



# ADOPT-A-LOT PROGRAM

Beautify and reclaim vacant lots in your neighborhood by participating in the greening of Genesee County!

## What is the Adopt-a-Lot Program?

Adopt-a-Lot is exactly what you think it is. People or businesses in the community commit to caring for vacant land in the neighborhood, which in turn reduces crime, increases property values, and improves the appearance of your neighborhood. Actually, Adopt-a-Lot has existed informally since the City of Flint started to experience the loss of housing. Neighbors began taking care of nearby properties, mowing the grass, picking up trash or better. Some planted flowers in nearby vacant lots to help beautify the neighborhood while others have started gardens or created impromptu pocket parks for the benefit of the block. It is that spirit of community and commitment to neighborhoods that the Land Bank is supporting by creating a formal Adopt-a-Lot program for Land Bank owned property.



## Who is eligible?

Any residents, businesses, neighbors, block clubs or other organizations interested in caring for vacant land in their area are eligible to adopt a lot from the Genesee County Land Bank.

## Why should I take part?

The Adopt-a-Lot program gives you the opportunity to control and use the Land Bank owned vacant lots near your home or business for your own benefit and your neighborhood's benefit without the burden of taxes or other financial obligations that come with ownership. In addition to increased safety and property values, you get access to resources such as Land Bank technical assistance with gardening, property maintenance, site design, and plant materials when available (see reverse side for other available support and funding). Plus, you will have special consideration for purchase of the property if you want to by the vacant lot.

## What is the cost?

It is free to adopt! Whether or not you adopt a lot, you can contribute by becoming a sponsor to support the communities greening efforts.

## Where are the lots?

Vacant lots owned by the Land Bank are located throughout Genesee County. Each year, the Land Bank receives hundreds of vacant lots through the tax foreclosure system process. Visit us online at [www.thelandbank.org/prop\\_find.asp](http://www.thelandbank.org/prop_find.asp) and search by property class to find a vacant lot near you.

## How can I adopt?

You can adopt a lot right now! Just fill out the attached application and return it to the Genesee County Land Bank at 425 S. Saginaw St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Flint, MI 48502. We will process your application and you will be able to finalize the adoption within 30 days. If you have any questions, contact us at 810.257.3088 or [landbankinfo@co.genesee.mi.us](mailto:landbankinfo@co.genesee.mi.us).

## What should I do with my lot?

Some suggestions for greening are gardening, creating a pocket park, planting flower beds, or adding picnic tables to the lot. The possibilities are practically limitless; so be creative!



# ADOPT-A-LOT RESOURCE LIST

The following is a list of resources that may be useful to groups working on lots they adopt. Please contact the organization to obtain specific information on their guidelines and procedures.

## ■ **Michigan State University (MSU) Extension**

MSU Extension is an educational institution funded jointly through Genesee County Board of Commissioners, the State of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Informal education is provided by all departments (Horticulture, Community Development, Natural Resources, and Children, Youth and Family).

**Horticulture Department** – Soil testing for low cost; flower and vegetable seeds are free for group projects; and Master Gardener Volunteers are able to provide educational support for those projects that align with their own individual interests (Master Gardener Hot Line: 244-8548)

**Community Development Department** – Project planning and Technical assistance in neighborhood planning, development, and resource development

4215 W. Pasadena Ave., Flint, MI 48504 • Phone: 244-8500 • Website: [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu)

## ■ **Applewood Initiative for Gardening and Community**

Technical Assistants are provided for group projects related to neighborhood development/urban gardening

1400 E. Kearsley Street, Flint, MI 48503 • Phone: 233-3031 • Website: [www.applewood.org](http://www.applewood.org)

## ■ **Salem Housing Community Development Corporation - Tool Shed**

Provides a wide range of tools for group projects; a tool request and use form must be completed

3216 M.L. King Ave., Flint, MI 48505 • Phone: 785-5340 ext. 21 or 33 • Website: [www.salemhousing.org](http://www.salemhousing.org)

## ■ **Keep Genesee County Beautiful (KGCB) - Cultivating our Community Project**

Provides supplies (refuse and garbage bags, etc.) and educational information for group projects and provides mini-grants (applications are usually due in March)

432 N. Saginaw Street, Flint, Michigan, 48502 • Phone: 767-9696 • Website: [www.keepgeneseecountybeautiful.org](http://www.keepgeneseecountybeautiful.org)

## ■ **Genesee Area Landscape and Nursery Association (GALNA)**

Provides a resource directory listing plant selection, design, construction, supplies, and other information for project planning

Website: [www.galna.org](http://www.galna.org)

## ■ **Genesee Conservation District**

Provides trees and plants for sale each year, and educational assistance to landowners in the areas of conservation, natural resources, wildlife habitats, and forestry

1525 North Elms Road, Flint, MI 48532 • Phone: 230-8766 ext. 3 • Website: [www.geneseecconservation.org](http://www.geneseecconservation.org)

## ■ **Flint North Central Weed and Seed**

Provides mini grants for beautification projects conducted by block clubs and groups using at-risk or adjudicated youth and adults located in their boundary

2712 N. Saginaw St., Ste.117, Flint, MI 48505 • Phone: 237-5120 • Email: [fncws@yahoo.com](mailto:fncws@yahoo.com)



# ADOPT-A-LOT APPLICATION

## Contact Information

---

Name of Applicant:

---

Type of Applicant:

Homeowner

School

Block Club

Tenant

Religious Institution

Other

Landlord

Neighborhood Association

---

Applicant's Address:

---

City, State, Zip:

---

Daytime Phone:

Alternate Phone:

---

Fax (optional):

E-Mail (optional):

---

Would you like to donate as a sponsor of the Adopt-a-Lot program? YES  NO

**If you answered yes and you are NOT interested in adopting a lot, then the application is ready to turn in.**

---

## Property Information

---

List of LBA property addresses and/or Parcel ID Number to be adopted:

---

---

---

Describe the current condition of the property:

---

---

---

---

---

## Proposed Property Reuse / Improvements

---

Why do you wish to adopt this lot?

---

---

---

---

---

