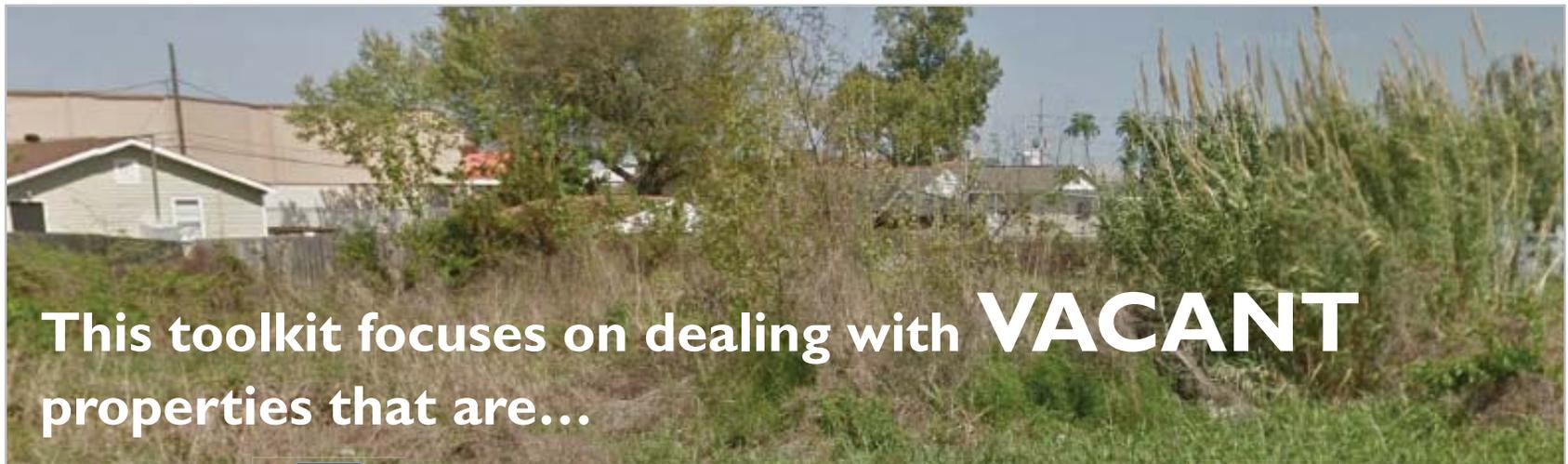


**SECTION I:  
DEFINING THE ISSUE:  
BLIGHT AND COMMUNITY MAPPING**

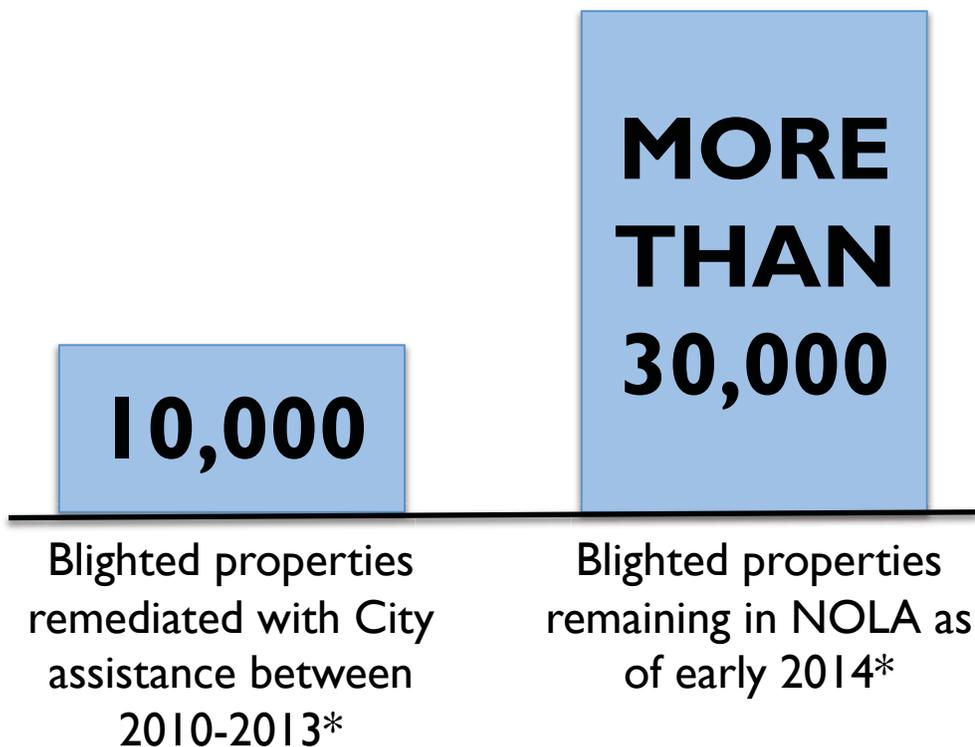


# Defining Blighted Properties



▶ **Key Point:** Blighted properties are vacant properties that bring down the quality of life in New Orleans neighborhoods.

# Blighted Properties – A Major NOLA Issue



Many of the remaining blighted properties will be more difficult to deal with because they tend to be in areas with low property values – we’ll see why this matters in Section 3.

▶ **Key Point:** New Orleans is making progress in addressing blighted properties – but there’s still a lot of work to be done.

\* According to City of New Orleans Blight Reduction Strategy (2014).

# How Can Community Mapping Help?

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***Watch the video*** about Detroit's experience with community blight mapping on the next slide.

Defining the blight issue in your area with community mapping will help you assess the number and type of blighted properties, and monitor progress toward improvement.

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# Defining the Issue with Community Mapping



Source: Voice of America

▶ **Key Point:** Defining the blight issue in your area with community mapping will help you assess the number and type of blighted properties, and monitor progress toward improvement.



# Creating a Property Survey Questionnaire



**LOT** or **STRUCTURE**?

**OCCUPIED** Or **VACANT**?

**RESIDENTIAL** Or  
**COMMERCIAL** Or  
**INDUSTRIAL**?

**GOOD** Or **FAIR** Or **POOR**  
Condition?

**DUMPING** Or Other Hazards?

**Key Point:** Consider what you need to know about blighted properties in your area and include those questions in your survey document for volunteers. (See *Handout 1* for a sample.)

# Organizing Volunteers



*Photo: Harmony Neighborhood Development*

- The final step in completing a property survey is to organize volunteers to walk the area with maps and survey sheets.
- The volunteers will record information about each address on their survey sheet.
- Spreadsheets and maps can help organize all the data in one place.

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**Key Point:** Organize volunteers and partner organizations to help map property conditions in your community, especially in areas you want to target for blight reduction.

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# Toolkit Activities and Information

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For more activities related to this section, see:

***Handout 1: Sample Property Survey  
Document***

You can change this sample document to capture all of the information you'd like to record about blighted properties in your area.

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