



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL GROUPS CELEBRATE MAINTENANCE OF MORE THAN 1,200 VACANT LOTS

FLINT, MI – “This is a creative, resourceful, and equitable approach towards maintaining vacant lots in Flint neighborhoods,” says Natalie Pruett the Clean & Green Program Manager. From May to September community-based groups cleaned, greened, and gardened more than 1,200 vacant lots in and around the City of Flint, the equivalent of roughly 44 city blocks.

Block-clubs, schools, churches, neighborhood associations, and local non-profits are some of the 43 community-based groups that participated in the Genesee County Land Bank’s 2012 Clean & Green program. Each group received a stipend for maintaining at least 25 lots every three weeks. Many groups created greening projects, including urban orchards, food gardens, flower gardens, and even community volleyball courts. Almost all of the groups included participation from neighborhood youth, who then create change in their own neighborhoods.

Clean & Green will celebrate its 2012 program, its 9th program, on Thursday, October 11 at 5 PM at the MTA Conference Center. Representatives from each of the 43 Clean & Green groups will gather to connect with each other, review their work over the last year, and receive recognition and awards from the Genesee County Land Bank.

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 lots held by the Land Bank. Each participating group receives a stipend for maintaining at least 25 lots every three weeks from May to September. Groups are selected to participate in the program through a competitive application process. The Clean & Green program is supported through grant funding. For more information on Clean & Green e-mail npruett@thelandbank.org or call (810) 293-0663.

About the Genesee County Land Bank's other greening options: Lots Available

While Clean & Green is open to community-based groups only, the Genesee County Land Bank has created options for those who want to green lots held by the Land Bank whom are not eligible for Clean & Green, including individual residents. There are three ways that both groups and individual residents can access lots held by the Land Bank: Adopt-A-Lot, Lease-A-Lot, and Lease-A-Lot with Option. For more information on the Land Bank's Lots Available, visit www.thelandbank.org or visit the office – 452 S. Saginaw St. 2nd Floor, Flint.