



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS WORK ALONGSIDE LAND BANK CREWS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING

FLINT, MI –Reports of illegal dumping on vacant lots from volunteers in the Genesee County Land Bank’s Clean & Green program are frequent. Over 80% of participating groups regularly remove illegal dumping from the vacant lots they volunteer to maintain. Used tires, construction debris, furniture and other household belongings are often trucked in and dumped on lots by contractors and others doing home improvement projects.

To help support efforts to clean up neighborhoods and prevent new cases of illegal dumping, the Land Bank partnered with the University of Michigan, Youth Violence Prevention Center to design and research illegal dumping interventions in Flint neighborhoods. Multiple groups were selected to participate through a competitive application process to be part of the pilot program. With help from the City of Flint Blight office in securing dumpsters for the project, GCLBA crews will work alongside Clean & Green groups to clear areas that are known hot spots for illegal dumping. Groups have the option to select one or multiple interventions that they believe will be the most effective in preventing illegal dumping within their areas, including solar lighting, trail cameras, barriers and native planting garden edges. GCLBA crews will work with Clean & Green groups to install the interventions selected for each site following the clean ups. Several sites have already been cleared with the first set of installations slated for this weekend. A series of clean ups and installations will extend

throughout the remainder of the growing season. Researchers from University of Michigan will then evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions and the general patterns of illegal dumping across the city. “We appreciate our partnerships with neighborhood groups, the City of Flint and the University of Michigan, Youth Violence Prevention Center that make this pilot project possible and we hope that through this process, we can create a model for effective illegal dumping prevention that can be used in other areas through the City,” said Michael Freeman, Executive Director of the Genesee County Land Bank.

Tire shops, contractors and others doing home improvement projects should take waste to a landfill and stop illegally dumping in neighborhoods. Residents can report illegal dumping to the City of Flint Blight Office at 810- 237-2090 or to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-422-Jail (5245) so those committing these crimes can be prosecuted.

About the Genesee County Land Bank’s Clean & Green Program

Clean & Green has been a program of the Genesee County Land Bank since 2004. The purpose of the Clean & Green program is to support innovative community groups and organizations in the cleaning, maintaining, and beautifying of otherwise vacant properties in Genesee County.

Through the program community groups seasonally maintain concentrated clusters of vacant properties. Each participating group receives a stipend for maintaining at least 25 properties every three weeks from April to September. Groups are selected to participate in the program through a competitive application process. The 2021 Clean & Green program is supported through grant funding from the Ruth Mott Foundation, the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center and MSHDA through the Hardest Hit Fund. For more information on Clean & Green e-mail cleangreen@thelandbank.org or call (810) 293-0663.