



RECOVERY PARK FOOD SYSTEM SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

RecoveryPark's mission is to create jobs for people with barriers to employment. The organization believes developing businesses in food production, processing and distribution centered on approximately 100 acres of blighted lots north and east of Eastern Market generally bounded by St. Aubin, I-94, Chene and Scott. RecoveryPark will have the opportunity to create a large number of jobs and improve the local economy and neighborhood.

RecoveryPark has engaged a merchant bank, Next Street in Boston, to organize \$25 million of mixed funding to support the business and community projects in this footprint. This effort has resulted in Business Incorporations, Memorandums of Understandings, Letters of Support and other engagement documents identifying property needs for agriculture businesses, academic research, sustainability and recreational activities.

RecoveryPark is developing the Associate Support Platform with partners including MRS, Easter Seals, JVS and SHAR to provide job training and support.

OBJECTIVES

- Build an economic, infrastructure and human asset redevelopment model for a sustainable local food system using DFC Framework as a baseline.
- Build an economic model for creating food production, processing and distribution businesses supporting local jobs for people with barriers to employment.
- Engage community groups and residents in creating a sustainable walkable and secure neighborhood.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

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| B2 | Develop detailed action plans for primary employment district |
| C3 | Provide young Detroiters with exposure to and experience in Digital/Creative and other new economy clusters |
| D1 | "Hire Detroit": strengthen local hiring practices |
| D3 | Coordinate workforce development best practices |
| D4 | Revitalize incumbent workforce training |
| D5 | Expand public-private partnerships for workforce development |
| D1 | Implement blue and green infrastructure projects |
| D2 | Encourage reuse of vacant land with productive landscapes |

RESOURCES

- Detroit Future City leadership and staff
- RecoveryPark 501(c)(3) nonprofit, RecoveryPark Farms, RecoveryPark Foods and RecoveryPark Aquaculture
- Detroit Infrastructure Partners

EVALUATION METRICS

- Number of jobs created
- Amount of blighted land cleared and maintained

← Build collaborative partnerships to implement projects consistent with DFC Framework and fulfill the RecoveryPark mission →

Begin Infrastructure Advisory Board; Build economic, people and infrastructure projects applicable to RecoveryPark

Identify private, public and other funding for inaugural projects to begin implementing DFC Framework Elements

SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

2013

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

2014

INITIATIVE VITALS

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS:

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, DTE Energy, Detroit Future City, Michigan State University, TechTown, Detroit Department of Public Works, playgrown, Detroit Blight Authority, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Easter Seals, JVS and SHAR

DFC INITIATIVE TYPE: Partner

DFC REPRESENTATIVES: Kyle Polk, Heidi Alcock

INITIATIVE SCALE: RecoveryPark Phase 1 Footprint, Infrastructure Advisory Board

INITIATIVE DURATION: December 2013 – November 2018 for recommendations; June 2014 for implementation

RELEVANT PLANNING ELEMENTS: Economic Growth, Land Use

DFC APPROACH

The DFC Implementation Team will use the Framework to support urban economic, employment, business and infrastructure redevelopment in the general RecoveryPark footprint.

The DFC Framework addresses vital infrastructure alternatives. RecoveryPark provides an opportunity to rethink infrastructure with the responsible organizations through an Infrastructure Advisory Board lead by DFC and Detroit Planning and Development Department.

DFC can evaluate the potential of the RecoveryPark model to create jobs that are accessible to local residents, especially those with barriers to employment, to begin establishing an economic base of businesses and impetus to neighborhood redevelopment. DFC can also dimension the combined impact of for-profit business income, jobs and taxes with the reduction in societal cost for people who otherwise would be unemployed and dependent on City services and other activities to support themselves.

The RecoveryPark experience can be used as a template for other sector based redevelopment such as water, energy and advanced manufacturing. The common theme is the need for effective land use, resident employment and infrastructure redevelopment based on customer demand and need.



Rendering by the Detroit Collaborative Design Center