

Every Neighborhood Has A Future...

And It Doesn't Include Blight.

What is Motor City Mapping?

The Motor City Mapping Project began with a survey to gather property condition data for all 380,000 parcels in the city. The survey utilized a mobile application named “Blexting” (short for blight + texting) in an effort to create a comprehensive publicly-available database of detailed information including the condition of each and every property in Detroit.

What are the Tools Available Through Motor City Mapping?

Public Dashboard:

The public dashboard (found at MotorCityMapping.org) is an interactive, web-based data exploration tool that is open to the public. It works to give residents, academics, community groups, philanthropic organizations, and businesses a deeper understanding of property condition within the city.

“Blexting” Mobile Application:

The mobile app “Blexting” allows users to submit photos and property condition information in real time from the field. This will permit thousands of people to contribute to a shared, visible, and accessible database of individual property characteristics and neighborhood conditions being utilized to inform decisions in the city.

How Can YOU Get Involved?

Linking People and Government:

The mobile app and public dashboard serve as a critical link between the residents and the City of Detroit. The public dashboard is a communication platform for discussion related to property characteristics, history, and conditions across the city.

Blexting Bootcamps:

The Department of Neighborhood’s District Managers are coordinating with local residents and community groups to promote the collection of information by providing demonstrations of the public dashboard and mobile app training during community meetings.

Follow Motor City Mapping on:



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Contact Us:

info@motorcitymapping.org

Download the Blexting App!

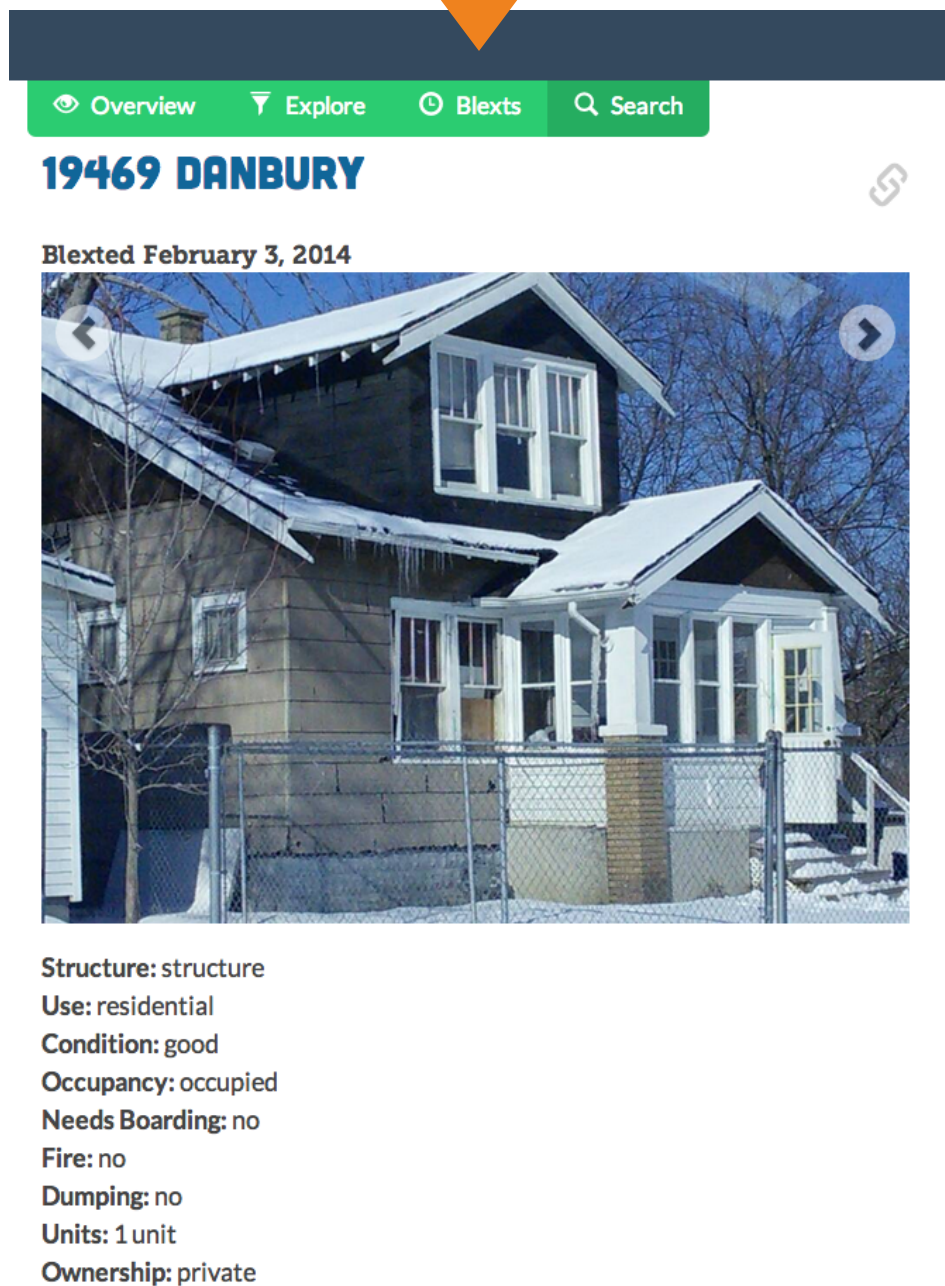
Now Available on the Apple App Store and Google Play

MOTOR CITY MAPPING

Why does this matter?

Properties are constantly changing and up until recently it was extremely difficult to keep up to date condition-based information in large cities like Detroit.

Home at 19469 Danbury on February 3rd 2014.



The same home just 5 months later...





The Blexting mobile application allows Detroiters to "Blext" the conditions of the properties in their own neighborhoods and will help steer city decision-making from the ground up.

MOTOR CITY MAPPING

How to Download Blexting





ANDROID

1. Before beginning, make sure that you have an active Google account that you can use to download apps from the Google Play store
2. Open the Google Play store on your device. The icon should look like this 
3. In the search bar, type in "Blexting" and then tap "Search" or "Go"
4. Proceed to download and install the application on your device.
5. Search for the Blexting app in your app folder. The icon should look like this 
6. Tap the Blexting icon to launch the app
7. In order to Blex you will have to create an account using an active email account



iOS

1. Open the iTunes App Store store on your iPhone. The icon should look like this 
2. In the search bar, type in "Blexting" and then tap "Search"
3. Tap "Free" in the upper right hand corner to install the application on your device.
4. Search for the Blexting app on your homescreen. The icon should look like this 
5. Tap the Blexting icon to launch the app
6. In order to Blex you will have to create an account using an active email account



MOTOR CITY MAPPING

You can also explore and download parcel based condition data within the city through the Data Explorer tool on MotorCityMapping.org. This interactive map allows users to dive down to the individual parcel level and set their own layers and boundaries so that they can explore their neighborhood or the city as a whole.

MOTOR CITY MAPPING About Contribute Training Sign In

DETROIT

Overview Explore Blexts Search

All Publicly Owned Privately Owned

378,723 properties surveyed

Structures vs Lots Structure Condition Structure Occupancy

structures: 263,739
lots: 114,983

good: 2,18,846
fair: 30,788
poor: 9,119
sugg. demo: 4,760

occupied: 203,546
maybe: 11,003
unoccupied: 48,953

lots with dumping: **6,255**

structures with fire damage: **6,845**

structures needing boarding: **27,730**

Map labels: Dearborn Heights, Southfield, Royal Oak, Warren, Roseville, Eastpointe, Dearborn, Lincoln Park, Wyandotte, Taylor, LaSalle, Windsor, Tecumseh, Emery, Grosse Pointe Park, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Southfield, Royal Oak, Warren, Roseville, Eastpointe, Dearborn, Lincoln Park, Wyandotte, Taylor, LaSalle, Windsor, Tecumseh, Emery, Grosse Pointe Park.

BLEXTING SURVEY DEFINITIONS

Is there a structure on the site?

- **YES:** A structure is a permanent building located on the site. This includes houses, garages, buildings - anything built on a foundation.
- **NO:** If the site is empty or has temporary structures, like trailers, temporary sheds, or mobile homes, then it does not have a structure on site.

Occupancy?

- **OCCUPIED:** The structure shows visible activity and consistent use or maintenance. Common characteristics are: porch furniture, a well-kept lawn, good landscaping, fences, cars in the driveway, a maintained garden, or a play area.
- **UNOCCUPIED:** Common characteristics are: neglected facades, eviction notices, empty interiors, substantial physical or structural damages, extensive security measures, uncut or tall grass, weeds, scrub trees, trash or debris accumulated over time, or accumulated flyers on the porch or door.
- **POSSIBLY UNOCCUPIED:** The property displays characteristics from both categories above, making it difficult to assess whether there is consistent use or maintenance.

What is this site used for?

- **RESIDENTIAL:** Includes single-family homes, duplexes, apartment buildings, senior living facilities, condominiums, and row houses.
 - **What type of residential residences?**
 - **Single Family:** A house designed for occupancy for one family and has only one address number.
 - **Multi-Family:** A single building designed for occupancy for one to three families with multiple addresses.
 - **Apartments:** Individual or multiple buildings designed for occupancy by 4 or more families.
 - **How many residential units?**
 - **Garage or Shed:** A detached garage or shed which is the only structure on the parcel.
 - **Single Family:** A house designed for occupancy for one family and has only one address number.
 - **Multi-Family:** A single building designed for occupancy for one to three families with multiple addresses.
 - **Apartments:** Individual or multiple buildings designed for occupancy by 4 or more families.
- **COMMERCIAL:** Includes properties used for retail, office, entertainment, hotels, parking, and other services.
 - **What type of commercial occupant(s)?**

STRUCTURES

- **Restaurant / Bar:** Stand-alone eateries and drinking establishments
- **Grocery:** Stand-alone stores where people can buy food. Sale of food may not be the primary purpose of the business. Includes liquor stores.
- **Gas Station:** Gas station. Does not include auto repair shops, unless the repair shop has a gas station.
- **Retail:** Stores that sell items to the general public.
- **Offices:** Businesses that provide services or office spaces for individual or multiple tenants.
- **Entertainment:** Structures whose sole purpose is to provide entertainment.
- **Multi-Occupant:** A building housing multiple commercial business, but no residential units. Strip malls.
- **Other:** For when you're unsure about what the commercial building is being used for.
- **MIXED-USE RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL:** Includes multi-level structures where the ground level supports commercial uses like retail, while the top levels support residential uses like apartments, condominiums, lofts, etc.
 - **What type of residential residences?**
 - **Single Family:** A house designed for occupancy for one family and has only one address number.
 - **Multi-Family:** A single building designed for occupancy for one to three families with multiple addresses.
 - **Apartments:** Individual or multiple buildings designed for occupancy by 4 or more families.
 - **INDUSTRIAL:** Includes properties used for manufacturing, storage areas, warehousing, junk yards, landfill operations, and waste disposal sites.
 - **What type of industrial occupant(s)?**
 - **Industrial:** Manufacturing and production plants that generally don't do business with the public.
 - **Warehouses:** Buildings that store goods, but don't produce them. Indicators include large loading docks and signage indicating warehouse use. May be multi-story.
 - **Multi-Occupant:** Multi-occupant industrial buildings have multiple tenants or companies, and are sometimes located in industrial parks.
 - **INSTITUTIONAL:** Includes all public and religious buildings, including churches, schools, government offices, libraries, permanent park structures, and hospitals.
 - **What type of institutional occupant(s)?**
 - **Schools:** Any building whose primary purpose is that of education.
 - **Religious:** Any building whose primary purpose is religious in nature. This includes a wide gamut of buildings from cathedrals down to storefronts. Primarily places of worship, but also buildings where religious services are offered.

STRUCTURES

- **Public Safety:** Primarily police and fire stations. Does not include private security firms.
- **Health:** Hospitals, health centers, medical clinics, senior homes. Does not include doctor's offices, which are considered offices.
- **Recreation:** Different from a park in that it has a permanent structure on it for the purpose of recreation.
- **Government:** Government buildings are offices through which the local, state, and federal government operate out of. Includes libraries.
- **UNKNOWN:** The use of the property cannot be determined from looking at the outside alone.

What is the condition of the structure?

- **GOOD:** No obvious repairs needed.
- **FAIR:** Needs minor repairs. Windows and doors intact, but roof may be missing shingles, exterior elements may be sagging, paint / siding missing, graffiti.
- **POOR:** Needs major repairs. Windows and doors are broken or boarded up. Light fire damage that can be repaired. Non-load-bearing elements like awnings, porches collapsed. Holes in roof.
- **SUGGEST DEMOLITION:** No longer shaped like a building. Damaged beyond practical repair or renovation. Structural damage including collapse of roof, walls, foundation. Uninhabitable.

Is the structure fire damaged?

- **YES:** Indications of fire in or around the structure that caused visible damage, from as small as melted siding to buildings that have burned down to the ground.
 - **If yes, what is the level of fire damage?**
 - **Minor:** Visible damage to the building that is superficial or repairable, and does not render the building uninhabitable. Includes soot marks around doorways and windows.
 - **Major:** Significant damage to the building that would be costly to repair and makes it uninhabitable. Major may include holes in the roof, but once there is any sort of structural collapse, the damage level is considered collapsed.
 - **Collapsed:** Fire that has caused partial or total structural collapse, making it no longer building-shaped. This includes buildings that have burned down to the foundation. Walls may still be standing, but parts or all of the roof have caved in.

Is the building secure or open to trespass?

- **SECURED:** A building is secured when all windows or doors are intact or secured. This includes occupied buildings with original windows / doors, and buildings that may be vacant but are not open to trespass.

STRUCTURES

- **OPEN TO TRESPASS:** If a building has missing windows, doors or is otherwise open and accessible to scrappers, squatters, or vandals, it is open to trespass.

Is there dumping on the site?

- **YES:** A building or vacant lot is considered to have dumping when debris has been purposely left or placed on the property. This does not include litter or debris from a recent fire or ongoing demolition.
- **NO**

Notes?

- Are there any other notes?

If there is no structure on site...

What is the site used for?

- **VACANT LOT:** A lot that is not being used..
- **PARKING LOT:** Lot used for parking, can be paved or unpaved. Does not include cars on lawns.
- **PARK:** A lot that is clearly designated or has some permanent indicator of park use such as playground equipment and trails.
- **GARDEN:** Land being used for agricultural purposes, includes personal gardens and larger farms.
- **OTHER:** For when you're unsure about what the lot is being used for.
- **ATTACHED LOT:** A lot adjacent to or in between occupied houses that is clearly maintained or used as an extension of an existing property. Attached Lots are not considered vacant lots because they are in use.

Is the lot maintained?

- **YES:** A lot is maintained when the lot shows sign of care and maintenance, regardless of what is physically on the lot. Grassy lots are mowed with some regularity and paved lots show signs of consistent care.
- **NO:** Characteristics of an unmaintained lot include tall grass, overgrown trees or bushes, weeds in the cracks of pavement, and so on.

Is there dumping on the site?

- **YES:** A building or vacant lot is considered to have dumping when debris has been purposely left or placed on the property. This does not include litter or debris from a recent fire or ongoing demolition.
- **NO**

Notes?

- Are there any other notes?