

East Liverpool 2021 Funding Request

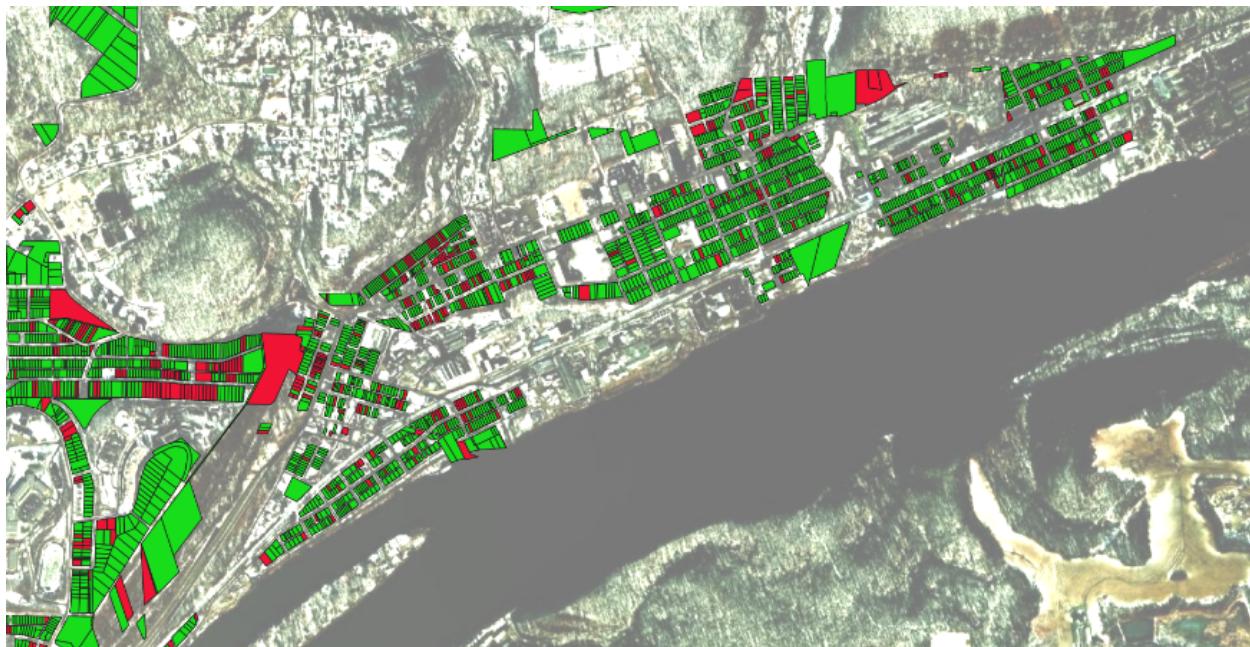
Blight Remediation

Project Summary

Acquire and demolish or rehabilitate abandoned residential properties and conduct property cleanup activities.

Project Background

The City of East Liverpool has experienced significant population decline (23,000 down to 11,000) and over the last few decades as the pottery and other key domestic manufacturing industries collapsed. The population decline in the City of East Liverpool has resulted in abandoned houses in every residential neighborhood.

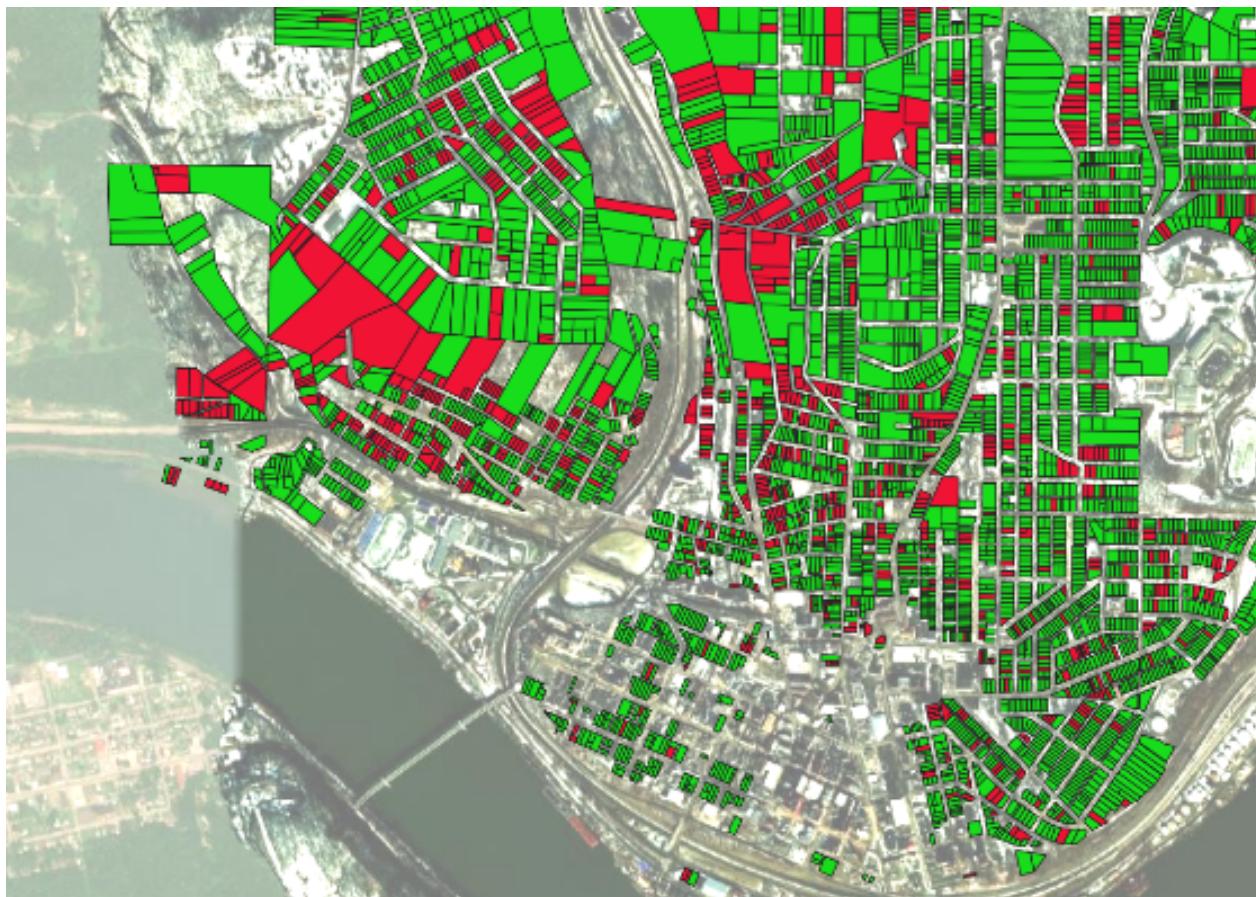


Map 1 – Abandoned Properties East End of East Liverpool (in Red)

Abandoned houses negatively impact the value of other properties, detract from the quality of life of those living nearby, and impede neighborhood redevelopment and city-wide economic development goals.

Abandoned houses pose public health and safety risks as the structures are unsafe due to deterioration, fires, pests, or asbestos. There are 1,153 abandoned properties across the City (15 percent of the city's residential properties) that are delinquent in their property tax payments.

The problem properties that have already been demolished provided progress in housing and neighborhood transformation. The economic outcome of these activities includes increased property values, blight reduction, and an increase in property tax revenue.



Map 2 – Abandoned Properties Downtown East Liverpool (in Red)

The Project

The City, the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), and the Columbiana County Land Bank are tracking and prioritizing problem properties; strategically working to remediate blight starting on blocks where there are only a few abandoned houses and eventually working to deal with the blocks that have been entirely abandoned.

The City coordinates with the County regarding the foreclosure of delinquent properties, and then the City purchases these properties via auditor's sale. The CIC, whose purpose is to advance, encourage and promote the industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development in the City of East Liverpool, serves as the leasing agent for certain properties owned by the City. The CIC is tasked with administering money to purchase vacant structures throughout the city via auditor's sale.

The CIC and the City then coordinate with contractors and developers who have agreed to rehabilitate and flip houses that are structurally sound; and to demolish the houses that are not

structurally sound. After rehabilitation, or demolition, the properties are resold, and proceeds cycle back into the project to remediate the next round of abandoned houses.

The City has already raised over \$40,000 with the CIC contributing an additional \$25,000 to begin moving forward with the housing remediation project. 15 houses were purchased November 2020, and the plan is to continue to address the blight as quickly as possible within funding constraints.

The City applied for an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team to help with yard cleanup and landscaping, and with boarding and gutting houses. East Liverpool has received a \$30,000 grant for trees, and the NCCC team will plant these trees on the empty lots. The City submitted a grant application for the mulch and sod the NCCC Team will use. The City hosted a handful of Community Cleanup Days last year and will host one Community Cleanup every month (spring through fall) in 2021 to clean up trash around East Liverpool. The High School is forming a Mayor's Youth Council, which once up and running will facilitate youth involvement in community blight remediation initiatives.

[**Funding Request**](#)

The City of East Liverpool requests \$150,000 for this project.

The City will use funds from the State of Ohio for remediation activities, including the purchase and rehabilitation or demolition of abandoned houses, property cleanup, and related materials expenses.