



## Land Based Projects Updates from the City of Detroit

Happy New Year! With your partnership, the Land Based Projects Team has made great strides towards improving the land purchase to permit process. We would like to sincerely thank you for your support and participation in our efforts thus far. We'd also like to share our highlights from 2019 and what we're looking forward to in 2020.

2019

**Engagement** – We held 8 focus groups with local project leaders & residents, engaging over 500 Detroiters, where participants identified challenges and inconsistencies within City processes. Also, the LBP team formed and continues to work with our partners to improve how the Public engages with City processes.

**Land for Sale** – Detroit Land Bank Authority's (DLBA) website ([BuildingDetroit.org/Development-Projects](http://BuildingDetroit.org/Development-Projects)) now lists properties that are ideal for land based projects and sold through real estate brokers. This will continue in 2020. *Tip:* On the website, scroll down to 'DLBA Marketed Properties' & click 'Land Based Projects.'

**Streamlining Project Fees** – Detroit's Buildings, Safety, Engineering, & Environmental Department (BSEED) has a new approach called "Project Area Permitting." It reduces fees to permit a land based project covering multiple properties by allowing for more than 1 parcel to be reviewed and processed at the same time. Several projects have already successfully been permitted this way.

**Project Inspectors** – BSEED also worked with local agricultural non-profit Keep Growing Detroit to successfully develop a training program for all LBP Inspectors. It involves communicating to BSEED inspectors what practices and infrastructure are commonly used on a land based project in order to prevent unwarranted plumbing, environmental, and code citations.

**"Plot Plan Success Guide"** – We launched a guide to help you get a land based project started. This comprehensive packet details how to design and maintain a project, including best practices and city requirements. It is currently available in hard copy at DLBA's office (500 Griswold St.) and online at [DetroitMi.gov/Land](http://DetroitMi.gov/Land).

2020

**Land Permit Application** – Acting as an alternative to the Building Permit Application, this application will omit questions that do not pertain to land based projects. Expected to be available in early 2020.

**Neighborhood Improvement Mini-Grant** – This program will be available for block clubs and community organizations interested in sponsoring a neighborhood improvement project. Updates to come in early 2020.

**Four More Guides for Success** – Following the launch of the "Plot Plan Success Guide," we will release a total of 5 distinct guides that will detail the "who," "what," "when," "where," & "why" on zoning, owning, and maintaining a land based project. Expected to be available in mid-2020.

**Support Fairs** – We plan to hold a series of open hours to provide Detroiters operating a land based project—or those interested in starting one—with resources and technical assistance. The first fair, co-sponsored by Keep Growing Detroit, is expected to take place in mid-2020.

Thanks for all your support in 2019 and we look forward to continued collaboration. Wishing you a joyous 2020!

- The City of Detroit LBP Team. Reach us by email ([land@detroitmi.gov](mailto:land@detroitmi.gov)) or online ([DetroitMi.gov/Land](http://DetroitMi.gov/Land))

### Land Based Projects (LBP):

Urban land used for agriculture, gardening, beautification, playscapes, community gathering, and other productive uses, whether for profit or as a community based activity.

### The LBP Team:

A team comprised of members from 11 City of Detroit departments working to make the process to purchase, permit, and maintain land in Detroit easier and more equitable.

### Land Based Projects Value Statement:

Land Based Projects enhance life in Detroit. The City of Detroit recognizes the role neighborhood land stewards have played in preserving their community. The City commits to enacting transparent standards and processes that allow Land Based Projects to thrive.

