

# RECOMMENDATIONS: COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Ensure that public investments benefit youth development, increase job access, and improve community well-being.



Schcari Wade with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) cuts trails in Rouge Park.

Photo: Kevin Hamilton, SCA

## IMPROVE PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN PLANNING AND ZONING

- Ensure that the planning and zoning revision process makes a special effort to include health, transportation, natural resources, energy, and waste considerations

## LEVERAGE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Charter-mandated Green Initiatives and Sustainable Technologies Plan should research how to support businesses that address key challenges such as municipal waste, illegal dumping, fossil fuel dependence, and vacant buildings and land
- Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation should work closely with community-based trainers, organized labor, the Purchasing Department, and all agencies that let contracts to maintain a skilled workforce and increase local hiring in public projects
- City agencies and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation should actively support “buy local” initiatives and the cleanup/repurposing of vacant properties to encourage the local urban agriculture economy

## ENGAGE YOUTH AND RESIDENTS IN CREATING NATURAL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

- Support community-driven efforts to develop an open space network of parks, trails, and greenways to increase recreational opportunities
- Involve residents and youth in environmental initiatives and the design, construction, and maintenance of natural areas to create ownership, jobs, and community pride. (Local examples include the Detroit Youth Energy Squad and Green Schools [WARM Training Center], Student Conservation Corps [The Greening of Detroit], Greening the Mack [Lower Eastside Alliance])

## EQUIP COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

- Public officials have the responsibility to inform the community of city processes and policies, as well as their environmental impacts and benefits, so that citizens are better equipped to help keep our communities safe, healthy, and well-maintained