Getting Started with BuildingBlocks

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1. Introduction

The City of Rochester is one of 18 cities throughout New York State to receive the Cities RISE (Responsible Investment and Strategic Enforcement) grant through the New York State Attorney General’s office. This grant is intended to provide assistance to municipalities in their dealings with vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties. The Cities Rise grant provides access to the BuildingBlocks platform, which integrates a variety of data sets related to the various activities associated with vacant and/or potentially problem properties.

Data in BuildingBlocks includes vacancy, business permits, open code enforcement cases, crime data, real estate sales, Monroe County foreclosure starts, owner vs renter, use codes, building size, assessed values, city owned, year built, lot size, nuisance points, and Census data.

BuildingBlocks works best on Chrome or Firefox. It will NOT work on Internet Explorer.

2. Getting Started

Head to www.cityofrochester.gov/buildingblocks. On the landing page, you can access the chart on the data sets as well as some tutorial videos. To access the platform, click on the picture.
Upon entering Building Blocks, you will see the outline of the City of Rochester. This is where you will begin filtering and displaying the data you are looking for.

### 3. Filtering Data

To begin filtering data, click on the “Add Filters” button on the top left side. Here you will see the variables displayed in the Data Chart on the landing page. They are grouped by topic area, and searchable as well in the search bar on the top.

You can add as many or as few filters as you would like. As you filter data, the total number of properties will update in the top right hand corner. Additionally, the filters will show along the bar on the top.
4. Buffering Data

You can buffer around a property or another geographic area by either a radius or by drawing a polygon. As you draw the buffer or the polygon, the results set in the top right will update the total number of properties. Click on either the draw circle or draw polygon button to get started.

5. Exporting Results

Once you have your target filters and buffer identified, you can either view or export your results to Excel. To view as a list, click on the “List” button on the bottom center of your screen. To export to Excel, click on the “Export” button on the bottom center of your screen. Click on “Download properties from List View.” Click on Add Column in the top right and add any fields you would like to export.
When you have completed checking the fields you would like to export, choose Save, and then choose “Export” on the bottom. Choose to save as Spreadsheet.

6. Viewing Individual Property Records

To view individual information for a specific address, you can:

(1) Search on the address bar on the main page
(2) Click on the address from the list (seen above)
(3) Click on a point on the map and then click on the blue text in the pop up (shown below).
Upon clicking on the link, you will be brought to an individual summary page for a specific property.

7. For more information...

Please contact Pam Delaney at Pam.Delaney@cityofrochester.gov or visit www.cityofrochester.gov/buildingblocks.