

# Land-Based Projects: A Path to Purchase, Permit and Design





# What is a Land Based Project?

A land based project uses land for urban agriculture, gardening, beautification and other productive uses, whether for profit or as a community based activity.





# Urban Agriculture





# Community Gardening





# Beautification





# Goals for This Work

- Clarify and simplify the process for people to **purchase** and **permit** land based projects
- Listen to residents to understand their goals, needs and experiences with City processes so far
- Discuss “good neighbor” **design** guidelines to find solutions that work for land based projects and their neighbors



# Long-Time Gardeners and Growers

- People who have been gardening, growing and involved in land based projects for years and are deeply rooted in community





# Neighbors

- Neighbors who live and work near existing and future land based projects





# Project Specific Needs

- Project specific needs for innovative and community-led work like green stormwater infrastructure, solar and community gathering spaces





# The Local Economy

- Ways for more people to get involved in this local economy





# Timeline

- City team of 11 departments and agencies has met regularly for over a year to discuss opportunities for streamlining and improvement
- Workshops, meetings and focus groups January – April 2019
- Recommendations and improvements in 2019





# What We Have Done

- 2018 TASP grant
- Conversation with permitted projects in December (20 permitted projects)
- Meeting with land based projects in January (Georgia Street Community Collective)
- Tours of over 25 land based projects in January and February





# What We Have Heard

- Parts of the process are uncoordinated, inconsistent, or unclear – predictability, clarity, and upfront information is important
- Land based projects have unique needs for utilities and infrastructure that need to be addressed
- Neighbors want to understand expectations for new land based projects
- People appreciate being able to communicate directly with multiple City departments





# Tonight!

- Discuss the **existing process** for purchase and permit of land based projects. *Show us what doesn't work and tell us how it could be better.*
- Discuss "**good neighbor**" **guidelines**. *What do land-based projects add to neighborhoods? How can their design respect and adapt to neighborhood contexts? What do new land-based projects need to know?*





# Also Tonight!

- We are writing a **Value Statement** on land-based projects for the City. *Tell us about why these projects matter and the benefits they provide!*
- **The Doctor is In!** The Detroit Land Bank Authority and BSEED are here to take your questions and help navigate the City process. (Other City staff are here too and can help – tell us about your needs.)





# What's Next?

## Thursday, March 14

Workshops to try out in-progress materials and prioritize draft process improvements

- Location: MSU Center, 3408 Woodward Ave, Classrooms 230 A/B
- Morning Workshop: 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Evening Workshop: 6:00 – 7:30 PM





# What's Next?


Range of focus groups that have been and will be held with different groups and on different topics

- Growers and gardeners
- Technical assistance providers
- Community projects
- Special topics



# Your Input

- Paper and online surveys in addition to in-person meetings!
- Find online survey at [www.detroitmi.gov/land](http://www.detroitmi.gov/land)



### Land Based Projects Survey

The City of Detroit is working to improve the process for purchasing and permitting land based projects. In order to make useful improvements, we are seeking input from you to understand your goals, needs and experiences with these types of projects and City processes so far. Your input will directly influence the outcomes of this work.

**WHAT IS A LAND BASED PROJECT?** A project that uses land for urban agriculture, gardening, and other productive uses, whether for profit or as a community-based activity.

**1. What is your land based project? Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Urban farm that produces food crops
- ☐ I grow on land that is next door to my home (homestead or side lot)
- ☐ Community garden with shared plots for different people
- ☐ I grow trees, plants, flowers (not for food)
- ☐ Orchards with trees that produce fruits or nuts
- ☐ Green stormwater infrastructure for drainage (for example: rain gardens)
- ☐ Community green space
- ☐ Community gathering / event space
- ☐ Composting facility (that is, to provide compost beyond just your project)
- ☐ Solar energy production
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. How close do you live to your land based project?**

- ☐ It's right next door
- ☐ On my block
- ☐ It's in the neighborhood where I stay
- ☐ In a different neighborhood
- ☐ I live outside of Detroit

**3. Please tell us a little bit about your land based project, and how you feel it affects the community and the city of Detroit.**

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### Survey for Land-Based Project Participants

The City of Detroit is working to improve the process for purchasing and permitting land-based projects. In order to make useful improvements with equitable outcomes, we are seeking input from you to understand your goals, needs and experiences with these types of projects and City processes so far. Your input will directly influence the outcomes of this work.

\* Required

**WHAT IS A LAND-BASED PROJECT?**

A project that uses land for urban agriculture, gardening, and other productive uses, whether for profit or as a community-based activity.

**What is your land-based project? Check all that apply. \***

- ☐ Urban farm that produces food crops
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- ☐ Community garden with shared lots for different people
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- ☐ Orchards with trees that produce fruits or nuts
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- ☐ Community green space
- ☐ Community gathering / event space



# Other Ways To Stay In Touch

[www.detroitmi.gov/land](http://www.detroitmi.gov/land)

EMAIL: [land@detroitmi.gov](mailto:land@detroitmi.gov)

PHONE: 313-224-3517



# Schedule for Tonight!

- 6:30 – 6:40: Arrivals, Sign In, Dinner
- 6:40 – 6:55: City Presentation
- 6:55 – 7:20: Workshop Activities Round One  
(Good Neighbor or Process Map)
- 7:25 – 7:50: Workshop Activities Round Two (Switch!)
- Throughout: Help Us Write a Value Statement;  
Consult Land Bank and BSEED Staff





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