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**Greater Syracuse Land Bank Demolishes First Blighted Property**

Today, the Greater Syracuse Land Bank is undertaking its first demolition of a blighted property. The single-family residence, located at 121 Anderson Avenue, has been vacant for nearly four years and had deteriorated beyond repair.

Approximately 25 additional properties currently held by the Land Bank are slated for demolition in 2014. Properties considered appropriate for demolition have been determined deteriorated beyond repair. In addition, another two dozen properties are pending renovation prior to being listed for sale; another 25 are currently available for purchase “as-is.” The sales of 13 other properties are pending, five will be considered by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting next week.

Greater Syracuse Land Bank executive director, Katelyn Wright, states, “With warmer temperatures we can begin addressing those properties determined to be deteriorated beyond repair. These properties have no potential for renovation and detract from surrounding property values and the quality of our neighborhoods.” She went on to say, “The Land Bank’s mission is to return vacant and abandoned properties to productive use and we prefer renovation whenever possible.”

The Land Bank is preparing to launch a pilot program for the deconstruction of blighted homes, a more sustainable alternative to traditional demolition, by which they hope to divert materials from the landfill and create job skills training opportunities.

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