



Neighborhood Lot Maintenance Pilot 2019

The Neighborhood Lot Maintenance Pilot Program contracted with neighborhood-based businesses for the enhanced maintenance of vacant properties through the last half of the 2019 growing season: late August through early November. Fifteen companies submitted bids. Bids were reviewed by SLDC-LRA and the Supply Division and contracts were awarded to 7 companies. Two of the seven opted out of the program after the first two weeks of maintenance services (citing property conditions as the reason).

Bidder Requirements

- Lawn care equipment
- Liability Insurance
- Business License
- Submit list of properties to be maintained within high-vacancy neighborhoods (> 30% vacancy)

Scope of Work

- Mowing and weeding every other week
- Trash and debris removal throughout
- Reporting large debris for immediate removal
- Reporting vacant building board-up needs

Key Challenges

- Payment times too slow for small businesses
- Low internal capacity to (a) provide property oversight, (b) review and approve invoices, and (c) process requests for dumping removal and board ups
- Property conditions, particularly around vacant buildings, were too overgrown and debris-laden for standard lawn equipment

5 neighborhood-based lawn care companies maintained **271 vacant properties**, covering **28.5 acres** in **6 neighborhoods**: College Hill, Fairground, Hamilton Heights, Walnut Park East & West, Wells Goodfellow

Total Maintenance Charges

- \$80,187.31
- \$50,000 from Ward 27 Budget
- \$30,187.31 from Forestry Budget

Average Cost per Square Foot: 6.22¢

Percent Change in Calls for Service: Aug-Oct 2018 vs. Aug-Oct 2019

Citizens' Service Requests Related To:	Pilot Neighborhoods	Pilot Properties
Vacant Buildings	-28%	-100%
Dumping & Debris	-11%	-27%
Weeds & Overgrowth	-32%	-74%
All Vacant Property Calls	-19%	-58%

