

RECOMMENDATIONS: HEALTHY LAND

Repurpose vacant land and structures to protect human and natural health.



Photo: karityfresh.blogspot.com

Brightmoor Farmway House Board

CLEAN UP CONTAMINATED LAND AND REDUCE EXPOSURE TO HEALTH HAZARDS

- Identify and prioritize communities bearing disproportionate environmental burden
- Pursue negligent property owners to take responsibility for cleanup
- Properly assess lead and other soil contamination to make informed land use decisions such as school and residential siting
- Institute soil testing and best practices for urban gardens and urban farms

COMMUNITIZE CARE OF VACANT LAND

- Expedite side-lot disposition and adopt-a-lot programs: make it quicker, easier, and cheaper for residents to purchase adjacent vacant city lots
- Implement the 2013 Urban Agriculture Ordinance
- Support community-based land management efforts (e.g., land trusts, community land banks, public/neighborhood service agreements)

RESTORE AND PROTECT NATURAL AREAS AND ASSETS

- Develop an open space plan that creates a long-term community vision for connected, accessible green space
- Work with regional land conservancies and local/regional/state/federal agencies to restore environmentally sensitive areas and create blue/green infrastructure in Detroit
- Restore neighborhood trees and maintain standards for equitable tree cover in each district
- Support community efforts that can help address ownership and maintenance barriers to implementing blue/green infrastructure; learn from traditional land conservancies in the region