron Area, Akron Summit Lake, and the Innerbelt Area. The initiative will also feature robust community engagement activities to ensure local voices are central to redevelopment plans.

“This grant represents an important opportunity to address environmental challenges while preparing these sites for sustainable redevelopment,” said County Executive Shapiro. “It’s a win for public health, the environment, and economic revitalization.”

Priority sites under review include a 49-acre former construction yard in the Romig Road Corridor, a 2-acre former car garage, a vacant 7-acre site previously used for machine component manufacturing, and the 1.7-acre Ace Akron Rubber property. These properties have long posed challenges due to potential contamination but hold strong potential for community-focused redevelopment.

The City of Akron, City of Cuyahoga Falls, East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation and Ohio and Erie Canalway will serve as non-lead coalition partners, bringing valuable local insight and resources to the table.

The EPA’s Brownfields Program supports states, Tribal Nations, communities, and other stakeholders in revitalizing properties where reuse is complicated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Through this grant, Summit County is poised to turn once-blighted areas into engines of opportunity and growth.

The project fact sheet is available at <https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/gfs/factsheet/12843>.

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