

**The City of Springfield, Ohio
Community Development Department
Mow to Own Program**

Mow to Own is a lot disposition program that will assist in stabilizing and strengthening property owner investments in neighborhoods by transferring vacant, abandoned, and otherwise unproductive residential parcels to adjacent property owners for independent development and/or private use.

PURPOSE

1. Minimize the inventory of unproductive land currently owned by the City of Springfield.
2. Reduce the number of lots mowed during the weed season by Code Enforcement as abandoned lots, and create better efficiency in the application of public funds.
3. Minimize the blighting effects of vacant and abandoned residential properties in the City of Springfield.
4. Return unproductive land to tax rolls.

ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES

1. The property must be vacant and clear of all principle use improvements and structures.
2. Properties that are owned by the City that the City does not need for its operation are eligible.
3. Properties which the Clark County Treasurer's Office determines are eligible for a Clark County Auditor's Sale, provided the City is able to acquire title at minimal or no cost to the City are the only lots that will be accepted.
4. Properties that have been forfeited to the State of Ohio for non-payment of taxes and properties that are eligible for such forfeiture are prime candidates for inclusion in the program provided the City is able to acquire title at minimal or no cost to the city.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

1. The participant must own the property adjoining or abutting the desired eligible property. Properties separated only by an alley will be considered as abutting for this purpose.
2. The participant must be current on property tax for all real estate owned in Clark County, and in compliance with the City of Springfield Income Tax.
3. The participant may not have had a violation of the property maintenance, nuisance and/or building code with respect to property in the City of Springfield within the prior 36 months.
4. The participant may not be subject to any current property maintenance, nuisance and/or building code orders issued by the Community Development Department on property in the City of Springfield.

ACQUISITION PROCESS

1. Participants shall submit to the Community Development Director a signed application provided by the Community Development Department. The application shall identify the eligible property to be acquired under the program and will demonstrate that the applicant is an eligible participant in the Mow to Own program. A \$100 application fee shall be submit in order for the application to be processed.
2. The Community Development Department will determine applicant and property eligibility for the program. Upon determination of eligibility, the participant will be notified by mail.
3. At the conclusion of seven months of maintenance, staff will be submit to the City Commission a request for the parcel's acquisition by the City through a Clark County Auditor's Land Reutilization Program.
4. Participating or being accepted into Mow to Own does not guarantee parcels will not be sold, acquired, or bid on by another party prior to or during the Land Reutilization sale. Only parcels that do not receive other bids will be transferred to the City.

**City of Springfield, Ohio
Community Development Department
Mow to Own Program**

Name of Applicant on Deed: _____

Physical Address: _____

Tax Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Program Property Address: _____

Program Property Parcel ID #: _____

Proposed Use of Property: _____

Note: Eligible properties within the Mow to Own Program must be used in conjunction with the adjoining and/or abutting property owned by the eligible applicant. The City of Springfield Community Development Department will assist eligible participants in the program with an application for lot combination once the eligible property is transferred to the participant. Properties acquired through the Mow to Own program must remain code compliant during the acquisition period, and may not be used in a non-compliant manner after transfer. Construction of accessory structures, including garages and fencing may not occur on the land unless it has been combined with the principle lot owned by the eligible participant and the Building Inspections Division approves building plans.

Property acquired under this program will be delivered via deed containing a provision requiring that the property shall thereafter be used and conveyed only in conjunction with the adjoining property owned by the eligible participant.

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Proposed Mow to Own Start Date: _____

The City of Springfield Mow to Own program requires a minimum seven months of sweat equity to be invested by the eligible participant in maintaining the eligible property in a nuisance free condition. Failure to maintain the property in a nuisance free manner will result in the eligible participant losing all rights to the eligible property.

Applicant acknowledgment of eligibility

1. I am the owner of the property that adjoins or abuts the subject vacant, abandoned residential property in the City of Springfield.
2. I am current on all property tax due on all properties I currently own in Clark County.
3. I am current and in compliance with the City of Springfield Income Tax.
4. I have not had a violation of the property maintenance, nuisance and/or building code with respect to any property I own in the City of Springfield within the prior 36 months.
5. I am not subject to any current property maintenance, nuisance and/or building code orders issued by the City of Springfield Community Development Department, the Building Regulations Division, or Code Enforcement Division.

If any statement above is not true or accurate, please indicate the statement number and provide an explanation.

Signature Required

I hereby authorize the City of Springfield Community Development Department to obtain any credit, criminal, or other information necessary to

1. Determine my eligibility in the Mow to Own Program.
2. Verify the information supplied in this application.

All of the information I have provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Received by the City of Springfield Community Development Department

Staff Signature
