Interested in Starting a Community Garden or Gathering Space?

This spring the Greater Syracuse Land Bank will award two groups a **"Green Lots Grant"** of up to **$1,500 for capital improvements**

(such as raised beds, trees/other perennials, or other materials to beautify the property or tend to a garden on a Land Bank-owned vacant lot). **Put together your proposal now!**

Applications for Green Lots Grants are due by April 15, 2018. Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the Greater Syracuse Land Bank and Syracuse Grows. Priority will be given to those that:

- Engage a group of people to build a sense of community,
- Show a strong plan and organization among gardeners or lot users committed to maintaining the property throughout the year,
- Include unique and attractive design ideas and/or creative ways to use the space.

Please include the following information:

- Your name, phone number, email, and the address of the property you are interested in leasing.
- Who will be using the garden – An existing group such as a church or community organization, a group of neighbors? Provide a written commitment and signatures from individuals who will use and help maintain the space, including what each individual is committing to contribute.
- How would you propose to use the funds if you win? If the total cost of improvements exceeds the $1,500 Green Lot Grant, indicate where the rest of the funding will be obtained and describe if you plan to install in phases.
- Sketch a site plan of the garden showing where signs, sheds, raised beds, fencing, or other items will be installed. We understand that this may need to change based on results of soil testing. Indicate, to the degree you know, what will be planted. We are particularly interested in whether any of your plantings will be semi-permanent such as trees and vines and whether your plan is for food-producing plants. The Land Bank will provide you with a blank 8.5" by 11" map showing the lot dimensions to scale for you to sketch your plan on) – email info@syracuselandbank.org or call 422-2301 with the address you're interested in and you will be provided with a map within 3 business days.
- How will the garden be managed? Describe how the group is organized, how you plan to divide labor for maintaining the garden plots (if you plan to have separate plots) and common areas, who will be the person in charge of making sure maintenance is kept up with? Provide the names and contact information for two Green Lot Coordinators who will manage the property and coordinate communication with the Land Bank.
- If you do not win the Garden Grant, please indicate if you'd be interested in proceeding with your plan to lease and install a garden anyway. ***You can lease a lot from the Greater Syracuse Land Bank for $1/year*!***

Once you sign a lease, Syracuse Grows can assist you with obtaining soil testing and refining your planting plan to ensure that any edible plants do not absorb harmful substances such as lead from the soil. If your garden will be food-producing, we expect lessees to become Syracuse Grows member gardens in order to receive this technical assistance from them.

A list of lots available for this program can be found at **http://syracuselandbank.org/programs/** under the Green Lots program description. Email **info@syracuselandbank.org** with questions or call **(315) 422-2301.**

**Tenants assume year-round responsibility for mowing the lawn and shoveling the sidewalk.*

GREATER SYRACUSE
LAND BANK