



Ohio Revised Code

Section 307.81 Vacating unused parks and park lands.

Effective: April 9, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 497

(A) Where lands have been dedicated to or for the use of the public for parks or park lands, and where such lands have remained unimproved and unused by the public and there appears to be little or no possibility that such lands will be improved and used by the public, the board of county commissioners of the county in which the lands are located may, by resolution, declare such parks or park lands vacated upon the petition of a majority of the abutting freeholders. No such parks or park lands shall be vacated unless notice of the pendency and prayer of the petition is given for three consecutive weeks preceding action on such petition using at least one of the following methods:

- (1) In the print or digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the county;
- (2) On the official public notice web site established under section 125.182 of the Revised Code;
- (3) On the web site and social media account of the county.

No such lands shall be vacated before a public hearing had thereon.

(B) Before the board of county commissioners may act on a petition to vacate unimproved and unused parks or park lands under division (A) of this section, the board shall offer such parks or park lands to all political subdivisions described in division (C) of this section. The board shall give notice to those political subdivisions by first class mail that the parks or park lands may be declared vacated unless the board of county commissioners accepts an offer from another political subdivision to buy or lease the lands. The failure of delivery of any such notice does not invalidate any proceedings for the disposition of parks or park lands under this division. Any such political subdivision that wishes to buy or lease the parks or park lands shall make an offer for the lands to the board in writing not later than ninety days after receiving the notice. The board may reject any offer, except that if it receives an offer in which the political subdivision agrees to use the lands for park purposes and in which the board finds all of the other terms acceptable, the board shall accept that offer. No offer shall be accepted until notice of the offer is published for three consecutive weeks and a public



hearing is held. The notice shall be published using at least one of the following methods:

- (1) In the print or digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the county;
- (2) On the official public notice web site established under section 125.182 of the Revised Code;
- (3) On the web site and social media account of the county.

Proceeds from the sale or lease of the lands shall be placed in the general fund of the county and be disbursed as prescribed in section 307.82 of the Revised Code. Any deed conveying the lands shall be executed as provided in that section.

(C) In order to receive a notice or to make an offer regarding parks or park lands under division (B) of this section, a political subdivision must meet both of the following conditions:

- (1) Have the authority to acquire, develop, and maintain public parks or recreation areas;
- (2) Contain the parks or park lands in question within its boundaries, or adjoin a political subdivision that contains those parks or park lands within its boundaries.