

# Vacant Land Community Application

## Introduction

GTECH's Urban Revitalization Program helps to transform blighted vacant lots into productive community assets. We work with community groups to assess, plan and implement **transitional strategies, like sunflower gardens**, while working towards a sustainable **long-term productive reuse** for each site.

**PLEASE NOTE: This application does NOT mean that GTECH has funds to complete any project! We will work with communities to identify sources of funding, as all projects have some costs.**

## Instructions

The purpose of this application is to inform GTECH of your community's capacity and interest in vacant land greening projects. Additionally since we work with community groups and individuals to complete our projects, this application is intended to ensure that you, the applicant, has support from your organization, the neighborhood and partnering organizations (if applicable) and that you demonstrate a need for the project, while also satisfying a certain level of capacity to maintain the project in the short term and long term. The design of this application may seem different than other applications you have completed, but the aim is to get a more complete and data-driven understanding of your neighborhood(s) and the proposed site, including its strengths and weaknesses. Please complete these questions to the best of your ability. This application is divided into four parts:

1. **Eligibility criteria** will outline what is required to meet the minimum requirements for the program.
2. **Contact information** is needed for a project leader and, if applicable, a secondary contact person at a partnering organization.
3. **The project snapshot** will describe the site and surrounding area with words, allowing you to explain why you think this particular location would be ideal.
4. **The community overview** questions will describe the community, your organization and the site.

Please read the questions carefully to determine if it is asking for information about the **community** or just the **site**. Questions about the community should address the entire community as it is defined by the city or county (i.e. Oakland, East Liberty, Homewood North, Troy Hill, Millvale, etc).

## Part 1 - Eligibility Criteria:

1. All applications must come from an organized neighborhood-based group, such as a non-profit, community development corporation, community block group, religious, educational or governmental institution. Partnerships between multiple organizations are encouraged but not required. If there are multiple organizations, please designate a lead contact person in the contact information section below.
  - A) What is the name of the lead organization? What is its mission?
  - B) What is the name of partnering organizations (if applicable)? What is (are) its mission(s)?
2. All applicants must complete the Community Support Petition (see attached) containing at least 20 signatures from members of your community (either residents or local business and property owners) who support this green project in its proposed location. At least 10 of those signatures must be from residents that live in or own property in the surrounding few blocks. Note: "Support" does not mean that they must work on the project or donate to the project. It means that they approve/endorse a green project in the designated area.
3. It is vital that private property owners give their permission to transform the appearance and use of their property in this project. Prior to applying, determine who owns the vacant lot(s) and verify that ownership on the Allegheny County Real Estate website <http://www2.county.allegheny.pa.us/realestate/Default.aspx>. You should get written permission from the private property owners of the vacant lot(s) on which you proposing to work. Should you have

questions regarding this step, please contact GTECH’s Community Programs Manager for assistance at 412-241-1013 x3.

- A) Please attach written permission from all of the private property owners who have given permission to use their vacant lots in this project.
  - B) If publically owned, please list the lot & block number (ie. 124-G-283 from the county website) of each lot, plus the public entity that owns each site.
4. Commitment and organization at the neighborhood level are very important to successful projects. Prior to submitting this application, you should have held **at least one** formal meeting with potential volunteers, volunteer organizers and/or any partnering organizations to start creating a plan for maintaining this project over the short-term (first season) and long-term (many years). Please describe your planning process up to this point and your future plans, such as who will be responsible for what and what your next steps will be if awarded this project.
5. Does your organization or any of the partnering organizations have funds to contribute to this project? What resources (monetary, in-kind or other) can you contribute to this project?
6. Maintenance is often the most time consuming part of the project and is be the responsibility of the community. Do you have groups or individuals in mind that would be available for maintenance? Please note these groups or individuals and their role in the community.

**Part 2 – Contact Information:**

**Primary Contact Person**

Name	
Organization	
Address	
Phone	E-mail Address

**Partnering Organization Contact Person (if applicable)**

Name	
Organization	
Address	
Phone	E-mail Address

**Partnering Organization Contact Person (if applicable)**

Name	
Organization	
Address	
Phone	E-mail Address

**Partnering Organization Contact Person (if applicable)**

Name	
Organization	
Address	
Phone	E-mail Address

### Part 3 – Site Snapshot:

1. In what community is the proposed site?
2. What is the lot & block numbers for the proposed project site? (If you can't find the location on <http://www2.county.allegheny.pa.us/realestate/Default.aspx>, please provide a street address.)
3. Why do you think that this is a good place to create a green project? Describe any interesting assets or characteristics that influenced your decision to choose this site.
4. What other organized community groups, community development corporations (CDC's) or neighborhood advocacy groups exist in your neighborhood(s) other than the lead organization and the partnering organizations listed in Part 2? Please briefly describe their missions.

### Part 4 – Neighborhood Analysis:

These questions will help GTECH to measure certain characteristics of your neighborhood compared to other neighborhoods in the area.

**A. Neighborhood/Site Information** Please only mark ONE check box for each question. **Please fill out the comments boxes, to help us understand your answers better!**

1. How many active youth organizations do you know of in your neighborhood?

- A. 0 – 5
- B. 6 – 10
- C. 11 – 15
- D. 16 – 20
- E. 20+

Comments/Describe:

2. What is the total number of community gardens within a 5-block radius of the site? Note: "Community gardens" means vacant land that has been collectively planted with flowers, plants, grasses or vegetables and is maintained by multiple people, including neighbors who do not own that land, for a collective/neighborhood benefit.

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 4+

Comments/Describe:

3. What is the level of traffic on an average day around the proposed site (including motorists, bicycles, buses and pedestrians)?

- A. no traffic (dead-end street)
- B. a little traffic (mostly just locals)
- C. moderate traffic (cars going to other places)
- D. high traffic (includes buses, stoplights)
- E. very high traffic (multiple lanes of traffic or next to places where large groups congregate – schools, churches)

Comments:

4. What is the approximate number of outdoor recreational areas (such as playgrounds and public parks) and maintained public green spaces (including public gardens but not including vacant lots that are overgrown and uncared for) in your neighborhood(s)?
- A. 0
  - B. 1-2
  - C. 3-6
  - D. 7-12
  - E. 13+

Comments/Describe:

5. What is the perceived level of crime within your neighborhood?
- A. none, feel totally safe
  - B. a little, slightly visible activity
  - C. some, visible activity, safety is a concern
  - D. high, a lot of activity, safety is a substantial concern
  - E. very high, criminal activity is so threatening that it is the number one safety concern

Comments:

**B. Organization Information** Please only mark ONE check box for each question. **Please fill out the comments box, to help us understand your answers better!**

6. What is the number of community-wide events (block parties, community clean-ups, etc.) that were held within the community and attended by community residents in the past year?
- A. 0-1
  - B. 2-3
  - C. 4-6
  - D. 7-12
  - E. 12+

Comments/Describe events:

7. Within the past year, how many volunteers turned out (on average) at a neighborhood volunteer day like one of the events described in the previous question?
- A. 1 - 5
  - B. 6 - 10
  - C. 11 - 20
  - D. 21 - 40
  - E. 41 +

Comments /Describe projects:

8. How many partnering organizations have you identified for this project that will commit volunteers, people-hours, money or other resources to the project?
- A. 0
  - B. 1
  - C. 2
  - D. 3
  - E. 4+

Comments/Name the organizations and how they will contribute:

9. How many skilled volunteers are available for this project? Note: "Skilled volunteers" means that they have a unique or special skill that would help with the project (i.e. master gardener, tree tender, horticulture specialist, etc.).

- A. 0
- B. 1-2
- C. 3-4
- D. 5-6
- E. 7+

Comments/Describe skills:

10. How many active, organized community groups (tenant councils, block groups, neighborhood watch, etc.) are in the neighborhood?

- A. 0
- B. 1-2
- C. 3-5
- D. 6-10
- E. 11+

Comments/Describe:

11. In the past 2 years, how many partnerships exist or have existed between your organization and another organization? Note: "partnership" means that both organizations worked on a project together or shared resources towards a common goal. The other organization can be located inside or outside the neighborhood.

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2-3
- D. 4-6
- E. 7+

Comments/Describe partnerships:

*END OF APPLICATION*  
*-THANK YOU-*

Please return this completed application to Maureen Copeland at [m.copeland@gtechstrategies.org](mailto:m.copeland@gtechstrategies.org) or mail to:

Maureen Copeland  
GTECH Strategies  
214 N. Lexington Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Phone: 412-241-1013 x3

## Community Support Petition

**Community Group Instructions:** All signatures must be from residents, business owners or property owners in your neighborhood. At least 10 of the signatures must be from people who live within the proposed corridor or 1 block from the proposed corridor. If the proposed corridor lies in more than one neighborhood, at least 25% of the signatures must be from each neighborhood.

**Petitioner Instructions:** By signing your name below, you acknowledge that you understand the proposed location for a green corridor in your neighborhood. You understand and support the idea of turning the vacant lots in this corridor into new uses, such as gardens, small parks, and other environmental strategies.

	First Name	Last Name	Signature	Street Address	In Corridor? (Yes/No)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>In Corridor? (Yes/No)</b>
<b>11</b>					
<b>12</b>					
<b>13</b>					
<b>14</b>					
<b>15</b>					
<b>16</b>					
<b>17</b>					
<b>18</b>					
<b>19</b>					
<b>20</b>					