

# Tax Forfeiture Remediation Site

## OLMSTED COUNTY MINNESOTA

**Olmsted County requests \$800,000 in state funding to help remediate a contaminated 12-acre tax forfeiture site in Haverhill Township.**

### Background

When taxes go unpaid on a property in Minnesota, the land is turned over to the state and counties become responsible for administering a tax-forfeited land program to make the land productive again. In recent years, counties are seeing costs to clean up these tax-forfeited parcels that are higher than revenues the land sales generate. Olmsted County is experiencing an extreme example of this with a property tax forfeited on June 1, 2017 in Northeast Haverhill Township.



*Approximately 80,000 old tires were abandoned at the Haverhill Township tax forfeiture site.*

### Local impact

Since the forfeiture, Olmsted County has purchased the property and sold approximately four of the 22.2 acres to Haverhill Township. Six acres are leased out for a solar development, with the remaining 12 acres still requiring remediation.



*Underground petroleum storage tanks have been removed.*

Olmsted County accessed about \$80,000 from the state Petrofund to remediate the underground petroleum storage tanks on the property. The county has explored other state programs, but has not qualified for additional assistance, mainly because the cleanup effort does not have an economic development component or create new jobs. The county has spent approximately \$150,000 to address immediate environmental threats, such as sealing the well and asbestos abatement. Future expenses to complete the remediation activities are estimated at \$800,000. These efforts will include removal of tires and other solid waste, demolition of buildings, and further asbestos abatement. State funding to help Olmsted County address the costs of cleanup activities for this forfeiture property are vital to ensuring these lands will be safe and productive for the future.

### 2024 legislative priority

Olmsted County requests state funding of \$800,000 to clean up a 12-acre tax forfeiture site in Haverhill Township. This funding will address the expenses the county will incur for the cleanup and maintenance of the property.

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