

Clean and Green ■ P R O G R A M I N F O R M A T I O N



■ **LAND BANK'S CLEAN AND GREEN PROGRAM** SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CLEANING, MAINTAINING AND BEAUTIFYING OF LAND BANK-OWNED PROPERTIES.

■ **GROUPS** LOOKING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S CLEAN AND GREEN PROGRAM WILL GO THROUGH A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION PROCESS. IN SELECTING GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, THE LAND BANK WILL LOOK TO THOSE WITH THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

- Strong ties to the neighborhood or area in which work will be performed
- A commitment to including area youth as part of the program
- Past experience in clean-up and/or neighborhood beautifying activities
- A well-organized work team structure
- Access to tools and equipment needed to perform work
- Creative and thoughtful plan regarding the beautification and greening of properties, with a focus on vegetable gardening and/or fresh food generating greening activities
- Capacity to acquire liability insurance to cover each individual performing work or willingness to have each participant sign a liability release form
- Resourcefulness (i.e. leveraging funds from other sources)

PROGRAM DETAILS

■ PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Maintain at least 20 Land Bank properties
- Develop at least two gardening projects
- Encourage neighbors to Adopt Clean And Green lots.

■ ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE COMPETING FOR AVAILABLE PROJECT FUNDS OF AMOUNTS NO GREATER THAN \$10,000 PER GROUP. ALLOCATION OF PROJECT FUNDS WILL BE DETERMINED BY:

- Geographic Size of Area
- Number of Land Bank Properties in Area
- Group's Capacity for community outreach and maintenance
- Group's Goals as outlined in the attached application
- The number of gardening projects a group is willing to complete

■ **GARDENING PROJECTS** ARE REQUIRED TO BE DEVELOPED BY EACH CLEAN AND GREEN GROUP. GROUPS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE VEGETABLE GARDENS AND TO INVOLVE AREA YOUTH AS PART OF THEIR GARDEN PROJECTS. THE LOCATION OF THESE GARDENING PROJECTS AS WELL AS DETAILS OF WHAT THE PROJECTS WILL ENTAIL WILL BE DETERMINED BEFORE THE START OF THE WORK PERIOD. BESIDES VEGETABLE GARDENS, GARDENING PROJECTS MAY INCLUDE:

- Flower gardens
- Decorative Fencing
- Tree Planting
- Low Maintenance Plantings
- Signage

■ **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM** WILL BE CHOSEN USING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION PROCESS. IN THE ATTACHED APPLICATION, GROUPS WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE A BUDGET DETAILING THE USE OF LAND BANK FUNDS BEING APPLIED FOR AS WELL AS PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING THEY ARE SEEKING (I.E. KGCB BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS).

■ **PROGRAM TIMELINE**

- Clean and Green applications due March 28
- Land Bank staff and the Land Bank Citizen Board of Advisors will review applications
- Selected groups notified by the middle of April
- Representative(s) from selected groups will meet with Land Bank staff to inventory property to determine exact location and condition
- Signing of a memorandum of agreement between group and the Land Bank
- Groups are expected to begin work in mid May, with full youth participation beginning at the end of the school year
- At least six rounds of maintenance must be performed on each property before the end of the program (mowing, trimming, light brush removal, and litter pick-up)
- Program ends in early October
- A year-end recognition and awards ceremony is held in conjunction with Keep Genesee County Beautiful's Annual Beautification Awards ceremony

■ *The Land Bank looks forward to working with community-based groups to improve the appearance of neighborhoods through the Clean and Green program. Those groups interested in participating in the program should fill out the attached Clean and Green Application Form.*