



For Immediate Release

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Contact: Gabrielle Torina, Communications Specialist

Email: gtorina@r1planning.org | **Office:** 815-319-4457

Winnebago County Trustee Adjacent Property Adoption Program: Properties Given Away at No Cost

Rockford, IL – In an effort to reduce vacant property inventory, Winnebago County Chairman Joe Chiarelli and Region 1 Planning Council as Agent to the Winnebago County Trustee, are pleased to announce the **Adjacent Property Adoption Program**. The **Adjacent Property Adoption Program** is an innovative way to get unwanted Winnebago County Trustee properties to the private ownership of adjacent property owners.

The **Adjacent Property Adoption Program** is available now until close of business Wednesday, July 6, 2022. Adjacent property owners interested in securing adjacent lots, can find the properties and apply for them [here](#). Letters were sent to some adjacent property owners alerting them of this upcoming adoption opportunity.

Trustee properties that went unsold under previous sales will now be available to adjacent property owners *at no cost*. Properties unclaimed by adjacent property owners will continue to be sold in the future. Many trustee parcels have been in the trustee program for decades, if no action is taken on these vacant lots, taxpayers would continue to be responsible for the properties.

ABOUT TRUSTEE PROGRAM: As Agent for the Winnebago County Trustee Program, Region 1 Planning Council, provides an online sales system to sell Trustee parcels. Parcels offered at a minimum bid of \$500 for a vacant lot and \$1,000 for parcels with a structure. Properties are available online for review, along with an application for purchase. Properties in the County Trustee Program, by state statute, are publicly-owned parcels. Winnebago County has appointed Region 1 Planning Council to sell the parcels, reduce the inventory of the program, and return properties to productive use.

ABOUT R1: Region 1 Planning Council (R1) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities. A regional council depends on intergovernmental collaboration to foster economic and community growth; through planning, research, federal funding, and data.

For more information, visit <http://r1planning.org/trustee>.

###