

VACANT LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Greening of Detroit's Vacant Land Treatment Program is a pilot effort to transform vacant lots through the use of green infrastructure. Bringing together funding from DWSD, planning support from SEMCOG and the DFC Framework, and engagement and implementation led by The Greening of Detroit and its citizen volunteers, this program is a model for how green infrastructure can be implemented in the city of Detroit.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- C INTRODUCE NEW FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT
- D CREATE A NEW AND DIVERSE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM FOR THE CITY
- B CREATE LANDSCAPES THAT WORK
- D REPURPOSE VACANT LAND TO CREATE GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS
- F UTILIZE PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES AS THE BASIS FOR A SUSTAINABLE CITY
- B USE VACANT LAND AS A TOOL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION
- E INCORPORATE MORE INNOVATIVE VACANT LAND APPROACHES

OBJECTIVE

The Greening of Detroit's Vacant Land Treatment Program is transforming 10 vacant residential property lots in Detroit's Cody Rouge neighborhood. Lots are treated with four different low-maintenance treatments designed to stabilize and beautify, increase tree canopy, and mitigate stormwater runoff.

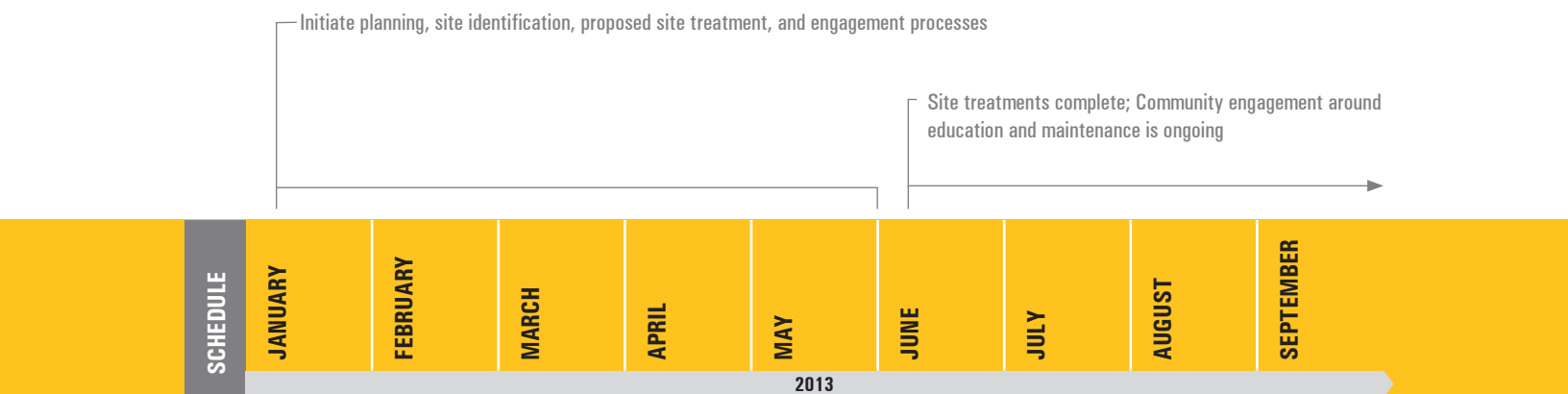
SEMCOG estimates stormwater runoff can be reduced by 10,000 gallons for a 2-year event (2.25 inches), which represents a 30% reduction over approximately 1.2 acres (10 lots). Depending on the treatment, 25-50% runoff reduction can be achieved.

RESOURCES

DWSD funds the lot treatments as part of its \$50 million – 20 year commitment to green infrastructure. The cost per lot is \$2,500, with a total estimated cost of \$25,000. Implementation is led by The Greening of Detroit's Core Team with much of the labor undertaken by citizen volunteers.

EVALUATION METRICS

- Total tree canopy
- Stormwater runoff reduction



INITIATIVE VITALS

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS: DWSD, SEMCOG, The Greening of Detroit, DFC

DFC INITIATIVE TYPE: Endorse

DFC REPRESENTATIVES: Dan Kinkead, Chris Dorle

INITIATIVE SCALE: Ten residential lots

INITIATIVE DURATION: January 2013–Ongoing

RELEVANT PLANNING ELEMENTS: Land Use, City Systems, Neighborhoods, Land and Buildings Assets

DFC APPROACH

In the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework, Cody Rouge is identified for innovative ecological future land use, which emphasizes the use of green infrastructure. The Detroit Future City Implementation Office recognizes the transformational potential within this small scale pilot and seeks to endorse it.

Trish Hubbell from The Greening of Detroit, Amy Magnus from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and Mary Alfonso from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) lead the planning effort. Cody Rouge is identified because of its proximity to the Rouge River Watershed and the impact these treatments could have on mitigating stormwater runoff and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

The Cody Rouge planning team leads an engagement process with the community to identify the specific sites and treatment plans. Through several meetings, the Cody Rouge residents select the sites and vote for one of the following treatments for each site: low-grow prairie grass, perennial wildflower mix, a rye grass and wildflower combination, or tree planting.



Image Source: The Greening of Detroit