

Acquisition Policy

As part of its primary mission, the Athens County Land Reutilization Corporation (“Land Bank”) will acquire properties in order to improve the quality of neighborhoods, increase land values, create diverse housing opportunities and return properties to the tax rolls.

- A. Properties acquired by the land bank should have a maintenance plan and funding in place. Initial priority will be given to properties with a designated end-user.
- B. Properties may be acquired when any of the following criteria exist:
 - a. Eligible for tax foreclosure or appears on the Auditor’s Forfeited Land List.
 - b. Deed-in-lieu of foreclosure is offered by the owner and no liens are attached to the property with the exception of delinquent taxes, assessments, penalty, interest and fees.
 - c. Donation free and clear of all liens, including delinquent taxes, assessments, penalty, interest and fees.
 - d. Requested by a qualified end-user or other entity for ultimate acquisition and redevelopment of the property. Acquisition will be prioritized where the Land Bank participation is necessary to complete the redevelopment which:
 - Acts as a catalyst for further development;
 - Is part of a comprehensive development plan;
 - Supports infrastructure, public and green space development; or
 - Reduces blight in a community;
 - e. Located in reinvestment areas that would support strategic neighborhood stabilization and revitalization plans.
 - f. Demolition will support blight elimination and neighborhood revitalization plans.
 - g. Eligible to be transferred under a disposition program approved by the Land Bank Board.
 - h. Available for the creation or expansion of green or community space or urban agriculture of any kind.
 - i. Title issues are preventing the property from being developed to its highest and best use.
 - j. Mortgaged-foreclosed or in receivership and located in a neighborhood that is an area of focus, or with the purpose of preventing the further decline of a neighborhood.
 - k. Available for immediate occupancy without need for substantial rehabilitation.
 - l. Part of a land assemblage development plan by either the Land Bank or partnering entities.
 - m. Fulfilling a community’s plan for historic preservation.

- n. May generate operating support for the functions of the Land Bank.
- C. The Land Bank must be aware of any environmental conditions for Brownfield properties. If any adverse conditions are determined, a remediation plan must be in place before acquisition.
- D. Any exception to the policies governing acquisition shall be taken to the ACLRC Board for final approval.