


THE SEED:

a socioeconomic study on the impact and opportunities urban gardening provides on at-risk communities and the effects it has on the quality of life.

SPRING * SUMMER * FALL * 2012

Michigan Urban Farming Initiative
 Detroit Future Farm City
 Earthworks
 Northwest Community Garden
 Detroit Farm and Garden
 Thomas Beavers-Chicken Farm
 Eden Gardens
 Mr. D.
 Royal Gardens
 Motor City Blight Busters
 Recovery Gardens
 Brightmoor Farmways
 Brightmoor Youth Development
 Collaboration
 Fireweed
 Brush Park Community Garden
 Lafayette Gardens
 Eastern Market
 Detroit Student Conservation Association
 Detroit Conservation Leadership Corps.
 Detroit Councilmember James Tate





Principle Investigators: Julie Pulgini and Aaron Guay



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

University Outreach
and Engagement

The MSU EDA University Center for
Regional Economic Innovation presents our
2013 WEBINAR SERIES

Urban Gardening
 A socioeconomic study and documentary film

Gerald D. Charbonneau
 Julie A. Pulgini
 Aaron Guay
 Charles Derry

**Wednesday
 March 13, 2013
 10:00 am**

connect.msu.edu/reiwebinarlive

The REI Network develops and identifies innovative economic development tools, models, policies and practices in support of innovative economic development strategies with promise to yield high-growth entrepreneurship and job creation in distressed regions throughout Michigan.

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Questions? Contact REI at (517) 353-9555



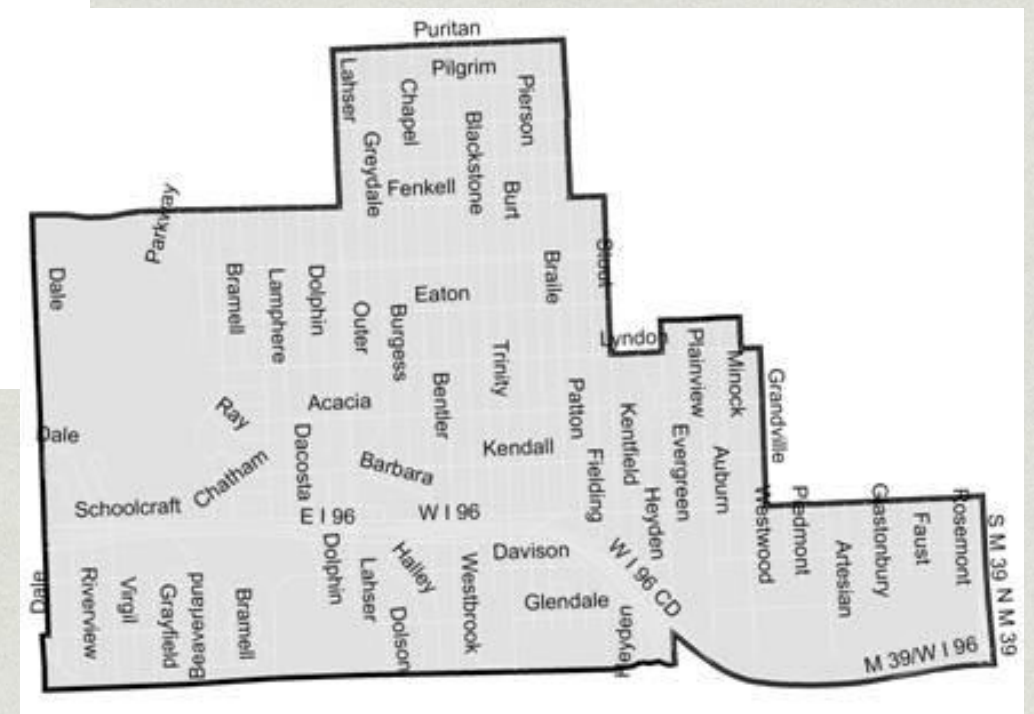
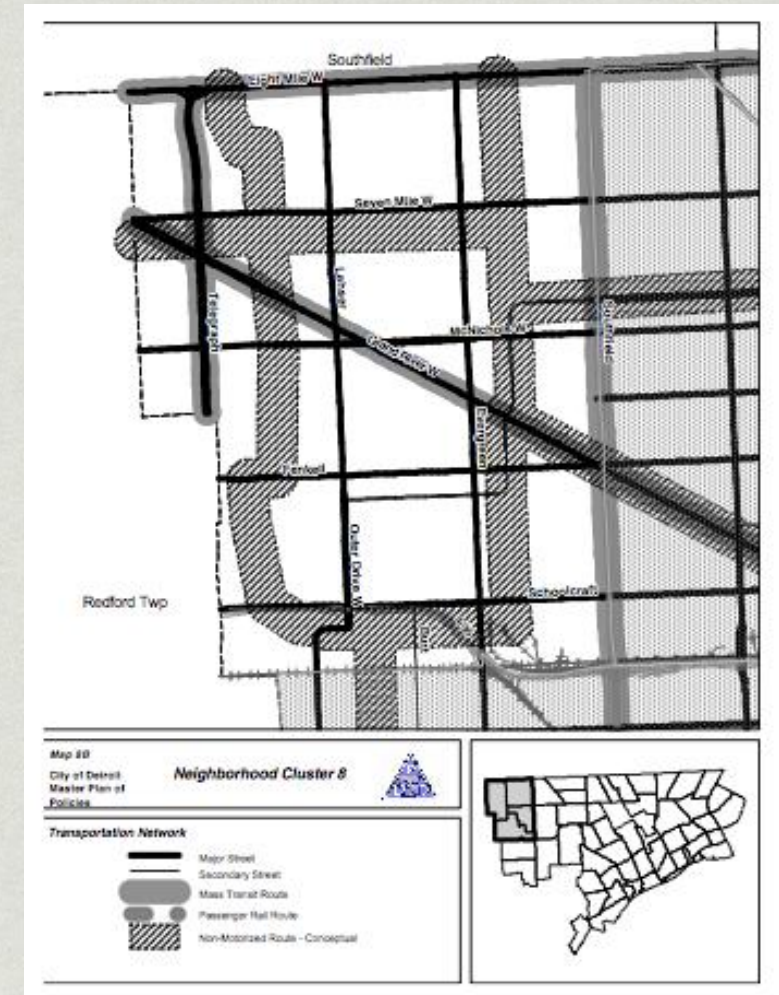
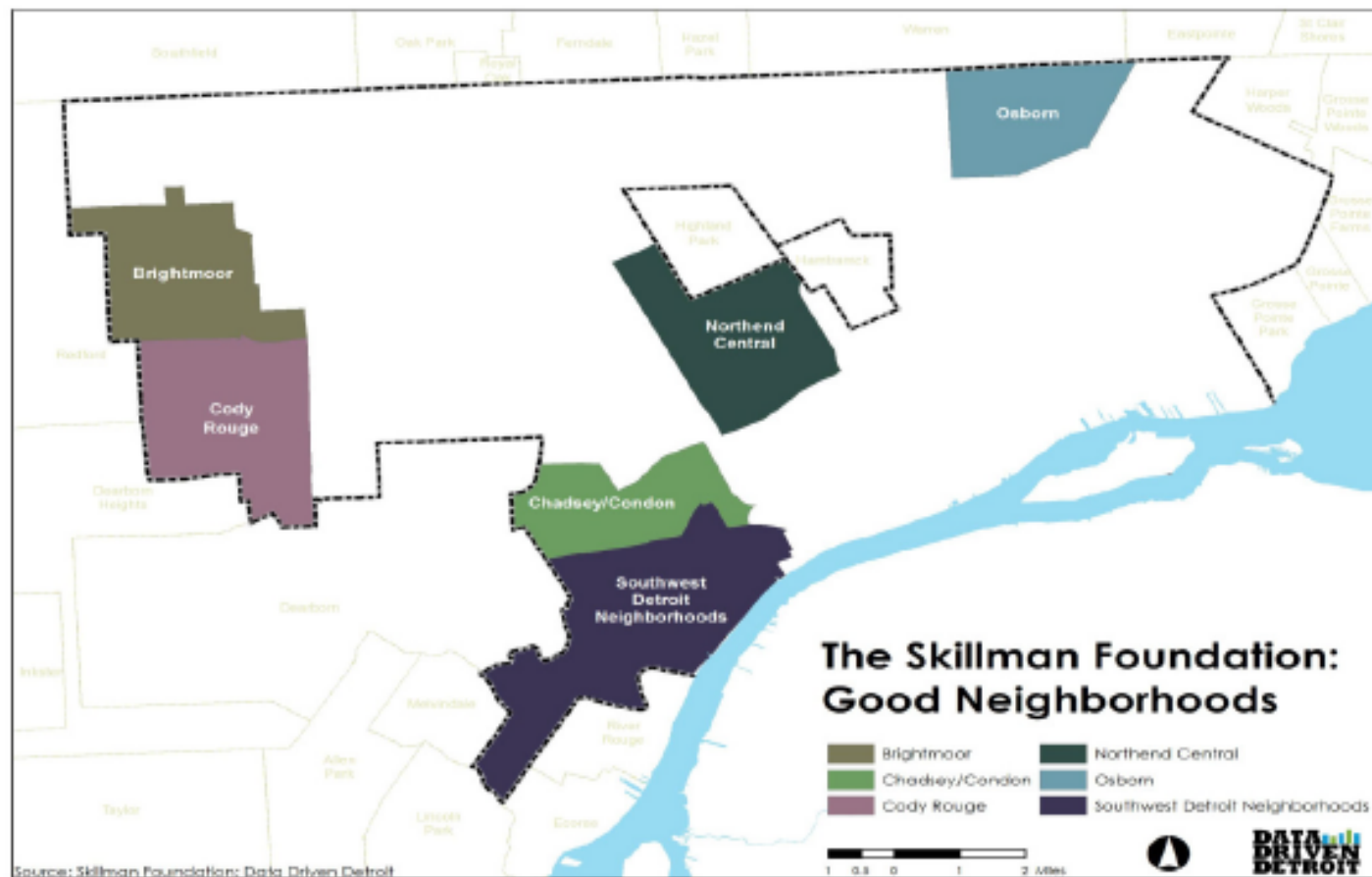
photo courtesy: J Singleton



Today's Focus:

The Brightmoor neighborhood is home to 23,845 residents on the western edge of Detroit. It is bordered on the East by Evergreen, Grand River, West Outer Drive, Grandville and the Southfield Freeway, and on the West by the Detroit city limits. The Northern border is West McNichols Road, while the railroad tracks and I-96 serve as the community's boundary to the South.¹ Brightmoor is home to an estimated 7,236 children and youth (0 to 18 years of age).

Figure 1. Reference Map of Skillman Neighborhoods*



BRIGHTMOOR DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Brightmoor: Northwest Detroit Neighborhood with “typical” Detroit problems

DECREASED POPULATION AND LESS FAMILIES

According to the latest U.S. Census (2010), Brightmoor’s population has dropped by 31.1% while family households decreased by 29.5%

MORE VACANT HOMES

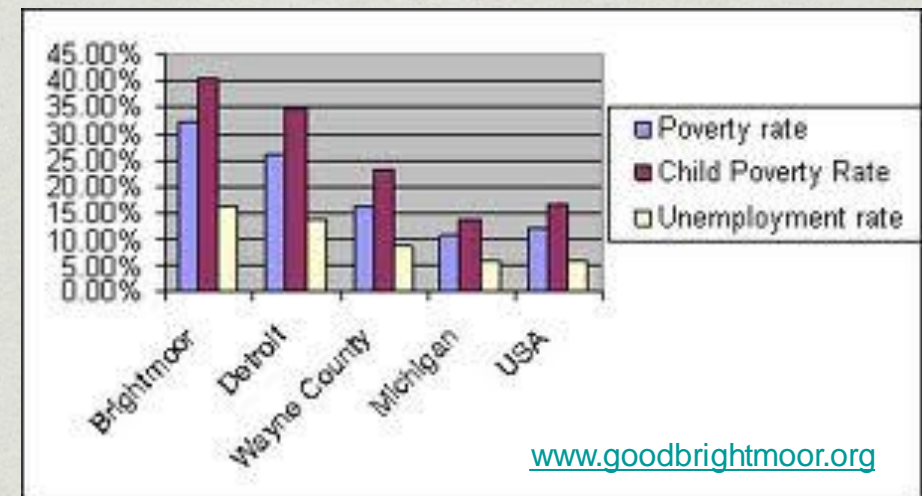
Brightmoor’s overall vacancy rate rose from 9.5% to 25.2% from 2000 to 2010 (2.4% higher than Detroit average)

1 in 4 Housing Units in Brightmoor are vacant (25.2%)

POVERTY

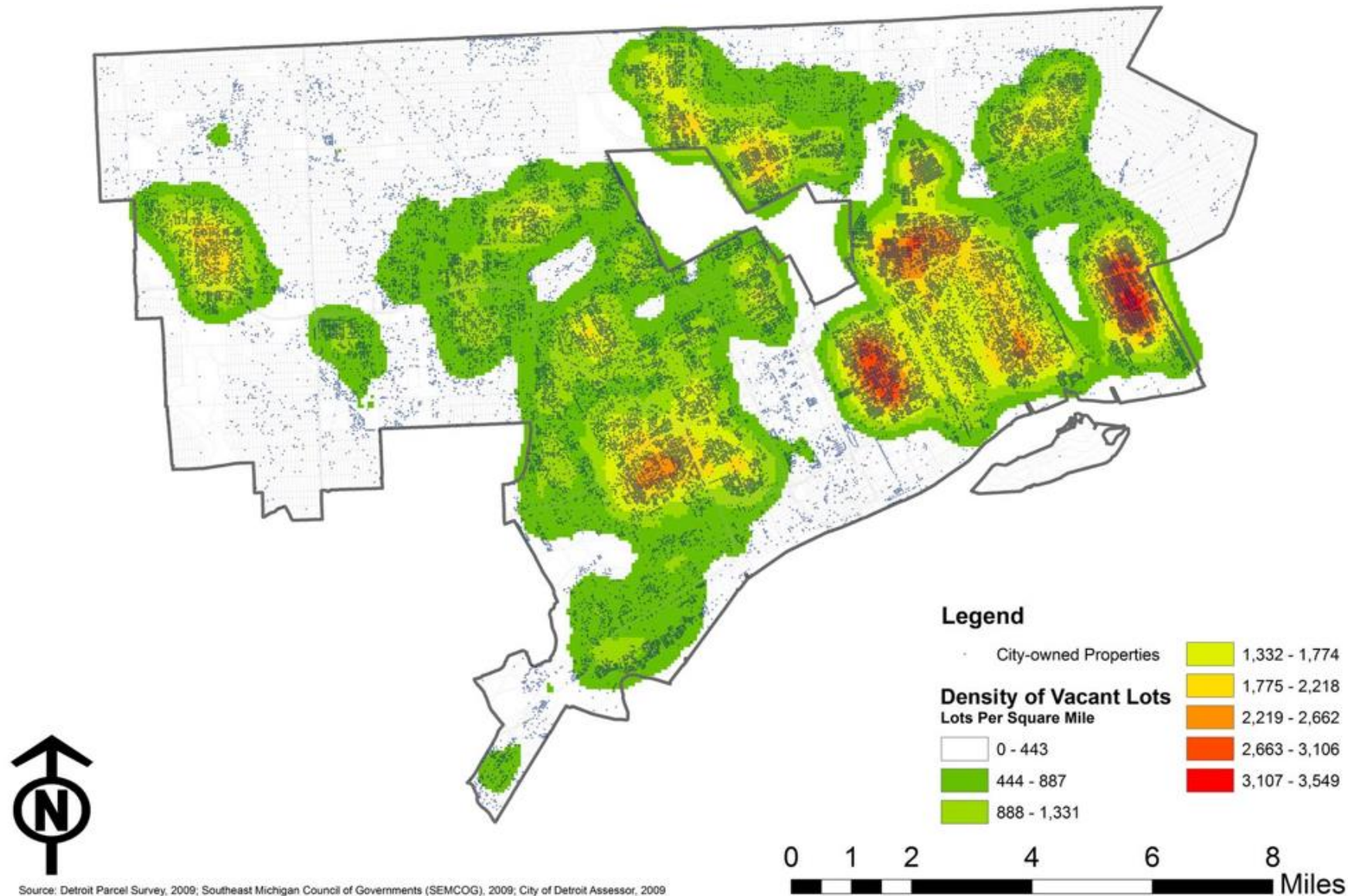
In Brightmoor, 16% of people ages 20-26 are unemployed (46% of people ages 20-64)

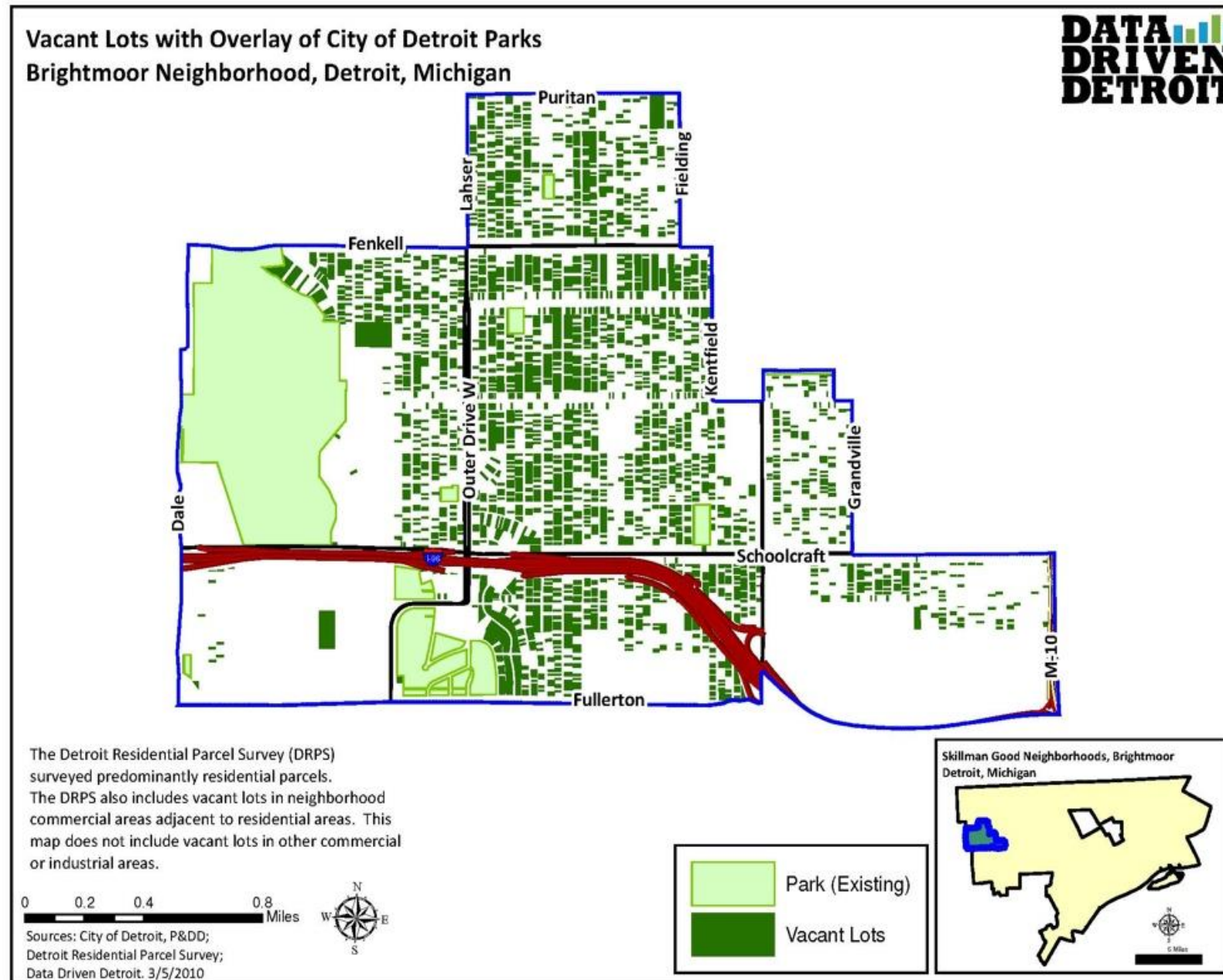
Studies estimate that over 40% of Brightmoor residents live below the poverty line



VACANT LOTS IN DETROIT

Density of Vacant Lots and City-owned Property, Detroit, 2009

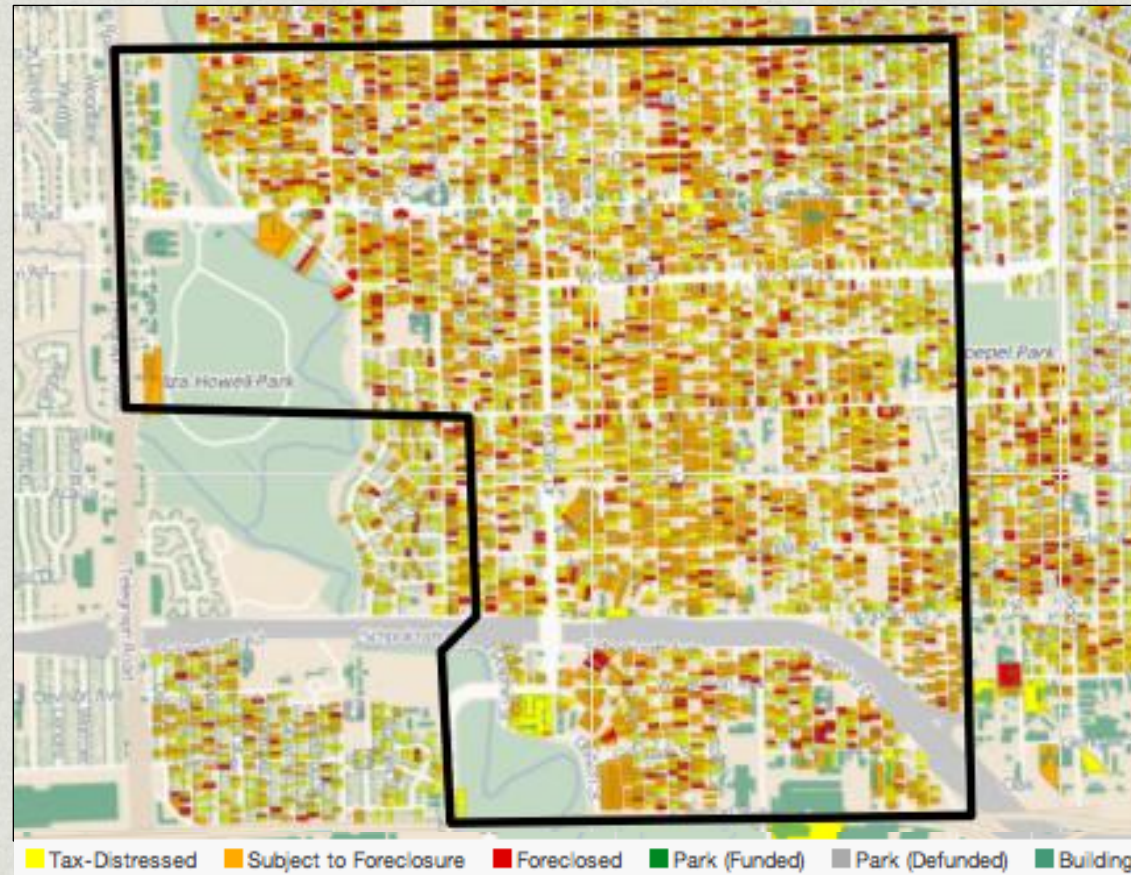




In Brightmoor, 32.6% of Residential Lots are Vacant Land (26.9% in Detroit)

(Skillman Good Neighborhoods: Brightmoor and 2010 Census Tracts prepared by Data Driven Detroit - April 2012)

BRIGHTMOOR-DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS: FORECLOSURES



STATISTICS

\$9,430,142 owed in overdue taxes & penalties
2.96 square miles
9,199 properties
2,810 tax exempt
1,340 tax-distressed
2,592 subject to foreclosure
571 foreclosed

SOURCE: Why Don't We Own This . COM - Skillman Good Neighborhoods - Brightmoor
MAKELOVELAND TECHNOLOGIES <<http://whydontweownthis.com/neighborhoods>>
(accessed March 2013)

But like Detroit, there is definitely something special growing in Brightmoor...

Brightmoor is home to a vibrant community of residents who are devoted to their neighborhood and work to provide local opportunities for residents....

The Brightmoor Alliance
Pastors Alliance
Food Pantry Alliance
Brightmoor Community Center
Neighbors Building Brightmoor
and more....





15 block target area



What do the gardens provide the community?

- ✱ provides an access for food and an avenue for profit
- ✱ promotes and advocates better eating habits/healthier lifestyle habits
- ✱ promotes and serves as a “low risk” platform for interaction



Aesthetics

- ✱ presence of positive “activity” is visible
- ✱ “beauty detracts crime”
- ✱ increases interest, draws people into the community
- ✱ spreads



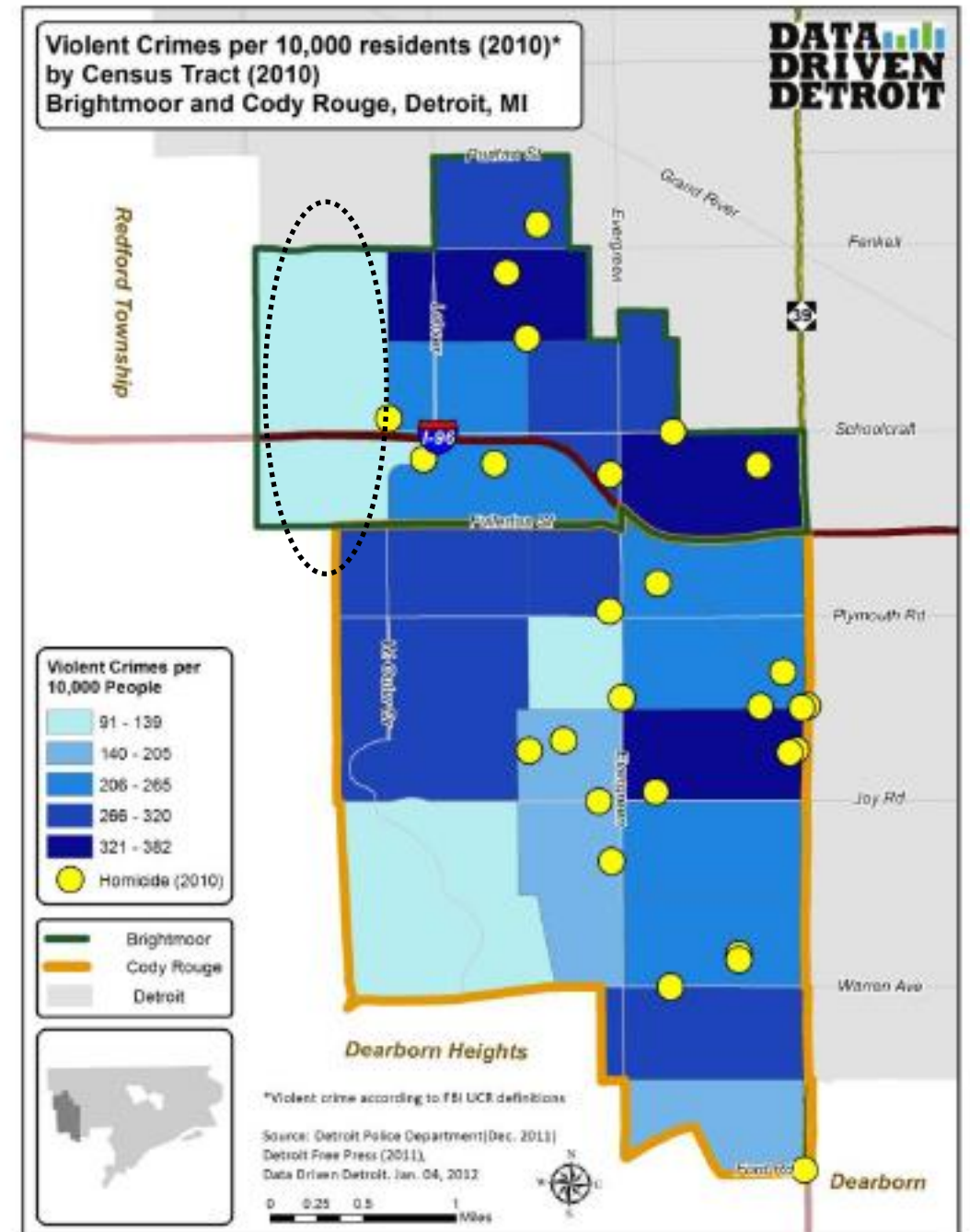
Decrease in Crime

✱ where there is activity there is less crime



STUDIES FIND THAT THERE ARE LESS VIOLENT CRIMES IN AREAS THAT SURROUND BRIGHTMOOR FARMWAY GARDENING ACTIVITIES THAN IN NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.

Figure 8. Violent Crimes Per 10,000 Residents in 2010



Learning and Youth

- ✱ *teaches valuable life and entrepreneurial skills*
- ✱ *deters youth crime*
- ✱ *pride/ownership in their community*
- ✱ *develop relationships with positive role model*
- ✱ *inspires youth to make a change/ have a positive impact on their community*



Brightmoor Youth Development Collaboration

Empowerment

- * “Human Capital”
- * self-sustainability and self-reliance
- * Community Building
- * Sense of Freedom and Control



“Of all the changes that have happened to man, perhaps the deepest and least understood is his loss of the land, of weather, of growing things, and of the knowledge of his body that these things give....”

The Greening of America, Charles A. Reich (1970)



Thank You...

and hope to see you out
in the garden!