

# **WHAT YOU'VE SHARED**

**Brightmoor Area Framework Plan  
Community Focus Group: Urban Agriculture  
April 19, 2023**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Overview
- Community Feedback Summary
- Discussion

# DISCUSSION

APRIL 19, 2023

## **What is working today?**

- Lots of land
- Community Fridge on Greyfield
- Families are being fed through urban ag (150 families from on farm)
- Community greenhouse
- Toolbank
- Eliza Howell Park
- Proximity to Rouge River
- Fresh produce
- Pollinators
- Job creation
- Resource Pools (ie Keep Growing Detroit, MSU)
- Biodiversity/Bioretenion
- Strong Community
- Rain gardening
- Contribution to beautification
- Improves quality of life
- Access to neighborhood lots
- Brightmoor Artisan Collective (growers can sell their product in their farmers market or cafe)

## **What is not working today?**

- Wildlife (ie rats groundhogs deer coyotes)
- Zoning
- Dead Trees
- Land Access/Ownership (holds)
- Flooding
- Dumping

# DISCUSSION

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- Vacant Land Maintenance
- Miseducation of what is permitted for gardens/farms
- Blight tickets harming residents who are taking care of the land
- Animal husbandry is needed
- Sewage cost for watering the garden/farm

## **What are your concerns for the future?**

- Use of eminent domain
- Affordability of housing/land
- Developers
- Contamination of soil/water
- Retention ponds
- Gentrification
- Viability of land
- Brightmoor remaining a urban ag hub
- Animal ordinance not passing
- Stormwater plans interfering with garden locations (ie daylighting the creeks)
- Land that is currently on hold
- Displacement
- Taxation of gardens/farms
- Relationship w/ city (the city seeing urban ag as valuable)

## **What are your ideas for the future?**

- Public trash cans
- Change zoning to allow agriculture
- Model for composting/recycling
- Material repurposing (using down trees for sculpture)

# DISCUSSION

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- Swimming in the Rouge River
- Connectivity between farms
- Increasing home/land ownership
- Improving vacant lot maintenance
- Livestock ordinance
- Thoughtful community driven development
- Grants and other resources for farm start ups
- Community greenhouse funding
- Low income housing
- Sewage reform so that farmers are not charged so much to maintain gardens/farms
- Soil testing done by the city
- Garden hubs to share knowledge and experience
- Organized hunts of deer (see Ann Arbor)
- Farmstead incubator project for BIPOC farmers
- Formal network connecting individuals and organizations
- Urban gardens being used as natural gathering and community spaces
- Streamline city permit process
- Youth involvement
- Promote connection between urban ag, health education and nutrition
- Rainwater collection