Greening Overview/History

History

- Non-profit founded in 1989
- Response to loss of 500,000 trees in Detroit
- Worked with over 25,000 volunteers

What We Do

- Work with Detroiters to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods
- Enhance the landscape
- Build relationships with community partners

Where We Work

- Detroit
- Hamtramck
- Highland Park
- Metro Detroit
Comparing Detroit to three other major cities

**SAN FRANCISCO**
- Population: 751,682
- Square-mile area: 46.69

**BOSTON**
- Population: 581,616
- Square-mile area: 48.43

**MANHATTAN**
- Population: 1,537,195
- Square-mile area: 22.96

**DETROIT**
- Population: 933,043
- Square-mile area: 138.77

Source: University of Detroit Mercy

Detroit Free Press
Fewer people = More Openspace

Detroit Population, 1900 to 2010

Source: Census Bureau

mjperry.blogspot.com
Percent Change in Population, by Census Block Group, (2000-2008)
Detroit, Michigan

City of Detroit Percent Change in Population:
-10.38% (2000-2008 Estimate)

Pct. Population Change (2000-08)
Ranges represent quintiles of citywide data
-100% to -18.75% (Greatest Population Loss)
-18.74% to -13.53%
-13.52% to -9.42%
-9.41% to -3.56%
-3.55% to 98.56% (Greatest Population Growth)

Sources: Claritas; Data Driven Detroit 4/20/2010
# Growing Tomorrow’s Detroit

## Volunteerism
- Individuals
- Communities
- Organizations

## Planting
- Approximately 6,500 trees planted per year
- Prairies and bioswales
- Garden installations

## Education & Training
- Place-based Environmental and Nutrition education
- Tree care
- Landscape maintenance

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**STRATEGIC LANDSCAPES**
Greening the Future City

**Economic Viability**
- Reclaiming Open Space
- Training a workforce
- Building green infrastructure
- Supporting urban agriculture

**Repurposing Vacant Land**
- Production Farming
- Storm Water Remediation
- Dendroremediation
- Greenways and buffer zones

**Education & Stewardship**
- Nutrition Education
- Park and Greenway Maintenance
- Environmental Education
- Citizen Forestry
Vacant Land in Detroit

• 2009 Block by block survey of residential parcels
• 103,154 found vacant without structures, out of 343,849: 30%
• Estimated that the City currently owns about 40,000 parcels
Vacant lots as a percentage of total residential parcels:
- 0% - 12.5%
- 12.6% - 25%
- 25.1% - 50%
- 50.1% - 100%
- Unsurveyed

**LAND USE**
Here's a breakdown of how residential parcels are used:
- 73% housing
- 20% unimproved vacant lots
- 7% improved vacant lots
Effect on Neighborhoods

- Attract Criminal Activity
- Trigger Neighborhood Disinvestment
- Depreciate Property Values
- Cost Detroit $$$ to Maintain
- Generate NO Tax Revenue
- Compromise Quality of Life
What are we doing about it?
Focusing on Opportunity

Why The Greening? Programs, Expertise, Connections, Resources

• Tree Planting
• Urban Agriculture
• Educational Programming
• Workforce
• Build from Past Vacant Lot Programs: Emp. Zones
Vacant Lots As A Percentage Of All Parcels, By Block, 2009

Legend
- Major Surface Streets
- Freeways
- Detroit River

Block Vacancy Rate
Percent Vacant Lots
- 0% - 9%
- 10% - 27%
- 28% - 47%
- 48% - 72%
- 73% - 100%

Miles
Target Areas

• Create change: People and the Physical Landscape
• More community outreach and organizing work to connect residents
• Engage in more comprehensive green infrastructure planning
• Create a bigger impact
• Existing and potential partners
• Tipping Point
Community Invitation

Idea, Initial Community Support
Project Leader Planning
Hub/Project Meetings to create
Draft Design/Revisions
Promote Events, Implementation
Treatments for Vacant Land

1. Clean & Clear
2. Tree Stand
3. Low Profile Prairie
4. Community Garden/Orchard
5. Harvestable Trees (Nursery)
6. Cut Flower Stand
7. Low Grow Native Turf
8. Bioswale
9. Rain Garden
10. Native Plant Stand
11. Greenway/Farmway
Clean & Clear

Reduces illegal dumping
Removes hazardous overgrowth
Increases safety and visibility

Short term
Mowing, Debris Removal
Hazard tree removal
Tree Stands

Remediate Soil Contamination
Sequester storm water runoff
Reduces illegal dumping

Long term use of space
6-1,500 trees
Volunteer opportunities
Low Profile Prairie

- Sequester storm water runoff
- Reduces illegal dumping
- Beautifies Neighborhood

Long term use of space
- Low maintenance
- Wildlife Value
Community Orchard

Long term Economic Opportunity
Volunteer Opportunity

14 fruit trees, 6 hazelnut shrubs, perennial flowers, strawberries, split rail fence
Community Garden

Impact local nutrition level
Reduces illegal dumping
 Beautifies Neighborhood

Short- Medium term use
High maintenance
 Economic Opp. = $40k/yr
Nursery (harvestable)

Produces trees for streets/sale
Reduces illegal dumping
Beautifies Neighborhood

Short- Medium term use
High maintenance
Economic Opportunity
Low Grow Native Turf

Appropriate for side lots
Encourages Acquisition
 Beautifies Neighborhood

Short- Medium term use
Low maintenance
Some storm water value
Rain Garden/Bioswale

Works for medians/side lots
High storm water value
Beautifies Neighborhood

Short- long term use
Higher maintenance
Encourages acquisition
Cut Flower/Native Plant Stand

- Very visible/Densely Cultivated
- Encourages Acquisition
- Some storm water value

Long Term
Economic Opportunity
Higher maintenance
Continued Community Engagement

Strategies: Macro and Micro

• Critical for sustainability
• Attend neighborhood association meetings
• Promote and facilitate green infrastructure planning meetings
• Community Workdays
THANK YOU!

Rebecca Salminen Witt:  rebecca@greeningofdetroit.com

www.greeningofdetroit.com