


DTV trouble? Try these steps || [Click here](#)

LOCAL 

Urban gardening plan takes root

Monday, June 22, 2009 | 1:24 PM

Land Bank offers low-cost vacant lots offered

 By Marc Jacobson

GENESEE COUNTY (WJRT) -- (06/22/09) -- The concept of urban gardens is something the Genesee County Land Bank is hoping will catch on in many of Flint's depleted neighborhoods.

If a new summer initiative carries through, over one hundred are expected to be in place by August.

Replacing rows of abandoned homes with green space; it's part of a summer push by the Genesee County Land Bank.

"This is a great way to use the land that's left behind after we demolish the abandoned house," noted Genesee County Land Bank Chairman Dan Kildee.

[Story continues below](#)

Advertisement



Dozens of urban gardens have popped up in Flint since spring. A once-vacant lot near the corner of Harvard and Piper on the north end is serving as a model for what Kildee hopes to accomplish. "Here we have four or five city lots that are now being used productively and are now being managed by people right here in the neighborhood."

It's a concept designed to make money and save money for both residents and the Land Bank. "They can make money and feed themselves, and for us, we don't have to come out here and hack down these weeds."

If they have a green plan in place,

homeowners can buy vacant lots next to their own for only \$65. "If you don't live next door, you can still get control of these properties by buying them for a couple hundred dollars, or by simply adopting them and managing them for us."

This urban gardening plan ties directly into the Land Bank's shrinking city objective, one that's caused some tension and confusion.

"it's not reducing then footprint or boundaries of the city," Kildee responded.

There's been plenty of debate lately over the concept of urban gardening and shrinking cities, and just how beneficial the idea can be. That debate only grew larger last week when Rush Limbaugh had some harsh words for Dan Kildee on his national radio show.

"My message to Rush Limbaugh and to anybody else is, don't make us part of your political battle with the Obama administration. If you want to make judgments about what we're doing in Flint, take a look for yourself," Kildee said.

[Genesee County Land Bank](#)

[Find out what everyone else is viewing on abc12.com](#)
[| More Mid-Michigan and Flint news |](#)
[ABC12 News at a glance |](#)
[| abc12togo.com wireless |](#) [Get us on your iPhone |](#)
[| ABC12 Desktop Alert Tool |](#)
[abc12.com newsletters |](#)
[| Visit us on Facebook |](#)
[Report a typo |](#) [| Follow us on Twitter |](#)

Comment on this story below and we may read what you have to say on the air.

(Copyright ©2009 WJRT-TV/DT. All Rights Reserved.)