



Detroit Future City Mid-Year Newsletter

From vacant lot transformations to planning for industrial property reuse, Detroit Future City (DFC) has been hard at work to advance the quality of life in Detroit. In this mid-year newsletter, we profile a few of the projects you may not have heard about.

Did you know that DFC has awarded nearly \$250,000 to transform vacant lots in Detroit neighborhoods?

Our *Field Guide to Working with Lots Mini-Grant* program has put nearly \$250,000 into the hands of Detroit organizations to help fund vacant lot transformations. This year alone, we awarded a combined total of \$95,000 to ten organizations to turn vacant lots in their neighborhoods into beautiful, intentional open spaces, using [Field Guide](#) designs. Six projects have already been completed this year and four are underway. A tour of completed lots was held on June 20, so that grantees could share their experiences and gain inspiration from each other's efforts.



PizzaPlex, a "community pizzeria" located in Southwest Detroit, implemented a modified [Stormwater Cistern](#) lot design, building an underground system that allows rainwater to be infiltrated into the ground, staying out of our sewer system. This helps keep the Detroit River clean during large storm events!



Canfield Consortium has transformed the vacant lots in their community into a stunning flower garden by incorporating the [Party Lot](#) and [Dumping Preventer](#) lot designs!

Lots to Maintain

2018 is the third year of our mini-grant program. To help keep past installations looking good, DFC is launching a new program called *Lots to Maintain*. Through this program, grantees from 2016 can apply for up to \$1500 to support the upkeep and sustainability of their past installation projects.

Watch the video below of the Demographic Inspirations - Detroit project, which used our [Native Butterfly Meadow](#) lot design!



Need more summer inspiration? Be sure to check out more lot designs from our *Field Guide to Working with Lots* and the completed designs to see final projects.

Explore Lot Designs

View Completed Field Guide Projects

Did you know DFC leads a community-based coalition to help Detroiters understand the benefits of stormwater management?

The Land + Water WORKS Coalition was formed in 2017 to equip Detroit residents with the resources needed to become better stewards of their environment. On March 21, 2018, more than 150 people attended the Land +Water WORKS Summit to hear local and



national leaders discuss how green stormwater infrastructure has the potential to positively transform the landscape of Detroit and improve the health of our communities and water resources.

In addition to the city-wide Summit, more than ten additional forums and workshops were held in neighborhoods and council districts across the city throughout

the spring and early summer. The coalition also worked to develop 45 residents and non-profits into community-based land and water stewardship experts who engaged thousands of Detroiters in conversations around the future of Detroit. If you missed any of these informative events, don't worry! We have a [webpage full of valuable resources](#) --including copies of the Summit presentations -- that you can employ to help make Detroit the greenest city in the nation!

Water Conservation Conserving water is essential to the health of our communities. By performing tasks like shutting off the faucet while you brush your teeth and running your washing machine and dishwasher only when full, you can become a better steward of our water. Here's a [Home Water Audit Guide](#) from the Sierra Club that can help you learn more ways to conserve water!



Green Stormwater Management Stormwater is precipitation of any form, including, but not limited to, rain, sleet and snow. It takes the help of every resident to manage stormwater in ways that can not only help conserve water, but redirect it back into the soil, which helps maintain natural habitats for local wildlife. By capturing water in a [rain barrel](#) for later use, installing a [rain garden](#) in your yard, or incorporating pervious surfaces into your landscaping that allow water to flow directly into the ground, you can help manage stormwater! To learn more, check out our [Stormwater 101](#) guide.

Learn More

If you attended the Land + Water WORKS Summit, or one of the workshops or forums, take this brief survey below to let us know how we can improve and be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$100 Visa gift cards!

Take Survey

Did you know Detroit has over 900 vacant industrial buildings, and DFC is developing a framework for their reuse?

Although Detroit retains a strong manufacturing base, there are over 900 vacant industrial buildings that will likely never be reused for their original purpose. DFC has assembled a team of industry leading consultants including SmithGroupJJR and Mass Economics to explore innovative opportunities for adaptive building reuse. The team identified vacant industrial redevelopment models that could be applied at the building, district and system-wide levels, drawing on examples from around the country and around the world.

In the next phase of the study, we will partner with the Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Vanguard CDC and others to begin a planning process in the Milwaukee Junction neighborhood. Milwaukee Junction is a historically industrial area undergoing a rebirth as a creative, mixed-use commercial, industrial and residential district.



We'd like to give a special thanks to all the stakeholders who helped provide insightful feedback throughout the planning process, including the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Wayne County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, DTE Energy, Detroit LISC, Invest Detroit and Design Core Detroit.

DFC Leadership Update



Special congratulations to our Executive Director, Anika Goss Foster, for receiving the **Michigan Chronicle's Women of Excellence** award, as well as **CORP! Magazine's Most Valuable Professional!**



Tom Goddeeris has been promoted to serve as our **Deputy Director!** With nearly three decades of leadership in community development and engagement in the City of Detroit, we're excited for him to provide strategic direction to our organization.

Check out these top news articles featuring DFC!

[Spotlight on the News Special: A look back inside the 2018 Mackinac Policy Conference](#)

[After restructuring period, Detroit Future City emerges potent and engaged](#)

[Women Wednesday Spotlight: Anika Goss-Foster](#)

[A green culture shift: Changing perspectives on open space in Detroit](#)

DFC's Top Tweets

DetroitFutureCity @DetroitFutureCity

Introducing the newest DFC Special Report "Moving Detroit's Future", which takes a look at several issues that must be considered as we move forward with regional transit options.
[mailchi.mp/detroitfuturec...](#)

DetroitFutureCity @DetroitFutureCity

"This is the biggest project Yorkshire Woods has done. Even though it's been a challenge, we are grateful for Detroit Future City." - Mose Primus, DFC Mini-Grantee