

Wayne County Regional Land Bank Corporation
Annual Report
2018

Our Mission

The mission of the Wayne County Regional Land Bank Corporation is to address the problems of vacant, abandoned, derelict, contaminated, or tax delinquent property in Wayne County in a coordinated manner through the acquisition and disposition of real property and returning that property to productive use in order to strengthen the economy, improve the quality of life, and improve the financial condition of the municipalities, through the use of the powers and tools granted to Land Banks by the Laws of the State of New York.

Our History

In January, 2016, the Wayne County Board of Supervisors created an ad hoc committee of the Board to address properties acquired via the County's tax foreclosure process. The ad hoc committee recommended the creation of the Land Bank which was formally incorporated in March, 2018 as the Wayne County Regional Land Bank Corporation.

In 2018, the Land Bank acquired 4 properties from the County's tax foreclosure process.

In recent years, there has been a growing concern about the negative impact of vacant, abandoned, derelict, contaminated and tax delinquent properties on neighborhoods and communities throughout Wayne County. As the Land Bank grows and expands its efforts, it will be a valuable tool to improve our communities, the local economy, and property revenue generation through the intentional collaboration with municipalities, private individuals and entities to redevelop property what would otherwise be a blight in our community.

Derelict property has been a growing problem in Wayne County. These properties lower neighboring property values, attract crime, pose health and safety concerns, and erode community pride.

The Land Bank is part of a long-term strategy to combat the decades-in-the-making problem of these properties. The strategy to decrease vacancies and promote strong neighborhoods includes coordination with code enforcement, strategic planning for land use and housing, and collaboration with private investment and local agencies to effectively re-develop our neighborhoods, downtowns and communities.

The primary focus of the Land Bank so far has been the acquisition of derelict properties through the tax foreclosure process and to develop strategies to eliminate the harms and liabilities caused by such properties.

To date, the properties the Land Bank has acquired have all been from the County's tax foreclosure process. The Land Bank is able to accept property donations or purchase property as appropriate. We will consider these acquisition options as deemed appropriate in the future.

The Land Bank was not established, nor is it our intention, to replace the tax foreclosure auction. The Land Bank has the same purpose as the auction which is to sell the property to individuals who will redevelop the property and turn them back into tax generating parcels. The Land Bank will also sell these properties, but will do so with requirements that the new owner must comply with.