

CITY OF BERKELEY
MOW & OWN PROGRAM

The City of Berkeley is enabled through its charter to facilitate programs that create opportunities for land development and neighborhood stabilization. The Mow & Own Program will offer the opportunity for current home owner occupants to purchase the vacant lots that are located adjacent to their properties. These purchases will allow owner occupants to acquire and own lots that they maintain and keep in compliance with City of Berkeley code.

This program will assist in removing nuisance lots where dumping and overgrowth is a consistent problem for neighbors. This program will also provide an opportunity for owner occupants to own land that will be a productive source of tax revenue for the City of Berkeley. These lots can be used for purposes such as community gardens and private lot consolidations.

Increased neighborhood beautification and maintenance will support the objectives of the comprehensive plan to redevelop and stabilize residential neighborhoods.

Program Eligibility:

Applicants:

- All applicants must be owner/occupants of homes directly adjacent to the lot being purchased for a minimum of three years
- Applicants must not have any liens or tax arrears with the City of Berkeley or St. Louis County
- Applicants must propose desired usage of the lot
- Applicants must provide proof of funds and income to purchase and maintain the lot

Eligible Lots:

- Eligible lots shall be those deemed unsuitable for development based on Section 405.120 Residential Lot Design Standards.
- The lot must not be contiguous to any other vacant lots owned by the City of Berkeley
- The lot must be vacant and unimproved real property

Owner Responsibility:

- The new owner must keep the property free of overgrown grass in compliance with the City Ordinance to maintain grass at no higher than seven inches
- The new owner must keep property free of debris, and trash.
- The new owner must pay and keep current the real estate taxes assessed on the lot.
- The new owner must agree to not sell the lot independently of the property that is currently owned/occupied unless approved by City Council.



CITY OF BERKELEY - MOW & OWN APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name (First, MI, Last) (Suffix):

Applicant 1:

Applicant 2:

Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

Length of time at this address:

Phone Numbers:

Home: _____

Cell: _____

Email Address:

Are any taxes owed on the Applicants current property? Yes_____ No_____

Address of Lot to Purchase:

Reason/Purpose for Lot Purchase:

If the (City Council and Economic Development Commission) agree to transfer this lot to the Applicant, I as the Applicant agree to maintain the lot free and clear of trash, debris, excess vegetation and to regularly mow the grass and keep below seven inches in height. I, the Applicant understand that I must pay all real estate taxes that are assessed on the lot, in addition to all real estate taxes assessed on the current property that I own in the City of Berkeley.

I, the Applicant understand that if City Council and Economic Development Commission approve this application, I will receive a deed to the property with a maintenance lien allowing the property to be reacquired by the City of Berkeley should I fail to maintain the lot. After two (2) years, if there are no findings of violation from the City's Public Works Department and no complaints, the City of Berkeley will remove the maintenance lien and I will own the property.

Signature of Applicant(s)

For Administrative Use Only:

Received by Name and Date

Economic Development Coordinator\Date

Finance Director\Date