Brightmoor Garden Project

Urban Gardening and Farming in Detroit

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Brightmoor Garden Project
Cooperators

- Michigan State University Potato Breeding & Genetics
  - Dave Douches, Joe Coombs, Jay Estelle, Devin Berry and Chris Long

- Michigan State University Extension
  - Garry Bulluck

- Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development, Inc.
  - John O’Brien, Mike Lauchlan, Byron Long

- The Greening of Detroit
  - Ashley Atkinson

- State House Representative District 10
  - Gabe Leland
Brightmoor Garden Project

- John O’Brien, Paul Betts and Representative Gabe Leland contacted Dave Douches in January 2007 about developing a community garden project for the Brightmoor area of Detroit.

- A project concept was initiated using potato as an anchor crop in the urban gardening concept.
Brightmoor Garden Project

- Based on the hypothesis that having a tie with the earth creates a responsibility with individuals.

- We are developing urban gardening and farming in a socially and economically challenged area of Detroit.

- We are proposing the placement of large scale community vegetable (e.g. potato, sweet potato, tomato, pepper, squash, etc.) gardens in the Brightmoor community. Experimental studies within the potato plots will be conducted for assessment of viability and determination of lines for an urban garden model.
Initial Brightmoor Site Visit

March 28, 2007
Proposed Brightmoor garden sites:
circled sites chosen for 2007

- Trinity Street site
- Eliza Howell Park
John O’Brien, Dave Douches and Paul Betts at Lahser Street site
Proposed Community Garden site on Trinity St.: reclaimed city lot with burned house removed
New construction homes
by Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development
on Trinity Street south of garden site
Eliza Howell Park Site

Potato Planting

May 18, 2007
Jay Estelle opening rows for potato planting
MSU potato team planting at Eliza Howell site
Trinity Site

Potato and Garden Plot Planting in Beds with Berkley High School Student Volunteers
May 29, 2007
Garden bed construction and vegetable planting
Eliza Howell Park Site

Mowing and Garden Plot Planting
with Murphy Middle School Students
8th Grade Science Class
June 1, 2007
Mowing around the field at the Eliza Howell Park Site
Murphy Middle School students planting community garden plots at Eliza Howell Site
Eliza Howell Park and Trinity Sites

Potato Hilling
Sweet corn and Sunflower planting
June 7, 2007
New Sites Added in June

- O’Shea Recreation Center
  - Jacqueline Sledge, Director

- Lasher Rd and Pilgrim Streets

- June tilling and planting
  - Potatoes, Green snap beans, Collards, Broccoli, etc.
New Sites: O’Shea Rec Center and Lahser Rd
Tending and Maintenance during the growing season

- Weekly visits for more later planting, tending and maintaining plots
- Weeding, mowing, etc.
- Harvest and distribution of vegetables
Early Tablestock Harvest

- Eliza Howell Park
- ~ 2,000 lbs potatoes harvested
- 27 September 2007
- Murphy Middle School students
- O’Shea Recreation Center students
- Variety evaluation
Tablestock Harvest

- Eliza Howell Park
- > 4,500 lbs potatoes harvested
- 19 October 2007
- Volunteers from the Detroit Project
Chip-processing Harvest

- Eliza Howell Park
- > 6,000-7,000 lbs potatoes harvested
- 1 November 2007
- Chip-processed at Jenkins Foods, Inc., Uncle Ray’s Chips, Detroit, MI
Eliza Howell Park

Urban Farming and Student Garden

- Potatoes
  - >1 acre of tablestock and chip-processing varieties
- Tomato
- Eggplant
- Sweet potato
- Squash, Zucchini, Pumpkins, etc.
- Cucumbers
- Collards
- Spinach
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Sunflower
- Flowers
Trinity and Pilgrim Streets

Community Garden

- Potatoes
- Sweet corn
- Tomato
- Eggplant
- Sweet potato
- Squash, Zucchini, etc.
- Cucumbers
- Collards

- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Sunflower
- Flowers

- Bark mulch border
- Park bench
O’Shea Recreation Center

Student Farming and Gardening

- Potatoes
- Green/Snap beans
- Squash
- Zucchini
- Collards
- Spinach
- Okra

- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Sunflower
- Flowers
Lasher and Pilgrim Streets

Urban Farming and Student Garden

- Potatoes
- Snap beans
- Sunflower
- Flowers
OVERVIEW

The Brightmoor Garden Project is based on the hypothesis that having a tie with the earth creates a responsibility with individuals.

A project goal is to develop urban gardening and farming in the Brightmoor area of Detroit.

The project concept is based on using the potato as a foundation in the urban gardening concept.

We initiated large scale community vegetable gardens in the Brightmoor community (e.g. potato, sweet potato, tomato, pepper, squash, broccoli, greens, etc.).

TARGETS

Connect the community to MSU education programs for urban gardening and farming.

Continue to integrate our project with the Detroit Agricultural Network.

Distribute food in the community for consumption and sale.

Foster ownership of gardens in the community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

• Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development
  http://ndndhomes.org

• Michigan State University Extension
  http://msue.msu.edu

• Project GREEEN
  http://greeen.msu.edu

• MSU Potato Breeding & Genetics
  http://msu.edu/~douchesd

• State House Rep. Gabe Leland
  http://house.mi.gov/gleeland

• The Greening of Detroit
  http://greeningofdetroit.com

BRIGHTMOOR GARDEN PROJECT

Growing a Community: Urban Gardening & Farming in Detroit

A Cooperative Project with:

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
POTATO BREEDING & GENETICS

Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development, Inc.
Building on Faith...
Building a Community

Project GREEEN

The Greening of Detroit

O’Shea Recreation Center
GARDEN SITES

• 2007 Garden Sites:
  - Eliza Howell Park
    (adjacent to Murphy Middle School)
  - Trinity St and Pilgrim St
  - O'Shea Recreation Center
  - Lahser St and Pilgrim St

• Projected Sites for 2008
  - Hubbard School
  - Auburn St and Lyndon St

BRIGHTMOOR GARDEN PROJECT

MSU Potato Breeding & Genetics
  - Dave Douches, Joe Coombs, Jay Estelle,
    Devan Berry and Chris Long

MSU Extension, Wayne County
  - Gary Bulluck, Kristine Hahn

Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development, Inc.
  - John O’Ren, Mike Lauchlan, Byron Long

The Greening of Detroit
  - Ashley Atkinson

State House Representative, District 10
  - Rep. Gabe Leland

O’Shea Recreation Center
  - Jacqueline Sledge

Many other cooperators & volunteers!
Michigan State University
Potato Breeding and Genetics

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