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Portage County Property Receives Covenant Not to Sue Under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program

Through the voluntary efforts of a Portage County property owner, a 26-acre brownfield in Suffield Township is ready for reuse after being investigated and remediated under Ohio EPA's [Voluntary Action Program](#) (VAP). Ohio EPA has issued a covenant not to sue to the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for the former Wingfoot Lake shooting range located at 1221 Wingfoot Lake Road. Issuance of the covenant completes Goodyear's participation in the VAP.

Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, Goodyear hired a certified environmental professional to assess the site, identify any areas of concern and remediate contamination on the property to a level that will allow for recreational activities. The property is located next Wingfoot Lake State Park and Goodyear intends to transfer the remediated property to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The former trap and shooting range operated from 1933 to 2004. Those activities resulted in the scattering of lead shot over the western portion of the property, including six acres of wetlands. Goodyear excavated lead-impacted sediments and soils, and recycled more than 213,000 pounds of lead.

A covenant not to sue protects the property's owner or operator and future owners from being legally responsible to the State of Ohio for further investigation and remediation. This protection applies only when the property is used and maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of the covenant.

In the 16 years since Ohio EPA issued the first covenant under VAP, more than 6,000 acres of blighted land have been revitalized at more than 300 sites across the state.

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