



Food Sovereignty and Security in Detroit's District 4

The Food Group

Capstone Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Master in Community Development, University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture 2021

Katie Carlisle, Cinthya Casillas, David Finet, Tammie Perry, and Taylor Thorn





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Development, University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture*

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Food Access

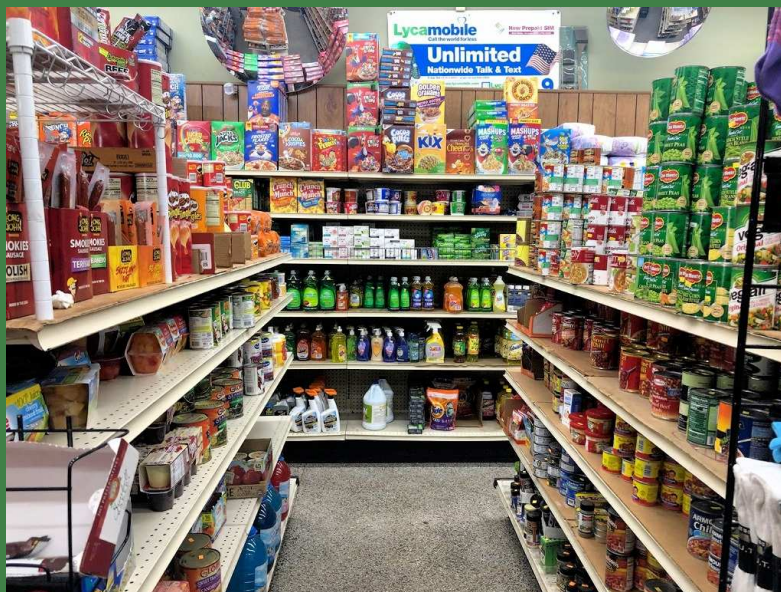
Acknowledgments

The Food Sovereignty and Security Group would like to express gratitude to our team of advisors for providing invaluable feedback and support throughout the development of this project. We could not have completed this work without the people in District 4, particularly the relationships created in Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers.



4 Angels Garden *Katie Carlisle*

Food Sovereignty & Security in Detroit's District 4



N&A Market *Katie Carlisle*

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Feedom Freedom Garden *Katie Carlisle*

Executive Summary

Access to fresh, nutritious, safe, affordable, and appropriate food is a basic need we all share. However, many Detroiters, especially in marginalized and divested neighborhoods, face significant challenges when it comes to accessing healthy food options. The research presented in this report is derived from historical research of the subject, current circumstances, case study research, and discussion with members of the community around issues of food security and sovereignty. By focusing on two neighborhoods, Jefferson-Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods, in District 4 in Detroit, this report discusses similarities and disparities between the two; where one neighborhood has received supportive funding and the other has not, the differences were notable.

In response to the data gathered through various methods including community conversations, neighborhood visits, attending community meetings, feedback and guidance from advisors, the team developed three implementation proposals that could assist the Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods neighborhoods, as well as other, similar neighborhoods in the city. The proposals ask for residents to develop partnerships, seek policy and legislative solutions and land acquisition and development. Recognizing the importance of residents advocating and implementing solutions to achieving and sustaining their autonomy, an implementation plan is presented with a timeline for each proposal.

Introduction

Capstone Overview and Goals

Capstone is a comprehensive and integrated research project which focuses on sustainable development and addresses three areas: 1) site, 2) circumstance, and 3) community partnership. Capstone research requires meaningful engagement with the community in which the work is being conducted. The results of this capstone are disseminated through a written report, as well as a series of academic and public presentations.

The HOPE Model

The Master of Community Development (MCD) at the University of Detroit Mercy is a unique degree in the community development field. The MCD program offers an integrative approach to community development, focusing on the HOPE model. The HOPE model examines the Human, Organizational, Physical, and Economic Development of a community through a holistic lens.

Human development refers to the creation of supportive systems for members of a community throughout their lifespan. **Organizational development** refers to the creation and ongoing operations of organizations which are involved in the work of community development in a specified area. **Physical development** can be seen as both the creation of newly built spaces and the rehabilitation and reuse of existing spaces within a community. **Economic development** includes those efforts which are focused on business formation, job creation, and economic self-determination.

The 3 S's

The 3 S's – service, social justice and sustainability – are the ideological model through which the MCD program employs the HOPE model (Stanard).

Service

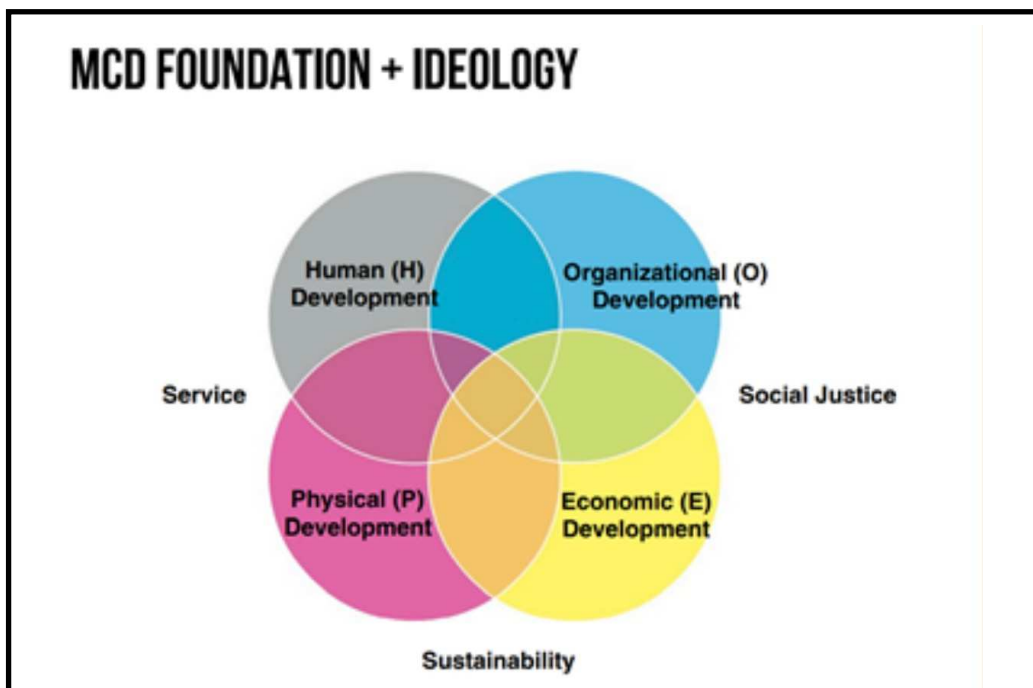
focuses on addressing the immediate needs present in a community (Stanard).

Social Justice

examines the structural context of a community and challenges the inequities facing community members (Stanard).

Sustainability

looks at the impact of human activity on the earth and explores possible mitigation strategies (Stanard).



CAPSTONE TEAM



Katie Carlisle

Katie is interested in physical development with an emphasis on affordable housing and the adaptive reuse of buildings. She currently works as a program manager for a homeless shelter in Detroit in the Rapid Rehousing department. She has spent much of her life in southern Illinois and southern/central Indiana. Katie, her husband, and their fat cat moved to St. Clair Shores 8 years ago from Indianapolis.



Cinthya Casillas

Cinthya is an active resident in Southwest Detroit. She obtained a B. S. in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing from Wayne State University. Through her time at Wayne State, she devoted a lot of time to volunteering and discovered her passion for community work. She serves as the VP of the Hubbard Richard Resident Association. She has participated in community processes advocating for the benefits of her neighborhood and residents. Cinthya has worked in various non-profits in Detroit, particularly in Southwest, Midtown and Hope Village managing programs and supporting families reach their goals through mentorship and advocacy. Cinthya currently serves as a case manager for a Head Start provider in the city of Detroit.



David Finet

Passionate about cooperatives, Dave joined his first food co-op in 1985 and has worked in a number of food related co-ops over the last 35 years, including a worker-owned bakery, a collectively-run vegetarian restaurant, and a ten-year stint as General Manager of the East Lansing Food Co-op. Dave, his spouse, and their three dogs have lived in northwest Detroit since 2018.



Tammie Perry

A Highland Park resident since 1970, Tammie moved away for college after high school, but after two years of unaccomplished studying, she decided to join the military. She tried the marriage thing, and it did not work, but raised two kids in the military with her. Once retired, she moved back to Highland Park and became invested in the growth in her community. Her focus in the MCD program has been the “H” in the HOPE model. Human Development for her has been something that remains foremost in her quest to be a change maker.



Taylor Thorn

With a background in social enterprise and nonprofits, Taylor is passionate about physical and economic development as powerful, transformative tools in communities. Raised in Metro Detroit, Taylor became a resident of Detroit in 2020 and worked with the Detroit Land Bank Authority before moving to Chicago in 2021. She currently works for a nonprofit affordable housing development company focused on equitable development projects, and as a personal assistant to her dog, June.

Community Partner

The Community Partner for this capstone project is the **Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC)**. DFPC is an education, advocacy and policy organization led by Detroiters committed to creating a sustainable local food system that promotes food security, food justice and food sovereignty in the City of Detroit. Established in 2009 by unanimous consent of the Detroit City Council, the council was born out of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN), which was organized in 2006 to address food security issues in the Black community and promote more participation and leadership in addressing food insecurity. DFPC is comprised of 24 members, including 15 members from various sectors in the food system, four community members, one youth representative, and three governmental representatives, including one each from the Mayor's Office, City Council, and the Department of Health and Wellness Promotion (DFPC). Their goal is to ensure that all residents of Detroit are hunger-free, healthy, and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives (DFPC). This capstone project would not have been possible without the invaluable direction and partnership provided by Executive Director Winona Bynum, Program Manager of Education and Engagement Kibibi Blount-Dorn, and Program Manager of Research and Policy Amy Kuras.



Detroit Food
POLICY COUNCIL

Detroit Food Policy Council

Project Goal

In collaboration with the DFPC, the team researched the systemic barriers residents face daily preventing them from achieving true food sovereignty and security in Detroit's District 4, specifically in the Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods neighborhoods. The team also identified the various food sources in both neighborhoods. The asset mapping deliverable includes the availability of farmer's markets, food pantries, grocery stores, healthcare facilities, and fast-food establishments.

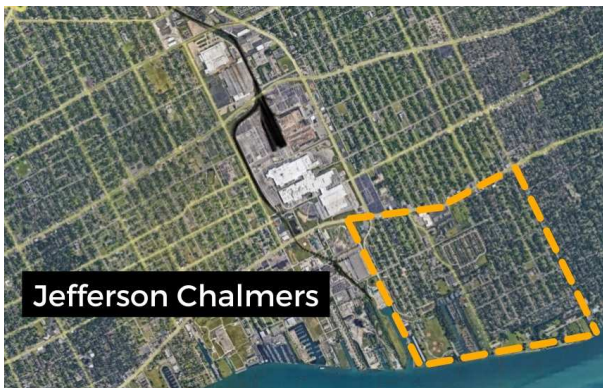
In addition, the team presents three proposals for implementation based on the research and community need. The team has prepared a timeline and budget that will assist the implementation process. The first proposal offered suggests development of an Affordable Food policy modeled after Affordable Housing policies which would incentivize development of secure, sustainable, and sovereign local food systems. The second proposal to increase land use in the neighborhood of Jefferson Chalmers by working closely with the Detroit Land Bank Authority. The third and final proposal presents the option for community partnerships internally and externally for the community of Yorkshire Woods. The three proposals require extensive collaboration and buy-in from the community at large. It is suggested that informational sessions are held throughout the communities, requiring feedback and community participation.

Project Location

When deciding what area of Detroit to explore regarding food security and food sovereignty, the team chose District 4 due to the rich history of farming, the work that is already occurring, and the variation in governmental support throughout the various neighborhoods. Once District 4 was chosen, the team decided to further narrow down to two neighborhoods, Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers, as a way to compare and contrast two distinct neighborhoods in Detroit. One major difference, and one of

the main reasons for choosing these two areas is that Jefferson Chalmers is a part of the Strategic Neighborhood Fund (SNF) and Yorkshire Woods is not. The SNF is a public-private partnership between the City of Detroit and various philanthropies and private donors which aims to improve 10 identified neighborhoods throughout Detroit by means of expanding shopping opportunities, increasing economic development and increasing the appeal of a neighborhood (Frank, "Detroit's Strategic"). This means that those chosen neighborhoods will see an influx of resources, planning, community engagement and development occurring. The SNF started in 2014 and so many of these neighborhoods have already seen improvements and changes to their landscape (Frank, 'Detroit's Strategic').

Yorkshire Woods, a small part of District 4, has a poverty rate that is three times higher than the national average when it comes to food insecurity and health (Data Driven Detroit, "Detroit Zip Codes"). 59.5% of the residents live with children and the average family income is \$15,508, with child poverty at a rate 51.4% in the area (Data Driven Detroit, "Detroit Zip Codes"). These households qualify for free and reduced lunches and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Programs, also known as SNAP or food stamps, as well as other government sponsored cash assistance programs. Jefferson Chalmers is in the same district as Yorkshire Woods, but the comparisons are striking. There is walkability to restaurants and shopping areas for healthy food choices. While this area does have 14.9% of households with children under the age of 18 with the majority also eligible for the free and reduced lunches and SNAP assistance, there is also a much higher average family income than Yorkshire Woods, at \$54,914 (*Living in Jefferson Chalmers*).



Project Thesis

The capstone team wanted to see if there was a difference in food access and sovereignty in an SNF neighborhood and a non-SNF neighborhood. The team posited that due to the increased financial resources that an SNF neighborhood would benefit from, there would be more access and opportunity in Jefferson Chalmers than in Yorkshire Woods. Through the course of this project, it was found that while neither neighborhood has a full line grocery store within its boundaries, Jefferson Chalmers does have more opportunity and access to resources to work towards attaining food security and sovereignty. Both neighborhoods have capacity for the work and have residents who are willing and want to see access increase. The capstone team believes that if Yorkshire Woods were given the same opportunities that Jefferson Chalmers has been allotted, the neighborhood could further move the needle on food security and sovereignty. This does not mean that Jefferson Chalmers does not have additional opportunities to increase security and sovereignty. Both neighborhoods have room to expand and grow, just in different capacities and stages.

Food Security and Sovereignty

Defining the concepts of food security and food sovereignty are important for the context of this capstone project. Food security is defined as when people have enough food that is culturally appropriate, and sufficient access to food, all the time so they can live a healthy and productive life (Agriculture and Food Security). People are food secure when they are not living “in hunger or in fear of hunger” (Agriculture and Food Security). Being food insecure often stems from poverty and not only impacts a person’s health and wellbeing, including impacting their growth, cognitive abilities and immune system but also has implications for families, neighborhoods, and communities (Agriculture and Food Security).

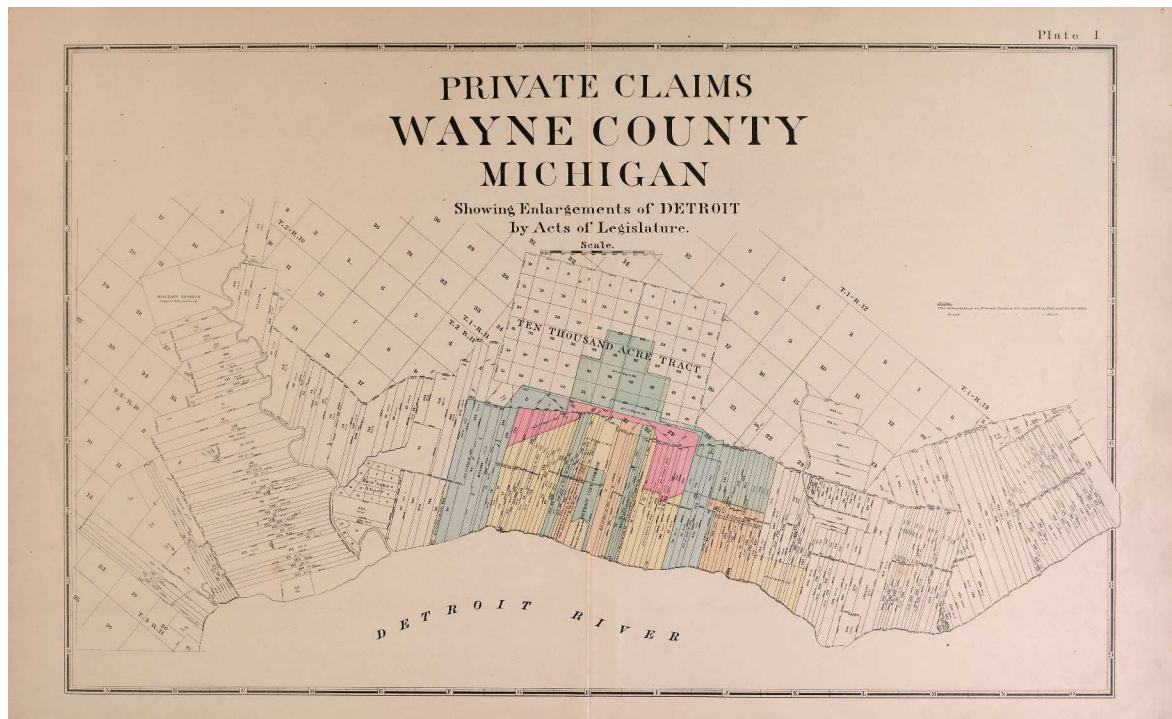
Food sovereignty goes beyond food security emphasizing that people should have a say in where their food comes from, how it is grown and produced and how the land is treated where the food is grown (U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance [USFSA]). People must reclaim their power and have influence over the relationships between themselves and the land and between themselves and the entire process of food production (USFSA). Food sovereignty is a bottom-up approach that focuses on people and communities versus the top-down approach by corporations that is driven by the demands of the market and profits (USFSA). Crucial emphasis is placed on locally grown foods, local access, respecting the land and most importantly, centering the people in the conversation around food access (USFSA).



Left to right: Katie Carlisle (Capstone Team Member), Mose Primus (Yorkshire Woods Resident and Yorkshire Woods Community Organization President), Lieselotte "Lottie" Auguth (Yorkshire Woods Resident), Tammie Perry (Capstone Team Member)

Background Research





Detailed Official Atlas of Wayne County *University of Michigan Library*

Detroit, or Waawiyaatanong as it was known to the Anishinaabe peoples, was a common gathering spot for the Great Lakes Indigenous peoples and included the Anishinaabe tribes of Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi (Cosme). An Iroquoian tribe, the Wendat, called Detroit and the surrounding area Teuchsa Grondie, or “Land of Many Beavers” (Cosme). Beaver fur was a substantial commodity for French colonizers, who came to Michigan once they learned of the proliferation of beaver in the area. The trading and transportation of furs became the most important economic driver in Michigan between 1700 and 1815 (Encyclopedia of Detroit [EOD]).

Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, a French explorer and politician, advocated for a French military post and colony on the southern part of the Great Lakes that would best serve the French interests, including easy access to furs (Canadian Museum of History [CMH]). Cadillac knew the Detroit River, a 28-mile long, narrow water way, was connected to the Great Lakes. It would mean the possibility for the French to reach the heart of the American continent through its narrow waterways, which were easily defended against invaders and perfect for planting and farming (CMH). The land on either side of the narrow waterway evolved into ribbon farms (EOD).

The ribbon farms were long, narrow land divisions connected to the waterway of the Great Lakes (EOD). Once Cadillac was given authority by King Louis XIV, he was able to appropriate and grant land to settlers in 1707. He awarded farms that extended a mile and a half inland on both sides of the Detroit River, giving each farm a narrow river frontage and a number to identify the location (EOD). Each ribbon farm was approximately 250-400 feet wide and up to three miles long (EOD). Cadillac granted 150 plots of land to families which were developed into 68 village lots by private individuals,

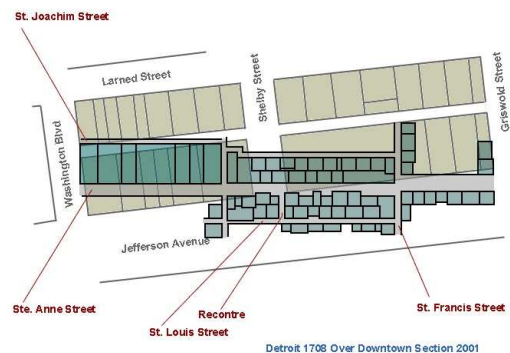


Detroit Ribbon Farms Map 1796
DETROITography

31 farms and 13 gardens (EOD). The landowners constructed homes at the end of their lots and used access to the waterway to transport and sell their goods and for travel. Cadillac placed stipulations upon the owners to improve the land and to not sell alcohol to Native Americans (EOD). Cadillac named the area Detroit, a French word for “the straits” due to the Detroit River connecting Lake St. Clair (and ultimately Lake Huron) and Lake Erie (EOD).

Cadillac and the French colonizers of 1700-1760 helped establish Detroit as a formidable area. As Cadillac appropriated the land, he convinced the Huron, Miami, Ottawa, and Chippewa peoples to come in the area, and build villages, while he continued to sell land to the French settlers (EOD). The settlers were charged an annual rent and a small portion of their crops planted (EOD).

The British era in Detroit resulted from the tension rising between the French and the British between 1760-1787. British Major Robert Roberts and his troops took control of Detroit (EOD). At that time, the Native Americans sold their land to settlers who would come to follow the ribbon farm pattern (CMH). The farms first ranged from Lake St. Clair to modern day Riverside Park, east of the Ambassador Bridge, and eventually spread north to the Clinton River, and south



Detroit Places | Mission House
historydetroit.com

to Lake Erie (DHS). The impact from the first 20 original settlers that were granted tracts of land are still seen today in street names like Cadillac; St. Aubin, previously known as lot 26; Beaubien on lot 45; Campau on lot 60; Rivard on lot 44; and St. Antoine Dubois on lot 14 (EOD).

Detroit continued to grow, and the city elected its first mayor, John R. Williams, in 1827. In 1833, there was a small uprising due to the assistance provided to runaway slaves making their way into Canada. As previously enslaved people obtained their liberty, they started creating communities of support. The first African American church in Michigan, Second Baptist Church, was established in Detroit by 13 former slaves, and they were able to assist the “Underground Railroad” and helped 5,000 slaves pass through Detroit (Second Baptist). Detroit grew and increased its population with the help of Henry Ford’s invention of the automobile, and his five-dollar an hour wage; his dynasty gave the world vehicles and jobs to people that had migrated to the city (EOD).

Detroit has had to rebuild several times. One of the initial times of rebirth came after the fire of 1805 that destroyed Detroit. The fire was started by a resident thumping cigar ash on a bed of hay (DHS). The city had to rebuild from scratch with a small population of 600 in the beginning it was starting to progress. Detroit became incorporated by the Michigan Territorial Governor, and also appointed its first mayor, Solomon Sibley by 1806, Detroit Historical Society, (DHS). Throughout the 1800’s with the population growing past 45,000 by end of the era, several milestones occurred advancing Detroit to its future. During this time, land in Detroit had the average price of four dollars an acre and the city began building brick homes. Thomas Palmer built the first brick building in 1820; by the late 1800’s, there were 600 brick and 4,000 wooden building (DHS). Detroit was becoming a staple in the United States and progressed as the years went by. Aside from having grown economically by the automobile industry in the early 1900’s, there was still a lot of work to be done when it came to race relations. Soon after the 1967 uprising, stemming from racial tensions and the subsequent 43 people who were killed, the city continued to lose more of the white residents to the suburbs, a trend which had been happening since the 1950 census when the population started to decrease.

During the time Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was Mayor of Detroit from 2002-2008 announced his initiative to help restore the deteriorating neighborhoods of Detroit with a

5 year, 125-million-dollar grant (WDET). Mayor Mike Duggan was elected in 2014, and elected for a third term, has continued the initiative Kilpatrick started, as well as integrating plans from other mayors regarding the revitalization of the city. The administration, along with Invest Detroit, partnered with Detroit Future City's strategic planning efforts, identified ten neighborhoods in Detroit in which to focus funding and resources on in the hopes of revitalizing the areas (An Unprecedented). There are two District 4 neighborhoods included in the Strategic Neighborhood Fund: Jefferson Chalmers and East Warren/Cadieux (The Neighborhoods). There is potential for this to have a positive impact on addressing food security and sovereignty in District 4 due to the influx of money that is due to be invested in the district.

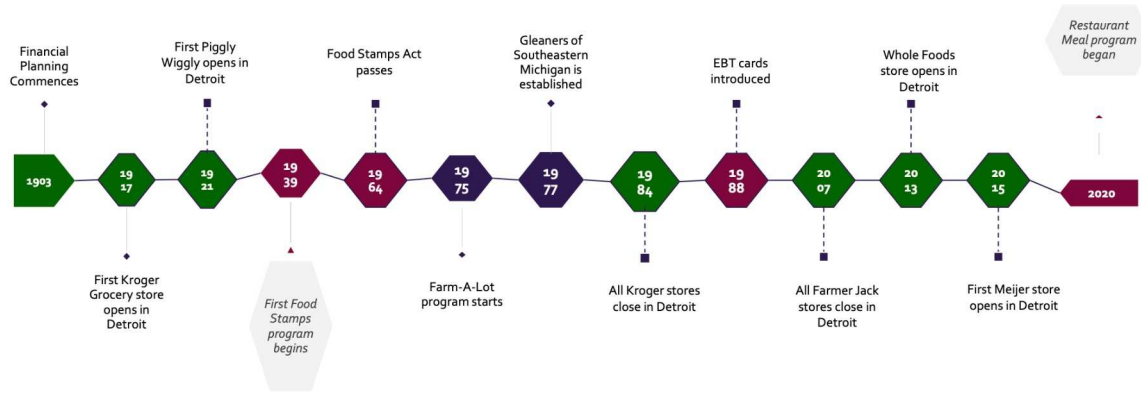
Introduction to Historical Conditions

A review of topical history with regards to the food system in Detroit will help to gain a better understanding of the community and how those conditions have led to the current state, especially when researching a topic as vast and complex as "Food Sovereignty and Food Security in Detroit". In this section we will present our findings on the historical context of the following topics:

- Food Insecurity Data and Recent Trends
- Government Programs to Address Food Insecurity
- Community Food Initiatives
- Food Production in Detroit
- Retail Food Systems in Detroit

This research will explain the historical context highlighting hyperlocal and regional data. The information will illustrate past practices and point to future possibilities that food practitioners and residents could implement in their daily lives to achieve food security.

TIMELINE – Food Sovereignty and Security Through the Last 100 Years



Food Insecurity Data and Recent Trends

Food insecurity is rooted in poverty and continues to affect low-income families in Detroit. The Detroit Food Policy Council reports that about 43% of Michiganders that are food insecure live in the southeast Michigan area; food insecurity continues to be a big issue in Detroit. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a significant additional negative impact on food security and has made hunger more widespread and visible across the city (DFPC). In Detroit, 48% of homes are food insecure despite 74 full line grocery stores operating in the city (DFPC). Many other countries have had their food industry disrupted by the pandemic, but there were problems and growing levels of food insecurity rising prior to the pandemic according to the study of The World Bank. Globally, 72 countries show a significant amount of people running out of food or reducing their consumption (TWB). Also in that same study, reduced calorie intake and compromised nutrition threaten gains in poverty reduction and health and could have lasting impacts on the cognitive development of young children (TWB). Covid-19 is estimated to have dramatically increased the number of people facing acute food

insecurity in 2020-2021 (TWB). In another study, it is stated that the pandemic has affected food security globally, with a total of 265 million people who are food insecure since the beginning of 2020, up from 135 million people in 2019 (Silva). In the United States, nearly one in four households have experienced food insecurity since the beginning of the pandemic and by June 2020, 27.5% of households with children were food insecure (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]).

There is also very clear racial injustice with regards to food security. Black families are twice as likely as white families to be food insecure (USDA). In 2019, 19.1% of Black families and 15.6% of Hispanic families experienced food insecurity versus 7.9% of white families (USDA). It is also important to note that Covid-19 impacts on food insecurity led to severe and widespread increased in global food insecurity, affecting vulnerable households in almost every country, with impacts expected to continue into 2022 and possibly beyond (TWB).

According to the Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC), approximately 39% of Detroiters were food insecure in 2018 and 2019, before the pandemic had begun (Hill – Detroit Food). 40% of Detroit households were using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, more commonly known as food stamps, and an additional 18% of households were eligible for SNAP benefits who were not receiving them (Hill – Detroit Food). There was an average of 35,000 children enrolled in WIC, the supplemental food program for Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) and approximately 85,000 school meals served each day in the city of Detroit (Hill – Detroit Food). An estimated 82% of students qualified for the free and reduced-rate lunch program (Clark). While the data for 2020 is not yet available, it is presumed that the need and lack of food security will have only increased due to the pandemic.

When the pandemic arrived in Detroit and closed school systems, the Detroit Public School System was able to pivot with preparing meals and food for not only the students but also their families and any other Detroiters in need, with food distribution sites initially situated at 57 sites and provided about 18,000 meals a week, with 24 charter schools providing an additional 10,000 meals per week (Clark). Eventually some of the distribution centers were consolidated down to 17 sites, especially as more food pantries and food distribution sites opened across the city.

The state of Michigan responded to the pandemic by increasing the amount of SNAP benefits that a person could receive to the maximum allowable amount (Rahman). The increase in benefits started in April 2020, which is still in effect as of this writing in November 2021 and has had an impact on about 350,000 families a month (Rahman). Eligible recipients did not have to take any additional steps to receive the extra benefits (Rahman). The benefits are dependent on how many people are residing in the household and start at \$194 a month for a single person and increase from there (Rahman). In May of 2021, the state announced that it would be providing an additional amount of at least \$95 for everyone receiving SNAP benefits, bringing the total amount for a single person to \$289 a month (Selasky-Michigan Families).

The state of Michigan also launched the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT). P-EBT provides supplemental food assistance benefits to students who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [MDHHS]). The goal of the program is to make sure no child goes hungry by missing out on school meals due to building closures and schools going virtual (MDHHS). The P-EBT program has specific eligibility requirements for both schools and students (MDHHS). The following information was listed on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website:

- Eligible schools must:
 - Be closed or have reduced in-person learning for at least 5 consecutive days in the current school year (beginning no earlier than September 9, 2020).
 - Be a provider of the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program.
- Eligible students must:
 - Be enrolled in a Michigan school.
 - Participate in a virtual or hybrid school schedule.
 - Be eligible for free or reduced lunch or attend a Community Eligibility Provision school.

The P-EBT automatically included K-12 students using a seamless disbursement process. The program was extended to Head Start students, but not from the beginning and was not automatically disbursed. Wayne RESA (Regional Educational Service

Agency) supported the operation and administered the funds along with the state of Michigan. Parents of Head Start students had to agree to disclose basic personal information, to be contacted and proceed with the process. As of May 2021, funds had not fully been disbursed to all eligible families, per families self-reporting.

The community at large also responded to food insecurity when the pandemic started. Two sites run by Southwest Solutions alternate every other week and an estimated 24,000 people are fed weekly with the food distributed (Clark). Forgotten Harvest, a local nonprofit that rescues food that would otherwise be thrown out, implemented 17 supersites across the metro area with each site servicing approximately 700 families a week (Clark). There are also numerous smaller non-profits that started partnering with Forgotten Harvest after the pandemic began. For example, Alternatives For Girls, a shelter for young women who are homeless in southwest Detroit, began distributing food twice a month with Forgotten Harvest and serves approximately 300 families every month. Additionally, Gleaners Food Bank created multiple partnerships across the city with nonprofits to serve the mounting needs of the community. They serve multiple sites on a weekly basis so there is a food distribution scheduled every day of the week in different locations across the city.

In terms of food store access in Detroit, there are currently 74 grocery stores within the city limits (Grocery Stores in the City of Detroit), not to mention countless party stores, corner markets, and convenience stores throughout the city. According to DFPC's 2019 Food Metrics Report, there were 68 full-line grocery stores, 14 farmer's markets and farm stands, 58 Detroit-based growers selling their products at Eastern Market, and 374 community gardens. In 2015, 96 full-line grocery stores were documented in the city (Taylor & Ard). Detroit also had 3,499 food outlets that consisted of food retailers, growers, supply chain, and food assistance programs. The city had 1,110 small groceries, convenience stores, mini marts, and liquor stores, 279 specialty food stores, 306 pharmacies, to include dollar and a variety of stores. There were 1,245 full service and fast-food restaurants, 157 supply chain operations, 206 farms, community and school gardens, farmers' market, and produce markets, and there were at least 100 food assistance programs (Taylor & Ard). The change in amount of grocery stores in Detroit indicates an ebb and flow with the amount of grocery stores in the city, although it is unclear if all these sources defined what a grocery store is in the same way

(Taylor & Ard). Commercial entities in the food sector in Detroit generate 3.2 billion dollars a year in revenue but more than half of those dollars go to companies that are outside the city, either to the surrounding suburbs or to national companies in a different state (Hill – DFMR 2019). This leakage, along with a lack of access to capital, is the primary concern for Detroiters who would like to see improvements in food access and security, especially among marginalized racial groups (DFPC 2019).

While these businesses are providing a service for the 82% of African Americans that live in the city, the quantity and quality of healthy food choices remain uncertain. 30% of residents in Detroit live below the poverty line (aurora.edu), affordable healthy food items must be taken into consideration. African Americans live at least 1.1 miles farther from a supermarket than white neighborhoods (Taylor & Ard). Neighborhoods have small entities that realize that the area they serve has food insecure issues and try to help with that problem as best they can. Detroit Police 6th Precinct started a Community Closet and pantry inside the building for anyone that has a need can come to the station and pick out food and clothing for their families (Feeding Hungry People). When chain retailers close, like Farmer Jack, a regional food chain in Detroit that closed its last store in 2007, Detroiters adapt and often must either leave their community to obtain groceries or shop at convenience stores, liquor, and party stores. “Much of the time, the food is overpriced, dated, and smells” is the going consensus according to Detroit residents willing to discuss how the local grocery store is convenient, but could improve the products sold. The food insecurity that is occurring in some parts of Detroit shows the racial disparities in food outlets and often pitch neighborhoods to fend for themselves or partner up to make sure their residents are fed, such as when Mose Primus of Yorkshire Woods used non-traditional means to effectively secure food boxes for his area. Mr. Primus would help out nearby communities by allowing them to use his truck to transport food boxes to and from food pantries. By helping this neighborhood, he was able to secure a good amount of food boxes for his neighborhood until the help that was needed arrived (Primus). In 2017, the Detroit Food Policy Council published a report on food security in Detroit. They found that 94% of the respondents to their surveys indicated concerns with their access to healthy foods and stated their primary concerns included a lack of quality produce, the need for more local, neighborhood grocery stores and lower prices for groceries (Arellano & Kuras). They also found that 20% of respondents indicated that they or their family were at least occasionally

malnourished and that over 40% said that they knew a friend or neighbor who was at least occasionally malnourished (Arellano & Kuras). Wayne County is the least healthy county in Michigan and the obesity rate is at 33-38% while about 44% of respondents also indicated that either themselves, or someone they care for, have special nutritional requirements due to medical conditions (Arellano & Kuras).

As food insecurity becomes more prevalent in Detroit, families must buy the foods that are available to them if they do not have access to healthier options. Many of the inexpensive convenience food choices that are easily accessible to the residents of Detroit are filled with fat, sodium, and sugar (Economic Analysis of Detroit Food System [DFPC]). While these foods meet a need for hunger, when eaten frequently, they can cause poor health issues such as type 2 diabetes, obesity, heart disease, malnutrition, mental illness, and developmental risks of children all of which can exasperate medical costs (DFPC). "The number of people facing acute food insecurity stands to rise to 265 million in 2020, up by 130 million from the 135 million in 2019, as a result of the economic impact of Covid-19" (World Food Programme, Saving Lives Changing Lives, (WFP)).

Food insecurity is the leading public health issue in the United States related to nutrition. A most common cause can be low income. There have been studies and households surveyed and closely monitored to find out how much food insufficiency and food insecurity affects them (American Action Forum.org [AAF]). Feeding America, a nationwide network of food banks, is one of the largest organizations helping to provide food to Americans (FeedingAmerica.org). Their facts about hunger in America says that Food insecurity has increased among families with children and communities of color, who were already faced with hunger were hurt at much higher rates (Feeding America).

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Governmental Programs

Federal Programs

Food security has been a key component of the federal government's budget over the last 60 years to help lower income Americans maintain access to nutritious food sources. Since the 1960s, federal programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and school and summer lunch programs have attempted to fill the gap in access to food experienced by the public. Of these various programs, SNAP, which was formerly known as the Food Stamps Program, is the largest program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) aimed at decreasing hunger, increasing access to nutritious food, and improving nutrition education (Caswell). While this program has changed over the years in accordance with the agenda of the leading administration, the main facet of SNAP in current times is the issuance of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, with which the recipients may use to purchase items at retail food stores.

Under the expansive Food Assistance programs there is Michigan's Bridge Card or SNAP; Double Up Food Bucks which doubles the value of the Bridge Card; and Senior Market Fresh which provides people who are 60 years of age or older and have a total household income of 185% of poverty or less with access to unprocessed, Michigan-grown products. The program is free for both participants and farmers (Detroit Markets). There are also WIC Project Fresh and Fresh Prescription programs. WIC Project Fresh is for women and children up to age five currently enrolled in the WIC (Women, Infants, & Children) program can receive coupons for Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables. The program is free for both participants and farmers. Fresh Prescription is a fruit and vegetable prescription program that brings together the healthcare system and the food system, fostering innovative relationships to build a healthy sustainable food system in Detroit. This promising approach to a healthier food system connects patients to fresh, locally grown produce while providing direct economic benefits to small and midsize farmers. Participants are referred to the Fresh Prescription program by their primary care physician. The clinician gives the participants a "prescription" to eat more fruits and

vegetables and helps set goals for healthy eating. Patients fill their prescription at a partnering farm stand or market, where they also receive nutrition counseling, cooking demonstrations, and other educational support for making meaningful, healthy eating changes (Detroit Markets).

The first food stamp program in American history was introduced in 1939 and is attributed mostly to the then Secretary of Agriculture, Henry Wallace, and the program's first Administrator, Milo Perkins (*A Short History of SNAP*). At that time, the program functioned through a series of stamps, which allowed those in the program to receive extra stamps to be used for items in surplus, as well as the ability to purchase stamps equal to their income applicable to more in demand products. This program ended in 1943, but gave rise to the Pilot Food Stamp program, which ran from 1961-1964, ultimately leading to the passage of the Food Stamp Act by President Johnson in 1964. Through the 1960s and 70s, participation in the program exploded, starting with over half a million participants in 1964 and skyrocketing to over 15 million in 1974. Most of this explosive growth is attributed to geographic expansion within the United States.

The Food Stamps Program was on track to continue its growth through the 1970s, with legislative adjustments that expanded eligibility to intensely vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing homelessness or drug addiction, and benefits were extended to items that supported self-sufficient food production, such as seeds and plants producing food (*A Short History of SNAP*). However, the program changed greatly in the early 1980s, when budget cuts slashed funding and tightened eligibility restrictions to many of those previously covered under the program. The pendulum swung back in the other direction again in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when domestic hunger was more significantly recognized and improvements were made to the program, including the introduction of EBT cards that we have today, as well as the advent of more programming surrounding nutrition education. While restrictions and regulations have ebbed and flowed with each passing administration, food assistance programs such as SNAP, WIC, and others have seen a continuous growth in comprehensive access, education, and benefits over the more recent years.

A new partnership between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan restaurants will allow some people who receive food assistance

to soon use those benefits at local restaurants (Selasky - SNAP). Those eligible for the new program announced by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration include adults over the age of 60, people with a disability who receive Social Security or disability benefits, and people experiencing homelessness, according to a news release (Selasky - SNAP). Restaurants need to complete paperwork to participate in the program.

Black Farmers and the USDA

There have been Black farmers on US soil since African slaves were trafficked to the colonies. In 1920, 14% of farmers were Black but by 2017, there were just under 2% (Hurt). In *Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement*, farmer is defined as anyone who worked/works the land, regardless of their ownership status of the land, including slaves, sharecroppers, tenant farmers, subsistence farmers and landowners (White). While there is a painful history of enslaved Africans being forced to work the land, there are also many stories of collective acts of resistance, cooperation amongst farmers, and deep participation in the civil rights movement (White).

There have been organizations throughout time that have been formed to fight for the rights of Black farmers, from the Colored Farmer's Alliance that was started in 1889 by a Black minister and farmer, J.W. Carter to the Farmers' Improvement Society in Texas in 1900 started by Robert Smith to Booker T. Washington and the Tuskegee Institute which formed with Southern Improvement Company and the Tuskegee Farm and Improvement Company, Black farmers have been fighting for equal treatment with white farmers and for the right to own and work the land (Taylor). There was and still is cooperation and resistance to the discriminatory practices of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) has been fighting for the rights of Black farmers for decades, including lobbying Congress and having a large role in lawsuits against the government for discrimination (NBFA).

Black farmers across the United States filed a lawsuit against the USDA in 1997 due to discrimination. On a national level, they claimed that white farmers were given opportunities and access to resources that were not provided to Black farmers (NBFA). Black farmers were denied subsidies, assistance during natural disasters, government



John Boyd, Founder of National Black Farmers Association, and Family
blackfarmers.org

loans and emergency assistance from the local county committees (who made the decisions on who received assistance) and many lost their land (NBFA). From the 1960s to the 1980s, the USDA and the Commission on Civil Rights continuously documented Black farmers were unfairly discriminated against regarding access to resources and funds (Environmental Working Group [EWG]). The USDA closed its Civil Rights Office in 1983, leading to a backlog of unresolved complaints and grievances from Black farmers (Congressional Research Service).

In 1994, a report was commissioned by the USDA, and it was found that from 1990 to 1995, Black and other farmers of color were awarded less than a fair share of money from the USDA for emergency assistance, loans, and payment for their crops (Congressional Research Service). In 1997, two class action lawsuits were filed against the USDA for discrimination, known as *Pigford v. Glickman* and *Brewington v. Glickman* which were eventually consolidated into *Pigford v. Glickman* (Congressional Research Service). The terms of the lawsuit included any farmer who, between January 1, 1981, and December 31, 1996, filed a claim against the USDA for racial discrimination before July 1, 1997 (Congressional Research Service). In April 1999, the court approved the suit and disbursement of financial compensation began immediately to farmers (Congressional Research Service). There were 22,551 farmers who filed for relief and 15,645 cases that were approved, leading to a little over a billion dollars being paid out

to farmers (Congressional Research Service). However, there were an additional 73,800 farmers who filed late and only 2,116 cases were allowed to be filed with the original Pigford case (Congressional Research Service). In total, approximately 67,000 farmer's claims were denied, leading to further distrust and negativity towards the USDA (Hurt).

Not only have Black farmers faced discrimination throughout history but the pandemic has highlighted the injustices that Black farmers continue to face. Congress passed legislation for pandemic relief for farmers in 2020 and Black farmers only received 0.1% of the relief (Hurt). Many farmers of color do not even apply for relief based on either their own or their ancestor's experiences with the USDA (Hurt). Additional funding was allocated, approximately four billion dollars, under the Biden presidency that was targeted specifically to disadvantaged farmers and ranchers of color, but a group of white farmers filed a lawsuit in 2021 for discrimination since they are not allowed to benefit from the funding (Richmond). The USDA released a statement stating that they were reviewing the lawsuit with the Department of Justice but intended to move forward with the dispersal of funds to farmers of color (Richmond). While there is skepticism from Black farmers based on previous experience, civil rights advocates state that the additional funds are a step in the right direction for addressing the years of discrimination by the USDA to farmers of color (Richmond). Time will tell if this is truly an attempt by the USDA to right the wrongs of the past or if it is performative in the face of the social justice reckoning that has been occurring in the US in the last year and a half. It is also unknown at this time how much assistance and funding will be given to Black farmers in Detroit.

Detroit Programs

There were several food programs implemented during Detroit's history to combat food insecurity. In 1893, in response to an economic depression that was sweeping the United States, Mayor Hazen S. Pingree set out to provide sustenance to the economically challenged in the city by encouraging them to engage in agricultural activities on vacant land throughout Detroit (The Community of Gardens Team). He established Detroit's Agricultural Committee and placed them in charge of identifying land, tools, and the people to cultivate the land to raise produce in order to have the unemployed rely less on the City for support; people were often threatened that if they

did not participate, they would not receive charity relief from Detroit (The Community of Gardens Team). In 1894, 975 families benefitted from Pingree's "Potato Patches" as they were called; by 1897, 1,563 families participated in the program and the program began to dissipate after this due to the upturn in the economic environment (The Community of Gardens Team).

In 1968, Focus: HOPE, a community development organization located on the west side of Detroit, conducted a study in partnership with Wayne State University and found that Detroiters were paying significantly more for food and prescriptions than were their counterparts living in the suburbs (About Focus:Hope). In part due to the results of that study, in 1971, the organization applied for and was chosen to participate in the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program, very similar to current-day WIC, to address some of the inequities around food access for residents (About Focus:Hope). The program provided food for pregnant and post-partum women, along with infants and children up to the age of six (About Focus:Hope). In 1982, they were given approval to expand the program to assisting seniors as well (About Focus:Hope).

In 1975, Mayor Coleman Young started a program called Farm-A-Lot, which began ahead of the year's growing season and was implemented to support urban agriculture. Residents were provided seeds to plant whose produce would support a family of four (Daniels). The program also provided education with regards to soil preparedness, canning demonstrations, information on food preservation and loaned out tilling equipment (Daniels). By 1979, there were approximately 7,000 Detroiters participating in the program and around 40 large community gardens (Daniels). In 1979, Detroit held a city-wide growing competition on Belle Isle to encourage even more participation from residents (Daniels). Two additional programs that grew out of the Farm-A-Lot program included Detroit Summer, a program to pair seniors with young people to plant gardens and the now defunct Detroit Agricultural Network, which included a network of over 700 community gardens (Daniels).

Community Food Initiatives

Detroit has been the home to many food movements and initiatives, primarily the revitalization of abandoned lots and transforming them into urban farming. The intent and involvement of communities and organizations change throughout the decades, but it stems with the hope to reach equity and self-sufficiency. The best place to create a food revolution is at home and in educational systems. These two communities are armed with strong missions and form unshakeable unions that develop initiatives for implementation.

Industrial flight and population decline shaped many of Michigan's cities—especially Detroit—into the backbone of the rust belt. Along with exclusionary zoning, white flight and the suburbanization and globalization of food retail left many urban areas with considerable amounts of vacant land, unemployment, and high food insecurity, all of which became strong motivators for the growth of urban agriculture, youth empowerment programs, and community-run food co-ops, especially many in Detroit run by Civil Rights and Black Power activists. More recently, anger over the appointment of emergency managers in Detroit and other cities over the last 5 years, which received even closer scrutiny after the Flint water crisis, contributed further to a sense of disenfranchisement and a desire to regain a sense of community control through urban farming and other community-led food initiatives (Hoey & Sponseller).

The old Ribbon Farms continue to have an influence in the city. It is important to consider this land history and who the land was granted to and what those communities of people did with the land. Currently in Detroit, land is not granted but for those with certain relationships, can procure privileges, as was the case for Gary Wozniak of RecoveryPark, located in District 5. Metro Times reported that Wozniak was transferred 40 acres owned by the Detroit Land Bank Authority to be leased for \$105 per acre, much cheaper than market rate, to eventually be owned by RecoveryPark. It turned out to be a huge failure due primarily to mismanagement, other farmers felt disappointed and slighted, because most Detroiters, and farmers, do not get these opportunities. Wozniak did benefit and he misused the opportunity.

In the city of Detroit, there are several organizations that created initiatives to mitigate hunger in children. First, Meet Up and Eat Up which is administered by the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. According to the United Way website, the Meet Up and Eat Up project provides breakfast and lunch for children ages 18 and younger. The program runs Monday through Friday all summer long, and during some school breaks (United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UW-SEM)). United Way works with hundreds of Meet Up and Eat Up providers and vendors in Southeastern Michigan and beyond to improve the quality and availability of meals, increase attendance at sites, support supplemental health and wellness activities, and provide family and education resources (UW-SEM). Second, Gleaners Community Food Bank went a step further creating a participant-centered program, Cooking Matters, by including food and nutrition education, guiding participants in shopping trips offering healthy alternatives, providing budgeting skills and concluding with a comprehensive cooking class providing the ingredients and recipe. The Cooking Matters program is patronized by many nonprofit organizations. Neither United Way nor Gleaners provides true autonomy or familiarity with the soil and seeds nor the process of growing food. Third, Keep Growing Detroit is an organization that operates city-wide providing learning opportunities, a garden resource program, and teaching residents how to create their own gardens. These aspects instruct into a path to sovereignty. The organization also extends invitations to the community to volunteer their time and labor on the farms, creating a seamless experience for novices and boosting the confidence to garden and farm themselves at home.

There are other organizations that work collaboratively with communities like EcoWorks and its Youth Energy Squad in partnership with Detroit Public Schools Community District. Their collaborative partnership is deeply integrated in the district and its families. The Youth Energy Squad is comprised of AmeriCorps members who mobilize the initiative as a city-wide project with participating schools. The members create an environmental sustainability curriculum to impart to children from kindergarten through high school with a STEM infused approach. Students create and develop sustainability projects that are implemented and managed by them at their schools, with the support of the Youth Energy Squad. Students can grow anything from cherry tomatoes, to lettuce, to strawberries, to carrots and consume when ready. In one of the lessons during the school year, students can create what is called a “Rainbow Plate”. The lesson teaches about all the different colors available in fruits and vegetables and when they

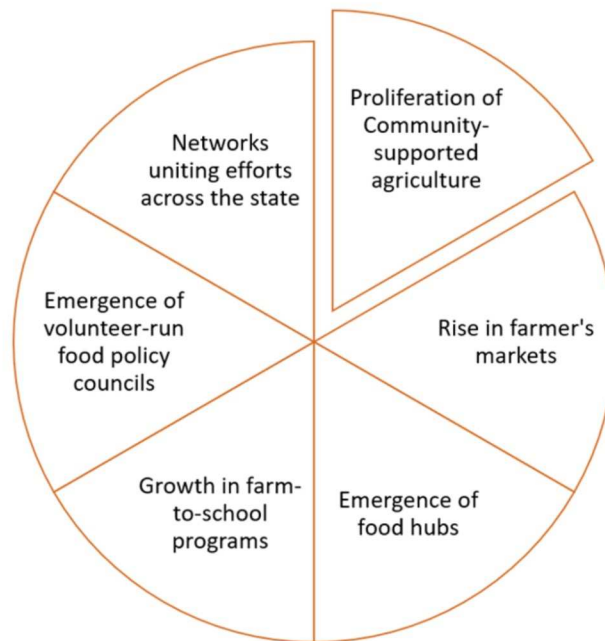
are available. The Youth Energy Squad provides them with a feast including the produce that was discussed in class and students can create their own “Rainbow Plates” and consume them. The gardens at participating schools extend into the community. In District 4, the partnership is available at Ronald Brown, Detroit Lions, Hutchinson, Carstens, Fisher Upper and Fisher Lower, all a mix of elementary, middle, and high schools. Unfortunately, only a few of these benefit the neighborhoods studied for this project, and it is in Jefferson Chalmers, not Yorkshire Woods.

The before mentioned initiatives are community-based with significant organizational support. However, initiatives that are created deep within grassroots movements, and primarily meant to serve hyper-localized needs, are not always documented, or tracked in a standard form or even widely acknowledged, illustrated by the Black Panther Party’s Free Breakfast program. The food service that students receive in schools was not credited to the efforts of the Black Panther Party’s Free Breakfast program yet mimicked. Grassroots efforts have the content and the efficacy but may not be able to articulate or communicate their achievements and the impact they make. If they were better supported in their contributions to their communities, then people could generate external attention and bring monetary support, ultimately elevating their reputation. According to Hoey and Sponseller, the following two models are a clear depiction of some major initiatives specific to academic settings and broader political aspects of food management and accessibility.

"Decisions about what is served to whom are influenced somewhat by local communities. They are also influenced by those wielding control of the funding, and that control is shaped by politics that have for generations been characterized by inequality...analyses must acknowledge any school feeding as an ideological project" (Riggs Stapleton 2019).

In the late 1960s-early 1970s, in response to political and activist pressure to increase provisions for low-income children in the form of free lunches, school food administrators increasingly turned to the food service industry to help them meet the need for lower costs (Riggs Stapleton 2019). In 1969, food service management corporations were originally (and controversially) permitted by the USDA to do contract work supplying food for schools in hard-to-reach service areas. It took years for contracting out to

Food Movements in Michigan in the Last Decade



Hoey, Lesli, and Sponseller

private companies to become common...by 2011, 25% of US schools had outsourced school meals...three major multinational food service management corporations dominate the school food market at the K-16 levels: Aramark, Sodexo, and Chartwell's (Riggs Stapleton 2019). These approaches were industrial responses to local issues that required a more holistic approach using the assets found within communities. This has been countered by efforts to incorporate fresh ingredients grown on the grounds of schools, particularly the two-acre farm at the Drew Transition Center, a part of Detroit Public School Community District, where students and staff grow and harvest the produce. According to Riggs Stapleton, the best process to achieve school food sovereignty:

- Involves continual participatory decision-making with stakeholders
- Prioritizes the health of students
- Strives for cultural congruence with the populations being served
- Responds to the needs and preferences of school communities
- Reflects the capacities of local producers
- Prioritizes environmental sustainability and stewardship

- Prioritizes economic health of local communities
- Values food workers along the whole food chain, from producers to food service staff

In summary, food sovereignty is achievable with the correct intention, not only from the citizen who seeks liberation, but most importantly the corporate stewards and stakeholders, the politicians and school districts. Local government must see to the needs and resolve barriers. District 4 has the possibility to expand the growth of fresh produce, but there are certain issues in growing their food, an example is the increased flooding in the area. It has been mitigated with installation of sandbags in the most troublesome areas, but no definite resolution has been provided, and it has mostly been a grassroots effort. Lastly, parents continue to voice their concerns through parent meetings at city council or school board meetings. It is a time of autonomy, and active advocacy, food literacy and a rediscovery of what we can achieve with our hands, time and dedication.

Food Production and Urban Farms

Urban farming is the farming that is done in towns and cities, that can possibly be sold and donated to the community. Urban farming contributes to increased food security and gives the community an understanding of how food is grown in different seasons. Urban farming also provides an opportunity to have access to healthy food choices in the community.

According to the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the history of urban farming dates to 3500 B. C. (AU). About 1,500 years after the inception of urban farming, there was a semi-desert town in Persia that presented one of the earliest pieces of evidence of archeological food production (aurora.edu). The town created aqueducts, which were typically elevated channels built to conduct a water stream across a hollow or valley. This enabled food to be produced using the waste of the settlement. In 1400 A.D., Machu Picchu in Peru, became nutritionally self-reliant on reused scarce water that helped their “biointensive vegetable beds”, a method that is used to grow a lot of food in a small space, and get the maximum yield out of that space from whatever resources are surrounding the area, such as a daily dose of the sun

where the aqueducts are positioned (AU).

The civilization known as the Aztec's used the "chinampa" or "floating islands" for farming. These areas provided the growth needed along the lakes on the outskirts of the cities in which they dwelled. In the 21st century, there was a spread of displacement towards the rural poor in England, so the people decided to stage a movement that resulted in the "Midland Revolt", and the "Newton Rebellion". People living through poverty at that time wanted concessions on land so that they could become self-provisioning (aurora.edu). From the 1880's to the early 1900's, allotment gardens in peri-urban areas in London, Paris and Stockholm was given to the poor so that they could become self-sustaining (aurora.edu).

In Western governments, during the two world wars, agriculture was strongly supported and developed. It became a campaign promotion to encourage the public to "dig on for victory," a term coined by the government to plant gardens (aurora.edu). Gardening became a staple during this time. People who self-gardened were in stark competition with commercial gardening, and eventually phased out after the war was over. During the 1970's, urban farming began to rise again, but this time it had taken on a whole new meaning and involved social justice.

The city of Detroit has been referred to as "ground zero", due to the city having troubles that demonstrate multiple social ills and conditions. Certain areas of the city have more difficulty obtaining and accessing healthy food choices due to a lack of options in the neighborhoods, otherwise known as "food deserts". Advocates would like to remove the term food desert and replace it with food insecurity. According to the United Nations:

"Everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care, and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control." (UN 1948).

Detroit's past urban growing initiatives are reflected in the current phase of urban farming in Detroit. There are many urban farms popping up with 1400 community gardens and farms in the city (Detroit's Urban Farming and Urban Gardens). Most urban

farms and green spaces are making Detroit a best practice example in urban farming communities. The Michigan Urban Farming Initiative, MUFI, is dedicated to urban farming agriculture and social justice and has established a community-organized farm in the North End neighborhood (Home). The Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) started in 2006 to address the food insecurity in Detroit's black community (DBCFSN). They organized members through a co-op to play a more active leadership role in the food movement (Model D). They seek to build community self-reliance and want to change the consciousness of the Black population about food. They believe in food justice for the community of Detroit, and that the residents will benefit from the understanding (DBSFSN).

Detroit is home to many popular food productions that are known regionally and nationally. The brand Better Made produces potato chips in Detroit on Gratiot Avenue, a major staple in Michigan since 1930 (Better Made Snack Food). They survived the Great Depression and have focused efforts on making their company sustainable (Better Made, Sustainability). They have a corporate recycling program, a wastewater treatment system that conserves water usage, and energy efficient lighting in the warehouse (Better Made, Sustainability). The potato scrap is used by local farmers for animal feed and the potato starch is used to make vodka and hand sanitizer (Better Made Sustainability). To reduce their footprint, they purchase many goods from local sources to reduce transportation costs and emissions (Better Made Sustainability). There is also Buddy's Pizza, which has been in operation for 75 years and famous for its corner slices; this company has been a staple in Detroit, not only for the pizza but also for their dedicated fundraising for over 40 years for Capuchin Soup Kitchen (Buddy's Pizza). Lastly, there are the many Coney Islands in Detroit. The most famous are the National Coney Island and American Coney Island. These two restaurants have been serving their famous coney dogs with the special recipe of chili to the city of Detroit since the early 1900's while sustainably sourcing Michigan-made products (Coney Dog).

Retail Food Industry

Historical Context of Detroit's Retail Food Systems

There are three main elements of food retailing in Detroit which will be discussed in this section: fresh markets, groceries, and food co-ops. There are also elements such as home delivery that have played a role in the Detroit food system but will not be covered here. A brief background on each element and short case study of recent developments related to each follows in this section.

Fresh Markets

Fresh markets, for the sake of this report, will include centralized markets such as the Eastern Market, where vendors bring their products to a shared geographic location at a specific time to sell them; and market stands, where the producer sells their products at the location where they are grown, produced, processed, and/or packaged. Detroit fresh markets included: the first city-owned market which opened in 1803, a 30'x70' market located at the corner of Woodward and Jefferson which opened in 1827 and was sold and torn down in 1835, Detroit's Central Market which was located at Cadillac Square near the old City Hall and was shut down in 1896, the Western Market which was established in 1891 and was located at Michigan and 18th street, the Detroit United Produce Terminal began operations in 1929 to the present and brought lower priced produce to the city which created a challenge for the farmers markets, and finally, the Eastern Market which opened in 1891 and continues in operation today (Detroit's Markets). There were also other minor and specialty markets, such as butchers, located throughout Detroit during these years.

Urban farms have become another popular option for procuring fresh produce in Detroit in recent years, offering such variety of products as gardening starts, classes, honey, community-supported-agriculture (CSA) share boxes, in addition to farm stand sales of fresh produce. The D-town Farm located in Rouge Park was created, and managed, by the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) and has been in operation since 2006 utilizing a fully volunteer base until 2010, at which point they were able to hire a small staff (Wey). In 2020 the "Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund" was

created to help expand the number of Black-owned farms in Detroit and to secure the ownership of the land with those who are working it (Smith).

Grocery Stores in Detroit

Grocery historian David Gwynn provides a detailed history showing that Detroit has been home to numerous grocery store chains both national (A&P, Kroger, Piggly Wiggly, National Tea) and regional (Smith's, Wrigley's, National Grocers, Borman's, Farmer Jack's) as well as independent and locally owned stores throughout the city. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, mergers and acquisitions were common and led to stores opening, closing, and being rebranded throughout the city. In 1984, all Detroit Kroger stores were closed, and other chains followed suit through 2007 when the last Farmer Jack's in Detroit was shuttered (Gwynn).

By 2009, the narrative of Detroit as being “a city without a grocery store” (Harrison) was being widely disseminated in the media. In early 2011, Detroit writer Jim Griffioen provided a well-researched rebuttal which not only demonstrated the numerous supermarket options available in Detroit, but also challenged the notion that a Whole Foods or the like would be capable of addressing the underlying structural issues which had created barriers to access to healthy eating options for too many Detroiters. Indeed, as Mr. Griffioen points out, “Grocery shopping in Detroit may not be as convenient as it is in the suburbs, but the model we have here is more sustainable, more diverse in its options, and certainly more fun and interesting” (Renn).

Community-Owned Groceries and Food Co-Ops

In recent years, one method of addressing systemic barriers to healthy food access that has been gaining traction is the idea of community-owned stores, including food co-ops. Food co-ops have a shorter history in Detroit and have included the now closed Cass Corridor Food Co-op (1972-2004) and the Detroit People's Food Co-op (DPFC) which is soon to be opened at the corner of Woodward and Euclid in the North End neighborhood (Allnut).

Another community-ownership model grocery option is slated to open soon in the

Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood on Detroit's eastside (Kennedy). This crowdsourced-funded store started coming to fruition in 2016 when the organizer, Raphael Wright, was awarded a Motor City Match Planning Grant, and since then rapid progress has been made toward securing a space and exceeding fundraising goals. For a minimum investment of \$50, community members can become part owners in this venture and gain increased agency over their food choices (Wright).

Conclusion and Takeaways

While the history of food retail systems in Detroit followed the development of similar systems elsewhere in the early years of the city, it seems clear that the forces that have created many of the issues faced by the residents of the city also had a hand in forming the challenges to accessing healthy food options that the community faces to this day. It also seems as though Detroiters are looking to novel and unique ways to address these problems, and within those efforts there seems to be manifesting a desire to create systems, both “tried and true” and brand new, which center community benefit and alternatives to the traditional capitalist models.

The city of Detroit and District 4 have sustained and flourished through population changes, defunding, and abandonment. The people, the residents, grassroots efforts, and community have made it possible for food to be present and accessible. Even though initiatives and programs come and go, the people stay and work together to find solutions to address issues and gaps. Communities have seen that they can depend on and collaborate with nonprofits to create sustainable approaches that operate and stay within reach in their communities. The city of Detroit and its elected officials have been more active within the districts and engaging with residents, listening, and resolving barriers while working to create more equitable options that are marketed and accessible.

Asset Mapping and Analysis

Part I: Overview of Community Selected

Introduction

There is no community that exists as a blank canvas, waiting patiently for development. The field of community development fails when it attempts to impose new development assuming that there is not already a world of life within the community of focus, because communities, no matter how well-resourced or disenfranchised, are full of assets, strengths, and local treasures that hold meaning to those who live there. A true success in the field of community development is to deeply learn the landscape, understand what makes its residents proud to call it home, and use this understanding to build upon existing assets and address whatever gaps might exist.

In this pursuit to understand food sovereignty and security in Detroit's District 4, it is imperative that a comprehensive examination of the district's central resources and assets is taken. This inventory will inform the project by providing an important context that will not only identify the strengths and gaps within the district but will also help to steer the goals of the project to provide a useful product for the community. It is the hope that this asset mapping portion will assist in providing that essential understanding of what is already working well in the community, and what stakeholders identify as gaps needing to be filled to pursue a more complete and well-equipped community.

As one will see, while there are certainly gaps and opportunities to address issues of food insecurity in District 4, there is also a plethora of assets that hold important meaning to its residents. Throughout the asset mapping portion, the research will follow the model of the Creative Community Builder's Handbook to locate and describe community assets in the categories of geographic parameters, people, public sector, reputation, nearby features, and infrastructure, all organized by the HOPE Model (Borrupt). In addition to these descriptions, a map will also be provided to show the spatial relations to these assets and will indicate groupings of asset-heavy and asset-light areas. Using both the research and the visual map, linkages and recommendations

will be evaluated and prescribed, providing a holistic context to inform future developments within the project. Additionally, maps specific to both Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods will highlight the food resources in each neighborhood.

Historical Conditions and Timeline

will be evaluated and prescribed, providing a holistic context to inform future developments within the project. Additionally, maps specific to both Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods will highlight the food resources in each neighborhood.

District 4 is comprised of many assets, schools, residents, and neighborhood associations that take pride in their district. There are many residents that are the descendants of migrants from the south that have carried with them the knowledge of community gardens for generations. It is useful to have this information but cannot be carried out fully when the ownership of land is absent. Some of the neighborhoods in District 4 are putting together a plan to obtain ownership of the land they operate and not just work the land for someone else.

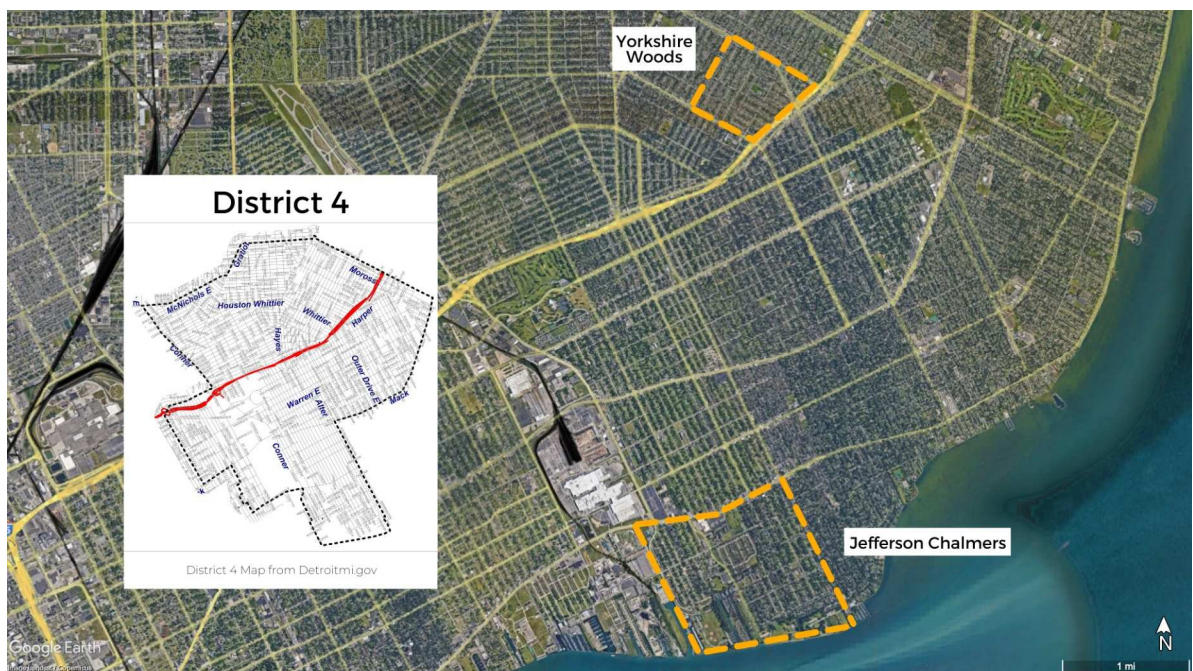
There are other initiatives in place, according to resident Zelda Anderson, resident of MorningSide Community Association, to improve the neighborhoods. Although some of the residents feel they cannot wait on the city, they are still willing to work with the mayor to help remove the blight. Their goals are to clean the vacant lots, keep the area clean and get the people involved.

The team was able to visit Yorkshire Woods and had extensive conversations with the Yorkshire Woods Community Organization's president, Mose Primus. In 2015, Mr. Primus and his organization secured 11 vacant parcel lots in his community and started harvesting the land. Their garden is called 4 Angels Garden. There is a bee farm, and a mural around the perimeter painted by the neighborhood. They have offered art programs, concerts, outdoor movie nights, and barbeques for the neighborhood. The community organization also distributed over 2,500 boxes of food during the pandemic. Mr. Primus would like to see more opportunities come to the area along with economic growth. The Yorkshire Woods Community Organization partnered with the Evangelist

Lutheran Church of America to develop the 4 Angels Garden project (The Neighborhoods). The 4 Angels Garden is one of many projects that neighborhoods have created that enable them to feed themselves fresh and healthy food choices.

Local Geographic Information and Demographics

District 4 is Detroit's easternmost city council district and is home to nearly 100,000 Detroiters in over twenty distinct neighborhoods (District 4). Its borders touch Districts 3 and 5, as well as the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, and the Detroit River. The boundaries of District 4 include East McNichols, Gratiot, and Moross to the north, McClellan to the west, Wayburn and Mack Avenue to the east, and East Jefferson to the south. The district also includes the I-94 highway which runs through the midsection of the district.



Map of District 4, Jefferson Chalmers, and Yorkshire Woods

The district encompasses portions of the 48205, 40213, 48214, 48215 zip codes and the entirety of the 48224-zip code (*Detroit Zip Codes*). There is a range in demographic data from zip code to zip code within the district. In 48205, the northernmost zip code, there are 33,956 people with a population that is 94.6% Black, 3.5% White, and 0.7%

Hispanic (*48205 Population*). The median household income is the highest of the district at \$38,258, with 24.3% of families living in poverty. The median age of residents in 48205 is 30.0 years, making it the youngest zip code in the district.

The 48213-zip code is home to 22,148 residents, with a population that is 96.3% Black, 2.4% White, and 0.7% Hispanic (*48213 Population*). The median income in the zip code is \$25,405, with 32.2% of families living below the poverty line. The median age of residents living here is 38.4 years.

In 48214, which represents the smallest section within District 4, there are 21,599 residents, with a population that is 79.5% Black, 16.8% White, and 1.6% Hispanic (*48214 Population*). The median income in this area is \$31,966, with the highest percentage of families living below the poverty line in the district at 32.2%. The median age of residents in this zip code is 42.9 years, making it the oldest area of the five.

The 48215-zip code is the southernmost portion of District 4, with a population far lower than the others at 11,690 (*48215 Population*). This zip code has a resident base that is 87.8% Black, 9.1% White, and 1.5% Hispanic. The median income in this zip code is the lowest of the district at \$24,748, with 31% of families living in poverty. The median age of 48215 residents is 42.3 years.

And lastly, the 48224-zip code, which rests on the district's eastern border, has the largest population at 41,453 people, with percentages at 88% Black, 8.4% White, and 1.7% two or more races (*48224 Population*). The median income here is \$35,429, with 30.5% of families living in poverty. The median age in 48224 is 31.7 years.

Looking specifically to the neighborhoods studied in this project, there are considerable differences in size, population, median household income, and race and ethnicity categories. Jefferson Chalmers is the much larger neighborhood, both by land and population size. It is home to 8,443 residents and covers 1.41 square miles (*Living in Jefferson Chalmers*; Google Maps). The median household income is \$54,914 (*Living in Jefferson Chalmers*). The race and ethnicity categories are as follows:

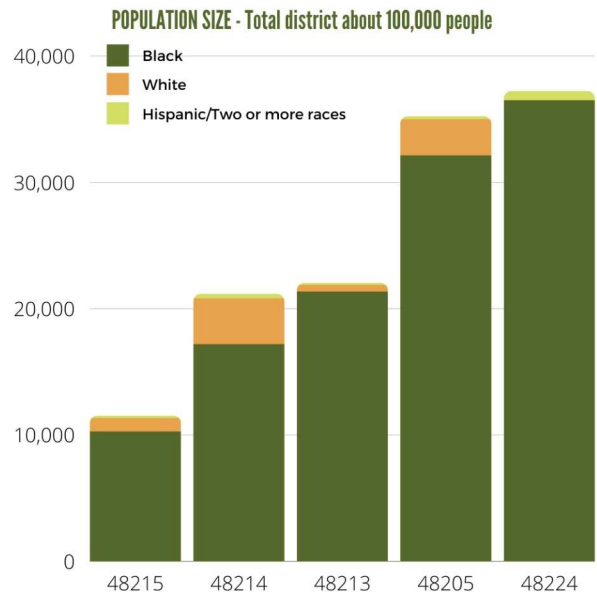
- 65% Black/African-American
 - 30% White/Caucasian
 - 2% Two or more races
 - >1% Hispanic
- >1% Asian (*Living in Jefferson Chalmers*) In comparison, Yorkshire Woods is a much smaller community with only 4,356 residents and 0.45 square miles of space (*Living in Yorkshire Woods*; Google Maps). The median household income here is also much lower than Jefferson Chalmers at \$29,850 (*Living in Yorkshire Woods*). The race and ethnicity categories are as follows:
- 96% Black/African-American
 - 2% White/Caucasian
 - 1% Two or more races
 - 1% Hispanic (*Living in Yorkshire Woods*)

DISTRICT 4 DEMOGRAPHICS

\$24,748
-
\$38,258
Median Household Income

28%
Families living in poverty

Median Age
37.06
Years



District 4 Demographic Data

Prominent Aspects of Culture

Culture is comprised of many aspects including art, language, its people, customs, and way-of-life. In District 4, there are venues like the Jefferson Chalmers Farmer's Market which features the traditional marketing, but also live music options for the community.

They promote their sessions using flyers and communicating it through social media outlets. Manistique Street is home to another great cultural outpost, the Creative Empowerment Center. The center hosts weekly Saturday Music Therapy sessions that include gardening, conversations, a light lunch, and PPE distributions. Children and adults are welcome to join and enjoy in the holistic sessions.

East Warren Market Shed opened operations in November 2021. The shed will host Holiday Nights opening the space to independent vendors, activities, and food. The space is located in East English Village. They will operate Fridays and Saturdays, up to December 18th, 2021, and resume in May, according to their Facebook post.

District 4 is home to many vibrant and engaged neighborhoods, including Chandler Park, which hosts various events and contains multiple recreational areas, especially as restrictions from the pandemic loosen and the weather allows for outdoor activities, such as Community Arts & Music Festival. The event partners with several renowned organizations such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Participants can expect music, art, dance, poetry, giveaways, and food. MorningSide is another neighborhood with a lot to offer to its residents. They have a newsletter which updates the community on developments and events. In addition to the very valuable newsletter, they have a tool library available to residents (The Morningsider).

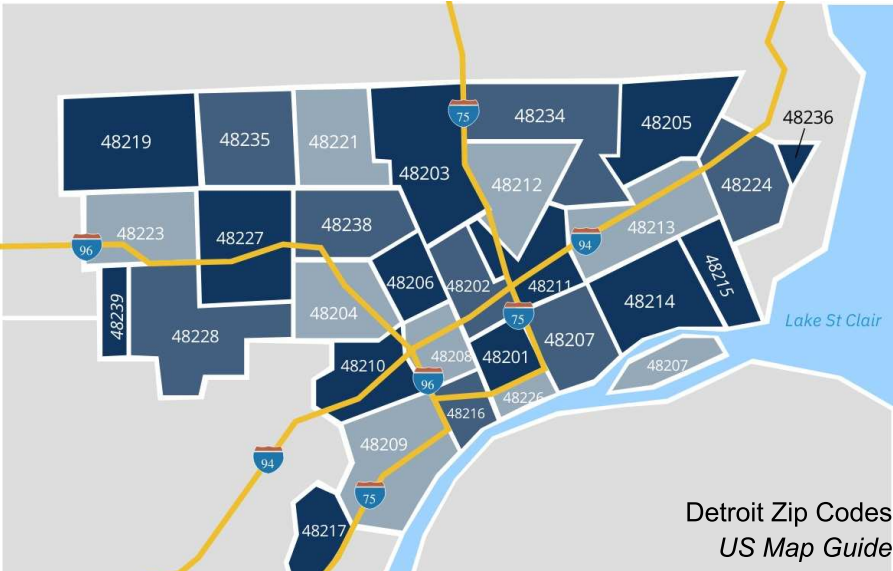
There are more than ten parks in the district. One of the biggest parks in the district is Chandler Park. People can enjoy walking trails, use sports courts, including skate parks and areas to sit under the shade. Jefferson Chalmers has Maheras-Gentry Park, Riverfront-Lakewood East Park, Hansen Playground and Alfred Brush Ford Park that residents can enjoy. In contrast, Yorkshire Woods only has 4 Angels Garden and adjacent in the Denby neighborhood is Brookins Park. Other amenities in the district include public libraries where patrons can borrow thousands of materials from the Detroit Public Library system, both digitally and in print, along with movies, online events and crafting programming. In response to the pandemic, several branches were closed, however District 4 still has the Jefferson and Wilder Branches open. Patrons can also seek services through the Mobile Library offering many opportunities for access throughout the city.

Lastly, it is important to mention the collaborative work being done to restore the Alger Theater in the MorningSide neighborhood. According to a report from WXYZ-TV Detroit – Channel 7 and the residents involved in the project, the theater has been around since 1935 and it has been designated a Historic Building. Residents have created crowdfunding campaigns and donated money, time, and manual labor to restore the theater. They call it “one project at a time” restoration. They have made significant improvements including the addition of some external murals and recreational space where people can sit and gather on the roof of the building.

Part II: Assets

Geographic Parameters

Detroit is spread over 140 square miles, and it encompasses an area of 1,337.16 square miles. In the 2010 census tracts, Detroit had 205 urban census tracts, 86 suburban, and 5 rural. By acreage, Detroit is 60% urban, while Grosse Pointe, and Hamtramck are 100% urban (DETROITography). Detroit’s long-term temperature and precipitation patterns for the state are driven by the Great Lakes: Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and, although not a Great Lake, Lake St. Clair (United States Department of Commerce, NOAA). Michigan is a state known for having a humid continental climate. Michigan has distinct summers with even precipitation because of said lakes, so this drives Detroit’s weather to vary from 24.5 degrees in January to 73.5 degrees in July (United States Department of Commerce, NOAA).



There are many important roads, Alter Road, along Jefferson Avenue, that are geographic attributes in District 4. Altar Road, located in a canal-lined neighborhood along the shoreline of the Detroit River, runs parallel to the Grosse Pointes. Alter Road also connects to I-94. Many of the neighborhoods in District 4 are near the 982-acre island state park, Belle Isle, located in the Detroit River, connected by a bridge overpass from Jefferson Avenue.

People

The population of District 4 is reported to be approximately 100,000. In this area, and many areas of Detroit, the bus is the main transportation source for households. The people in District 4 have either lived there for generations or within the last 5-10 years (Primus). It is a vast area that is growing with the times.

Numerous neighborhoods in District 4 ensure that the residents are aware of events and resources that are available in their areas and facilitate ways that residents can engage with one another. Organizations in MorningSide have created unique ways to engage in the community. One such organization is Arts & Scraps, which has a wide selection of items that can be upcycled or reused and is frequented by artists and teachers looking for materials for projects. MorningSide as has a very active newsletter that is disseminated to residents. Another example is Yorkshire Woods with their goals to feed and teach their community about healthy food options. Eden Gardens, a small footprint of 16 blocks in the district is one area with strong activism. The President of Eden Gardens Community Association, Karen Chava Knox, stated “We don’t rely on the city. We rely on the community” (Michigan Radio). They are fighting to make their area a better community by involving residents in beautifying and gardening efforts in the neighborhood (Home). Mack Avenue in District 4 is a unique area that is a mix of commercial and cultural groups but remains a very important part of the district due to connecting downtown Detroit to the eastside and on into the suburbs.

The neighborhoods in District 4 have unique features and the residents implement a variety of ways to stay connected, share resources and commune with one another. Numerous residents are working towards improving their respective neighborhoods and

advocating for change. As Mose Primus has stated “You gotta think big if you want to make something happen” (Primus).

Public Sector

The city of Detroit serves as one of the main public sector assets citywide and that is also true for District 4. For the purpose of this study special focus will be placed on the Department of Neighborhoods, City Council, Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department, and Grow Detroit’s Young Talent. The Department of Neighborhoods is led by District Manager, Rodney Liggons and Deputy Manager, Dennis Perkins. The goal of the Department of Neighborhoods is to improve the quality of life in every district.

The department provides a direct link between the City of Detroit and block clubs, community groups, business owners, faith and school leaders, and everyday residents. Their top responsibility is fighting blight and rebuilding and strengthening the fabric of the neighborhoods. The managers directly engage thousands of residents and volunteers in both major initiatives like Motor City Makeover, Halloween in the D and tax foreclosure prevention and smaller efforts, such as vacant lot clean-ups and house board-ups. However, their work goes far beyond that. District managers help residents form block clubs and community associations; drive community engagement on neighborhood planning projects and other initiatives; resolve citizens' complaints; and educate residents on a broad range of City programs and policies. They also assist the work done during the Motor City Makeover by supplying materials when available and being present by engaging with volunteers (Department of Neighborhoods).

The Department of Neighborhoods has a very close relationship with City Council. The Councilperson for District 4 is newly elected Latisha Johnson. The Detroit City Council is the legislative body of Detroit, Michigan, United States. The full-time council is required to meet every business day for at least 10 months of the year, with at least eight of these meetings occurring at a location besides city hall. The council may convene for special meetings at the call of the mayor or at least four members of council (City of Detroit). The website lists important items that the department manages like City Council Meetings and Agendas, Annual Budget, City Council

Standing Committees Information, Council Awards and Resolutions and Legislative Policy Division.

The City of Detroit also encompasses the Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED). The BSEED mission is to provide for the safety, health, and welfare of the public as it pertains to buildings and their environs in an efficient, cost effective, user friendly and professional manner (City of Detroit-BSEED). BSEED enforces construction, property maintenance, environmental compliance, and zoning codes, which preserve and enhance property values and promote a quality of life to make Detroit a preferred place to reside and conduct business (City of Detroit-BSEED). The main BSEED divisions are the Development Resource Center, Construction Inspection, Property Maintenance, Zoning/Special Land Use, Licensing and Permits, Plan Review, and Environmental Affairs.

The last items that will be mentioned under the City of Detroit assets is Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT). The GDYT website states that it is a citywide summer jobs program that trains and employs young adults between the ages of 14 and 24 for up to 120 hours. Youth participants must be permanent residents of the City of Detroit and be eligible to work in the United States. There are a broad range of jobs available to the participants. Examples of jobs include community cleanups, event planning, accounting, retail and the Junior Police or Fire Cadets to name a few. In 2020, they employed over 8,000 local youth and they expect to employ the same amount for 2021. GDYT has partnerships with many nonprofits and for-profits. Youth can search for jobs in various categories. They have a partnership with YES where students can learn about food and sustainability in their communities.

The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) is an economic catalyst for businesses in the city of Detroit with DEGC's Business Liaison, Martell Bivings. The website outlines the commitment of DEGC to helping all businesses find sustainable growth — from homegrown startups to iconic retailers to global corporations. Their support services include business planning, land assembly, grant assistance, comprehensive incentives — even help improving store's curb appeal (DEGC). Their partnerships include the City, regional partners, public authorities, funders, and private industry. DEGC is transforming Detroit into a prime destination to work, live and play

(DEGC). Their mission is to design and implement innovative solutions that attract investment, create jobs and advance Detroit's economy for all residents (DEGC). The DEGC Business Liaison ensures that business owners are connected to the services and opportunities available to grow and sustain their businesses. The Business Liaison acts as an agent managing the portfolio of the business as a connector bridging bureaucratic city processes.

Detroit at Work is supported by the State of Michigan, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. It is powered by Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, a Michigan Works! agency and partner of the American Jobs Center network. The agency supports any Detroiter looking for work. They provide resume building techniques and editing and/or assist applicants with the creation of a resume (Detroit at Work). Other services include Entrepreneurship Training Academy, high school completion, and training programs in various industries and skilled trades. They also support applicants with criminal records under the Project Clean Slate. Detroit At Work has many offices throughout Detroit, and they have a major one in District 4 at the Samaritan Center.

We discussed some macro-organizations, but now we will share some hyperlocal agencies that operate and support residents in District 4. MECCA Development Corporation is an organization dedicated to support the MorningSide, East English Village and East Cornerstone Village neighborhoods. Their mission is to empower and engage residents and businesses. MECCA's website lists a series of top priorities in which they request resident participation: Neighborhood Stabilization and Public Safety, Senior Security Initiative, Engaging Youth, Workforce Development and Community Engagement. They host a wide variety of programs and events, including a Clothing Closet and they have been operating throughout the pandemic. MECCA was very innovative in creating a partnership with Kroger with receiving a percentage of sales. Customers can purchase their groceries and at the same time contribute to the good work that is being done at MECCA.

Mack Avenue Business Association Detroit (MABA) leverages Eastside Community Network's strong roots in the community to serve businesses on the corridor between Conner and Moross, as well as business owners hoping to open a brick-and-mortar

enterprise on Mack. In addition to their small business support initiatives, they also work with east side and regional partners to develop and implement plans and strategies that will improve the commercial corridor (Eastside Community Network).

Jefferson East Inc (JEI) is “a multi-service neighborhood organization that serves low-income populations on Detroit’s east side and five historic adjoining neighborhoods”, which includes Jefferson Chalmers (JEI). They primarily focus on assisting residents and neighborhoods in three key areas. The first area is homeownership, including assistance with taxes, home repairs, flooding issues, financial literacy, and mortgage assistance for default and delinquency prevention (JEI). The second area is environmental, including preventing crime and maintaining safe and healthy neighborhoods and corridors (JEI). The third area is in economic development, including supporting small businesses, activating, and maintaining commercial corridors and real estate development, including developing affordable living units (JEI). JEI is the lead agency for the Jefferson Chalmers Mainstreet Master Plan, which includes the activation of the commercial corridor along Jefferson Avenue, the development of additional residential units with a focus on affordable housing units, and redevelopment of the streetscape to be more pedestrian friendly (JEI).

Reputation

According to the District 4 website, District 4 is home to many established homeowners’ associations and block clubs. There are beautiful waterfront parks and activities, canal-lined neighborhoods, and historical corridors. The far eastside of Detroit is vibrant with youth sports, small businesses and engaged citizens. The area is also the home to the “canal district” in Jefferson Chalmers. The area has a particular tendency to flood considering the canal geography in the area.

District Features

- **Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market** – 903 Manistique Street – On their Facebook group page, the Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market states that the market “Was established to foster economic development and occupational efficiency for resident growers and artisans of the Jefferson-Chalmers community, and all of Detroit,

as well as to serve as an agribusiness resource center for community growers for the promotion of healthy eating, sustainable resource cooperation, urban gardening, and business incubation” (Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market). Their mission statement further specifies that “Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market seeks to unify the community, boost the local economy, stimulate local food production, and aggrandize art and culture” (Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market).

- **Neighborhood Grocery** – 500 Manistique Street – The mission of the Neighborhood Grocery Detroit states that “By leveraging technology, equity crowdfunding, and civic partnerships in Detroit communities, Neighborhood Grocery will build grocery stores, and other food businesses to address health & wealth disparities in Detroit.” They have a lease on a storefront at 500 Manistique Street and are also crowdfunding currently to open a “proof of concept” bodega at 12737 Linwood on Detroit’s westside.

- **Eastside Community Network** – 4401 Conner St – Information on their website indicates that for over 36 years the Eastside Community Network (formerly Warren Conner Development Coalition) has worked tirelessly to develop programs and resources that center the needs of east side residents and amplify their voices with respect to the development of their communities. Eastside Community Network (ECN) develops people, places, and plans for sustainable growth on Detroit’s east side. ECN envisions the east side of Detroit as a community of choice where residents can live, work, play and thrive. ECN spearheads initiatives that promote social cohesion, neighborhood sustainability, community participation, and resident empowerment.

- **Climate Equity** - Over the past decade, ECN has built a reputation as a leader in the urban climate resilience space — focusing their efforts on policy advocacy, infrastructure development, and community education that promotes climate resiliency and equitable climate change strategies in Detroit.

- **Community Organizing & Planning** - ECN implements programs, facilitates planning processes, and drives community engagement efforts that prioritize equitable, sustainable community and economic development strategies.

- **Business & Economic Development** - ECN supports east side small business owners and drives economic development opportunities that benefit all residents and community stakeholders, through a mix of community economic development plans, multi-sector working groups, training programs, direct services, and third-party resources.

- **Youth Development** – ECN’s youth programs focus on the holistic development of each young person — ensuring that their program participants are academically, physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially prepared for post-secondary school success.

- **East Warren & Cadieux Neighborhood Plans** -

According to the City of Detroit’s website about the project, the East Warren/Cadieux Neighborhood Plan is a plan of action, backed by dedicated funding resources, to guide future growth and investment in the neighborhoods of Morningside, East English Village, and Cornerstone Village. The community and the city are crafting the Plan together to achieve: a healthy and beautiful Detroit, built on inclusionary growth, economic opportunity, and an atmosphere of trust (City of Detroit Presents).

Infrastructure

Infrastructure assets include the following strengths in a community: transportation; education and culture; housing stock; the built environment; power, water, and sewer; underutilized structures; and healthcare (Borrop). District 4 has a wide range of infrastructure assets within its boundaries. A few of the more prominent assets will be discussed below.

Housing Stock

Housing stock is varied throughout the district. There are approximately 37,168 housing structures and 25,412 of those are occupied (Motor City Mapping). There are 19,332 lots and 1,221 have been used as an illegal dumping lot (Motor City Mapping). Approximately 5,253 structures have been identified as needing boarded up (Motor City Mapping). There is a mix of housing stock in the district, from apartments, two-family flats, and single-family homes to senior living complexes and subsidized housing.

Almost any type of housing can be found in District 4. In both Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods, the housing stock is primarily single-family homes, although there are some apartment buildings in each of the neighborhoods.

Education

There are approximately 24 schools, ranging from elementary to college level, in District 4. One of those schools is Wayne County Community College Eastern Campus, which is located on Conner and I-94. The school offers a total of 29-degree programs and 13 certificate options (Eastern Campus). The school also hosts numerous community classes and groups. In June 2021, the school was offering wellness classes, grief classes, resume building classes, and a class on learning the basics of PowerPoint (Eastern Campus). All these events are free to the community and are virtual due to the pandemic. A variety of community events are also hosted by the school, including a Juneteenth celebration, arts events, and diversity and inclusion workshops (Eastern Campus). The school has also hosted free COVID-19 testing and offered free tuition to front line workers who began their program at the start of 2021 (Eastern Campus). Additionally, Wayne County Community College Eastern Campus is a large employer in District 4 (Williams). Jefferson Chalmers has a middle school, a high school, an adult education center and a Head Start while Yorkshire Woods has no educational facilities within its borders.

Healthcare

In terms of healthcare, there are numerous pharmacies and several medical practices with varying specialties in District 4. Ascension St. John is a major medical hospital on the eastern border of District 4 and is also a large employer (Williams). Another asset is The Samaritan Center, located on Conner Avenue in close proximity to Wayne County Community College Eastern District. The Samaritan Center offers a holistic approach to health care, including medical and mental health services, employment services, educational programs, spiritual care, youth programming, housing assistance, community development and support, all of which address many social determinants of health (The Samaritan Center). The Samaritan Center provides medical services for uninsured community members, including mammograms, X-rays, a pharmacy, and laboratory services (The Samaritan Center). There is a private practice for insured community members which includes primary care, HIV treatment,

gynecology, and pediatric services (The Samaritan Center). There is also a senior living community located on the grounds of The Samaritan Center, which highlights the birth to end of life care that is provided at the Center. The Center is the largest holistic community center in Michigan and supports approximately 1,500 visitors daily with over 80 partner organizations on the campus (The Samaritan Center).

Transportation

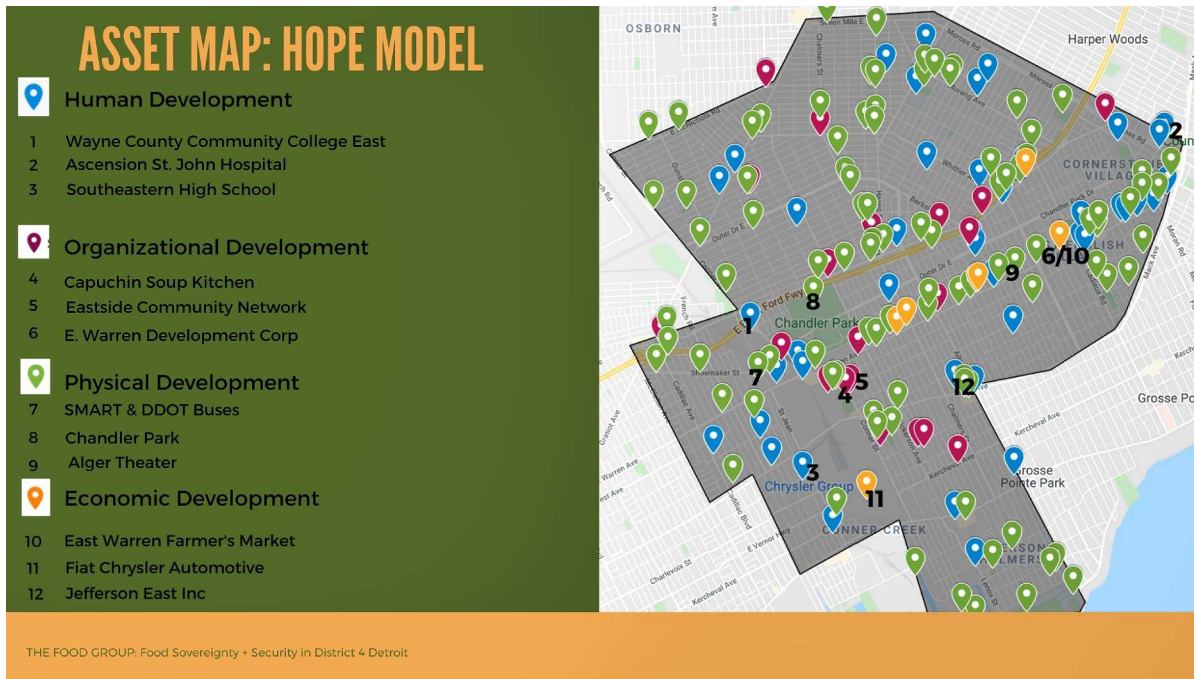
Transportation is a very large part of infrastructure in any community. In District 4, there are nine bus routes offered by Detroit Department of Transportation that run within the district and to the rest of the city of Detroit (Detroit Department of Transportation [DDOT.info]). The buses run both during the week and on the weekends (DDOT). There are seven routes offered by SMART within District 4, which is the regional busing system that offers transportation from the city to the suburbs (SMART Homepage). There are also several alternative transportation options in the district, including a bicycle shop, several marinas if one wishes to move around by boat and several non-emergency medical transportation options as well. There are proposed plans in Jefferson Chalmers for improved streetscapes for the benefit of pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit passengers, as well as motorists (Jefferson East Inc).

The Built Environment

A major piece of infrastructure in District 4 is the Fiat Chrysler Automotive (FCA) campus located between Warren Avenue and Jefferson Avenue to the north and south and St. Jean and Conner Street to the west and east. The plant was expanded beginning in 2019 at a cost of \$2.5 billion and participated in a community benefits agreement with the surrounding neighborhoods (Noble). Part of that community benefits agreement included prioritizing the hiring of Detroiters; providing financial support for various projects in the neighborhoods impacted by the expansion; paid for the expansion of workforce development and training to the state of Michigan; supplied money for a home repair grant program; assisted financially in the founding of the Manufacturing Career Academy at Southeastern High School; and funded environmental projects (Noble).

Part III: Linkages and Recommendations

Asset Maps



District 4 Asset Map with HOPE Model Categories

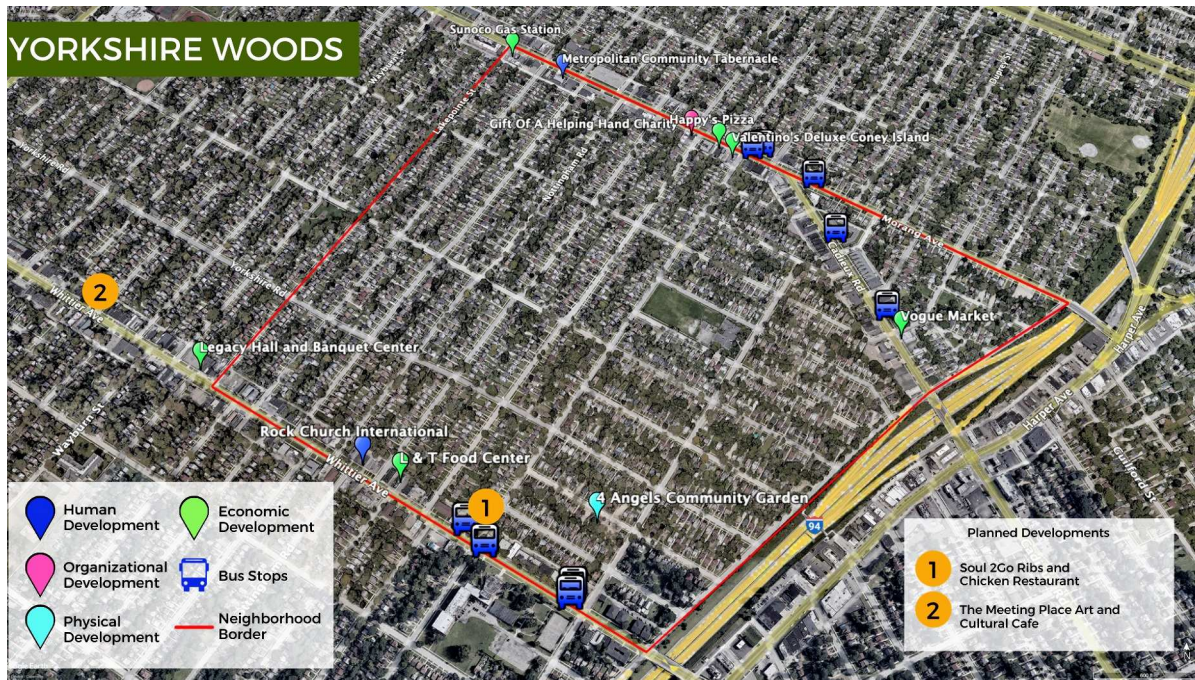
Many of the assets that are in District 4 have links to each other. The Samaritan Center, for example, has over 80 community organizations that work to assist community members with almost every facet of their lives. The 5th District Police Department partnered with former District 4 Councilman André Spivey and the FCA to distribute food baskets in 2020 at Thanksgiving (City of Detroit, City Council, District 4). Gleaner's Food Bank and the Ford Resource and Engagement Center handed out free food boxes throughout 2020 in response to the global pandemic (City of Detroit, City Council, District 4). Mack Avenue Business Association partners with Eastside Community Network to enhance and strength the economic development along Mack Avenue. Free community events are often scheduled at Chandler Park and at Wayne Community College East Campus. It is obvious that there are many linkages in the district that are

to the benefit of community members. The recommendations include continuing to strengthen those relationships and look for new avenues for partnerships for all aspects of the community, including educational institutions, religious organizations, non-profits, local business owners, block clubs and community development centers.

These are just a few of the infrastructure assets that can be found in District 4. The assets are often found along the major corridors in the district, including the streets of Mack, Warren, Conner, Morang and Moross. There appears to be a good mix of housing stock, healthcare options, and educational options in the district. While there is room for additional assets to be established, District 4 seems to have a good mix that can help to support community members.



Jefferson Chalmers Asset Map with HOPE Model Categories



Yorkshire Woods Asset Map with HOPE Model Categories

Case Studies

In the process of researching local, national, and international case studies, multiple examples of projects have been found that have been undertaken in a variety of communities, by community organizations and government agencies, individually and in collaboration with others. This paper will introduce two local, one national, and one international case studies which highlight several important elements of developing secure, resilient, and sovereign food systems. These projects, along with the other elements of research in this area of study, will help inform the conclusions and suggestions with this capstone.

Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

The Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) was formed in 2006 to “address food insecurity in Detroit’s Black community and to organize members of that community to play a more active leadership role in the local food security movement” (“Who We Are” - DBCFSN). The DBCFSN utilizes a multifaceted approach to building a more resilient and sovereign food system in Detroit, for Detroiters. Their efforts focus primarily on agricultural projects, policy development, education, and cooperative economic development.

After starting their first gardens on a ¼ acre lot in 2006 and moving to a ½ acre lot in 2007, the DBCFSN founded the D-Town Farm in Rouge Park in 2008 on a 2-acre plot leased from the city for \$1 per year for a 10-year lease. In 2010, the farm was expanded to its current 7-acreage and currently grows over 30 types of fruits and vegetables utilizing hoop houses to extend the season, large scale composting, rainwater retention, solar energy generation, and beekeeping. Community strengthening is also an important element of the D-Town Farm model. They strengthen the community by offering training programs for future farmers and growers, operating a farm stand from June-October each year, and providing tours of the farm (Wey).

The DBCFSN led the development of the “Detroit Food Security Policy” which was developed with extensive community input and academic review before being accepted unanimously by a vote of the city council in 2008. Following that achievement, the DBCFSN worked on the creation of our partner organization, the Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC). The council began operations in early 2009 and was chaired by the DBCFSN executive director, Malik Yakini, for the first two years of its existence (“About Us” - DFPC).

In addition to their educational endeavors with future farmers and growers at the D-Town Farm, the DBCFSN provides young people the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the food system through their “Food Warriors” program, and the organization regularly hosts lectures and other community events which are open to the community. The purpose of the Food Warriors program is to “develop a sense of agency in our youth so that they become empowered to make decisions around food that is healthy and beneficial not only to them, their families, and their communities as a whole, but also to the sustainability of the environment for generations to come”. The topics of the DBCFSN lectures include food, agriculture, health, co-operative economics, community self-determination and racial justice (“Educational and Youth Programs” - DBCFSN).

The Detroit People’s Food Co-op (DPFC) will be part of the DBCFSN’s “Food Commons” project, which is scheduled to break ground on its site at the corner of Woodward Avenue and Euclid Street in Detroit’s North End neighborhood (Herberg, Detroit People’s). The DPFC is an African American led, community-owned grocery cooperative whose purpose is to provide improved access to healthy food and food

education to Detroit residents while meeting the needs of the community through the democratic control of the co-op by its member/owners (“About Us” - DPFC). The four-fold purpose of the DPFC is to: 1) Improve community access to fresh and healthy food, 2) Educate the community about nutrition and sustainability, 3) benefit the community by supporting local businesses, and 4) Assuring member access to the goods, services, and facilities of the co-op (“About Us” - DPFC).

The DBCFSN has a long history of collaboration with government entities and other organizations to achieve ongoing development of a more secure food system for Detroit residents. Most recently, the DBCFSN partnered with the Oakland Avenue Organic Farm and Keep Growing Detroit to form the “Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund” (DBFLF) on Juneteenth of 2020.

Schools and Food Security

For black farmers, it is not a matter of going back to the days of yesteryear, for how can a system based on slavery and sharecropping be considered idyllic? Instead, it is a matter of continuously striving to achieve justice in the future (Green, Green and Kleiner). Urban farming contributes to increased food security and food access in many communities and helps people understand the entire growing cycle. The other benefits may include bringing people together in the community, while producing a nutritious food environment, and creating educational opportunities for the neighborhood to be able to efficiently work the green spaces around them.

Food insecurity affects students in multiple ways: socially, physiologically, and physically (Bienick). Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) has been dealing with issues of food injustice for years (Bienick). Many students are not getting the adequate nutrition they need. DPSCD has 27 high schools, 61 middle schools, 77 elementary schools, and many specialty schools throughout the district (Schools/School Directory). In the elementary and middle school systems, there have been many green houses and gardens created and have become a supplemental learning tool in the school system, but not specifically built into the lesson plans or curriculums to involve gardens (Bienick). The high schools have paid little attention to gardening or green houses. Due to 34.5% of Detroiters being and living below the poverty line, and most of the student body of DPSCD living below the poverty line, food insecurity continues to be

a major issue in the public schools (Bienick). To aid with the food insecurity problem, a free and reduced meal program is offered, but studies have shown it has stigmatized students and they are missing important daily meals that will affect their learning ability (Bienick). How food insecurity affects students can be transformed with an implementation of gardening into the curriculums to connect the student to other disciplines and aspects of their own lives (Bienick). Additionally, we mentioned EcoWorks and the Youth Energy Squad as a supplemental entity providing curricula that assists students in learning about food and nutrition and developing and maintaining a garden in school where the produce can be consumed by the community.

In the Detroit public high schools, they have a low graduation rate, and are rating nationally with the students scoring low in National Standards for the MEAP and AYP (Bienick). Detroit has a goal to reach 98% graduation level for all districts. Detroit high school student's graduation rates have increased from 62% in 2011 to 76% in 2019 (Bienick). To help DPSCD reach that 98% goal of graduating high school students, the district has implemented certain programs to provide the students with better access to healthy foods.

The Farm-to-School program created in 2009, by Bette Wiggins, Executive Director of DPSCD District's Office of Food Service and the Office of School Nutrition, OSN, identifies local farmers that deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to the schools to support them and expose the students. This partnership of 20 schools that participated, according to the Detroit Food System Report for 2009-2010, led to 1,049,092 lunches and 937,695 breakfasts served in DPSCD school cafeteria's (Bienick). The large numbers show the need for meals for students, and the support needed for families. However, because of the stigmas associated with free lunch and being low income, and what Mrs. Wiggins deems a "lack of coolness", participating in this program serves to be problematic for the students because they feel labeled (Bienick). To combat that problem, President Obama introduced the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act in 2011 that allowed any student to eat under the "Community Eligibility Option Program" introduced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It ensures everyone is eligible without the hassle of the paperwork (Bienick). This program qualifies 31 million children nation-wide to benefit from free or reduced meals without stigmatization (Chen). This does address issues of food injustice and insecurity but does not emphasize the many benefits that

come from the use of school gardens.

Unhealthy eating is on the rise. Over 15% of the US population is unable to access food deeming areas and the residents who reside there as food insecure (Corrigan). The way that DPSCD is trying to improve upon the unhealthy eating habits of the students is to add the garden-based curriculum thereby enticing students to improve their options. Providing students with information and connecting the dots about the food options needed for survival and what hurts their bodies would help with their understanding of the components of healthy eating.

A garden-based curriculum supports a sustainability-based curriculum that allows students to explore the local ecological, social, and economic processes that affect them in their everyday lives. A program called Education for Sustainability, EFS, is constructed for ninth through twelfth grade learning levels. It is a place-based and inquiry-based education. This environment fosters students to investigate topics that affect their lives and allow them to relate to issues presented and prompt them to act (Bienick). Education for Sustainability has components of Environmental Education curriculums, and the Grade Level Expectations Content, GLEC, national standards (Bienick). Curriculums such as Biodiversity, Consumption, and Climate Change provide a basis that links these subjects to gardening and agricultural systems. These subjects connect the students to issues of poverty reduction, health, and equality (Bienick). This is more interdisciplinary, and systems focused. The main components of the EFS, concentrates on social, ecological, economic, and governmental systems. The three main components of the EFS are the “3 E’s”, for sustainability: environment, economics, and social equity (Bienick).

Students can benefit from a garden-based curriculum. In a study done by Annie Lowry, “The integration of School Gardens Programs into Educational Curriculum,” she realized the activity itself improves contextual, integrated learning and inspires new ideas, and helps with problem solving (Bienick). Through her case studies of the high schools that participated, the teachers realized that the garden-based learning helped them, including the troubled students, with critical thinking, problem solving, logic skills, and the confidence in the ability to produce a good that will benefit them, and their families and student were able to work collaboratively (Bienick).

The teachers stress that they would be overwhelmed and have concerns ranging from issues with implementation of a garden to successful integration on new curriculums. Some of the teachers do not feel they have enough experience and have limited time and resources to adjust. Using the Education for Sustainability, EFS, can assist in helping to create a garden-based curriculum and provide support to educators. It promotes communal participation, engagement, and interdisciplinary skill sets through the learning experience gained which students can carry with them for the rest of their lives, and give them an understanding of the environmental, social, and economic systems they live within (Bienick).

Little Free Pantries, Free Grocery Stores, Community Refrigerators, and Food Sheds
Across the country, the concept of new models for sharing food are gaining more traction. While many of us are likely aware of food distributions options such as food pantries and scheduled food box distribution events, other innovative ideas are cooking in communities far and wide. The COVID pandemic appears to have accelerated the rate of development for these options, which include “Little Free Pantries”, “Free Grocery Stores”, “Community Fridges”, and “Community Food Sheds.”

Little Free Pantries are modeled after the Little Free Library concept and have sprouted in many communities. In Seattle’s Kitsap neighborhood, multiple Little Free Pantries were installed to serve those who, for various reasons, found it difficult to access the larger traditional pantries (Ware). The pantries were approved by the health department and after seeing the success of the pilot attempts, more Little Free Pantries are planned (Ware).

Reminiscent of the “Free Stores” created by The Diggers in the 1960s, a new breed of food-centric Free Store has been created in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood in response to the needs of the community. Food and household items are displayed on shelves attached to the boarded-up windows of currently vacant buildings with items being donated mostly by neighbors and non-profits (Sabino). While similar to the counterculture Free Stores of the 1960’s, the Free Grocery Store also clearly has its roots in the Little Free Library movement as well.

Taking the community food concept one step further to include perishables and frozen items, during the pandemic Free Community Fridges began to appear across Europe and then in the United States in many communities including Detroit (DeVito). One such Free Community Fridge was installed and is overseen by community member Kazza Kitchell and located at “Hats Galore & More” on Detroit’s eastside and is supported by a number of Detroit’s mutual aid societies (DeVito). The Free Community Fridges across Detroit are stocked primarily by neighbors and businesses and guided by the principle of “Take what you need, leave what you don’t” (DeVito).

Another new community food model which incorporates each of the aspects of the efforts so far described are “Community Food Sheds.” Community Food Sheds incorporate a refrigerator for frozen and perishable items, along with shelving for packaged goods into a neighborhood-based free food distribution alternative. Growing out of “sharing tables”, “community fridges”, and even food wholesalers opening welcoming neighbors to “shop the dock” where they could buy certain foods at wholesale prices (Turnbull), the Community Food Sheds offer a model that can be tailored by the community into a format that meets the needs of the community it serves.

Taken together as a case study of community-driven alternative food distribution options, these examples provide us with models of how ideas can build upon one another, be adaptable to a specific community’s needs, and evolve over time to better serve a wider portion of the community. And it also shows us that these efforts are not only for those in need, but rather mutually beneficial to the entire community on numerous levels as Kitchell said, “It’s actually for everyone,” ... “It eliminates waste. We’ve got a lot of food waste, a lot of stuff going to landfills, that is otherwise perfectly fine.” While we accept that these Free Community Food options are not an answer to food insecurity in our neighborhoods, they certainly appear to be an important piece of the puzzle to consider.

National Land Banks in Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
The islands of Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are a group of Caribbean islands located off the northeast coast of Venezuela. The islands have challenges with food security, nutrition, underutilized land, high food import costs and high unemployment amongst youth (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations [FAO]). The FAO, in partnership with the above-mentioned islands, implemented a pilot project in 2017 to develop a land bank on each of the islands to help address some of the challenges (FAO). The goal of the land bank on Grenada is to improve access to land for improved nutrition and food security; the goal for Saint Lucia is sustainability of their natural resources and to enhance resource management; and the goal for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines includes access to more land and increase land use and occupancy (FAO). The pilot program ran from July 2017 to December 2019 (FAO).

When the pilot was finished, each of the countries had “a land bank procedure manual, a surveyed pilot site and a database containing data from the surveys conducted in each of the pilot sites” (FAO, 1). Staff were hired and received training on land banks, the procedures developed for the pilot program, how to use the National Land Bank Information System software and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (FAO). The countries also developed an individual plan to implement the land bank concept at the national level (FAO). They also engaged in an extensive community outreach and educational campaign, with the aim of engaging the communities to participate in the land bank (FAO).

The countries developed some standard practices across the three islands. Steering committees were implemented and ran the land bank pilot program (FAO). There were also specific considerations and outreach planned to encourage women and youth to participate in the land bank program (FAO). They also focused on environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, and technological sustainability (FAO). Another tenet was to ensure the land banks were utilizing a human rights-based approach, especially when it came to the right to food and work (FAO). The pilot project managed to achieve many of the goals set in place but there were some setbacks. There were delays in establishing the pilot sites, so not as much support as provided due to time constraints (FAO).

It seems that Grenada is the most active with the land bank since the termination of the pilot project in 2019. In April 2021, there were invitations to the community to apply for plots of land through the land bank program (Scott). There have been two sites on state-

owned land that are eligible for the land bank and the sites have been divided down into four-acre plots (Scott). Grenada is also offering applicants between the ages of 18-35 enrollment in a business development training (Scott). Those over 35 are not eligible for the full course but will be eligible to other specialized training (Scott). No information was found regarding the progress of the land banks in the other countries.

The land bank project has useful implications for potential implementation in Detroit, especially developing a land bank database that would inform Detroiters on what parcels of land are available for agricultural development. The targeted development training that the island countries provided to young landowners and women landowners could also be a benefit to Detroiters to engage more of the community in agricultural pursuits, leading to more food sovereignty and security. The community outreach and engagement might also be useful tools to be replicated in Detroit.

Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the case studies presented, it is imperative to have consensus between community and supportive entities around food security, but more importantly to create practical ways to ensure land use by the people and for the people. It is necessary to focus on implementing legislation that supports those most disadvantaged and marginalized by systemic forces to gain autonomy and equity. People need to be able to access land at the same rate and margin as white communities. Funding should be diversified to reach all levels of society and provide education on programs and the industry itself to promote efficient and autonomous movements that will enhance communal confidence and financial economy. The food industry needs more projects to be implemented in communities offering blueprints of possibilities, allowing people to embrace the possibilities and tailor it to their specific needs, people, and culture. It has proven successful, but more sustained financial support and extended technical support would provide prolonged results.

Needs Assessment

Introduction

The Needs Assessment portion of the project will include a comprehensive analysis of the two identified neighborhoods, Jefferson Chalmers, which has received more investment, and Yorkshire Woods, which has not been reported as a neighborhood receiving public funds. The methods of research include neighborhood tours, conversations with residents and internet research. We will also present a SWOT Analysis and comprehensive Planning to Stay breakdown for each neighborhood. The methods used will provide a broad perspective of the current state of the areas and will assist in developing a more strategic plan for the future.

SWOT and HOPE Model Analysis

Jefferson Chalmers - this analysis includes a classification identifying each item to the following categories Human, Organizational, Physical or Economic Development.

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong Housing Stock, wide variety of housing sizes [P]• Very large area (900 acres) [P]• Fox Creek Artscape [O, P, E]• Strong sense of community [H]• Large driveways with spacious backyards leading to empty streets [P]• Well patrolled, with neighborhood watch signs visibly posted [O]
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<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of diversity in housing type options (majority single family homes) [P]• Parking along the business corridor can become a barrier [P, E]• Potential ground contaminants from former buildings [P, H]

Strengths (cont.)

- One of the few largely intact neighborhood commercial district within the city **[E]**
- Enjoyable eating outside areas along the business corridor **[P]**
- Likely rich river bottom soil – site of early “ribbon farms” **[P, E]**
- Manistique Street – highest percentage of farms and community gardens of any street in Detroit (Rashid) **[O, E]**

Opportunities

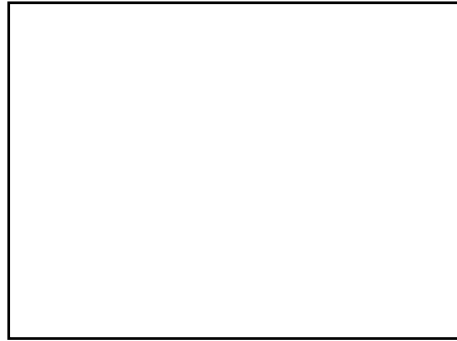
- Addition of mixed-income housing development **[P, E]**
- Partnerships with other organizations at the Fox Creek Artscape **[O, E]**
- Partnership between the Fox Creek Artscape and the new crowd-funded grocery store coming to neighborhood **[O, E]**
- Add more commercial stores **[E]**

Threats

- Climate influences on the growing season **[H, P, E]**
- Community going elsewhere to obtain their groceries **[E]**
- Keeping crime at bay **[O]**
- Pricing out the little man **[E]**
- Real estate speculation **[E]**

Opportunities (cont.)

- Open, contiguous lots on the east side of Jefferson Chalmers [E]
- Other open plots of land [P]



Yorkshire Woods - this analysis includes a classification identifying each item to the following categories Human, Organizational, Physical or Economic Development.

Strengths

- More similarity in housing size [P]
- Have 2 churches that appear to have a strong connection to the community with many food giveaways, events, and activities for the neighborhood [H, O]
- Sturdy brick single family homes with driveways and newly paved streets with the ability to park on both sides of the street [P]
- Personal spaces are kept and tidy [H]
- Community Organization/4 Angels Garden [P,O]

Weaknesses

- Higher prevalence of vacant lots and unoccupied homes [P, E]
- Not many anchoring institutions in regard to food security/sovereignty [O]
- Many unprogrammed spaces in a small proximity [P]
- Unsafe and leveled sidewalks causing a safety hazard [H, P]
- Density (lack of space for growing) [P, E]
- Small number of “Public Gardens” [P]
- Neighborhood niches prominent in the outskirts of the neighborhood, none inside [P, E]

Opportunities

- Partnerships with other organizations to strengthen and enhance anchoring institutions [O, E]
- Organize more to drive funding in the area [O, E]
- Arthur Middle School and large lot directly to the west of it [O, P]

Threats

- Loss of church membership which could lead to less community opportunities [H, O]
- Lack of lighting in the area presents an unsafe environment for walkers and individuals awaiting public transportation [H, O]
- Crime and break-ins in the area [H, O]
- Vulnerable to external investments and appropriation [E]

Needs Assessment

Homes and Gardens – Jefferson Chalmers

Jefferson Chalmers is a 900-acre neighborhood that has been described as “historic, classic, and traditional” and reflects a broad mix of housing styles and sizes but faces some of the same challenges as other Detroit neighborhoods that have experienced more popularity in recent years (“We Are Jefferson Chalmers”) (“Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood Framework Plan”). Most of the area is zoned for single-family residences (R1), with a large central area designated as a Planned Development District (PD) and a large riverfront section zoned for Parks and Recreation. There is also a substantial section zoned as a General Business District along East Jefferson Avenue, and a smaller business zone in the riverfront area along Riverside Street.

The homes and gardens in today’s Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood display a wide variety that reflects the area’s storied past. The area is divided into long, vertical blocks which are reminiscent of the ribbon farms that used to run inland from the Riverfront (“Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood Framework Plan”). When the neighborhood was annexed into the City of Detroit in 1907, growing industrial development at Connors

Creek created a need for subsequent residential development. Homes built during this period were modest, single-story homes primarily for factory workers and their families. Following the construction of these smaller homes, the influx of building projects for middle- and upper-class families brought sizable craftsmen and Tudor styles, as well as impressive mansions. All these styles can still be found in the neighborhood today, as a quote from the city's The Neighborhoods website states, "Housing ranges from modest ranch houses to stunning three-story mansions." Periods of recession and white flight throughout history left parts of the neighborhood in physical decline and following private development attempts to revive residential sections further segmented the neighborhood into pockets of well-resourced blocks amongst cut off sections populated by vacant lots and dilapidated homes ("Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood Framework Plan").

While Jefferson Chalmers comprises a wide array of styles and sizes of homes, most of the housing stock is single-family homes, illuminating a need for more multi-family and apartment style living options. The area is almost evenly split between renters and owners, with home sale prices slightly higher at \$64,000 when compared to the city's average at \$52,000 ("Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood Framework Plan"). Rental rates, however, are below the city's average at \$.93 per square foot compared to \$1.10 per square foot. The average home value in Jefferson Chalmers is \$175,671 ("Living in Jefferson Chalmers"). In addition to a need for more diversity in the housing mix, this disparity in rental rates also reflects a need for affordable housing units below market rate, at about 40% area median income (AMI) and public subsidies. The addition of mixed income housing and multi-family developments would add value to an already strong neighborhood.

Homes and Gardens – Yorkshire Woods

Yorkshire Woods is a much smaller neighborhood than Jefferson Chalmers at 291 acres. Much of this area is zoned as single-family residential districts (R1), with a few sections of two-family residential lots (R2) mixed in. Although the area is primarily residential, there are areas zoned for general business (B4) along Whittier Avenue and Morang Avenue, and a small section along Cadieux Road. Lastly, there is a section of low-density residential districts (R3) along Cadieux Road.

In comparison to those of Jefferson Chalmers, the homes and gardens in Yorkshire Woods are still of quality condition, but are slightly smaller, more densely spaced, and more consistent in size and style. The homes in Yorkshire Woods are moderately sized, with most houses between 1,000 and 1,500 square feet. The median home value, however, is significantly lower than that of Jefferson Chalmers at \$45,368 (“Living in Yorkshire Woods”). The blocks in this neighborhood are of a more traditional shape and size, with smaller lots and more homes situated on each block. Of the 1,763 properties within the neighborhood boundaries, 196 are owned by either the Detroit Land Bank Authority or the City of Detroit’s Planning and Development Department (Yorkshire Woods - Regrid).

Walking down the streets of Yorkshire Woods, it is more common to see vacant lots and boarded up homes, but this does not diminish the quality of the many homes that are well-maintained and cared for. This represents a greater variety in quality compared to lots in Jefferson Chalmers. The history of Yorkshire Woods resembles other parts of the city. The area was once populated with middle-class families, but following steady population loss, the 2008 recession, and tax foreclosure, many residents were forced to leave the area (Mondry).

Community Streets – Jefferson Chalmers

Community Streets are public rights-of-way, which unite neighborhoods, provide access for motorist and non-motorists, and promote neighborhood identity, health, comfort, and safety (Morrish and Brown). They are also considered lanes that provide a balanced use for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. The streets can be a way for neighbors to co-exist and connect and provide a passageway for socializing.

The Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood is near the Detroit River and the Grosse Pointes. It is a historic district on East Jefferson by Alter Road. The area can be reached from the west end of Detroit, and the metro Detroit area through interstate 94, John C. Lodge freeway going south to Jefferson or by the Chrysler 75 freeway going south to Jefferson Avenue East. There are several side streets accessible from one end of Detroit to Jefferson Avenue leading to the Jefferson Chalmers area.



Curbed Detroit

The scale and mix of Jefferson Chalmers depict brick homes with both large driveways and large backyards which remove any parked cars on the street. The sidewalks leading from the front entrance to the curb are configured straight or angled, with evenly paved sidewalks and large trees every two to three homes. There are homes in the area that range from single family homes to mini-mansions with the canal at their backyard, slightly smaller driveways or without backyards, and if there are backyards, they tend to be small to accommodate the canal. Walking in both of these areas brings a sense of quiet and safety with easy entrances and exits to each of the blocks leading to Jefferson Avenue. The neighborhood is patrolled, and neighborhood watch signs are visibly stationed, as are the street signs. There are visible streetlights, and safety signs for the children throughout the neighborhood with all available amenities seemingly in walkable distance.

Along the Jefferson Corridor are visible bus locations with seats for awaiting bus riders. Traffic signals and pedestrian boards are in full view. Buildings that have existed since the 1920's that have been turned into small businesses like restaurants, small retail shops, and salons each serving the community at large (Roskopp). Some of these areas offer outdoor dining and sitting areas with easy access to paid parking outside of the establishments. The area seems to come alive in the mid-day when most shops are open as the motorists have their lanes, and the bicyclists ride their partitioned-off bike



Model D Media

lanes. It is noted how active and alive the Jefferson Chalmers area is during the day for the residents and public at large to enjoy.

Community streets – Yorkshire Woods

Yorkshire Woods can be easily accessed from Interstate 94. Whittier Street, one of the boundary streets, has two lanes on each side with smooth passages going east and west that leads into the neighborhood. The most prominent material used on the homes in the five-block radius area is brick and the majority have semi-smooth paved sidewalks leading from the front entrance of the homes to the curb of the streets. The majority of the homes are equipped with a driveway on the right or the left, and the neighbors can park on both sides of the street. The streets on the blocks look to be recently paved with some of the areas right outside of the Yorkshire Woods radius having speed bumps, while others seem to be starting the process. The walkways of some of the blocks are not level and present a safety hazard for walking and riding a bike seamlessly. There are visible signs depicting the names of the streets. There are some blocks with usable paved walkways that can accommodate a family of four with a dog and a stroller. When walking as a family unit there are also many unprogrammed spaces to go with the beauty of the solid brick homes.

Most of the blocks going north in the Yorkshire Woods area led to the main streets of Whittier Avenue, but other streets that encompass the area like Kelly or Moross are reachable by public transportation, car, or bicycle. Whittier Avenue is a busy and active area with a few readily accessible businesses such as a liquor store, a tire shop, and an

auto and body shop in the middle of the community. Parking tends to be provided inside the business parking lots because the buildings sit back off the main street so that cars and deliveries can pull in the areas without inhibiting traffic. The sidewalks along the parking structures of the few businesses seem to be able to accommodate pedestrians as well as bicycle riders sharing the sidewalk. The bus stops and crossways are all visible and functioning for pedestrians. “Sidewalks and roadways that fit neighborhood proportions create a unified, livable environment” (Morrish and Brown).

“The mix is a community street that strikes a balance between motorist and non-motorist. It is primarily concerned with sets of uses and activities that make a neighborhood livable for all residents. Life on the street occurs on both sides of the curb, driving, parking, walking, biking, raking leaves, washing cars, playing street games and other socializing” (Morrish and Brown). There seems to be no mix or functional balance in the small area of Yorkshire Woods when it comes to how the neighborhoods socialize on the main street. The buildings are older in architecture. With the sidewalk having to be shared by walkers and bicyclers, there is not enough room for benches to be placed at bus stops. There does not seem to be a way for bicyclers to ride on the main street either, other than with the traffic or sharing the walkway with the pedestrians. The mix in the neighborhood could start to formulate a sense of community by using the 4 Angels Garden, but it appears that there might be safety concerns due to the unprogrammed spaces and lack of maintenance on the sidewalks and roadways.

Neighborhood Niches

Planning to Stay describes Neighborhood Niches as “the places where neighbors purchase the basic goods and services – as well as some of the specialty items – that support their daily activities. Haircuts and hardware. Pizza and pastries. Pumping bicycle tires, renting movies, and picking out birthday cards. For all the gravitational pull of downtowns and malls, these service zones survive and contribute to the signature of a neighborhood” (Morrish and Brown, 1994). “Neighborhood Niches are the marketplaces where neighbors find the basic goods and services – as well as some of the social encounters – that enrich their daily lives...is not just a fancy term for “commercial district”. We use that phrase to emphasize the special relationship between a residential area and the nearby businesses that serve as focal points for the neighborhood” (Morrish and Brown, 1994).

Morrish and Brown proceed to emphasize the introduction of private transportation and the shift of the Neighborhood Niche. “These authentic, local marketplaces began to change as the automobile gained popularity and hyperextended the scale of our cities. Franchises appeared...They brought corporate managers, standard product lines, and formula buildings...This physical erosion of street corners contributes to the appearance of a purely automobile-oriented environment...As urban neighborhoods work to establish more livable environments, they may need to restore more balanced commercial patterns” (Morrish and Brown, 1994).

Neighborhood Niches – Jefferson Chalmers

The neighborhood of Jefferson Chalmers has many niche locations that can offer a sense of community for its inhabitants. The neighborhood is located close to the waterfront providing several marina-type amenities like Moe’s Bait Shop, KAM Marine, and DWRA Rowing. There are other businesses that see to building and construction needs like Riverfront Building Supply Hardware. There is a unique niche space for veterans to meet and gather at the Onsted American Legion Riders. In terms of broader interest spaces that can include more audiences, there are many restaurants in the neighborhood including Norma G’s Detroit restaurant, Joseph’s Coney Island, East Eats, Gingerberry, Motor City Smoothies Co., and Yellow Light Coffee and Donuts. These restaurants reflect a wide variety of tastes and cuisines that may appeal to many people. It is important to create a wide net of interest to bring customers in and retain their business. These spaces should make the customer feel welcome and have the freedom to share the space with friends and families as they leisurely spend time together. There are two barbershops to highlight in the area: Dell Butter and Cliff’s Gentleman Barber Parlor.

Jefferson Chalmers has the strength of a wide network of businesses providing several different types of services and options. There are businesses throughout the neighborhood, not just in segmented areas. Jefferson Chalmers could expand and increase the cuisine selections in the neighborhood, even with the plentiful options available. It would be ideal to create a more unified restaurant district creating an enhanced experience for neighbors and visitors. The main threat to the neighborhood, like any neighborhood in Detroit and disenfranchised community, is gentrification and development by external entities. There is a lot of land to be developed and if locals are

not afforded the opportunity and the funds to develop community-driven projects, others take ownership of the community.

Neighborhood Niches – Yorkshire Woods

There are very few and limited defined neighborhood niches within the boundary of Yorkshire Woods. The most undeniable observation is that there is a lot of open space and vacancies. There are two barbershops in the neighborhood: Hayes Barber Salon and Hallelujah Shears Barber Shop which is closely located to the Moross-Morang neighborhood, Finishing Touch Salon and House of \$5 Haircuts in East English Village and several others in Denby. A Google search of the area shows more options that sit slightly outside of Yorkshire Woods, but the neighborhood is lacking barbershop locations for people to create community and congregate.

There are several places for the community to do their grocery shopping like Success International, Vogue Market, N&A Market and Somerset Market. There are other specialized locations that pertain more to adult entertainment like Puff & Go Hookah, Armani Club, and Cartier Ultra Lounge. Other options include Valentino's Deluxe Coney Island or Happy's Pizza for a quick bite to eat.

The neighborhood has several places to meet the automotive needs of the community that offer specialty services, LJ's Auto Repair and G. A. B. Auto Detailing. These types of businesses are a magnet for gatherings just as much as barbershops, creating camaraderie and a space to exchange life stories and expertise.

Yorkshire Woods has the strength of space and the advocacy of a very vocal and active resident, but that same strength could be considered a threat. It is a threat and weakness to have so much vacancy and openness becoming vulnerable to speculators and outside developers. It is also risky that one resident is at the helm of development of an entire neighborhood. There needs to be opportunities for community driven projects to be developed creating ownership and sustainability.

Anchoring Institutions – Jefferson Chalmers

Anchoring institutions are the prominent institutions in a neighborhood that make it stand out from surrounding neighborhoods, often defines the neighborhood's skyline, and

includes educational, cultural, and social locations (Morrish and Brown). The anchoring institution is identified by the significance it has to the community, the role it plays in community functions and the cohesiveness it brings to a neighborhood (Morrish and Brown). These anchoring institutions could include religious organizations, educational facilities, governmental facilities, restaurants and other food establishments, significant employers, a park bandstand, or a nonprofit organization (Morrish and Brown). In terms of anchoring institutions for food sovereignty and security, this could include, among others, restaurants, grocery stores, educational food systems, co-ops, food pantries or farmer's markets.

In the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood, the Fox Creek Artscape, located on Manistique Street, could be a potential anchoring institution. It is a multi-use community space, with a pavilion, a produce stand, art space and connection with the Freedom/Freedom Community Garden across the street (Galbraith). There are various community events and activities that occur throughout the year. The Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market is held there two Sundays a month during the growing seasons (Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market). The farmers market's mission "seeks to unify the community, boost the local economy, stimulate local food production, and aggrandize art and culture" (Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market). While the Farmers Market is newer to the community, established in 2019, it does appear to have significance to the community. The market has grown, in 2019 there were 10 vendors and in 2020, there were 30 vendors and more on a wait list (Sysling). The Fox Creek Artscape does appear to have meaning for the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood and could be considered an anchoring institution. There are opportunities to host additional community events at the Artscape to continue the integration into the neighborhood. This could be a potential site for food giveaways in partnership with the Freedom/Farmers Garden, Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest or with Hope Community Church, a church in the neighborhood with a food distribution program. There is also an opportunity for other institutions in the neighborhood to become an anchoring institution.

Anchoring Institutions – Yorkshire Woods

In the Yorkshire Woods neighborhood, there are a couple of churches that could be considered anchoring institutions. One is Rock Church International, which is located on Whittier and states that they are a Detroit-based community church (Rock Church

International). On their social media, there are numerous food giveaways offered for the community, especially since the start of the pandemic (Rock Church International). There also are groups for different age ranges offered at the church, specifically with activities for youth in the church and the community at large (Rock Church International).

A second potential anchoring institution is Church of the Living God, also located on Whittier. According to their social media, they offer tutoring for school age students, community holiday celebrations, connections to other community resources and fun activities for youth (Church of the Living God). They also offer numerous free food giveaways or church dinners that are available at an affordable cost (Church of the Living God). They host various activities for all ages, for both church members and the community (Church of the Living God).

Both churches fit the definition of an anchoring institution. There are opportunities for further partnerships, either with each other to expand their reach in the community or with other organizations to assist community members. They both could partner with the 4 Angels Community Garden, helping with the production of food at the garden and then their members could reap the benefits of the harvest. There is the threat of the church communities losing membership, but this could be mitigated with a strong presence in the neighborhood along with cultivating partnerships with other organizations. There is also the opportunity for additional organizations to become an anchoring institution in the community.

Public Gardens

Public gardens connect us to the natural environment and to one another (Morrish and Brown 79). The public spaces in the Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods neighborhoods are as different from one another as the neighborhoods themselves. Jefferson Chalmers has roughly 120 acres of parkland distributed across several large riverfront parks and one inland city-owned playground/park. In contrast, there are no city of Detroit parks within the boundaries of the Yorkshire Woods neighborhood and only one community-developed park/community garden gathering space located in the southernmost corner of the neighborhood.

Public Gardens – Jefferson Chalmers

According to the City of Detroit's Park Finder website, the four riverfront parks in Jefferson Chalmers from west to east include: The Maheras-Gentry Park, the Alfred Brush Ford Park, the Riverfront-Lakewood East Park, and Mariner Park. Together, these parks include recreational activities related to the waterfront as well as exercise and dedicated spaces for various sports. The amenities of each park are:

- Maheras-Gentry Park (12550 Avondale)
 - 52 acres
 - Baseball, basketball, fishing, fitness equipment, horseshoes, nature area/trail, parking, picnic shelters, picnic area, soccer, softball, walking path
- Alfred Brush Ford Park (100 Lenox)
 - 34 acres
 - Basketball, comfort station, fishing, parking, picnic shelters, picnic areas, play area, soccer, walking path
- Riverfront-Lakewood East Park (14490 Riverside Blvd.)
 - 30 acres (approximately)
 - Fishing, parking
- Mariner Park (14700 Riverside Blvd)
 - 6.44 acres
 - Comfort station, fishing, parking, play area, soccer

The 2.19-acre Hansen playground/park is in the heart of the neighborhood at 452 Drexel, and offers amenities including basketball, fitness equipment, picnic shelters, picnic area, play area, softball, and a walking path.

Public Gardens – Yorkshire Woods

Although city parks are not available within the boundaries of the Yorkshire Woods neighborhood, there is the community-developed “4 Angels” park/community garden (Herberg), Brookins Park in neighboring Denby community, and a large open space near the former “Arthur Middle School.”



WDET.org

Public Gardens – Yorkshire Woods

Although city parks are not available within the boundaries of the Yorkshire Woods neighborhood, there is the community-developed “4 Angels” park/community garden (Herberg), Brookins Park in neighboring Denby community, and a large open space near the former “Arthur Middle School.”

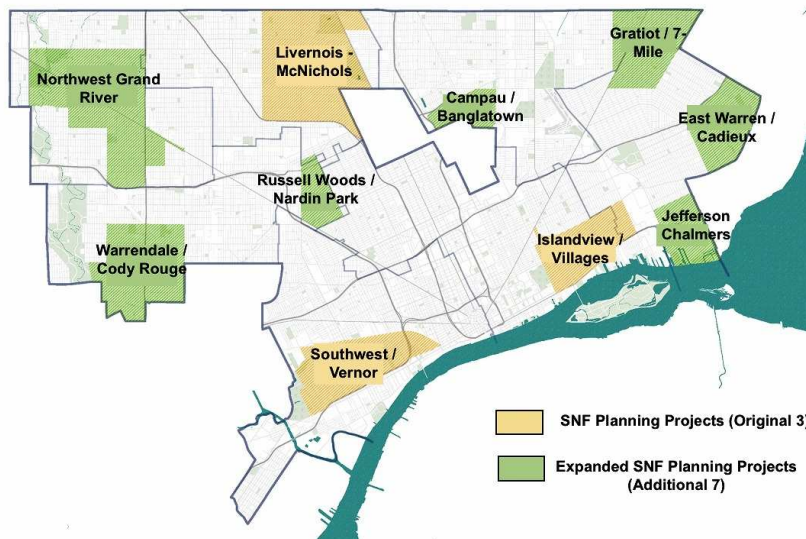
The 4 Angels Garden at 9745 Kensington Avenue provides not only gathering space, but also space to grow fresh fruits and vegetables including kale, lettuce, green onions, strawberries, cabbage, beets, radishes, tomato plants, which are available to all (Clarke). The 1.56-acre Brookins Park in the nearby Denby neighborhood offers picnic areas and a playground (Southeast Michigan ParkFinder), while the empty lot next to the former Arthur Middle School at 10125 King Richard Street offers a blank slate for use as a potential future public garden.

Conclusion

The preliminary needs assessment based on field study, conversations with community stakeholders and extensive internet research demonstrates the stark differences between a neighborhood that receives more attention and funding as opposed to receiving no legitimate support from funders or the City Planning department. Yorkshire Woods is advancing with resident work and dedication, but that is limited and slow. Improvements cannot be achieved without substantial and consistent support and impossible without major capital contributions. Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods both have numerous options and potential opportunities to activate and develop the vacant land in their respective neighborhoods. That activation and development should be driven by the needs and wants of the residents.

Project Proposal

The Strategic Neighborhood Fund (SNF), an investment partnership between the City of Detroit, corporate sponsors, and Invest Detroit, is one of the main financing drivers of development in the city. There are ten neighborhoods designated for funding by the SNF and three are in District 4. The intent of this project is to explore and compare the concepts of food sovereignty and security and the effects of receiving and not receiving funding. The neighborhoods that will be studied are Jefferson Chalmers, a beneficiary of the SNF, and Yorkshire Woods, another neighborhood in District 4 that has not received as much funding or attention from city government. The process will be guided by findings acquired using Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analyses, asset mapping, and surveys and interviews with community stakeholders and residents. The goal of this research is to inspire legislation and advocacy results with the support of DFPC for Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods. Three action plans outline the possible paths for prolonged and enduring food sovereignty and security including a sustainable development plan, community partnerships and legislation and policy. The proposals are explored further and delineate an overview and recommendations for each community.



TheNeighborhoods.org



Map of Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods

Over the course of this project, it was found that while there are significant differences between Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods, there are similar challenges to food security and sovereignty. Using information gathered through research, community engagement, and expert consultation, this project provides recommendations and supporting resources unique to the needs of each neighborhood. The project focused on providing support in enhancing the sustainability of the neighborhoods and bringing forth opportunities such as reclaiming land and creating actionable land use projects. It will also highlight opportunities to partner with organizations, elected officials and government officials and create more opportunities for neighbors to connect with other neighbors within the same district or outside of the boundaries. The intent of this report is to assist in creating relationships with external entities that will bring forth additional investments from the City of Detroit, the SNF and other philanthropic entities.

Action Plan



Coriander Kitchen and Farm *Katie Carlisle*

It is important to evaluate the process of a project, especially when there are numerous components and potential outcomes. In consideration of an attainable and impactful approach, the team evaluated three options that could assist the project and the Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods communities. To create a cohesive and comprehensive plan for research, three different action plans were analyzed. Each action plan addresses its purpose, strengths, and implementation benefits. The team then decided which option best aligned with the purpose of the overall project and proposal. The three action proposals delve into the options by providing a broad overview, recommendations, and SWOT analysis. The team narrowed the themes to sustainable development plan, community partnerships and legislation and policy. Upon closer inspection, all the three themes considered align and intersect. The following content represents the findings of the team.

Sustainable Development

According to the United Nations, sustainable development is defined as

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for people and planet. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected, and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and

dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems (UN).

A sustainable development plan is particularly suitable for Yorkshire Woods with a slightly different focus for Jefferson Chalmers. Jefferson Chalmers could benefit from a written report that encompasses its strengths and aims to resolve some of its needs. The sustainable development plan would contain many of the elements that comprise of the general research for capstone. In a broad summary, the components could include demographics of the area of study; historical information on the area and its people; and maps, assets, surveys and/or interviews or general feedback from residents and other community stakeholders expressing their opinions on the area and how they see its improvement going forward. The plan could also include suggestions and recommendations on how to create and nurture relationships with potential investors and support systems to improve the conditions of the community.

A sustainable development plan requires a lot of community engagement to generate accurate and timely information from those who are near the situation, whether positive or negative. The team that carries the work would need to be available to attend community events, in-person or virtual, and engage with the community establishing trust and rapport through door-knocking and community meetings. The community could share their feedback through team generated surveys and create further dialogue during individual or focus group interviews. The information gathered through community engagement should be tabulated and tracked in a repository, like a spreadsheet where graphs and charts can be created for visual purposes with the information obtained. The information could also be used to present demographic information directly from the immediate stakeholder, the resident. This extracted information could also inform the graphics that are created for the community with direct and current community information.

Analyzing the information and the community, in-person, would assist the team in drafting suggestions and recommendations for the neighborhood. Walking tours of the

area (s), in addition to community feedback, might yield to an extensive need for physical development. Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers could both benefit from more secure food sources, like full-service grocery stores. Each neighborhood could nurture relationships with the City of Detroit, and its elected officials. District 4 voted in a new councilmember, Latisha Johnson. Latisha has long-standing ties to District 4 through her non-profit MECCA. These relationships could garner attention to the neighborhood and its needs. These connections could potentially avail public funds to these communities when creating a network with city officials.

A sustainable development plan could also comfort philanthropies in knowing that communities are not only relying on foundation dollars but have an alternate plan in stabilizing a community. The plan could also increase the confidence of the community stakeholders “in charge” of creating business relationships, development plans and protecting the community from speculators. Drafting a concise plan of action could enhance the reputation and visibility across neighborhood and district. It is expected that the sustainable development plan would support each neighborhood and bring forth the support each community needs. There are many examples nationwide, but there are local examples, that while not in District 4, is in Detroit. The North Corktown Neighborhood Association has a sustainable development plan that is highly recommended and can guide a community in developing and implementing the plan (Sustainable Development Plan).

SWOT Analysis for Sustainable Development Plan

Strengths

- Detailed list of assets
- Management and acknowledgment of resources
- Collective community confidence
- Increased quality of life

Weaknesses

- Biased opinions/ observations
- Targeted engagement
- Sets goals for future
- Buy-in and sustained participation from community

Opportunities

- Create connections across neighborhood and district
- Economic and physical growth
- Better opportunities for future generations
- Environment conservation
- Conservation of resources
- Emergence of new markets
- Opportunity to correct past systemic and societal ills

Threats

- Garnish speculation
- Outside investments
- Future focused, mostly never have short term actions

Community Partnerships

Currently, Detroit's urban agricultural movement remains citizen and resident driven. Detroiters are farming on vacant land in growing numbers and remain steadfast in ensuring that healthy food choices are available for themselves and the residents in the area. They have united and are working towards their goal to feed and consume fresh fruits and vegetables harvested by the people for the people in Detroit on parcels of land owned and rented.

Yorkshire Woods has achieved the goal of owning the land they harvest. They procured six lots in the neighborhood for gardening. However, due to the pandemic, volunteering has wavered severely. This has prompted Mose Primus, the President of the Yorkshire Woods organization, to make the painful decision to discontinue a large part of 4 Angels Community Garden. The garden was once harvested by a team of long-time residents who assisted with helping to supply the neighborhood with fresh vegetables for six years (Primus).

One way to revitalize 4 Angels Community Garden and boost its operation could be improved by recruiting the youth in the area. Conversely, partnerships could be created with public schools in Detroit that have curated gardens which can provide a hands-on

curriculum teaching the students about the positive effects of fresh food, and how growing the foods can be turned into a small business. Some examples include Earthworks, a project with Capuchin Soup Kitchen that operates youth farm stands and the Meldrum Fresh Market, it distributes farm produce to WIC participants at health clinics (Detroit Food Policy Council - DFPC). It was reported that youth that participated in Brightmoor Youth Garden earned \$2,700 by selling their produce (DFPC). Another example is the now defunct, public high school for pregnant girls and teen mothers, Catherine Ferguson Academy. They sold more than 4,200 worth of produce from their school farm (DFPC). There are many other food network organizations within District 4 that could help a small community like Yorkshire Woods. These organizations could benefit 4 Angels Community Garden's effort to try and keep the residents fed with healthy high-quality foods. We would recommend exploring a partnership with the following organizations:

- Detroit Food Justice Task Force, which was founded in 2010. Comprised of urban farming groups, environmental justice organizations, other community organizations, and civic leaders.
- The Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, (DBCFSN)-led by black food activists who grow a wide array of produce on their farm, lead community education forums, sit on the Detroit Food Policy Council, and operate Ujamaa Food Co-op Buying Club. They embody the vision of food justice and practices its principles.
- The Food Warriors organization, DBCFSN youth program that aims to empower young people to have agency when it comes to the production and consumption of food
- The Feedom-Freedom organization, an urban farm in Jefferson Chalmers that also serves as a community gathering place
- Earthworks Urban Farm, a certified organic farm in the Islandview neighborhood, sells some of their products to low-income customers.

SWOT Analysis for Community Partnership - Yorkshire Woods

Strengths

- Autonomy of land due to ownership of 6 lots
- Long time organizing experience
- Partnerships with the school system
- Dedicated Team of Three

Weaknesses

- Lack of resident participation in garden upkeep
- Integrating with other organizations.
- Lack of funding

Opportunities

- Partnership with local businesses
- Connect with other organizations in the area.
- Partner with the schools to include the youth in the gardening process.
- Partner with elected officials

Threats

- Dedicated three getting older and not able to manage the gardens
- Lack of interest from the community
- Funding challenges

Residents in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood have been known to venture out of the area for selective healthy food choices according to an interview with Joe Rashid, a long-time District 4 resident and Executive Director at East Warren Development. Rashid explained that there has not been a serious issue when it comes to food security and food sovereignty due to the level of income in Jefferson Chalmers, that local restaurants offer healthy food carryout, and there are choices that can be reached within a small walking distance (Rashid). Rashid also stated that residents in the area will travel to the neighboring groceries in other connecting cities, but recent studies from the Detroit Food Policy Council report that residents in Detroit would prefer to have a viable grocery within walking distance from their homes (DFPC). During a Jefferson Chalmers monthly

zoom meeting, on November 4, 2021, Barbara Binham, another long-term resident indicated that Parkway Foods in the area has a clean and welcoming environment, with great food choices, albeit the prices can be high. The Neighborhood Grocery founded by Raphael Wright and forthcoming in the area would meet the need for viable local grocery in the neighborhood. Wright wants to add to the community in the neighborhood and offer a full-service store to the community, for the community, and by the community, (Cunningham) He feels that this grocery store could be the start of having culturally and appropriate food choices for residents, and a pathway to opening the food system to co-op related industries (Cunningham). His start-up is one of many food retail projects dedicated to enhancing food security and food sovereignty in the city of Detroit (Cunningham).

The community could rally around Wright's idea of food security and food sovereignty and push an extra step and have local restaurants in the area partner with workforce development to start a social enterprise that trains, employs, and sustains food industry jobs for interested parties. ServSafe, Food Handler, or ServSafe Manager certification could be available through the help of a partnership with Workforce Development. The Jefferson Chalmers area could become a region where training is available in restaurants. This approach could help expand the education/training and mentorship programs for business and future entrepreneurs wishing to work in food related businesses. It could also possibly lead and develop training targeted to help start small-scale food businesses and start-up firms across the food system. It could also open the door to more community start-ups and resources through the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation's Green Grocer Project and the Michigan Good Food Fund to possibly invest more and resolve the lack of food accessibility and improve the food system in Detroit (DFPC).

The creation or designation of a dedicated organization whose sole purpose is to strengthen the Detroit food system is critical. We feel that working with the Detroit Food Policy Council and applying to several funding programs available like the local Community Development Block Grants, CDBG, available through the city, or other federal funding agencies could assist with growth in both areas.

SWOT Analysis for Community Partnership - Jefferson Chalmers

Strengths

- Jefferson Avenue has extraordinary assets
- Strong economic and community development partner in Jefferson East, Inc.
- Residents and business owners invested in the community
- Neighborhood Grocery store created and developed by Raphael Wright

Weaknesses

- Unprogrammed spaces
- Integrating neighboring areas in the growth

Opportunities

- Partner with students to mentor and train in restaurants
- Develop the unprogrammed spaces for future gardens.
- Utilize older buildings for start-up kitchens and indoor fresh produce markets

Threats

- Not supporting community engagement
- Promoting the reuse of the refurbished buildings away from opening small start-ups
- Becoming an area that pushes out the working man

Legislation and Policy

The Detroit Food Policy Council is a collaborator and guide in helping to ensure that we have the best possibility of creating a useful product through our research that can be implemented in the future. Governmental agencies will help us understand what has worked, what has not worked, and what is in the works in the realm of food security. Non-governmental entities will help identify assets, SWOT analysis elements, and develop solutions and policy suggestions. Community members will be vital in helping us to identify concerns and suggesting possible solutions.

Ultimately, we hope to be able to suggest key areas of policy development that we feel would most help build food sovereignty and security for Detroit communities, showing how they might help neighborhoods at various states of food system development, being particularly mindful of how these policy solutions might benefit Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods as well as other neighborhoods. Some examples of the types of policies we may consider include urban livestock regulations – (allowing people to keep animals, how to process livestock, etc.) and the creation of policies which incentivize the development of affordable food-related models (something akin to how we incentivize affordable housing).

SWOT Analysis for Community Partnership - Jefferson Chalmers

Strengths

- Opportunity for wide-ranging, systemic improvements
- Policy creation often includes funding for initiatives
- Policy recommendations can encompass sustainability

Weaknesses

- Difficulties in getting good policy effectively enacted
- Questionable effectiveness of policies when enacted

Strengths (cont.)

and stakeholder partnerships

- Policy has the potential to address historical inequities

Opportunities

- A policy action plan would allow us the chance to imagine creative solutions as part of our recommendations
- There is a rich history of food policy initiatives at all levels to analyze in order to inform our research
- Juxtaposing the successful policies that have helped some neighborhoods with the needs of other neighborhoods offers us the chance to provide a meaningful and useful plan for neighborhoods at various states of progress toward food security

Threats

- Our findings and suggestions may not end up being useful if policy is not implemented or implementation is not done in an effective manner

Comprehensive Action Plan

The team evaluated three diverse options that included an extensive analysis. The three options were discussed, and it was decided that the best approach would be a hybrid model between legislative and policy and community partnerships. As it was stated earlier, there is a lot of intersection among the themes, and we would like to provide the best suggestions possible to offer positive insights for the community, its people, and the food system of the area.



Canal in Jefferson Chalmers *Katie Carlisle*



Yorkshire Woods Residents Mose *Katie Carlisle*
Primus and Lieselotte Auguth



Feedom Freedom Growers *Katie Carlisle*

Recommendation #1

Food Policy System



4 Angels Garden *David Finet*



Free Little Pantry *FoodTank.com*



CoFED *Medium.com*

One recommendation is the creation of Affordable Food Systems Development policies which would be modeled after Affordable Housing policies as a means of incentivizing the development of local food systems. Affordable Food policies would be designed to support the creation of affordable, secure, and sovereign local food networks through both legislative action and funding allocated to support efforts in these areas. These policies would touch on all areas of the food system, including but not limited to land ownership, production, processing, distribution, and retail operations.

This policy proposal was developed through a SWOT analysis of the study area, during which it became clear that policies focused on the creation of incentives and support for the continued development of the local food system would assist in hastening the implementation of important efforts already underway, and others yet to be developed, by addressing several needs which were revealed by our analysis work. The project goals were determined through collaboration with the community and neighborhood partners and community members

and were shaped by the work of the Detroit Food Policy Council. Finally, the specific neighborhood action recommendations were borne of conversations with our advisory committee members.

The success of this proposal should be measured by how quickly effective, self-directed, and adequately funded policies could be developed and implemented. The timeline includes federal action within 5 years, state level action within 3 years, and local action within 2 years. Federal action is important for creating a framework and determining appropriations to fund policy initiatives while state level actions would help define regionally appropriate priorities and local initiatives would be geared toward creating both the policy and physical infrastructure necessary to prepare for efficient and effective application of the supportive state and federal policies and funds directed toward this initiative.

Partners in this work would ideally include legislators at the national, state, and local levels, as well as national food policy advocacy groups such as the Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive (CoFed) “a QBPOC-led organization that partners with young folks of color from poor and working-class backgrounds to meet our communities' needs through food and land co-ops.” (CoFed), state-wide food policy organizations such as the Center for Regional Food Systems at Michigan State University, Michigan’s premier agriculture academic institution (Center for Regional Food Systems), and locally any of the many citywide and neighborhood organizations working on food security and sovereignty issues, with the Detroit Food Policy Council serving as a natural focal point and organizational support for local efforts.

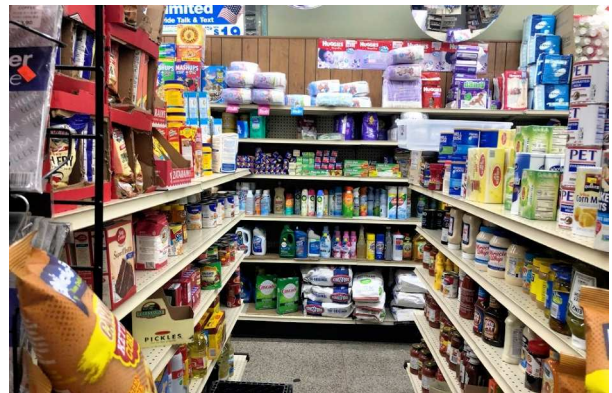
Implementation Guide



Jefferson Chalmers Community Members
Katie Carlisle

To implement this proposal, we would encourage the simultaneous development of legislative policies as well as advocacy, planning, and implementation plans at all levels. Ideally the policies and funding mechanisms will be broadest at the national level and become more focused and defined at the state and local levels, visualized in the graphic below. This would show a concerted national commitment to the provision of access to affordable food, while simultaneously allowing for locally led and community appropriate implementation. Therefore, it is our opinion that policy proposals should be designed to increase support and authority for our community partner, The Detroit Food Policy Council, in coordinating and guiding the continued growth of the local food system.

Projected Outcomes



Interior of N&A Market in Yorkshire Woods
Katie Carlisle

The potential outcomes of coordinated Affordable Food Systems development policies could create immense positive changes locally. For example, the landscape of the city could see an increase in urban farms, community gardens, farmers markets, community-owned grocery stores, and more, leading to increased agency for Detroit

residents over the creation, form, and function of a more just and resilient local food system.

It is our intent that Affordable Food System policies would lay the groundwork for community development in a variety of areas such as human, organizational, physical, and economic development. For example, we'd expect to see improved access to healthy food options to help create additional long-term health benefits to Detroit residents at all stages of their lives; cooperation among the various groups involved food production and distribution to increase efficiency and lower costs; positive impacts such as decreased flooding from an increase of urban farmlands; and the continued growth of the current "food economy" to include more jobs for Detroiters in all aspects of the food cycle. These are but a few of the potential development outcomes, and many more stand to be determined by the communities involved in the process of designing and implementing a larger food system network in Detroit.

Our policy proposal would also address the foundational elements of the Detroit Mercy Community Development program: Service, Social Justice, and Sustainability. As we envision them, the policies would include three elements relating to these elements: 1) food assistance for those of our neighbors who are experiencing challenges to accessing healthy and affordable food options, 2) the development of a system that is guided by the majority Black residents of Detroit and which incorporates their desires as priorities, and 3) environmental benefits such as reduced runoff and flooding due to increased permeable surfaces and lower food miles as significant pieces of a just and resilient food system puzzle in Detroit.

One goal of this proposal for Affordable Food Systems development legislative policies would at the very least spur some discussion of the importance of incentives and support for creating a larger and more affordable, secure, and sovereign food system in Detroit, and elsewhere.



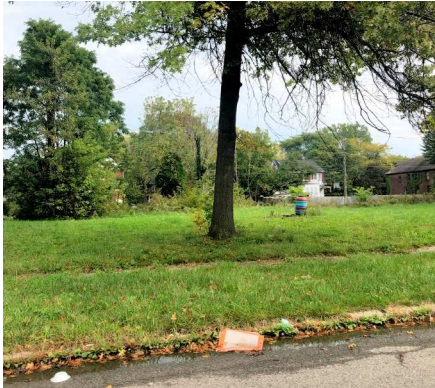
4 Angels Garden
Katie Carlisle

Assessment Methods

The success of this proposal could be measured by how quickly effective, self-directed, and adequately funded policies are developed and implemented. Suggested timeline targets include federal action within 5 years, state level action within 3 years, and local action within 2 years. Federal action is important for creating a framework and determining appropriations to fund policy initiatives while state level actions would help define regionally appropriate priorities and local initiatives would be geared toward this initiative.

Recommendation #2

Vacant Lot Activation in Jefferson Chalmers



Vacant Land in Jefferson Chalmers
Katie Carlisle



Freedom Freedom Growers
Katie Carlisle



Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market
Katie Carlisle

One way to address the needs of residents facing food insecurity in Jefferson Chalmers would be to build upon the success of Manistique Street, which is home to many important community gardens like Freedom Freedom Garden, Detroit Abloom, Manistique Community Garden, and the Creative Empowerment Garden. Given that all these gardens are located on the southeastern side of the neighborhood and that Jefferson Chalmers is home to over 8,000 residents (*Living in Jefferson Chalmers*) there is room within the local market to support the addition of more food-related spaces in the neighborhood. As identified by the SWOT analysis of Jefferson Chalmers, there is a considerable number of vacant lots in the neighborhood's northwestern corner from Clairpointe Street to Kitchner Street, between East Jefferson Avenue and Essex Avenue, hereto referred to as the project site. Many of these vacant lots are currently owned by the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) (*DLBA owned properties*).

The DLBA owns a significant amount of land in Jefferson Chalmers. Current reports state that the DLBA owns a total of 299 lots within the project site (*DLBA owned properties*).



Land Reuse Program *Detroit Land Bank Authority*

Of these 299 lots, 116 are currently purchasable through the Neighborhood Lot program and 44 through the Side Lot program with the rest either not currently for sale or listed through other DLBA programs (*DLBA owned properties*).

The criteria for the Side Lot program states that residents are only eligible to purchase these \$100 side lots that are directly adjacent to their I (*Land Reuse Program*). There is no additional compliance period for purchases in this program. Sales to applicants that live outside of the adjacent properties are permitted, after eligible neighbors have been notified of the potential sale and have declined their right to purchase the lot. The purchase of side lots by eligible residents could help alleviate the burden of food insecurity in this neighborhood by providing permanent growing space for small household gardens without the risk of the land being taken away or sold to another entity.

The Neighborhood Lot program is a newer addition to the DLBA sales pipelines, and offers more flexibility in eligibility for residents, however with a higher price tag of \$250 per lot (*Land Reuse Program*). This program offers lots to purchasers whose primary residents sits within 500 feet of the sale lot and does come with a 3-year compliance period after purchase. This program also requires endorsement by a local organization registered with the City of Detroit Department of Neighborhoods, a DLBA-approved Community Partner, a City Council Member, or District Manager or Deputy District

Manager. Eligible residents may purchase a maximum of two neighborhood lots.

With Jefferson Chalmers being a 65% Black population, it is strongly encouraged that all strategies for increasing land ownership place emphasis on access for Black residents (*Living in Jefferson Chalmers*). In alignment with this priority, it is recommended that all Black residents interested in and eligible to purchase land through either the Side Lot or Neighborhood Lot programs offered by the DLBA look to secure funding for such endeavors through the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund (DBFLF). By decreasing the cost barrier to land purchases through the DLBA, the number of lots owned by Black residents that could be used for food-related activities would increase and the need to go outside of the neighborhood for food would diminish.

However, while the recommendation that more residents living within the project site purchase lots through the two DLBA programs mentioned is a strong one, the burden of purchasing and activating all vacant lots should not be placed on those residents alone. Even if all 116 neighborhood lots and all 44 side lots were purchased, there are still 126 lots within the project site that are owned by the DLBA but are not for sale through either of those two programs. To acquire ownership of these lots, there are two strategies that would be the most advantageous in decreasing food insecurity and increasing community ownership. The first is to follow the example set by the other neighborhood in this study, Yorkshire Woods. The 4 Angels Community Garden in Yorkshire Woods was made possible by the purchase of six DLBA-owned lots by the Yorkshire Woods Community Organization, led by Mose Primus (Mondry). Herein lies the two strategies recommended to promote community ownership of vacant lots in northwestern Jefferson Chalmers that are not eligible through the Side Lot and Neighborhood Lot programs – the purchase of DLBA-owned lots through the Project Purchase program and the enrollment of local organizations in the Community Partnership program.

After eligible and interested residents living within the project site have purchased lots through use of the DLBA neighborhood lot and side lot programming and funding from the DBFLF, the study then recommends the expansion of local organizations enrolled in the DLBA Community Partner program, which will not only create more likelihood that



Mural in 4 Angels Garden *Katie Carlisle*

residents receive the endorsement they need to purchase neighborhood lots, but will also bestow preferential purchasing power of bundles of up to 9 properties (10 or more properties may be purchased on a case-by-case basis as determined by the DLBA) (*Community Partnership*). The 4 Angels Garden in Yorkshire Woods was made possible in part because of Yorkshire Woods Community Organization's status as a Community Partner with the DLBA. This would lessen the burden on individual residents to obtain and maintain vacant land and would place these lots in the hands of local organizations who have the community's best interest in mind and more resources to develop the land for food-related uses.

Lastly, the final strategy to be deployed which also follows the example set forth by the 4 Angels Community Garden is the Create a Project Program, administered by the City of Detroit in conjunction with the DLBA. This program allows residents to apply to purchase any publicly owned land, including that owned by the DLBA (*Create a Project*). This strategy would be most useful in transferring ownership of the 126 DLBA-owned lots within the project site that are not currently for sale through the Neighborhood Lot and Side Lot programs. This strategy would also allow more residents of Jefferson Chalmers to aid in the development of food-related spaces even if they live in other areas in the neighborhood outside of the project site and therefore do not qualify for neighborhood lot and side lot purchases. To apply to purchase land through the Create a Project program, applicants must complete a Public Property Purchase Application Form and submit to the City of Detroit. There are a number of elements required for submission of this form, and helpful resources to support applicants can be found on the Keep Growing Detroit website, including best practices, walkthrough guides, and customizable templates (*Land & Policy Support*).



Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund

Implementation Plan

The implementation of this recommendation would take place in four phases, providing ample time for those residents living within the project site priority over the vacant lots before expanding opportunities to other Jefferson Chalmers residents. These strategies can be used simultaneously, but the study recommends the following sequence to promote community ownership at the smallest scale first:

Phase 1

- Purchase of DLBA lots by eligible residents within the project site with their own funds through the Side Lot and Neighborhood Lot programs
- Applications submitted for supportive funding through DBFLF to purchase DBLA lots through the Side Lot and Neighborhood Lot programs
- Enrollment of more local organizations in Community Partnership program

Phase 2

- Purchases completed of DLBA lots through Neighborhood Lot and Side Lot programs using funds awarded by DBFLF
- Endorsement of applicants for Neighborhood Lot program by newly enrolled Community Partners

Phase 3

- Support of all interested Jefferson Chalmers residents in pursuit of purchasing lots within project site through DLBA/City of Detroit Create-a-Project program

Phase 4

- Support of Community Partners in Jefferson Chalmers in purchasing bundles and remaining DLBA lots within project site

Projected Outcomes



Fox Creek Art Scape in Jefferson Chalmers
Katie Carlisle

The projected outcomes for this recommendation would include increased community ownership of vacant land in northwestern Jefferson Chalmers, primarily by residents living within the project site, and followed by residents living outside of the project site in other areas of the neighborhood and by local community organizations. This outcome is most fitting in the Physical and Economic Development portions of the HOPE Model. There would also be a greater utilization of the DBFLF and the Create a Project program, which is also in alignment with the same HOPE Model categories. Lastly, there would be an increase in the number of registered Community Partners with the DLBA in the neighborhood, which is most congruent with the Organizational Development piece of the HOPE Model. All these outcomes would support the pursuit of food sovereignty and diminish the impact of food insecurity of the community by addressing the lack of food options and abundance of contiguous vacant lots in Jefferson Chalmers.



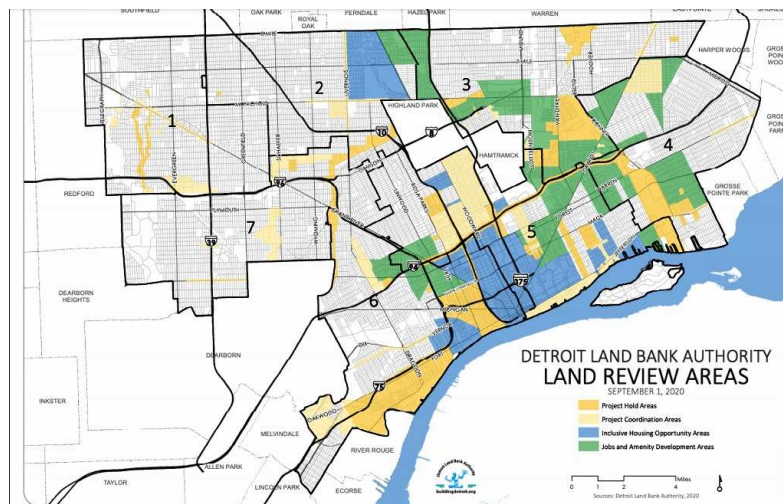
Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market wdet.org

Assessment Methods

The recommendation for greater utilization of land owned by the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) in Jefferson Chalmers has perhaps the most clearly quantifiable assessment of success. While there are potential impacts for all four corners of the HOPE model, things such as increased nutrition for residents, tighter cohesion between local organizations and governmental entities, and increased economic prosperity through land ownership for residents, the clearest way to measure if the implementation of this recommendation is functioning as intended is to gather future data on the amount of lots sold by DLBA that rest in the hands of local organizations and residents, and the amount of local organizations enrolled in the DLBA's Community Partner program. Using a collection of City of Detroit public data tools, applicants to DLBA programs, and the real-world transformation of physical lots in Jefferson Chalmers, an assessment as to how successful the implementation of this recommendation could be clearly quantified, measured, and tracked.

Instead of diverting limited resources towards the freeing up of land that is currently unavailable for sale from DLBA due to restrictions or agreements with the City Revitalization Offices on the extremely vacant blocks of Kitchener Street, Continental Street, and Emerson Street between Freud Street to the south and East Jefferson Avenue to the north, attention should instead be paid to the lower hanging fruit that is more easily accessible in the current moment to residents interested in purchasing vacant land for food-related uses (*Land Review Areas*). Although there are far more lots owned by DLBA on those streets, attempting to purchase land within Project Hold Area designations goes against best practices suggested by Keep Growing Detroit, as the land bank can be limited by city planning efforts for which clear information may be

unavailable for the public (“Purchasing Land for your Garden”). Instead, the recommendation for residents looking to obtain land for food production, education, and distribution should look to the vacant lots currently offered on the westernmost streets of this section of Jefferson Chalmers, including Algonquin Street, Navahoe Street, Conner Street, Tennessee Street and Clairpointe between East Jefferson Avenue and Essex Avenue. These streets have considerable options for residents to purchase vacant land that do not come with the accompanying additional entanglement of City Hold Areas.



Land Review Areas Maps *Detroit Land Bank Authority*

unavailable for the public (“Purchasing Land for your Garden”). Instead, the recommendation for residents looking to obtain land for food production, education, and distribution should look to the vacant lots currently offered on the westernmost streets of this section of Jefferson Chalmers, including Algonquin Street, Navahoe Street, Conner Street, Tennessee Street and Clairpointe between East Jefferson Avenue and Essex Avenue. These streets have considerable options for residents to purchase vacant land that do not come with the accompanying additional entanglement of City Hold Areas.

The DLBA owns a total of 299 parcels in the northwestern corner of Jefferson Chalmers, of which 44 lots are currently for sale through the Side Lot Program and 116 lots through the Neighborhood Lot Program at the time of this study (*DLBA owned properties*). Participation in both these programs requires certain owner proximity criteria (must be directly adjacent to owned property for the Side Lot Program or must be 500 feet from principal residence for the Neighborhood Lot Program). With 18 lots sold in 2020, and

12 sold so far in 2021 at the time of reporting, a successful implementation of the recommendation to connect residents with side lot sales would reflect the following goal numbers:

Year	Side Lots Sold
2021	17
2022	19
2023	20

Assumptions to this projection include that new side lots will not be added to the DLBA inventory over the next two years and that the implementation of this recommendation will have a positive impact on side lot sales until the inventory is depleted. Therefore, there are no further goals after the year 2023 related to side lot sales.

As the Neighborhood Lot Program has been newly launched by the DLBA, little data is available on how many lots have been sold in this area for this program. For this reason, projections for sales of neighborhood lots will start in 2022 to capture projections for the full calendar year. For the 116 lots in the Neighborhood Lot Program, successful implementation would reflect the following trajectory:

Year	Neighborhood Lots Sold
2022	17
2023	23
2024	28
2025	32
2026	16

Considerations for the projected sales of neighborhood lots include factors such as the positive impact that an increased pool of eligible potential applicants would have on sales and the potential negative impact of a higher sale price per lot (side lots are \$100 per lot, while neighborhood lots are sold for \$250 each). Additionally, this figure assumes that neighborhood lot sales will have a positive increase until all lots within the

program have been sold. This explains the smaller number of projected lot sales in the year 2026, as these would be the only remaining lots in the program. This also assumes that no new lots are added to the program over the course of the implementation.

As mentioned in the recommendation description, after residents who are eligible to purchase side lots and neighborhood lots within the northwestern corner of Jefferson Chalmers have secured the land they want, there would be focus extended to Jefferson Chalmers residents living in other areas in the neighborhood in purchasing lots through the City of Detroit and DLBA's Create a Project program. Another key metric to assess the success of this recommendation would be to evaluate the number of applicants to this program, the number of successful land purchases, and the number of lots resulting in development of food-related spaces.

Access to funds and community support will also have an impact on how accessible vacant land will be for Jefferson Chalmers residents. Following this recommendation, increased applicants to the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund to help offset some of the acquisition and initial operations costs of developing these vacant lots into food-related sites would also be an indication of successful implementation. Increased community support for residents interested in taking a more leading role in their own food sovereignty could manifest in an increase of enrollment of local community development organizations and faith-based organizations in DLBA's Community Partnerships Program. If more local organizations become Community Partners, there will be greater endorsement power in the neighborhoods for residents desiring to purchase land through the Neighborhood Lot Program and other land reuse programs.

Recommendation #3

Cross-Neighborhood Partnerships with Yorkshire Woods



Yorkshire Woods Mural
Katie Carlisle



Interior of N&A Market
Katie Carlisle



4 Angels Garden
Katie Carlisle

The Detroit Food Policy states that the urban agricultural movement remains citizen and resident driven (DFPC, Economic Analysis) and that has been found to be the case in both Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers. As the Food Group progressed in the research of Yorkshire Woods, and Jefferson Chalmers, it was noticed that food insecurity is not as much a concern in the Jefferson Chalmers district as much as it weighs heavily on the hearts and minds in the Yorkshire Woods area according to its neighborhood president, Mose Primus. In an interview with Mr. Primus, he explained how his neighborhood is not slated to receive much money from the district's revitalization plans, and that he feels bad for his residents because they could benefit from having a grocery store in the small vicinity of Yorkshire Woods.

A lot of residents in Yorkshire Woods do not own cars, so getting to and from grocery stores can be a challenge says Primus. To purchase better groceries and healthier food choices, most residents choose to catch the bus, taxi or jitney to outside markets giving the money to other communities. According to Mr. Primus, Yorkshire



Conversation with Mose Primus in Yorkshire Woods
David Finet

Woods, and its residents struggled before, during and after the Pandemic, and says he is deeply concerned for the future.

The two neighborhoods sit within five miles of each other and do not share resources. The socio-economic base is tremendously different and the dollars backing Jefferson Chalmers may serve as salt in the wound to the outlining communities like Yorkshire Woods who feels slighted by the lack of investment. If Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods formed a partnership, improvements might begin to develop. New connections could begin and life in Yorkshire Woods would begin to take a turn for the good. There are several tangibles Yorkshire Woods Community Organization (YWCO), and residents bring to the table. YWCO is in ownership of 4 Angel Gardens that consist of six lots. 4 Angel Gardens is a staple in the neighborhood, and through their urban gardening, they have grown produce that has benefited the neighborhood. Through the garden, YWCO distributed food during the pandemic, held movie nights, and concerts for the neighborhood. They have lost volunteers to help maintain the area due to the pandemic and, subsequently, have decided to scale back the garden.

Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers could benefit from a partnership with each other. While Jefferson Chalmers has many vacant parcels in their neighborhood, they have also successfully activated numerous parcels to address food security and sovereignty. They could provide resources and support to Yorkshire Woods with regards to the unprogrammed spaces in 4 Angels Garden and in rallying community members to support the garden. At the same time, Yorkshire Woods could lend their expertise in how

to obtain and activate land owned by DLBA. The two communities might not share many commonalities with regards to access to funding and other resources, but when it comes to food insecurity, no one wants their community to be struggling, so partnering up with subject matter experts that have been around pushing the food movement and trying to change the consciousness of the African Americans in the city of Detroit should be considered.

Leading the efforts in the food movement with agricultural gardening since 2006 is the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN). The DBCFSN organization mission statement wants to “work to build self-reliance, food security and justice in Detroit’s black community by influencing public policy, engaging in urban agriculture, promoting healthy eating, encouraging cooperative buying and directing youth towards careers in food-related fields” (Who We Are). They are an established organization well-suited for partnership that can educate and help Yorkshire Woods to begin a turnaround for the area. They too own their farmland and produce goods for the area residents and beyond. They also have a dedicated staff with committed volunteers with the hands-on ability to help Yorkshire Woods with utilizing and arranging help to work the extra space available now that Mr. Primus has made the decision to scale back.

Since Detroit Black Community Food Security Network is already a well-oiled machine when it comes to understanding what it takes to shine a light on a community’s value. They have programs to teach and understand the land from where the food comes. They offer classes about the proper ways to plant and harvest the land. They have partnered with other organizations such as the Shrine of the Black Madonna and the 4-H Community Center, where they played a big role in helping to plant and maintain a ¼ acre garden. Their educational and youth programs help to involve the youth on the aspects of the food system and gives them an understanding of where their food comes from and how it is grown. If Yorkshire Woods was to partner with DBCFSN on ways to generate interest in the food industry amongst the youth in the area, and provide them a stipend for training, it would change the lens as to the way food is understood. He is passionate about putting together a plan to keep the youth interested in anything to keep them off the streets.

To keep up the desire to tackle food insecurity and sovereignty, relationships must be formulated in the name of food and in the name of business. All involved have to be invested. Detroit Food Policy Council, through its extensive research, found that “the single most important factor of localizing and enhancing Detroit’s food system will be its ability to effectively cultivate and manage the almost infinite number of relationships needed to build a thriving and equitable food system” (DFPCSN). Yorkshire Woods has extra land for use at 4 Angels Garden that could be activated with the help of DBCFSN. YWCO could benefit from having their guidance and experience to help expand their ideas for their area. In 4 Angels Garden, they have utilized their own storm water rain barrels for irrigation, there was a bee farm that is currently defunct, a play area for the children in the neighborhood, a stage used for multi-use, and plenty of space decorated with artwork done for and by the local neighborhood children and local artists. YWCO clearly has ample ideas and implementation of those ideas but could benefit from additional resources and volunteers to expand their efforts.

How this could look in the initial process is to facilitate meetings between Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers. Jefferson Chalmers is proving to be a heavyweight economically with a strong business economy and is being heavily invested in due to the Strategic Neighborhood Fund. The residents in the area are active in their community. Also, on the list of resources to further help Yorkshire Woods keep the food movement going, and work with the youth in the community to strike up interest in the food industry, is Keep Growing Detroit. With their organization onboard, providing the seeds for the gardens, and ensuring help with the extra spaces and resources to aid in cultivating land could work if agreed by all parties. Resources are needed together so that equalization and cohesion is achieved all at once in trying to keep the movement of achieving food security in Detroit. Putting together these kinds of connections could begin to start the relationships needed to further the food movement and its benefits.



Garage Door at 4 Angels Garden
Katie Carlisle

Implementation Plan

The implementation of how to begin the discussion of partnering with neighboring communities and a heavyweight like DBCFSN starts with food. Setting up in-person meetings and/or Zoom calls can be done in the name of food while sharing ideas.

Month 1

- Linking Yorkshire Woods with the neighborhood leaders in Jefferson Chalmers. This meeting could discuss partnering area leaders from Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods to collaborate over a meal in one of the restaurants in Jefferson Chalmers for introductions.

Month 2

- The restaurant of choice is chosen strategically with a sit down with the manager. The restaurant could play a big role in possibly helping the leaders develop a plan to help young people gain interest in the food industry and how connecting with the schools will take place and what role DBCFSN could play in helping Yorkshire Woods cultivate the extra spaces in 4 Angel Gardens. These discussions are doing while breaking bread.

Month 3

- The next meeting should include one of the leaders of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network. Their feedback and interest will be on the table

along with a discussion of how to partner up with Detroit Public School students that may be interested in the food industry. Discussions on funding from community block grants and how that looks could also begin at this meeting.

Month 4

- Planning to start up in the spring to cultivate the land in 4 Angels Garden. Did the extra funding take place? Discuss how the process looks for future projects on possibly hiring people to assist with cultivating the land. Connecting with the stakeholders in the block clubs to enlighten them on what the plan looks like for developing some of the vacant lots in Jefferson Chalmers, and Yorkshire Woods.
- Ensure dialogue with elected officials block clubs, and social organizations that want to meet in person or Zoom are heavily courted.

Month 5

- Email and back up emails to all the interested parties from the block clubs, residents, school official and non-profit officers to any curious interested parties wanting food security and food sovereignty in their areas to come break bread with their neighbors

Month 6

- 4 Angel Gardens has funding to hire people to cultivate four lots for growing products. Keep Growing Detroit has supplied the seasonal seeds for growing crops.



Lot at 4 Angels Garden
Katie Carlisle

Projected Outcomes



4 Angels Garden
wdet.org

The projected outcomes for the collaboration and partnership of these communities continues the message that DBCFSN has set out to drive around the city of Detroit, which is to create a model for urban agricultural projects that seek to build community self-reliance and to change the consciousness about food, (DBCFSN) YWCO and its president, Mr. Primus, have been unwavering in their quest to better their neighborhood, and the residents around them. They have faced challenges, but they are committed to their community. Securing the lots in 4 Angels Garden has afforded Yorkshire Woods the ability to negotiate the usage of the space, and how it can generate revenue if utilized correctly. With the guidance and knowledge gained from working with DBCFSN, Yorkshire Woods could be better equipped to connect with other organizations and open new possibilities and connections all in an effort to further food security and sovereignty.



Structure at 4 Angel Gardens
Katie Carlisle

Assessment Methods

The third and final proposal focuses on creating community partnerships, both inter-neighborhood and macro-communities and organizations. A partnership is defined as “the association of two or more people work together to complete a task. Those people are partners” (Merriam-Webster). To create cohesion in communities in the name of food security and sovereignty, there needs to be a unified effort of all involved. Through the capstone team’s process of collecting data through a survey, interviews with advocates, community functions of both Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers, we believe that residents of both these areas might benefit from forming workable partnerships to begin the process of cohesion on food security through citizen education, urban agriculture, and having schools and public institutions share the responsibility of the health and well-being of our children, seniors, and residents.

Basic access to food is the foundation of food security (DFPC). Assessments regarding the access to quality food is important for the neighborhoods that rely on local grocery stores to supply them with the kinds of food that are fit for healthy community. Citizen education is an important strategy to ensure that citizens of all areas understand what food security and sovereignty means to their family’s well-being. One of the survey questions asked how people rate their area regarding healthy food choices available. Collectively, the Detroit residents in the study area indicated that there are many layers of concerns for food security. Some of the main concerns from survey takers in both areas was that there is a lack of viable choices in local grocery stores. Concern over how the food is spoiled and outdated can be a problem, and the high prices on the food leaves them no choice but to buy at their local stores due to sometimes not having the ability to buy elsewhere. Citizen educating efforts can be measured by recruiting and

partnering up with a local culinary arts school or restaurants to attend meetings and conduct brief food classes to educate citizens. This would help mitigate the lack of knowledge about an inadequate diet. This would also be a way to measure and assess how productive the meeting/classes turn out. Educating citizens on the power of food, food choices, and the preparation of those healthy food choices is a sure way to help citizens understand what it takes to have educated themselves on the food they eat and the good that eating well does for the body, mind, and soul. Assessment of this type of monthly meeting that would be a community-based food sharing meeting as well, would take place through

- Monthly meetings with residents, and city officials
- The number of citizens who participate
- The types of food classes held.
- Monthly cooking projects shared.
- What healthy food recipes have been added to a diet?

Detroit Food Policy Council indicates that people of Detroit are using urban agriculture as a tool for community self-determination by building connections across generations and socioeconomic divisions, improving economic opportunities, and ensuring access to healthy high-quality food for themselves and others (DFPC). Urban agriculture is a mainstay in Detroit. A way to measure the success of how urban agriculture is doing in the neighborhoods and the effectiveness of addressing food security is to know how many urban gardens are around the neighborhoods and who is running them. Assessing this type of method to feed a community could include:

- Determining the amount of land that can be sold through the Neighborhood Lot Program offered through the Detroit Land Bank.
- Rallying the citizens at the monthly meetings to formulate block clubs, and organizations that will make them eligible to buy their surrounding vacant parcels and help lift up the marginalized.
- Interconnect with other residents and local organizations that have established themselves in the community to formulate partnerships.
- Work side by side with city officials and with the Detroit Land Bank Authority, as well as the City Planning Commission.

Schools and other public organizations can play a monumental role in helping the citizens of Detroit gain knowledge of how food security benefits a community. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, Women's Infant and Children, and over 85,000 free and reduced breakfast, and lunch meals served in the school system helps the communities. While these programs exist in helping to address food security issues, they do not cover the entirety of a family or person's nutritional needs for the whole month (Rosenbaum). To further access and measure how these programs persist in helping the community at large, there should be:

- School and youth outreach through the school gardens and curriculum.
- Partners and the community can advocate for upgrading school meals.
- Other institutions like churches, hospitals, recreation centers, universities and senior centers can increase local procurement of food through education, and hosting farmer's markets in many of the communities in Detroit.
- Work along with the Detroit city officials and the Strategic Fund set out for the seven districts in Detroit.

In small ways, things can be changed if knowledge and understanding is behind it. Between citizen education, urban agriculture knowledge, and how schools and institutions can play an important role in teaching the students and the citizens how to eat properly, there can be longstanding changes. Each area gives way to knowing what it is to eat healthy and understanding how to address food insecurity in a way that is meaningful. Hunger and malnutrition and the effects of inadequate diet are directly linked to each other as well as to the work of emergency food providers, nutrition educators, and the health sector. Partnerships are helpful and can be beneficial to everyone when it comes to what kinds of food goes into the body. There are lengthy discussions about food and the diet individuals hold, as well as where the food comes from, that could also be addressed at a community level. It is important for city officials and organizations to come together to assist in helping marginalized communities eat better so that health and well-being is at the forefront. A food secure Detroit ensures that residents have the energy and vitality to pursue their lives and contribute to their community. Assessing a project can be manageable, but it must always be checked and updated through the analyzing the surveys, community engagements, and in person interviews to measure the scope and scape of a project.

Roles of Contributing Partners

The process to achieve comprehensive neighborhoods is complicated. There are many routes that can be implemented. One of the most effective ways to create a unified and organized community is exactly by doing that; uniting, by creating networks and partnerships. However, extending oneself to another person, expressing a need and relying on the good intentions of others can be difficult, especially if a person or neighborhood has been neglected, passed over or constantly extracted of resources. This can be especially true for misrepresented, underrepresented, marginalized and grassroots entities. They often have been disappointed too many times and even hurt; it can be difficult to trust and expect change or collaborate.

The first step towards creating partnerships that are fruitful is to generate block clubs and/or resident/neighborhood associations. The role of these groups should be to unite and create a united voice from the resident identifying issues and establishing priorities. When plans are solidified, it can guide the community and clearly detail the role of each person involved in the process. For example, if a neighborhood association is established, officer roles can be elected (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer). The roles could be comprised of residents and at-large stakeholders (businesses and organizations). The officers could represent the residents in political arenas and present issues to city council and create relationships with other elected officials. Once these relationships have generated good rapport, elected officials can be invited to tour the area and explain, in-person, the issues experienced and present potential solutions that can be brought to life with the sheer act of being on site.

An active, organized community representation is useful in many ways; it is a way for outside agents to connect with the community. They can join different stakeholder groups or decision-making groups, like advisory committees, citywide initiatives, or boards. Increasing the visibility and accessibility of a community can be beneficial because they then too join the ranks of “the chosen” neighborhoods, being in favor and

going for funding that they would not have been considered for in the past. The intention is to advocate for the needs being very specific with the ask, the timeline and the amount. Additionally, it would be important to solidify the ownership of the project and long-term management of the implementation and any further maintenance that would be required.

Linkages should be attempted with as many like-minded and goal-oriented organizations, like East Michigan Environmental Action Council, East Warren Development Corp, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Community Development Advocates of Detroit, Eastside Community Network, and Detroit Food Policy Council. These are attainable avenues of partnerships with a high degree of community engagement and advocacy. These are some examples of organizations that can and will work with residents and make sure that communities' needs are met. If they cannot support a cause, they are more than equipped to connect with the correct agent.

Ultimately, it comes down to the resident. The resident needs to be informed, active and have consistent participation. It all starts with the resident, if the resident is not educated and active, they can be exploited or if they are unaware, they will not participate. The resident must live with the consequences of development or lack of and any decision that is made or not, and the plans that are to be implemented. They are responsible for maintaining progress and its direction.

Possible Sources of Funding

There are numerous funding options to assist communities, organizations, and governmental entities in addressing food security and sovereignty issues. There is governmental funding, at the national, state, and local level. There are foundations and other nonprofits who will help with financing projects. In addition, there are community-funded options, ranging from crowdsourcing to campaigns and fundraisers.

One option is applying for grants at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). There is the Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program, which awards money to eligible private nonprofits that require one-time assistance from the federal government to begin a community food project (USDA). This grant is given to nonprofits that are focusing on the needs of people who are low-income, looking to increase their food sovereignty, addressing nutrition issues, are planning for long-term solutions, and are mutually beneficial to food producers and the target population (USDA). There should also be connections between at least two sectors of the food system, connections between for-profit and nonprofit sectors and support entrepreneurs (USDA). The grants can be funded from \$10,000-\$400,000 and span from one to four years and do require a dollar-for-dollar match from the nonprofit requesting the grant (USDA). This grant does appear to have some stringent guidelines as only about 18% of proposals have been approved since the program began in 1996 (USDA).

Another source of funding can come from private foundations who are committed to helping address food security and sovereignty. The W. K. Kellogg Foundation has provided grants to several organizations over the last several years to help address food security issues in Detroit, including to the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) to help increase access to quality foods and developing an equitable food system; to Develop Detroit Inc to assist them in building the Detroit Food Commons; and to Detroit Public Schools Community District to deliver meals to 800 medically fragile students and their siblings (Grants). The Kresge Foundation has also awarded grant money to the DBCFSN to assist with building the Detroit People's Food Cooperative; Eastern Market to aid in renovations and improvements around food security challenges since the pandemic; and to Detroit Food Policy Council to help them in continuing their work (Grants Awarded). There are numerous other private foundations that could be approached about supporting food security and sovereignty issues in Detroit.

An innovative approach for addressing food security and sovereignty has been displayed by Raphael Wright, a Detroit entrepreneur who wanted to establish a Black-owned grocery store in Detroit (Ryan). He crowd-sourced the funding for the Neighborhood Grocery, a brick-and-mortar grocery store that is coming to the Jefferson

Chalmers neighborhood (Ryan). The business model that Wright developed provided for Detroiters to invest in the creation and building of the grocery store and the investors will receive a portion of the profits once the store breaks even (Ryan). Wright also created a GoFundMe, which as of September 12, 2021, has raised over \$86,000 (Wright).

There are numerous ways to request and receive funding for addressing food security and sovereignty, from governmental appropriations to crowd-sourcing a local community to requesting assistance from a private foundation. It would be beneficial to have input from numerous community members, nonprofits and governmental officials as these various entities may have different suggestions and knowledge with regards to obtaining funding. If possible, engaging the assistance of a grant writer may assist with obtaining additional funds.

District 4, in particular the Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods neighborhoods, have many strengths and numerous opportunities before them. Residents, elected officials, and other community stakeholders will determine the future and how it unfolds based on the policies that are created for the area; they should bring the equity and opportunity that residents seek and need. Residents need to be vigilant and actively participating in the development of the community by providing their input whenever city officials seek feedback. It is always best to have too many partners and allies than few or none. Communities need to work together to preserve their integrity and retain assets. It is important for residents to obtain awareness and education on their rights, their health, and their options for them to be able to fight for their present and their future. As more community organizations and nonprofits interact with marginalized groups awareness grows and expands, one person tells the other and soon a tight network of support emerges and is expected. Residents need to be able to use these partnerships to their advantage and raise the alarm when they suspect foul play or inequity. Information can bring strong systems of support that they can use for their protection and the protection of their families and communities for generations to come, and that is the reason strong partnerships aligned with policy are the best recommendation for District 4.

Projected Outcomes

The projected outcomes section outlines what some of the possibilities could be if this project were to be implemented. Looking at the project through the lens of the HOPE model and examining potential outcomes around the Human, Organizational, Physical and Economic aspects can aid in understanding the topic of food security and sovereignty in both Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers in a more holistic manner. There will also be an examination of the project in terms of social justice issues, diversity and multiculturalism, project constraints and limitations, impacts on regional development and the potential for policy and legislative changes.

Human Development Outcomes

Human Development emphasizes the relationship between people and their social and physical environment and considers the course of human development across the lifespan (Stanard). It refers to how and to what degree neighborhoods organizations, services, cultural artifacts, or individuals contribute to the overall health, safety, and quality of life of its residents (Munday). The Human Development focus of the HOPE model allows the students to focus on its true meaning and study the impacts this aspect has on a community (Stanard). While always keeping in mind the tenets of the HOPE model, this Capstone team realized through its research that there are pockets of each of the seven districts in Detroit's strategic plan already dealing with food insecurity problems before the pandemic, but then became exasperated during. The blame according to Mose Primus, comes from the disconnect with the city and some of the organizations. The lack of viable grocery stores within walking distance and having to fund most of the endeavors concerning food out of pocket so that the seniors, and mothers with children in the area, would not starve during the pandemic became overwhelming. He explained that the shortage of food to concentrated areas became an undertaking for communities. He said he spoke with other organizations, and residents, and everyone was scrambling to get food boxes to its residents. They eventually received federal funding to distribute food boxes monthly from 4 Angels Garden.

According to Detroit Food Policy Metrics Report for 2019, Detroit has a robust existing ecosystem of small-scale food growers, producers, and manufactures (Hill, "Detroit Food Metrics Report 2019 (DFMR 2019)"). The DFPC deems it necessary to provide a network of resources together into a small-scale Food Ecosystem Development (Hill, DFMR 2019). This is profound when it comes to Human Development because it can provide a training component. The first projected outcome in establishing partnerships could be to help connect Yorkshire Woods with any of the local Detroit public schools that has started teaching students about urban agriculture and the benefits of curating gardens in their areas. 4 Angels Garden in Yorkshire Woods has pieces of land that students could utilize and harvest. There are several programs participating in the food network and already in operation concerning youth. Programs like Earthworks, through Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Bright more Youth Garden that allows students to operate farms, and sell and donate the produce they harvest, and several others that Yorkshire Woods could partner and connect with to utilize the space they have available with Angel Gardens. Local restaurants in the area mainly in the Jefferson Chalmers vicinity may be willing to fund and foster relationships with the school system for additional training within the food industry. This could be the start of food community and add to the ecosystem that Yorkshire Woods could benefit and expand upon with its more established District neighbor, Jefferson Chalmers, when it comes to restaurants and businesses in operation.

Another potential projected outcome for Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers is that a potential next step to have local restaurants participate in training more people in the food industry is to bring Michigan's Workforce Development on board to help provide more training in the SERV Safe, and food handler industry. Those certifications could prove beneficial for individuals wanting to further train in the field.

Applying for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), a federal grant program that supports development activities, could be a viable option. Jefferson Chalmers has unprogrammed spaces, that with the right funding, can be made green. Mr. Primus says he struggles with finding help to assist with YWCO projects on the open spaces in Yorkshire Woods. Having a CDBG could allow the organization to hire local help and introduce the individuals to gardening while making an hourly wage could help garner the attention needed in this field. The projected outcome would be educating future

potential garden/landowners. Yorkshire Woods wants a venue for concerts and to have a playscape built for the neighborhood children to come and safely play and exercise. The state of the park now is that there is nothing for the kids to do but run. This grant could allow the park to be expanded. With this funding, during the summertime, the space can be used for adult and children exercise classes, to promote reduction of illnesses with exercise classes and education classes on cooking and gardening. During exercise classes, the students are strategically placed near the garden beds and encouraged to pick the fresh vegetables from the garden after class. Another section of the greenspace that Yorkshire Woods owns could be used for a sectioned off dog park.

Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers can benefit from any funding that is available to them to utilize the unprogrammed spaces in both areas. With Jefferson Chalmers having the market for fresh and new businesses, they could pick days of the week when the restaurants could train students and pay them with the funding of CDBG. This helps in certifying students in the food industry while showcasing the restaurant offering the training and benefiting the community by offering the training in their many restaurant kitchens. An example is Colors Restaurant which is affiliated with Restaurant Opportunities Center, or ROC-United. They train students in the various jobs within the restaurant industry while promoting social justice and local product sourcing as part of its business model (Detroit Collaborative). There is also another example of supporting a youth inspired food industry, The Detroit Food Academy, a non-profit that works to inspire in young Detroiters from ages 10-24 with an understanding of culinary arts and food entrepreneurship. Adequate funding can help strengthen ties in the community as well as build relationships and strengthen the ties that bind us all.

Organizational Development Outcomes

If the partnership-policy hybrid plan were to be put into place, the expectation is that there would be a multitude of positive impacts on the organizational development in both Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods. This could include strengthening organizational partnerships already in place or developing new connections between

organizations. Several potential outcomes will be reviewed below.

One projected outcome might be a continued integration of food system organizations in both neighborhoods, leading to a more cohesive and comprehensive system. Both current food system participants and those who want to engage in that space would be able to connect with others to share resources, ideas and to organize together. This would include restaurants, urban farms, private gardens, school farms, non-profits, emergency food organizations, retail stores, and other entities within the space. It could also lead to advocacy opportunities and potential funding streams. This integration could lead to new, needed food systems to be developed in both neighborhoods. The neighborhoods could work together to develop a graphics map showing all the connections, leading to a deeper understanding of the food system and ideas on where additional linkages and advocacy could occur.

Another projected outcome is increased connection between government and non-governmental organizations, residents, and the communities. The more accessible governmental officials are to residents, the easier it might be for residents to advocate for food security and sovereignty issues. By having governmental officials more aware of the needs and wants on food related issues in the neighborhoods, it could lead to effective policy and legislative changes. Residents would be able to reach out to their legislatures and develop relationships leading to positive changes in the food arena. Having the support and backing of governmental officials could lead to increased funding from private foundations. It could also lead to additional opportunities for land acquisition through the Detroit Land Bank and potential zoning changes if needed.

A third potential outcome might be the formation of hyper local food councils or committees. If residents and stakeholders are interested in developing a neighborhood food council, they could potentially work in partnership with entities such as the Detroit Food Policy Council, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund, Detroit Land Bank, etc. Having a local food council would help residents address food security and sovereignty issues that are occurring directly in their neighborhoods. This would also lead to opportunities for developing leadership and community organizing skills for those interested.

Physical Development Outcomes

An important consideration of the implementation of this project is the impact on the physical landscape of both Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods. By highlighting strategic partnerships and policy implementation in regard to food security, potential impacts on both the built and natural environments of these neighborhoods can be expected. Outlined here are a few of the projected outcomes expected through the implementation of this project.

One projected outcome to be expected is the reinvigoration and expansion of the 4 Angels Garden in Yorkshire Woods. In the past, 4 Angels Garden has struggled to maintain its operations due to inconsistent volunteer support (Primus). However, given that there are few large lots available in Yorkshire Woods to dedicate to the growth of fresh produce, the longevity of the 4 Angels Garden is key to alleviating the burden of food insecurity in the neighborhood. The key recommendation that would have the most impact on the 4 Angels Garden would be the development of a strategic plan that would incorporate not just the support of Yorkshire Woods Community Organization. Ideally, the implementation of this recommendation would foster deeper connections between the Yorkshire Woods Community Organization, current residents, and other local entities, resulting in a more complete support system for the operation of the 4 Angels Garden. In a physical sense, a successful implementation would materialize in an expansion of the garden itself.

Another more general projected outcome in the context of physical development would be an overall increase in physical spaces dedicated to uses related to food and food security. Because of the greater connectivity between existing entities in both neighborhoods and supportive policy changes, the project could lead to an increase of gardens, grocery stores, farmers markets, and livestock farms in both Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods. Specifically for the gardens, the project is aimed at developing more space for growing using the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund. It is the

belief of this team that highlighting and outlining the key players in food security in each of these neighborhoods and providing recommendations for streamlined strategic partnerships will result in greater ease in the development and maintenance of food related spaces.

Lastly, there are potential environmental impacts that can be expected because of this project. By increasing the availability of produce and other food grocery items in these neighborhoods, the pollution caused by both the transporting of food items into the community from outside sources and by residents using transportation to leave the community in pursuit of food sources would decrease. Activating more vacant space for community and personal gardens can also decrease the risk of flooding by decreasing water runoff and utilizing and storing excess water which is especially important within the context of climate change and the unprecedented flooding seen in District 4 in 2021 (Dubbeling et al.). There are the protected outcomes of greater biodiversity within the ecosystems of both neighborhoods and potential contamination and brownfield clean up.

Economic Development Outcomes

There is the potential for three important economic development outcomes from the project. These include increasing food spending within the neighborhood with an eye towards reducing retail food dollar leakage to options which are located outside of the communities, community ownership at all levels of the food system, and the potential to make the case for increased funding from government, philanthropic, and non-profit entities in service of increased food security and sovereignty. These outcomes provide avenues to building a more robust food system in the study area.

First, a case could be made for pursuing efforts to keep food dollars in the neighborhoods because “growing, processing, and distributing food locally creates and sustains community-based jobs” (Local Food Systems). The research thus far indicates

that two key issues around food dollar leakage in the study areas are limited food buying options, and concerns with price and quality. We hope to provide suggestions for improving current and creating new options which the community can undertake.

Building on the prior point, which is focused more on security than sovereignty, we also plan to look at ways that community ownership of elements of the food system can help the development of greater food sovereignty in the study area. Case studies such as the “Community Grocery” crowdfunded and community-owned store being developed in Jefferson Chalmers (Spruill & Dado) could be a starting point. Including information on the development of the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund and its import in creating more sovereignty on the production side of the food system (Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund) could also be a useful example.

The final economic outcome to provide insight into is the potential for increased funding to communities from city, foundations, federal – related to food security and development. As a result of the primary research, there is a lack of financial support for creating a strategic answer to the question of creating food systems that work well for all communities. Therefore, it is believed that there exists the possibility of creating a systemic response to access to safe, affordable, and healthy food, perhaps modeled loosely on the efforts that have been put in place to encourage investment in creating safe, affordable, and healthy housing options.

Limitations and Impacts

Constraints and Impacts

Yorkshire Woods, and Jefferson Chalmers have never worked together on any sort of project. Connecting these two areas with resources that they both can benefit from will lead to some winning moments. During the pandemic, according to the President of Yorkshire Woods, Mose Primus, the seniors in the area suffered from an inadequate flow of food (Primus). In speaking to some of the residents in both areas, they expressed concerns regarding quality grocery stores in both areas. The subject of a lack of the grocery stores should be what will bring the residents to the table. Jefferson

Social Justice Issues and Project Responses

Chalmers also has a bustling business corridor that Yorkshire Woods could possibly benefit from if their area were to be looked at with an open mind. The two should communicate and partner if not only to learn the ways in which each community could benefit from each other, but how to empower their youth, and get them involved in the food industry. The President of Yorkshire Woods is not fully open to working across those lines with organizations he is not familiar with, but he explained that he has worked with other organizations like Black Development, Northville Stands for Detroit, Detroit Land Bank Authority, Nexus Detroit, and Detroit Future City to conduct business, but outside of that, he likes to find his own way to take care of his community and garner his own resources. The capability to work outside those lines are there if the parties would show interest.

When a community is divested, whether intentionally or not, it creates a lot of unplanned and unforeseen consequences. People living with limitations face a lot of barriers. The obstacles can manifest as the absence to quality education within the community or amenities like libraries and parks, public transportation is minimal and economic

development is not viable and fresh foods or food in general is lacking. District 4 is a community with lots of history: life before the conquest of Detroit, the British and the French, the reconstruction and the present. Within the timeframe of the past, the Ribbon Farms were a lifeline to the community, providing the growers of the community the water that they needed. As climate changes, that same water access has become an excess water issue resulting in flooding concerns. The general impacts have appeared in diverse ways within the district and within each neighborhood. The research demonstrates that there is a stark difference between Jefferson Chalmers (who has been steadily progressing developmentally thanks to financial support from investors and city funds) and Yorkshire Woods (deeply disenfranchised, without anchoring institutions or growing commerce or schools or full-service grocery stores or city sponsored community events).

There is an urgent need and impetus required to level out the resources and the assets in each neighborhood, but more importantly, is to nourish relationships with city officials and elected officials and the residents of the district. It is important for the community to communicate their needs clearly and demand results with clear deadlines and delivery outcomes. This work will help illuminate the situation residents live with daily and without resolve. We will provide guidance to assist residents' pathways to connect with their elected officials and advocate for a safe and healthy community that includes good sources of food accessibility.

Impacts on Diversity and Multiculturalism

There are elements of diversity and multiculturalism that need attention. Diversity for this project and context refrains not only to the human component of diversity (ability, interest, experience), but also the diversity in food – food groups and marketing options: grocery stores, corner convenience store, farmer's markets, and neighborly exchanges. The expectation would be that Jefferson Chalmers continues to expand its commerce options and retain its farmer's markets, outdoor vending, and gardens. Separately, it

would be important for Yorkshire Woods to gain some outdoor vending opportunities, enhancing the diversity of the neighborhood and exposing its residents to other cultures, foods, and flavors. The fabric of both communities is changing, mostly Jefferson Chalmers for now, as the neighborhood is absorbed in development. Residents benefit from change, but they can also lose the identity of the community they have carefully crafted throughout generations. Development practitioners need to be very mindful of the diversity and the multiculturalism present in each neighborhood and do everything in their power and more, to protect the culture of the community. It is inevitable to avoid the infiltration of outsiders because it is an opportunity of growth.

Impacts on Regional Development

The partnership/policy hybrid model could have positive impacts on the regional development in Detroit. Throughout research for this Capstone, it is obvious that food security and sovereignty are issues throughout the region. Since the start of the pandemic, Gleaner's Food Bank, which services all of metro Detroit, increased their distribution of food, now up to 7 million pounds per month versus the 3.4-4 million pounds pre-pandemic (Lange). By continuing to strengthen partnerships, develop new partnerships and implement policy and legislation that truly addresses food security and sovereignty in Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods, these models could then potentially be implemented in other neighborhoods and communities. Policies and legislation could have positive impacts on other communities, setting precedents or encompassing the entire regional area. While all neighborhoods and communities do not face the same exact challenges with regards to food access, food production and land ownership, the work done in Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods could serve as a starting point for other communities and neighborhoods. Ensuring access to safe, healthy, reasonably priced foods and having a say in how that food is grown, produced, and marketed can benefit everyone, in every community and neighborhood.

Influence of Public Policy and External Forces

Our research has led us to the conclusion that there are opportunities for the development of public policies and organizational partnerships that can serve to create viable food systems where none exist, strengthen those where the work has been started, and improvements on several levels in support of greater food sovereignty across the board. Public policies targeting the need for safe, affordable, and accessible housing might provide an example for how similar programs can be designed to address the issue of food insecurity. Partnerships between organizations, both public and private, have the potential to make the work more efficient, leading to attainable impacts.

While there are challenges with implementing this project, from helping residents form relationships with each other to maintaining cultural identity in both neighborhoods to garnering funding for projects in both Yorkshire Woods and Jefferson Chalmers, we do believe that the positives far outweigh any negatives. There are a lot of opportunities for both neighborhoods to develop their own systems for food security and sovereignty and ensure that their residents have access to healthy, safe, culturally appropriate, and affordable food.

Conclusion

“All human beings, regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status have the right to adequate food and the right to be free from hunger.” (United Nations (UN))

The right to food is recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of the right to an adequate standard of living and is enshrined in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. (UN) However, we know that access to affordable, safe, and sustainable food remains a challenge to many across the globe as well as right here in Detroit.

Some problems with food systems are similar around the world, some are unique to certain geographical locations. Many problems are systemic, some are unique to a given location. Systemic issues include lack of access to the means of production such as land and capital. More localized and unique issues may include local and regional politics, the state of a locale’s economy, community capacity, and more.

We focused on Detroit in general, and two neighborhoods in District 4 specifically – Jefferson Chalmers and Yorkshire Woods – because of the geographical proximity, but also the disparate amounts of support they have received from the city and philanthropic sources to date. However, it is important to note that Detroit also has many people and organizations working across the city building a more safe, sustainable, and sovereign food system. Much of that work is being done by long-time Detroiters and some is being done by people and organizations from outside of Detroit. For our project, we have chosen to focus on the work done by long-time Detroit residents.

The Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) is perhaps one of the most prolific of the organizations working in this arena currently. Their projects include the establishment of the D-Town farm in Rouge Park and the soon-to-break-ground People’s Detroit Food Co-op (DPFC). The DBCFSN also collaborates with other organizations to initiate other projects such as the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund (DBFLF), which was founded in 2019 and DBCFSN also served as the launch platform for our community partner for this project, the Detroit Food Policy Council. DBCFSN stands as a formidable model of food sovereignty work in Detroit.

Understanding the scope and efficacy of the work already being done in Detroit led us to focus our research and recommendations here. We strove to document current conditions regarding the food systems here and offer recommendations that we believe will support and enhance initiatives already in place and working well in the community while encouraging continued innovation. Ultimately, we offer recommendations geared toward creating more access to, agency over, and sovereignty of the food system in Detroit for those who have been here leading the way already.

Our research found a community that faces significant challenges yet is able to constantly innovate and is already building the food system that is appropriate for its members. A community that has shown the ability to make great strides with government and philanthropic support but could do even more were additional resources made available to them. And a community that is replete with collaboration, yet one that may benefit more people by increasing efforts to include underrepresented and under-resourced neighborhoods throughout the city.

Our three recommendations range in scope from Federal & State policies to local government and community linkages to support deeper food systems development, to neighborhood-to-neighborhood partnerships designed to create mutually beneficial food access outcomes. Our first proposal suggests developing a national policy designed to incentivize development of federal “Affordable Food System” policy loosely modeled after national affordable housing policy. Our second policy proposal encourages greater coordination between the Detroit Land Bank Authority and Detroiters who are interested in utilizing vacant lots in the city for urban agriculture projects. And our third proposal looks to encourage neighborhood to neighborhood cooperation as a means to speed the development of food resources in areas that have not yet seen significant investment from government or philanthropic organizations, while increasing the capacity and efficacy of those neighborhoods that have enjoyed a higher level of support historically.

It is our hope that this work will not only add to the body of work in this area that already exists and will be of use to those who have done so much already, and those who will continue to do more in the future. The information contained in this report, while current at the time of publication, represents only a snapshot in time of the dynamic food systems work happening in Detroit. In addition, while we attempted to include as many

relevant assets and actors as possible, it does not seem possible to create a fully comprehensive list of all people, organizations, and more that are involved in this work, and we sincerely apologize for any omissions on our part. We would like to thank all those who assisted us in this work, community members, advisors, civic leaders, and our community partner – the Detroit Food Policy Council.

Appendix

Memorandum of Understanding



UDM School of Architecture | Master of Community Development

MCD 5900/5950 Capstone I Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Between

Detroit Food Policy Council - DFPC (Party A)

and

MCD Capstone Team – Food Security and Sovereignty in Detroit (Party B)

This is an agreement between “Party A”, hereinafter called DFPC and “Party B”, hereinafter called Capstone Team.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to Party B partnering with Party A for the academic purpose of completing the University of Detroit Mercy’s Master of Community Development Capstone Project.

In particular, this MOU is intended to:

- Enhance the experience for both Parties A and B throughout the process
- Increase the likelihood of positive outcomes for both parties
- Establish clear boundaries of understanding regarding the academic nature of the partnership
- Clarify any misconceptions on the part of either party

II. BACKGROUND

DFPC is an advisory, monitoring and implementation body that is committed to nurturing the development and maintenance of a food-secure Detroit in which all its residents are hunger-free, healthy and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives. The DFPC is a resident-driven organization and is governed by a 21-member board (including twelve (12) representatives from various sectors of the Food System, six (6) "at-large" representatives and three (3) governmental representatives, one each from the Mayor's Office, City Council and The Department of Health and Wellness Promotion (DHWP)) that operates on a consensus decision making model. Their values are Justice, Respect, Integrity, Inclusion and Transparency. The DFPC was established in 2009 by unanimous approval of The Detroit City Council. The DFPC operates as a 501c3 non-profit organization.

The Capstone Team is comprised of five students who have completed all the required in-class coursework for a Master of Community Development. They must now complete a comprehensive final Capstone project, presentation, and Capstone book.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU for DFPC

DFPC shall undertake the following activities:

- Support the Capstone Team throughout the Capstone process from June 2021 through December 2021

- Provide introductions to various community organizations which currently or previously have worked directly with DFPC
- Develop a process of communication with the Capstone Team that allows for the Capstone Team to have the best access to DFPC's practices and procedures
- Share any information that DFPC considers pertinent to the Capstone Team's process
- Refer the Capstone Team to any community or local activities that may impact the outcomes of the Capstone Team's findings
- Promote the activities of the Capstone Team as they work through the development of their final project, presentation, and Capstone book
- Refer the Capstone Team to any organizations or local community figures that may have an impact on the Team's outcomes
- Evaluate the Team's performance throughout the process

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU for the Capstone Team

The Capstone Team shall undertake the following activities:





- Develop a work plan in conjunction with DFPC
- Share any information gathered relevant to the project with DFPC
- Support DFPC in their efforts to move forward with the project selected by the Capstone Team

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be in effect upon the signature of Party A's and Party B's authorized officials. It shall be in force from June 2021 to December 2021.

Parties A and B indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

Signatures and dates:

DFPC	Capstone Team
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tanyia Perry</i> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Klu</i> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Taylor Thorn</i> </p>

6/17/21
Date

June 14, 2021
Date

Full name of organization/community partner:	Detroit Food Policy Council
Address:	1420 Washington Blvd., Suite 230, Detroit, MI 48226
Contact person(s) at organization/community partner:	Winona Bynum, Executive Director
Email address(es) and phone number(s) of contact person(s):	Winona@DetroitFoodPC.org 313-833-0396 Ext.502

Food System Policy Resource Guide

This guide includes resources and tools that can be used in the development of food system policy. It is intended for informational use only.



Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market
—Katie Carlisle

DETROIT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

- Detroit Food Policy Council – An organization committed in addressing education, advocacy and policy. The organization operates seven committees and hosts bi-monthly meetings providing the public an opportunity to learn about their work and provide feedback, participate and get engaged.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATES OF DETROIT

- Membership organization for community development and neighborhood improvement groups, enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of its members and Detroit residents through advocacy, training, technical assistance, information sharing, education, and facilitating common action. www.cdad-online.org
 - Become a Member www.cdad-online.org/become-a-member

DISTRICT 4 COUNCILWOMAN LATISHA JOHNSON

- Council members approve certain mayoral appointments, pass ordinances and adopt the budget, among other tasks. It is important for residents to establish and nurture relationships with elected officials and advocate for community and individual needs while protecting community interests and culture. Official councilmember website not available yet
 - www.latishajohnson.com

NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDERS GROUP

- Create inspiring organizing spaces for funders to explore shifting power and money in philanthropy towards justice and equity. You can connect and learn more about their work and find ways to incorporate their approach to Detroit initiatives
 - www.nfg.org

COMMUNITY MOVEMENT BUILDERS

- A member based collective of Black people dedicated to being a force for creating sustainable self-determining communities through cooperative economic advancement and collective community organizing. Their mission is rooted in Black love and equity. There is a chapter in Detroit.
 - www.communitymovementbuilders.org/about.html

POVERTY SOLUTIONS- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- The mission of Poverty Solutions is to partner with communities and policymakers to find new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty.
 - www.poverty.umich.edu

This document was created by masters students in the University of Detroit Mercy Master of Community Development program in 2021 and is intended for informational use only. For more information on the MCD program, visit www.architecture.udmercy.edu/programs/mcd.php.

DLBA Vacant Lot Activation Resource Guide

This guide includes resources and tools that can be used in the activation of DLBA-owned vacant lots. It is intended for informational use only.



Detroit Arboretum Nursery

DLBA SIDE LOT PROGRAM

- Side Lots can be purchased by residents who live directly adjacent to the for sale lot for \$100. There is no compliance period. Restrictions apply.
 - www.buildingdetroit.org/sidelots

DLBA NEIGHBORHOOD LOT PROGRAM

- Neighborhood Lots can be purchased for \$250. Eligible purchasers are those who live within 500 feet of the lot in question, and are required to have a Principal Residency Exemption for their property. There is a three year compliance period for these lots, and purchasers are required to have endorsement by a DLBA-registered Community Partner.
 - www.buildingdetroit.org/sidelots/index/neighborhood

DLBA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

- Program that allows community development and faith-based organizations to become Community Partners within the DLBA, with the ability to endorse resident applications for DLBA-owned vacant land purchases, as well as the ability to purchase up to 9 lots from DLBA.
 - www.buildingdetroit.org/community-partnership

DETROIT BLACK FARMER LAND FUND

- Provides financial assistance for Black Detroiters wanting to purchase land for gardening and farming.
 - www.detroitblackfarmer.com

DLBA CREATE A PROJECT PROGRAM

- Residents may submit applications to the City of Detroit for properties that are not currently for sale, or are not eligible to the applicant, through the DLBA.
 - DLBA Create a Project:
www.buildingdetroit.org/create-a-project
 - City of Detroit Property Purchase Application:
www.detroitmi.gov/webapp/property-application

KEEP GROWING DETROIT

- Nonprofit organization that offers resources, support, and guidance for residents interested in purchasing and maintaining land for food growth, production, and sale.
 - Webinar - "Purchasing Land for your Garden"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOmf56n4r1U&ab_channel=KeepGrowingDetroit
 - Land and Policy Support and Resource Program:
www.detroitagriculture.net

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Cross-Neighborhood Partnerships Resource Guide

This guide includes resources and tools that can be used to strengthen cross-neighborhood partnerships. It is intended for informational use only.



ECO WORKS-YOUTH ENERGY SQUAD (YES)

- YES partners with local K-12 schools imparting a curriculum infused with green initiatives and prepares students to develop a school garden. Students learn about food and how to create balanced meals using vegetables and fruits. There are three programs that operate out the YES: Go Green Challenge, Summer Program, and the Leadership Institute.
 - www.youthenergysquad.org

JEFFERSON CHALMERS CITIZEN'S DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Since 1972, this group's mission has been to improve the quality of life of the Jefferson Chalmers citizens promoting community control & ownership.
 - www.facebook.com/Jefferson-Chalmers-Citizens-District-Council-493907147449149

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS - DISTRICT MANAGER

- Provides a direct link between the City of Detroit and block clubs, community groups, business owners, faith and school leaders, and everyday residents.
 - www.detroitmi.gov/departments/departments-neighborhoods/district-4

DISTRICT 4 COUNCILPERSON LATISHA JOHNSON

- Council members approve certain mayoral appointments, pass ordinances and adopt the budget, among other tasks. It is important for residents to establish and nurture relationships with elected officials and advocate for community and individual needs while protecting community interests and culture. This office should also assist with developing and establishing block clubs.
 - www.latishajohnson.com

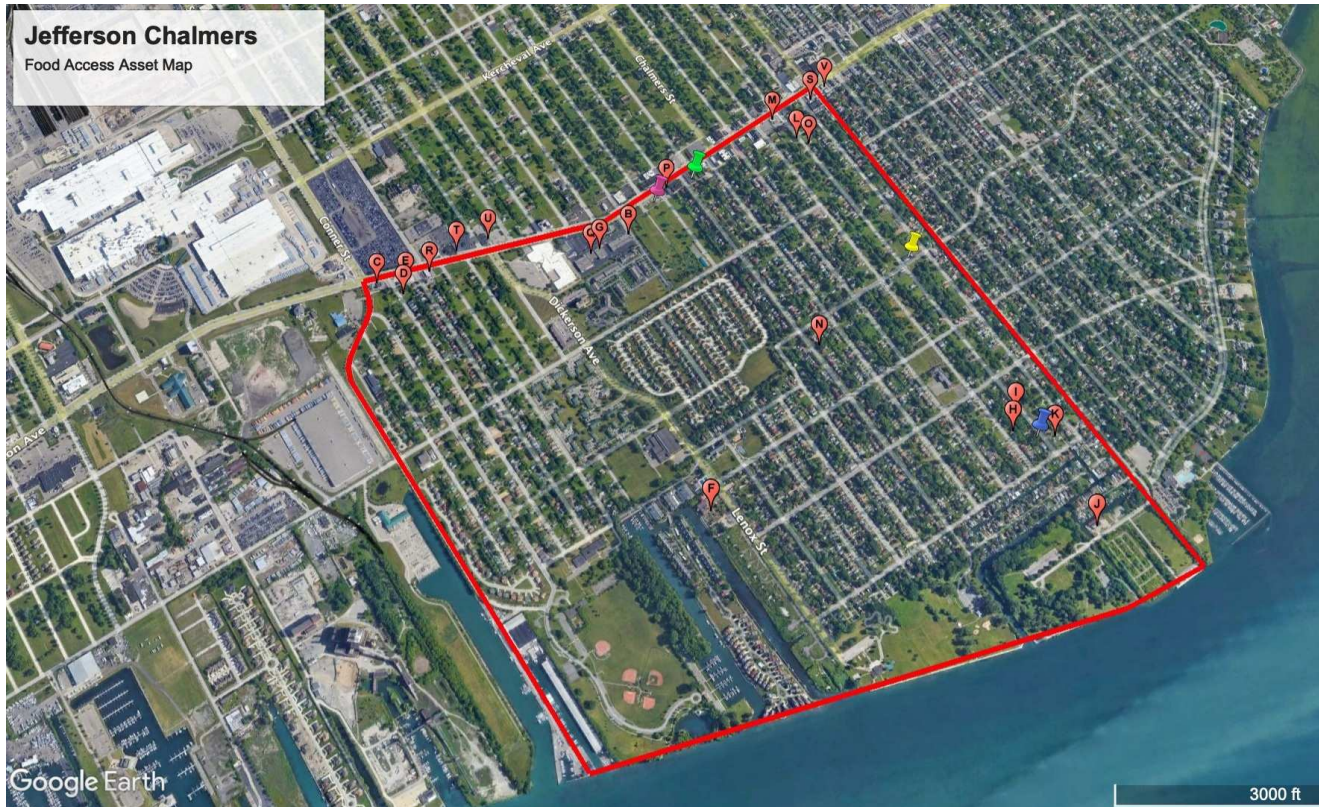
DETROIT ECONOMIC GROWTH CORPORATION

- The City's economic development catalyst, DEGC's mission is to design and implement innovative solutions that attract investment, create jobs and advanced Detroit's economy for all residents. If you're a business looking to expand in the city or make Detroit your home, DEGC is the first step on your path to success. Dedicated to inclusive economic development, DEGC is working to reduce inequality that can be barriers to economic opportunity.
 - www.degc.org

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Jefferson Chalmers

Food Access Asset Map



Existing Assets

Marker	Name	Address	Description
A	Subway	14820 E Jefferson Ave	Restaurant
B	Dynasty Chinese	13340 E Jefferson Ave	Restaurant
C	Joseph's Coney Island	12500 E Jefferson Ave	Restaurant
D	EastEats	1018 Navahoe St	Restaurant
E	Gingerberry	12626 E Jefferson Ave	Restaurant
F	ISKCON Detroit	383 Lenox St	Religious temple with Free Meal Program
G	Dollar Tree	13240 E Jefferson Ave	Retail
H	Birdwatchers Garden	244 Philip St	Native Plant Garden

Marker	Name	Address	Description
I	Creative Empowerment Garden	259 Manistique St	Community Garden
J	Coriander Kitchen & Farm	14601 Riverside Blvd	Restaurant
K	Manistique Community Garden	214 Manistique St	Community Garden
L	Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market	901 Manistique St	Farmers Market
M	Norma G's Detroit	14828 E Jefferson Ave	Restaurant
N	Chrissy'z Garden	472 Lakewood St	Community Garden
O	Feedom Freedom Growers	866 Manistique St	Community Garden
P	Perry's Check Cashing	14208 E Jefferson Ave	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
Q	Motor City Smoothies Co.	13222 E Jefferson Ave	Restaurant
R	Riverside Liquor Store	12706 E Jefferson Ave	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
S	Mobil Gas Station	14820 E Jefferson Ave	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
T	Dollar General	12815 E Jefferson Ave	Retail
U	CVS	12907 E Jefferson Ave	Retail, Accepts SNAP/WIC
V	Marathon Gas Station	14900 E Jefferson Ave	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC

Planned Developments

Marker	Name	Address	Description
Yellow Pin	Neighborhood Grocery	500 Manistique St	Planned crowdfunded grocery store
Blue Pin	Community Treehouse Center	225 Manistique St	Planned community center
Green Pin	Detroit Soul	14300 E Jefferson Ave	Planned restaurant
Pink Pin	Grocery Store	14100 E Jefferson Ave	Planned grocery store

Yorkshire Woods

Food Access Asset Map



Existing Assets

Marker	Name	Address	Description
A	4 Angels Community Garden	9745 Kensington Ave	Community Garden
B	Vogue Market	9200 Cadieux Rd	Restaurant
C	Happy's Pizza	11025 Morang Ave	Restaurant
D	Gift of a Helping Hand	11101 Morang Ave	Charity, Food Pantry
E	Sunoco Gas Station	11535 Morang Ave	Gas Station and Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
F	L&T Food Center	10240 Whittier Ave	Grocery and Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC

Marker	Name	Address	Description
G	Valentino's Deluxe Coney Island	11001 Morang Ave	Restaurant
H	Meech Catering	10130 Duprey St	Catering Company
I	N&A Market	9500 Whittier Ave	Small Grocery Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
J	D&K Ice Cream and Chicken	11300 Whittier Ave	Restaurant
K	Whittier Mini Market	10542 Whittier Ave	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
L	Morang Market	10644 Morang Ave	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
M	Lucky Seven	11050 Morang	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC
N	Holiday House Wine Shop	11200 Morang Ave	Convenience Store, Accepts SNAP/WIC

Planned Developments

Marker	Name	Address	Description
Yellow Pin	Soul 2Go Ribs and Chicken Restaurant	9900 Whittier Ave	Planned Restaurant
Blue Pin	The Meeting Place Art and Cultural Café	11036 Whittier Ave	Planned Cafe

GLOSSARY

FOOD SECURITY

Having sufficient food and financial access all the time in order to ensure a healthy and productive life

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

People reclaiming power over their food supply by rebuilding relationship with the land and with the food producers

DBCFSN

Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

DBFLF

Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund

DFPC

Detroit Food Policy Council

DLBA

Detroit Land Bank Authority

SNAP

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

WIC

Within SNAP, particularly focused on providing assistance for Women, Infants, and Children

Blank Survey

Food Security Survey *University of Detroit–Mercy - Masters of Community Development program 2021*

Demographics

- What is your age?
- How do you describe your race?
- How do you describe your gender?
- Number of people living in the household
- o Are there people under 18 in the household?
- Do you reside in District 4? Yes or no
- o If so, in which neighborhood?
- Do you receive food assistance?
- o If so, which ones

▪
Cash Assistance

▪
Food stamps (SNAP)

▪
Women, Infant and Children (WIC)

Shopping habits

- Where do you do the majority of your food shopping?
- o Within the neighborhood
- o In Detroit, but outside of the neighborhood
- o Outside of Detroit
- Where do you get your food from? Check all that apply.
- Big name grocery stores (Kroger, Meijer, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Spartan Foods, Aldi)
- Small neighborhood grocery stores
- Farmer's Markets (East Warren Farmers Market, Jefferson Chalmers Farmers Market, Eastern Market, etc.)
- Community Gardens
- Home Garden
- Neighbors/Community Organizations (Food drives, church giveaways, neighbor-to-neighbor)
- Other: _____

- What is the main reason you choose to shop where you purchase the majority of your food?
- o Convenience
- o Price
- o Products in stock
- o Other _____

- How satisfied are you with your shopping options?
- o 1 2 3 4 5 (1= very DISSASTIFIED, 5= very satisfied)

Growing Food, purchasing locally grown produce

- Do you grow any food (fruits, vegetables, livestock) for your own use or to sell?
- o If not, would you be interested in growing your own?
 - o If so, is there any support (materials, space, knowledge sharing, etc.) that you would need to be able to begin growing your own food?
- Is there a community garden in your area? Yes or No
- o Do you consume the produce from the community garden? If not, why not.
- Do you use food grown or produced by your neighbors?

o If so, how do you obtain it? (purchased or gifted)

Food Production

• How do you feel about moderately sized urban farms within the city?

o 1 2 3 4 5 (1= strongly dislike, 5= strongly like)

o Why do you feel that way?

• How do you feel about neighbors keeping small livestock within the city?

o 1 2 3 4 5 (1= strongly dislike, 5= strongly like)

o Why do you feel that way?

(more questions on the back – turn over please)

Land Acquisition

Are you familiar with the Detroit Land Bank Authority programs:

A. Side Lot (\$100 lots, adjacent to purchaser)

Yes or No

B. Neighborhood Lot (\$250, primary residence must be within 500ft of lot, purchase requires endorsement by local organization that is an approved community partner)

Yes or No

SWOT assessment of food shopping options in the study area

• What are the best things about the food shopping options in your neighborhood?

• What are some of the biggest challenges to getting the food items you want in the neighborhood?

• What would increase your satisfaction food shopping in your neighborhood?

• What are the barriers while food shopping in the neighborhood?

What changes would you like to see in your shopping options?

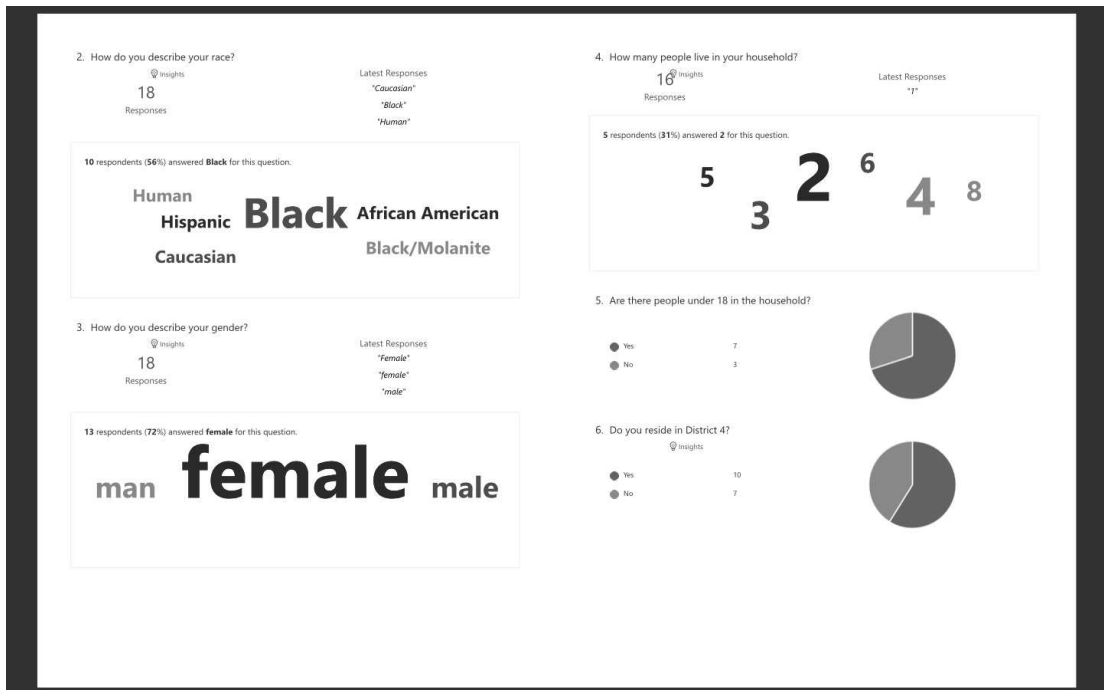
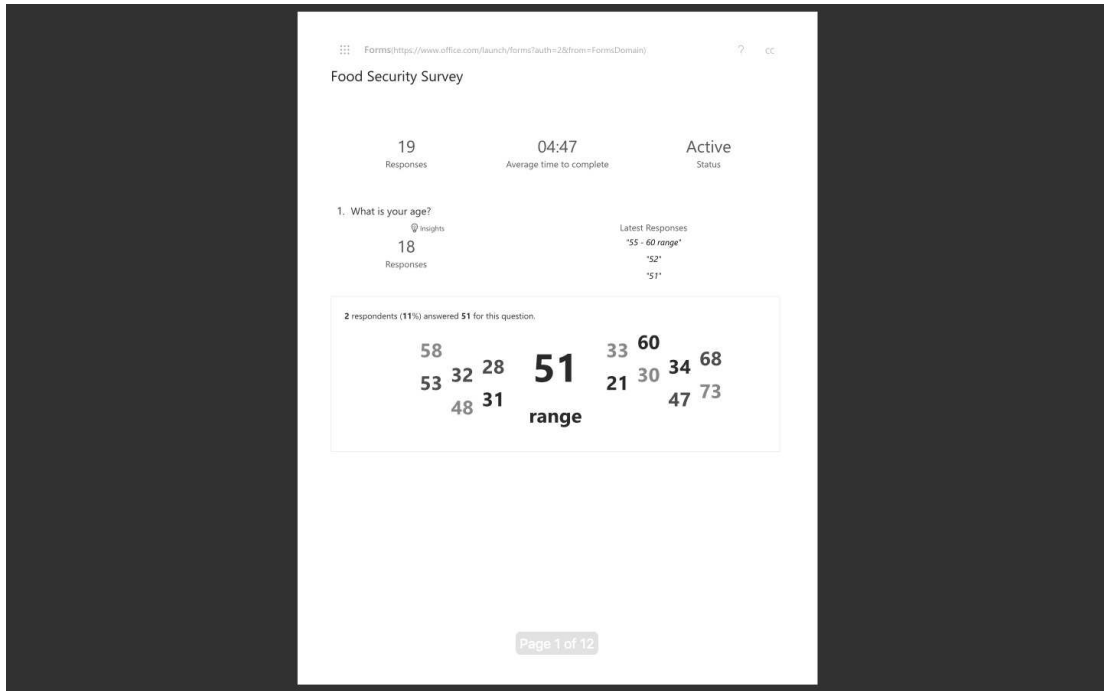
• (Open ended question – record answers)

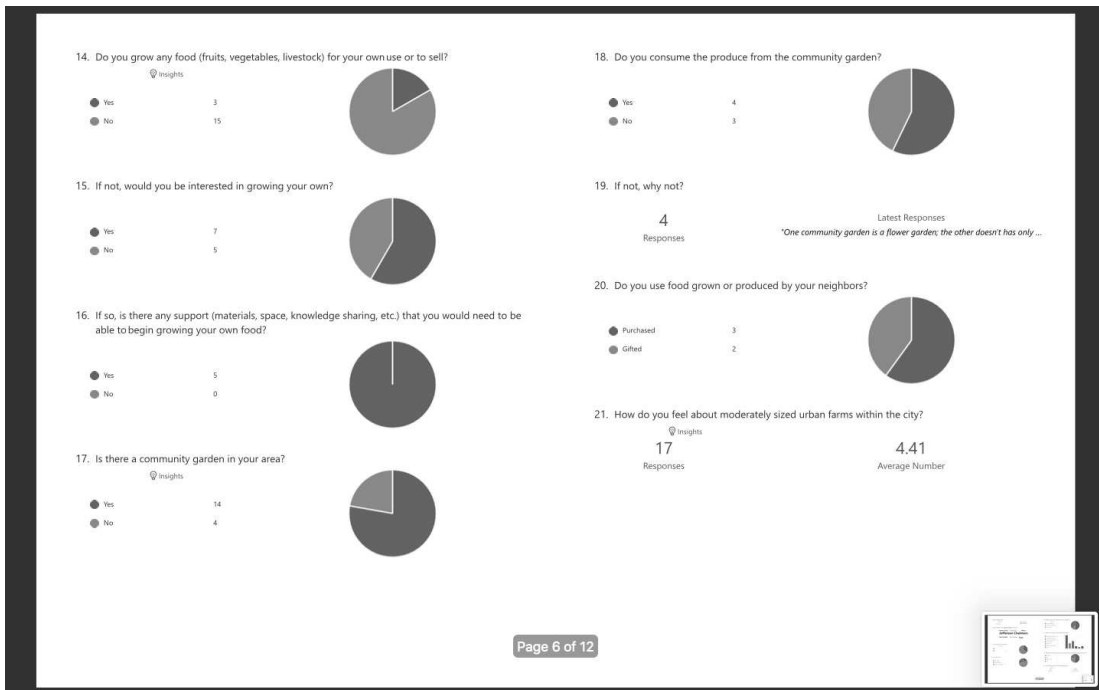
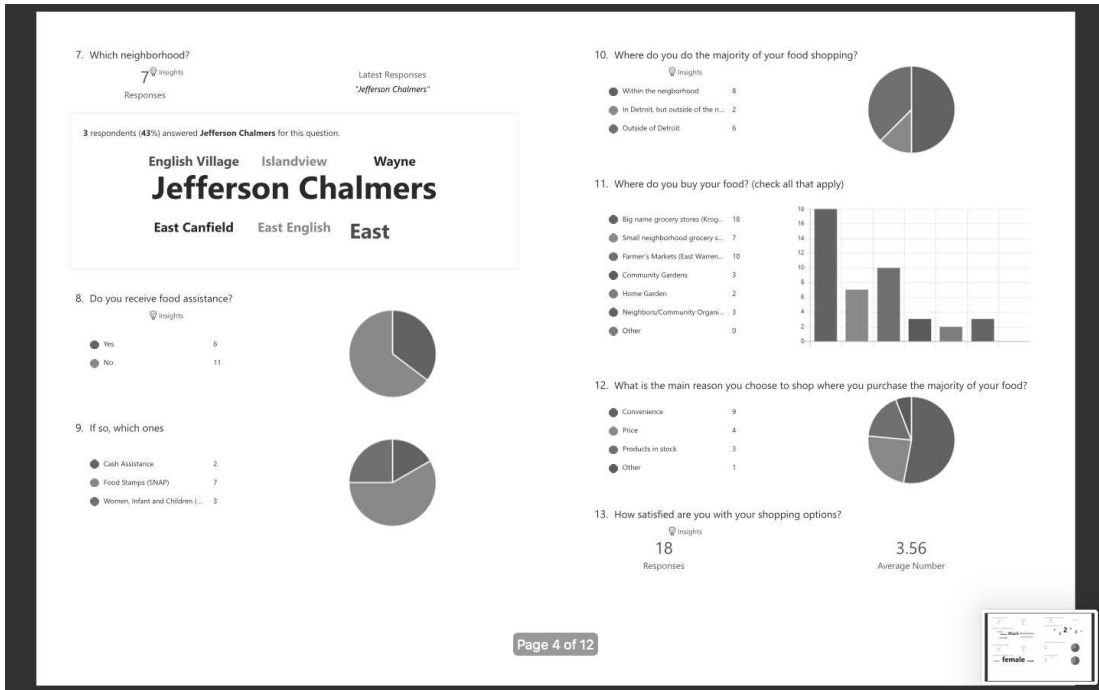
Any other thoughts that you'd like to share about shopping for food in your neighborhood?

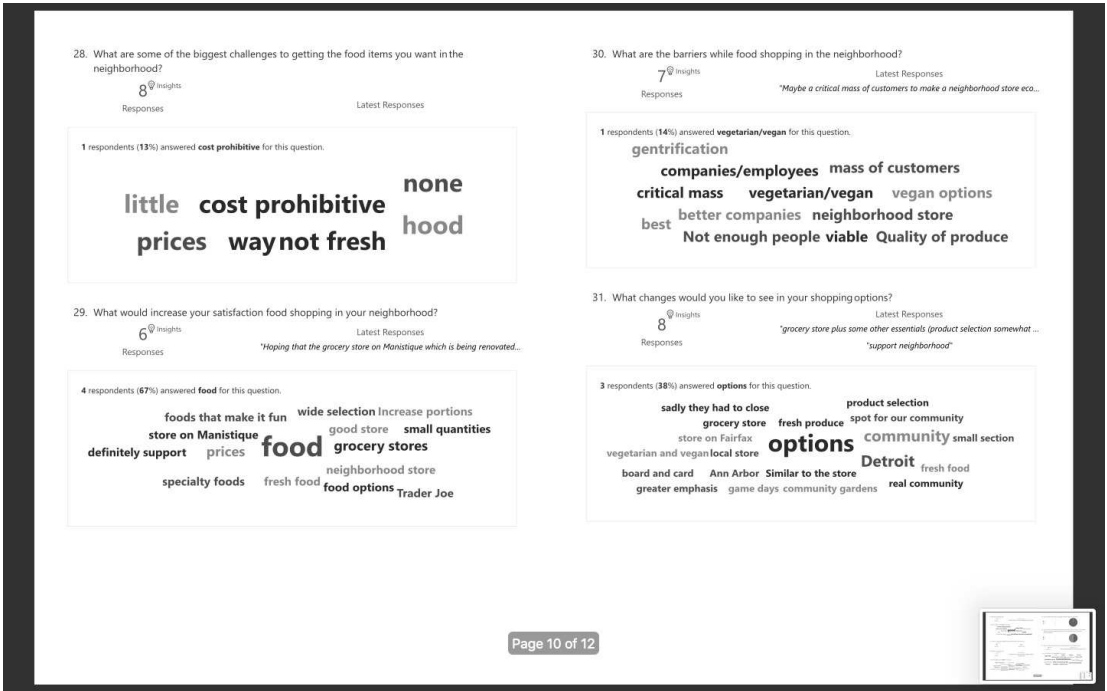
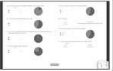
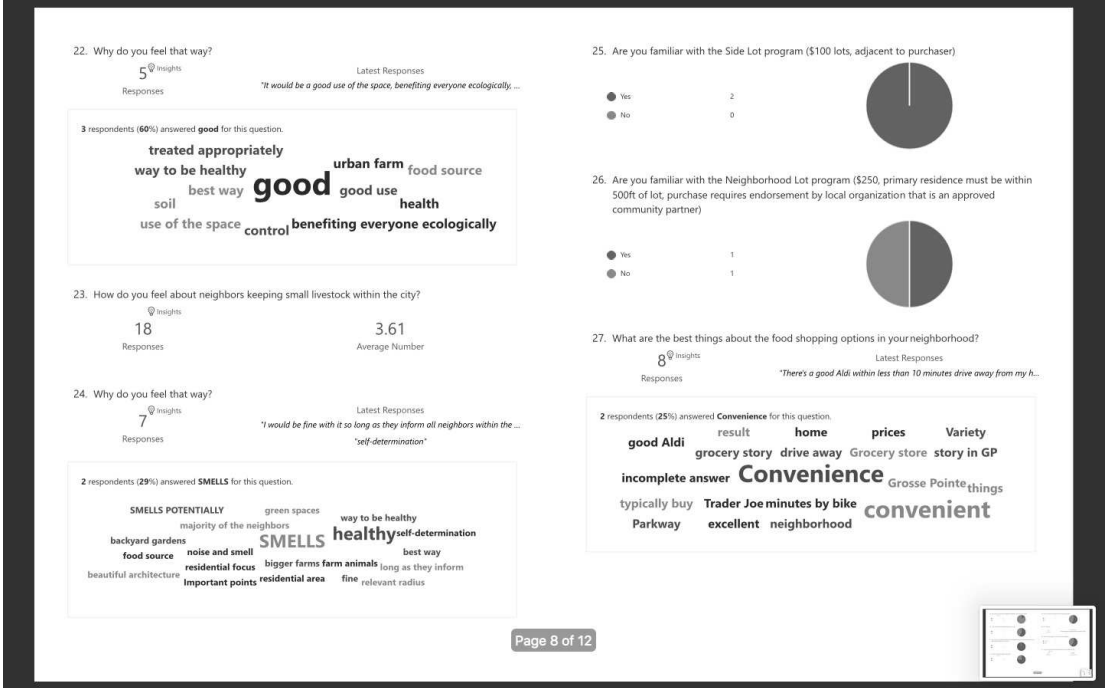
• (Open ended question – record answers)

Thank you for your time! We hope that the work we're doing, and that you just helped us with by taking the time to take this survey, will be helpful in improving the food shopping options available to the community.

Survey Results







32. Any other thoughts that you'd like to share about shopping for food in your neighborhood?

8 
Responses

Latest Responses

1 respondents (13%) answered **smell in the stores** for this question.

community no care meat organic
goal smell in the stores
garden bad timefood system

33. Would you like to provide any additional comments?

0
Responses

Latest Responses



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