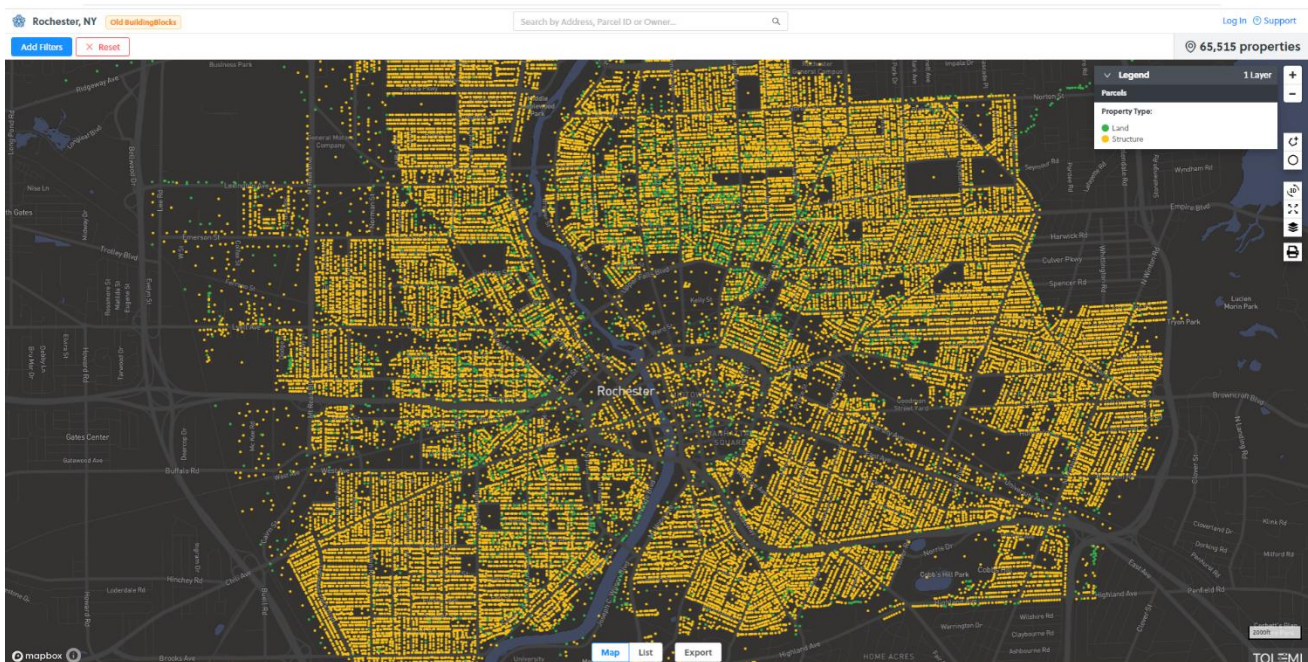




Getting Started with BuildingBlocks



Last updated: September 23, 2020

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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.

The screenshot shows the City of Rochester website's landing page for BuildingBlocks. The page has a blue header with navigation links and a search bar. The main content area is titled "BUILDINGBLOCKS" and contains the following text:

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 software, which integrates a variety of data sets related to the various activities associated with vacant and/or potentially problem properties.

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SEE ALSO

Code Enforcement, Quality of Life | Zoning and Planning

The "MAY WE SUGGEST" section on the right lists various city services and resources, including:

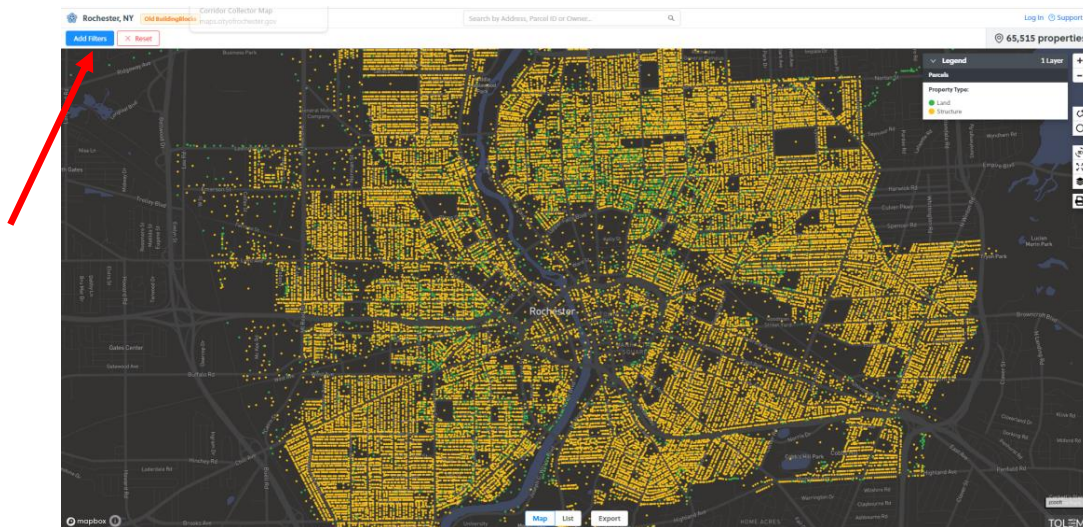
- Rochester 2034 - A Comprehensive Plan for the City
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Southeast Quadrant Service Center
- Southwest Quadrant Service Center
- Northwest Quadrant Service Center
- Special Event Resources
- Site Plan Review Agenda
- Rochester Traffic Violations Agency
- Pothole Repair
- Northwest Quadrant Service Center

A red arrow points to a map image showing a city grid with yellow and green areas, which is the BuildingBlocks interface.

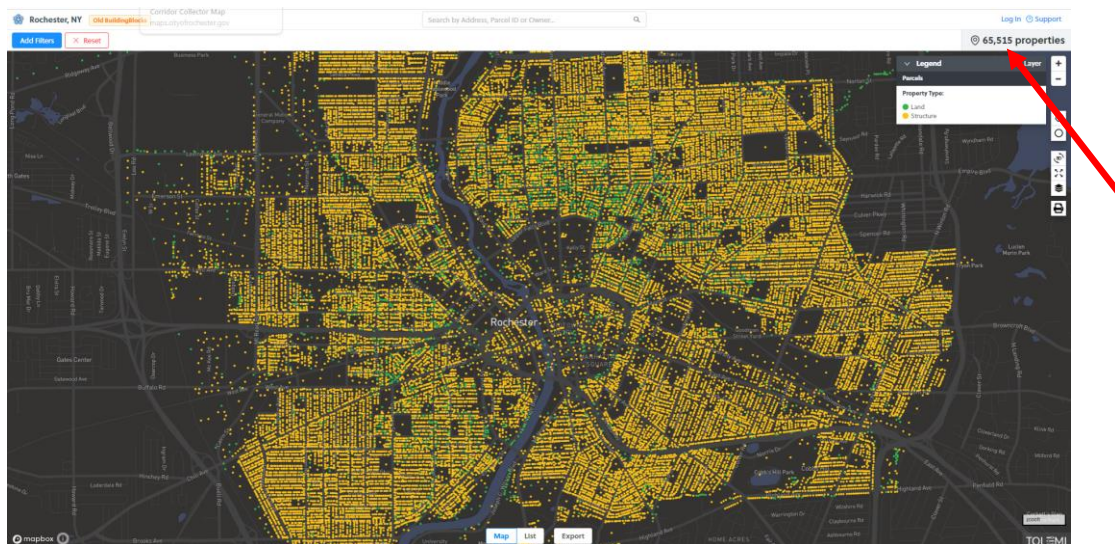
Upon entering Building Blocks, you will see the outline of the City of Rochester. This is where you will begin filtering and displaying the data you are looking for.

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.

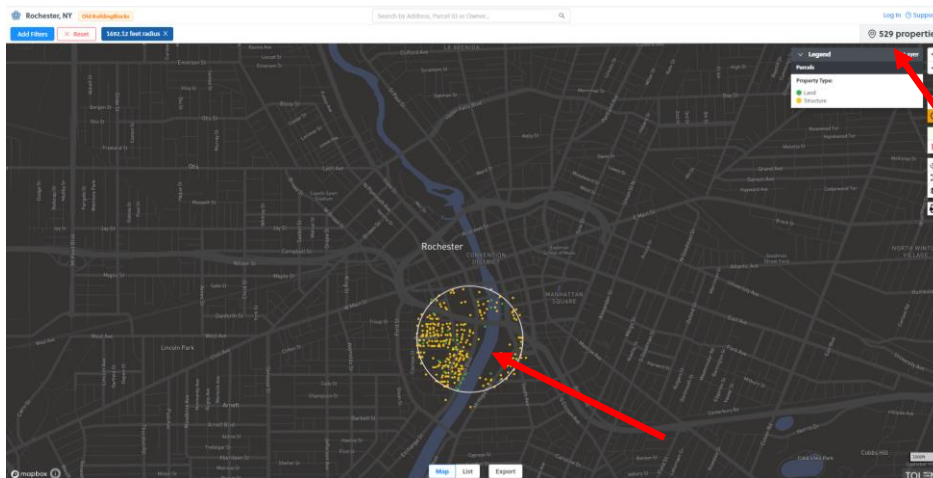
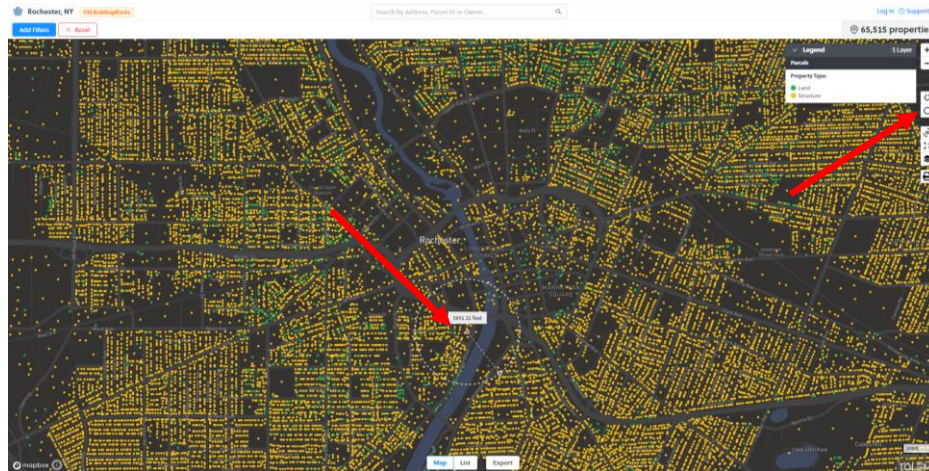


You can add as many or as few filters as you would like. As you filter data, the total number of properties will update in the top right hand corner. Additionally, the filters will show along the bar on the top.



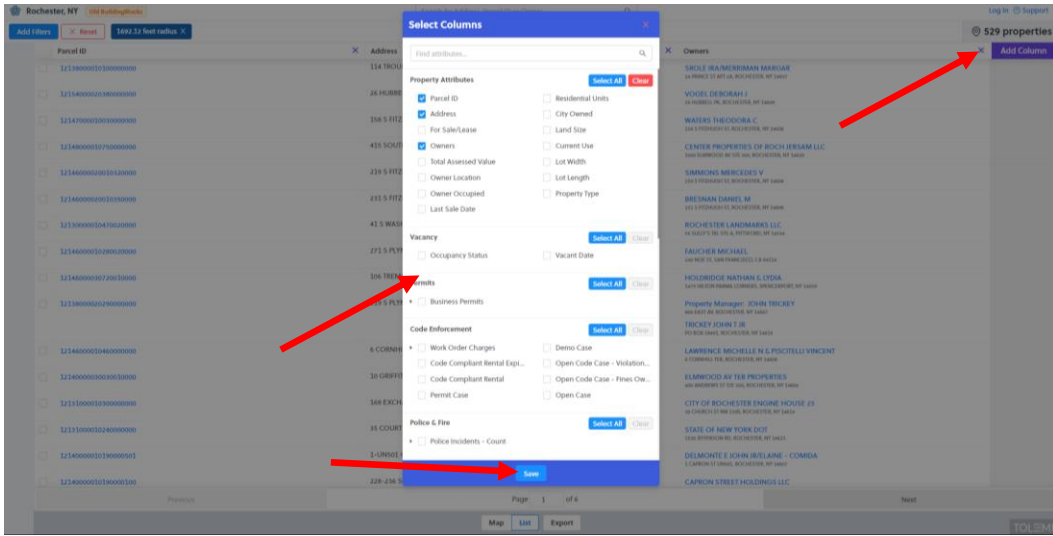
4. Buffering Data

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.

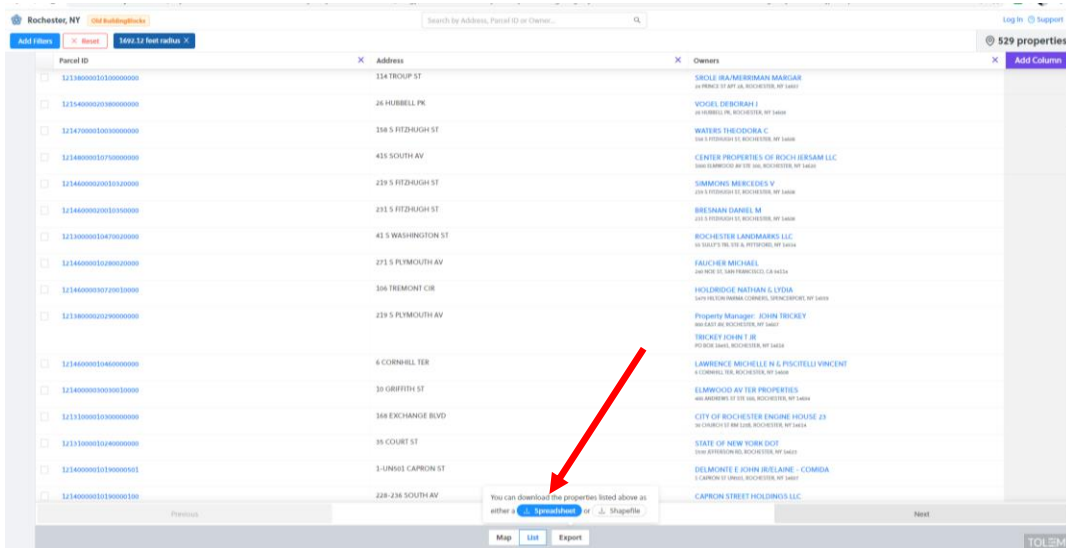


5. Exporting Results

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.



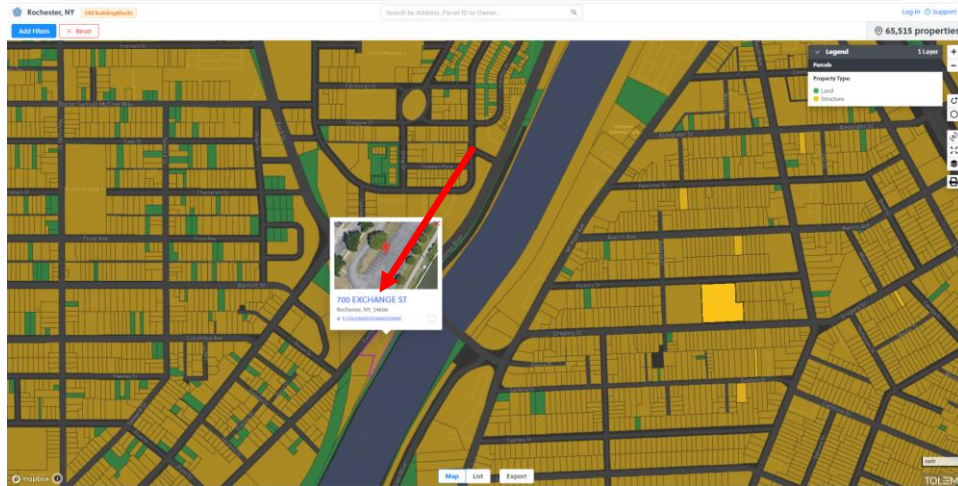
When you have completed checking the fields you would like to export, choose Save, and then choose “Export” on the bottom. Choose to save as Spreadsheet.



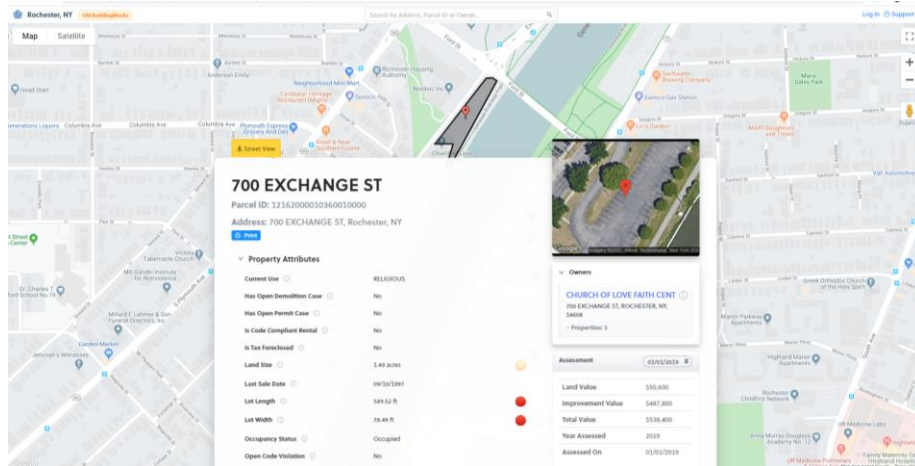
6. Viewing Individual Property Records

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.