

Vacant Spaces to Livable Places

2018 Annual Report Summary

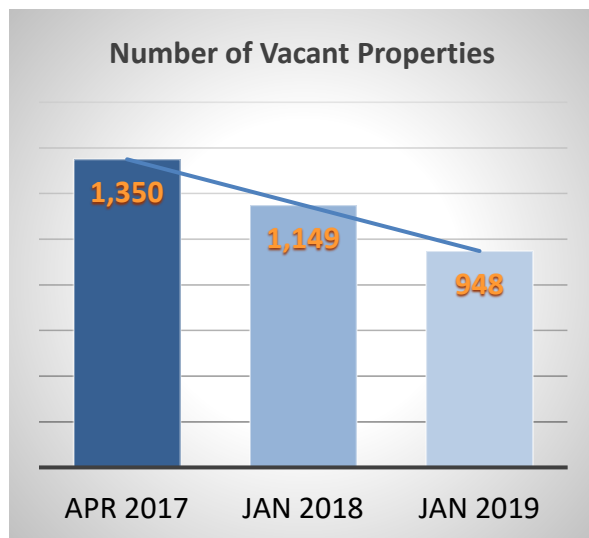


Program yields 30% decrease in vacant property inventory across New Castle County and collects over \$1 million in delinquent taxes and fees

Decreased Vacant Property Inventory

Addressing vacant and blighted properties is an important issue in maintaining and revitalizing healthy communities. New Castle County has for years been coping with over 1,300 vacant properties, which decrease property values, increase crime, and increase taxpayer cost, as the majority of these vacant properties are maintained by the County at taxpayer expense.

County Executive Matt Meyer in 2017 created the **Vacant Spaces to Livable Places** Program. Through collaboration across departments and with County Council, legislative changes and improved processes, the program delivered impactful results in 2018.

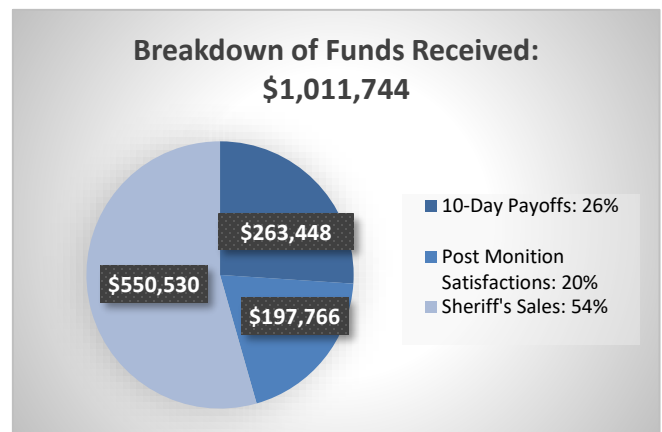


Impact: 30% reduction in vacant properties from 2017 to 2019

Access the full 2018 Annual Report at <https://newcastlede.gov/1762/Vacant-Spaces>

Collected over \$1 million

After prioritizing the vacant properties with the greatest financial and/or community impact, the county notifies property owners that they have a 10-day period in which to settle their liabilities or the property will proceed to Sheriff's Sale. Over \$1 million in delinquent county property and school taxes plus code enforcement fees and fines were collected in 2018.



Neighborhood Revitalization

Most importantly, vacant homes are being improved for sale or rental, revitalizing communities. A before and after photo of 707 Prospect Avenue in Wilmington is just one case of a property that is moving into productive reuse after many years of vacancy:

