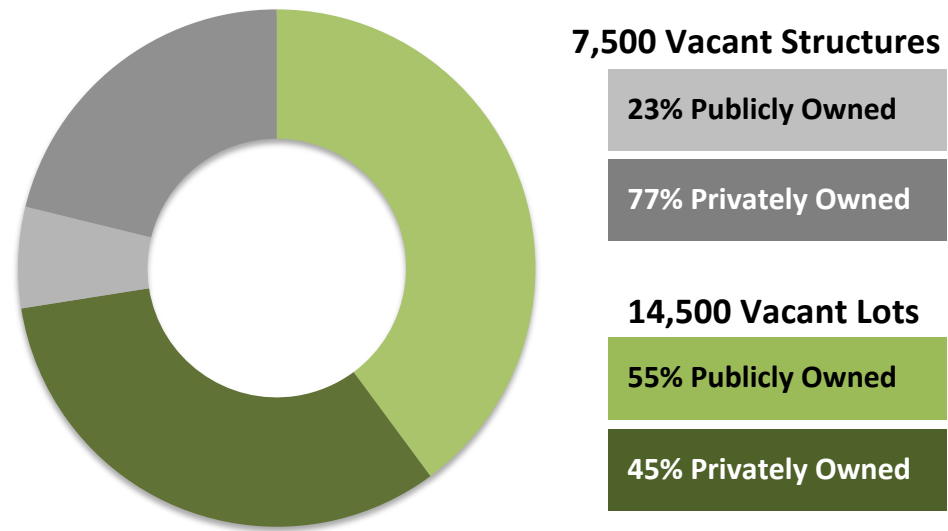


WHY DOES THE LAND BANK MOW VACANT PROPERTIES?



A decrease in Flint's population has generated an abundance of vacant properties; there are more houses and buildings available than there are people and businesses to fill them. There are approximately 22,000 vacant properties in Flint today, representing more than one-third of all properties in the city. The Land Bank receives vacant properties through tax-foreclosure and currently owns about one-third of vacant properties in Flint. Although the Land Bank is not required to mow vacant properties, it is dedicated to stabilizing and improving neighborhoods. Therefore, the Land Bank has a multi-faceted approach for mowing all vacant properties in Flint, two thirds of which it does now own.

It would cost **\$7 million annually** to mow the grass and remove trash from all vacant properties in Flint, once a month from spring to summer. The Land Bank has approximately \$1 million for weed and trash abatement in 2015.



THE LAND BANK IS PLANTING CLOVER ON THOUSANDS OF VACANT LOTS TO REDUCE LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE NEEDS AND COSTS.

Dutch White Clover:

- Grows only 10 – 12 inches tall
- Provides the look of a maintained property
- Requires mowing only once or twice a year
- Provides food for wildlife
- Is drought-tolerant
- Is a legume that fixes nitrogen in the soil, improving the soil condition

Tips on How to Maintain Dutch White Clover:

- During the first year, clover sites should be mowed every 4 – 6 weeks
- Set the mower deck high (4") when you mow clover
- Weed lots when necessary, especially in the spring
- If the clover is not growing well, contact the Land Bank



(810) 257-3088
452 S. Saginaw St. 2nd Floor
Flint, MI 48502
www.thelandbank.org



2015 VACANT PROPERTY MOWING PLAN



THE LAND BANK HIRES SEASONAL WEED AND TRASH ABATEMENT CREWS THAT MOW GRASS AND REMOVE TRASH FROM VACANT PROPERTIES IN FLINT AND GENESEE COUNTY.

Land Bank crews are mowing grass and removing trash from vacant properties in Flint and Genesee County in 2015. This year, crews in Flint are following the City of Flint’s *Beyond Blight: Comprehensive Blight Elimination Framework*. The Framework was released in March of 2014, shared with the community during a six-month engagement process, and adopted by the Flint Planning Commission in February of 2015. Land Bank crews are following the Framework as described below.

- In April, crews are mowing tall grass and removing trash from properties that were not visited in 2014.
- In May, crews start sweeping the city of Flint, mowing grass and removing trash from all vacant properties. Crews will visit all vacant properties in Flint at least once in 2015.
- Vacant and blighted properties that are next to occupied properties are completely mowed.
- Mow strips are used for vacant and blighted properties that are *not* next to occupied properties.
- For properties in Flint, crews follow the schedule on the map to the left. The start dates provided are subject to change according to weather and property conditions.
- Land Bank crews also mow properties that are in its inventory outside of the city of Flint.

THE LAND BANK SUPPORTS RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS WHOM MOW AND MAINTAIN THOUSANDS OF VACANT PROPERTIES IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

Every year, dozens of community groups maintain vacant properties in their neighborhoods through the Land Bank’s Clean & Green program. Participating groups include block clubs, schools, churches, and other not-for-profit organizations. Each participating group receives a stipend for its work, much of which is used to employ local youth. The program began at the Land Bank in 2004 with four groups. The program has grown tremendously over the last ten years. In 2015:

- **57 groups are participating in Clean & Green**
- **More than 3,400 vacant properties are being maintained every three weeks**
- **More than 150 youth are engaged in improving their neighborhoods**

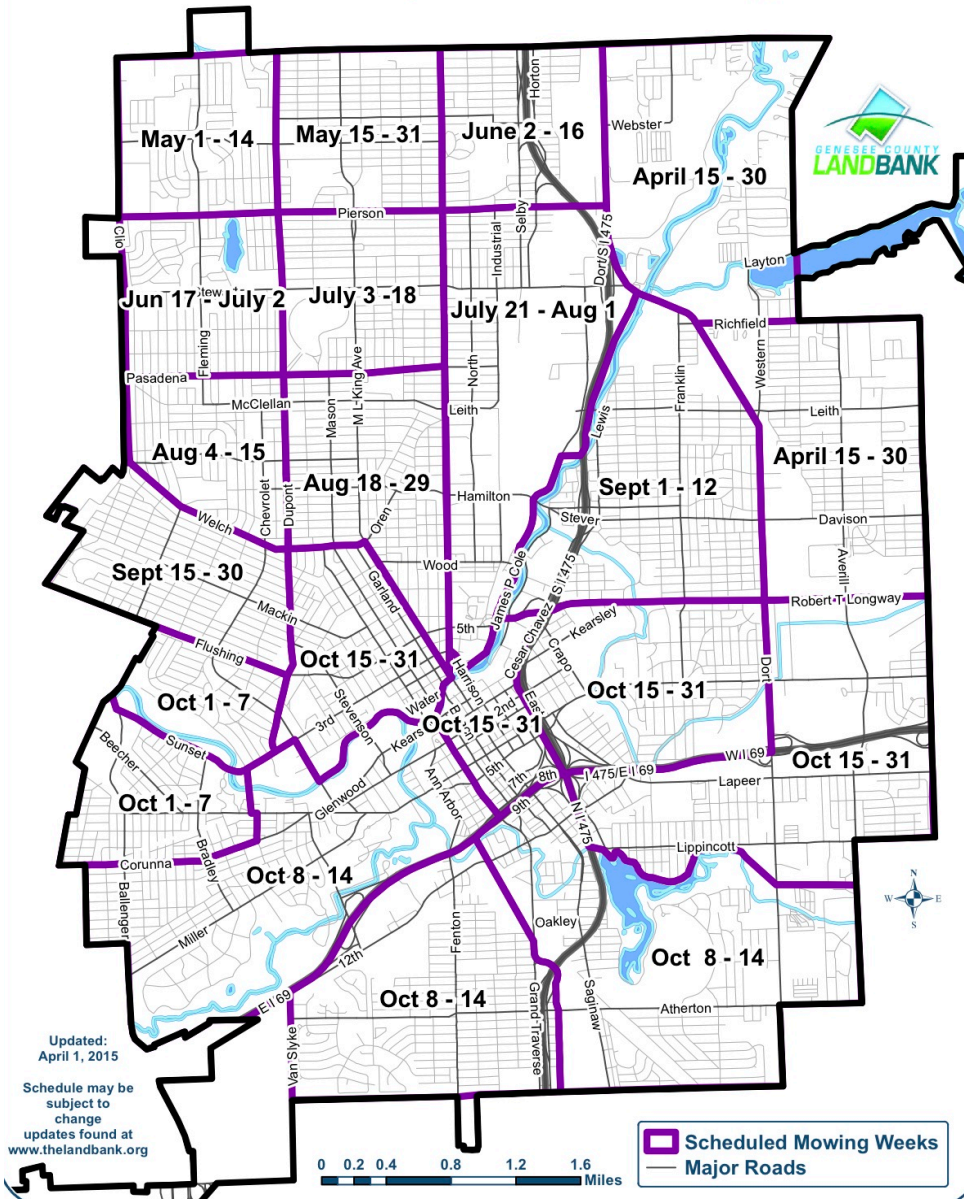


The Land Bank is dedicated to making its **lots available**. Hundreds of vacant lots are maintained and reused by residents and community-based groups each year through one of three agreements.

Adopt-A-Lot is a free one-year agreement that supports year-to-year maintenance and reuse.

Lease-A-Lot is a 2 – 5 year agreement that costs \$1 per year and supports maintenance and reuse commitments that are greater than one year.

Side Lot Sales are an option for homeowners that live in a home that is next to a vacant lot in Flint that is owned by the Land Bank. A Side Lot can be purchased one time by an eligible homeowner for \$64 out the door (\$25 plus a \$39 recording fee).



Mow Strips

Crews are mowing the first eight feet of vacant properties that are *not* next to occupied properties with mow strips. This enables more frequent mowing that keeps sidewalks and sightlines consistently clear.



Illegal Dumping

In order to mow the grass on vacant properties, crews must also remove illegally dumped trash. Land Bank crews annually remove 500 tons of trash from vacant properties. Illegally dumped trash is the biggest obstacle that the crews face each year.



Next-Door Mowing

Flint residents mow thousands of vacant properties that are next-door, across the street, or down the block. If every Flint household mowed one vacant property on its block, they would keep more than two-thirds of all vacant properties mowed.