

MAKING THE MOST OF OTTAWA'S FLOODPLAIN BUYOUTS

A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

WELCOME

Since 2008, Ottawa has purchased 55 floodplain properties totaling approximately 25 acres of land with funding from all levels of government and private citizens. The land has since remained vacant and underutilized. But, these properties can be used to provide outdoor recreation, habitat, stormwater management, or other community benefits. Communities across the country have developed parks and community gardens, restored habitat, and provided recreational amenities on buyout land.

The goal of this workshop is to:

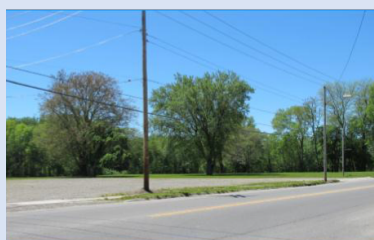
- Identify and prioritize potential uses for buyout sites in Ottawa.
- Develop a strategy for implementing priority uses.

Former Arrowhead Mobile Home Park – Ottawa's Largest Buyout

Past



Present



Future??



Community Garden in Ohio

The workshop was organized by the Village of Ottawa and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in collaboration with the Environmental Law Institute (eli.org/land-biodiversity/floodplain-buyouts) and The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment (ie.unc.edu).

MAKING THE MOST OF OTTAWA'S FLOODPLAIN BUYOUTS

WORKSHOP AGENDA

8:00 to 8:30 am	Registration/Coffee
8:30 to 9:00 am	Welcome: Workshop Goals and Introductions
	<i>Facilitator: Tim Macke – Ottawa Village Council</i>
9:00 to 9:30 am	Floodplain Buyouts in Ottawa
	<i>Speaker: Steve Ferryman – Ohio Department of Public Safety</i>
9:30 to 10:00 am	Group Discussion: What would you like to see in Ottawa?
	<i>Facilitator: Tim Macke – Ottawa Village Council</i>
10:00 to 10:15 am	Break
10:15 to 10:45 am	Examples of Buyout Projects from Other Communities
	<i>Speakers: David Salvesen – University of North Carolina and Steve Ferryman – Ohio Department of Public Safety</i>
10:45 to 11:30 am	Breakout 1: Brainstorming Use and Management Ideas for Floodplain Acquisitions in Ottawa
	<i>Participants will break into small groups to brainstorm specific project ideas for buyout sites in Ottawa.</i>
11:30 to 12:00 am	Report Back 1: Use and Management Ideas
	<i>Each group will report back on use and management ideas. Facilitator: Rebecca Kihslinger – Environmental Law Institute</i>

12:00 to 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 to 1:30 pm	Group Discussion: Prioritizing Use and Management Ideas
	<i>Facilitator: David Salvesen – University of North Carolina</i>
1:30 to 2:15 pm	Breakout 2: Obstacles and Strategies
	<i>Participants will brainstorm possible obstacles for the identified uses and strategies for overcoming the obstacles.</i>
2:15 to 2:45 pm	Report Back 2: Obstacles and Strategies
	<i>Each group will report back on obstacles and strategies. Facilitator: Rebecca Kihslinger – Environmental Law Institute</i>
2:45 to 3:00 pm	Wrap-up and Next Steps
	<i>Facilitator: Tim Macke – Ottawa Village Council</i>

FLOODING IN OTTAWA

JULY 15, 2017



Former Arrowhead Mobile Home Park site



Intersection of Elm Street (SR65) and West Main (US 224)

FLOODING AND BUYOUTS IN OTTAWA – 2007 VS. 2017

AUGUST 23, 2007



JULY 15, 2017



THE RESULT OF FLOOD ACQUISITIONS IN OTTAWA THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. NOTE THE NUMBER OF HOUSES NEAR THE WATER TOWER IN THE 2007 PHOTO AND THE OPEN SPACE AROUND THE TOWER IN THE 2017 PHOTO.

FLOODPLAIN BUYOUTS – RESTRICTIONS AND COMPATIBLE USES

Restrictions: Federal hazard mitigation regulations require that after properties are acquired and existing structures are removed, the land must be dedicated in perpetuity to open space, recreation, or wetland management uses (44 CFR § 80.19). Development is prohibited if it alters the area's natural appearance, impedes the area's ability to convey flood flows, reduces the area's capacity to store floodwaters, increases downstream velocities, or restricts access into and out of the area.

Uses and activities that are generally prohibited include:

- walled buildings
- commercial inventory storage (e.g., automobiles)
- cemeteries
- levees, dikes, or floodwalls
- paved roads, highways, bridges, or paved parking
- landfills and storage of hazardous or toxic materials
- above or below ground pumping or switching stations
- above or below ground storage tanks
- off-site fill
- uses that obstruct the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain

Compatible uses: The “compatible uses” which are allowed on the property present a wide range of opportunities for communities. In general, permissible “open space” uses include:

- nature preserves
- outdoor recreation
- cultivation or grazing
- buffer zones
- camping (where there is adequate warning time to allow evacuation)

To ensure the natural values of floodplains and/or wetlands are maintained, only unpaved parking lots can be used, and any structures other than a public restroom must be open on all sides and related to the open space use.