

CLEAN & GREEN

Clean & Green is a program of the Genesee County Land Bank Authority that supports community-based vacant property maintenance in Flint and Genesee County. The program began in 2004 as the Land Bank sought to partner with community-based organizations in order to advance community-based capacity, neighborhood health, youth engagement, the reuse of vacant land, and the Land Bank's relationships with the community. Clean & Green is at the heart of the Land Bank's community engagement. Block clubs, schools, churches, neighborhood associations, and local non-profits are some of the nearly 90 community-based organizations who have participated in Clean & Green during more than a decade. Through the program, community-based groups seasonally maintain concentrated clusters of vacant properties. Each participating group receives a stipend for its maintenance work, much of which is used to employ local youth in improving their neighborhood conditions.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Genesee County Land Bank Authority's Clean & Green program is to support innovative community groups and organizations in the cleaning, maintaining, and beautifying of otherwise vacant properties in Genesee County.

GOALS

- Increase the capacity of community-based groups to care for vacant properties.
- Improve the appearance and health of neighborhoods by cleaning and greening.
- Engage youth in the cleaning, greening, and ultimately changing of their neighborhoods.
- Inspire rethinking and reimagining of the opportunities of vacant properties.
- Build lasting relationships between the Land Bank and the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Between 2004 and 2016:

- More than 2,400 area residents have participated in Clean & Green, including more than 1,150 total area youth and more than 550 employed area youth.
- The Land Bank has invested more than \$2.2 million in community-based organizations through Clean & Green.
- Clean & Green groups have completed more than 112,500 vacant property mowings, valued at \$5.62 million.
- More than 300 vacant houses have been decoratively boarded by Clean & Green groups.



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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & ELIGIBILITY

The Land Bank annually selects community-based organizations for the Clean & Green program through a competitive application process. The number of groups selected depends on annual funding. Each group that is selected to participate is required to maintain at least 25 vacant properties between April and September. Each participating group receives a cash stipend to support its work. The value of the stipend for each group depends on the number of vacant properties the group maintains and equates to \$20 per property visit. Clean & Green groups should possess:

- A strong connection to the neighborhood or area in which it will work
- A commitment to engaging area youth
- Experience in vacant property maintenance and reuse
- The capacity to care for at least 25 vacant properties every three weeks, including all needed personnel, tools, and equipment

TIMELINE

January: Applications are released by the Land Bank

February: Applications are due

March: Participating groups are selected and applicants are notified

April: Program kicks-off

May: Starting in May*, properties are maintained every three weeks

September: Property maintenance concludes

October: Decorative boarding concludes

October or November: End of Season Celebration

* Groups are given extra time for maintenance and clean-up during the first maintenance round that starts in April

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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