

Nurturing Roots, Growing Greener: The Story of Farm City Detroit

A Journey Towards Sustainability

Maria Largacha, EMG

In the heart of Old Redford, where abandoned lots once stood, now thrives a beacon of vitality and community spirit - Farm City Detroit. Spearheaded by Maria Largacha, an MSU Extension Master Gardener, and a dedicated team of volunteers, this



Figure 2 Raised beds (54) for Vegetable growing

initiative embodies the mission of cultivating a thriving neighborhood in Detroit. Part of the larger Detroit Blight Busters effort, Farm City



Figure 1 In ground lot- Vegetables & Flowers

Detroit collaborates in the mission of revitalizing

neighborhoods. With more than 30 years of experience, Detroit Blight Busters has been serving Northwest Detroit, leading efforts to revitalize communities and eliminate blight. Since its inception in 2018, Farm City Detroit has evolved into a vibrant hub of sustainability. Supported by more than 400 volunteers annually and dedicated community members, our initiative has transformed into thriving urban gardens that reflect the richness of our neighborhood with a diverse array of fruits, vegetables, and herbs. We thrive through collaboration with local businesses, colleges, high schools, neighbors, and corporate volunteers, cultivating vibrant green spaces that benefit our entire community.

Mission in Motion

Our mission extends far beyond growing fruits and vegetables. We aim to provide fresh, nutritious food accessible to all within the neighborhood, free of charge, while fostering positive community engagement through collaborative initiatives. The farm serves as a living classroom, where hands-on experiences forge deep connections with nature and food sources.



Figure 3 Counting 1500 heads of fresh garlic! Our 2023 harvest!

A Blossoming Journey: From Seed to Harvest



Figure 5 New Pollinator Garden, Summer 2023

In addition to our vegetable garden, Farm City Detroit has expanded its focus to include a pollinator garden, located where once stood an abandoned house. This garden serves as a vital habitat for wildlife and is being further enhanced with an additional 170 native plants, thanks to a generous grant from a nonprofit organization. Furthermore, we're excited to announce the establishment of a new orchard, planted in December. While the orchard is dedicated to supporting pollinators, it also serves multiple purposes, including providing fresh fruit for the neighborhood. These initiatives mark a significant step in our commitment to supporting pollinator populations and promoting biodiversity in our community. Over the years, we have worked tirelessly to increase ecological diversity, adding more native vegetation, flowering perennials, and annual flowers to attract "good bugs" and create a balanced ecosystem. Additionally, we dedicate efforts to amending our soil to ensure optimal conditions for plant growth and sustainability.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to see these efforts come to fruition as we witness the growth and flourishing of our habitats for native wildlife and orchards. These projects not only provide essential resources for insects but also contribute to the overall health and resilience of our ecosystem and community.



Figure 4 Volunteers on a sunny Saturday morning!



Figure 6 Another Saturday another adventure in Detroit!

To learn more about Farm City Detroit and how you can get involved, visit our website at



www.detroitblightbusters.org/farm-city-detroit
or follow us on social media [[@FarmCityDetroit](https://twitter.com/FarmCityDetroit)].