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## Battling blight & vacant properties: Philadelphia's unwelcome real estate legacy

Monday, November 15th, 2010



Photo courtesy of Tammy Bradshaw / <http://tammybradshawphoto.blogspot.com>

### Hour 1

Philadelphia's vast tracts of vacant land and abandoned buildings – about 40,000 properties by one count – are costing the city, and taxpayers, a fortune. A [new study \(pdf\)](#) by Econsult and two partners found that the blighted properties were depressing the city's property values by billions of dollars, while directly costing city agencies \$20 million a year. We'll talk to Econsult's **RICHARD VOITH**, lead author of the report done on behalf of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority and the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corps. We'll also talk to **JOHN KROMER** of the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government, who recently prepared [a report \(pdf\) updating the status of vacant properties in Eastern North Philly](#) that he first inventoried as the city's Office of Housing and Community Development in 1998. Those properties redeveloped by the [Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha](#) represent a [rare success story](#).

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