

# Brightmoor Garden Project

## Urban Gardening and Farming in Detroit

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MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# 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.

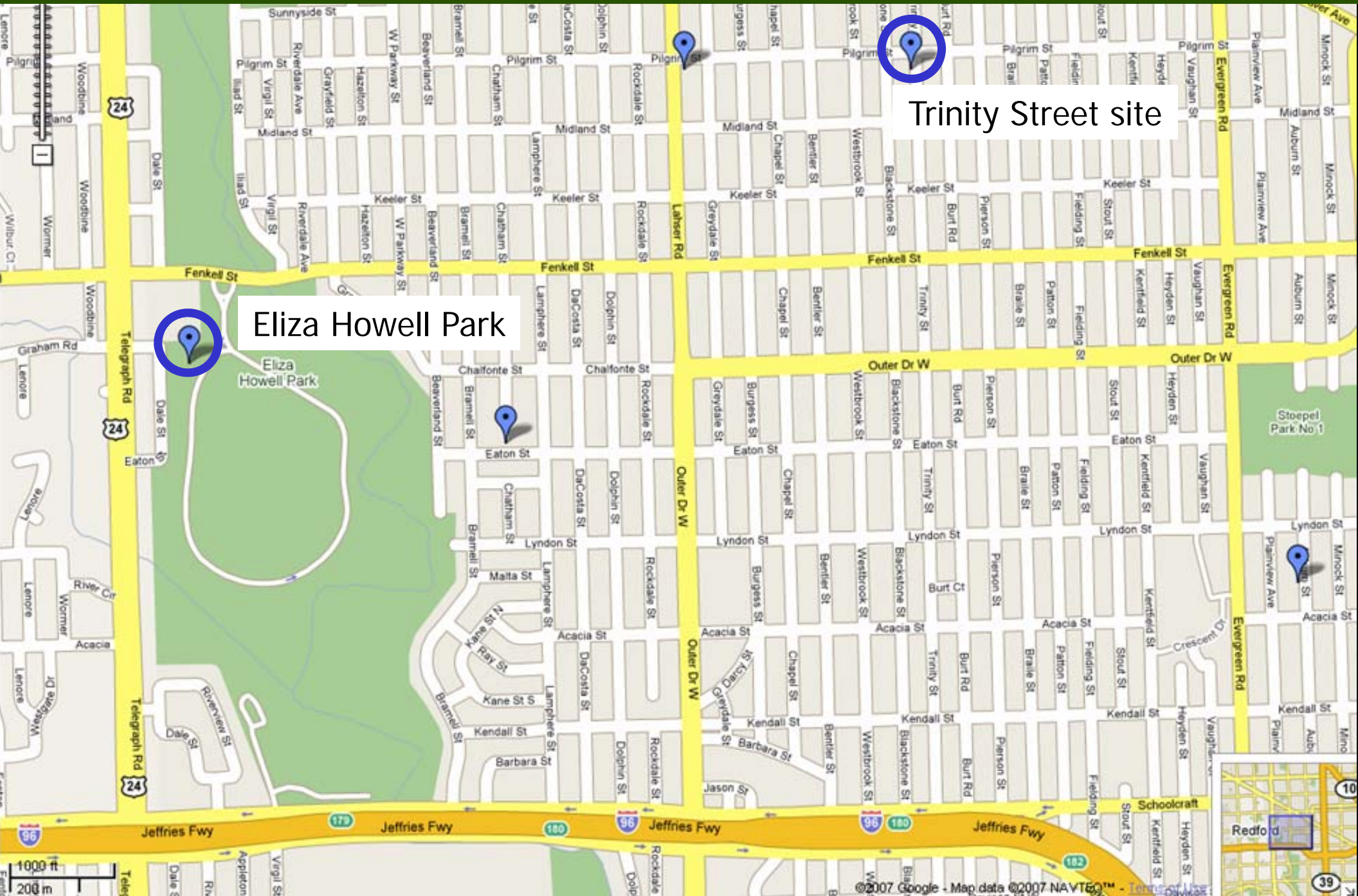
# Brightmoor Garden Project

- 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



# 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  
8<sup>th</sup> 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



# Eliza Howell Park



# Eliza Howell Park and Trinity Sites

Potato Hilling  
Sweet corn and Sunflower planting  
June 7, 2007

**BRIGHTMOOR GARDEN PROJECT**

 **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION** **Project GREEN**

For more information contact:  
Dr. Dave Douches  
Michigan State University  
517-355-0271 x 198

 **THE GREENING OF DETROIT**

[ndmhomes.org](http://ndmhomes.org) [msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu) [green.msu.edu](http://green.msu.edu) [greeningofdetroit.com](http://greeningofdetroit.com)



# Eliza Howell Park





# Eliza Howell Park



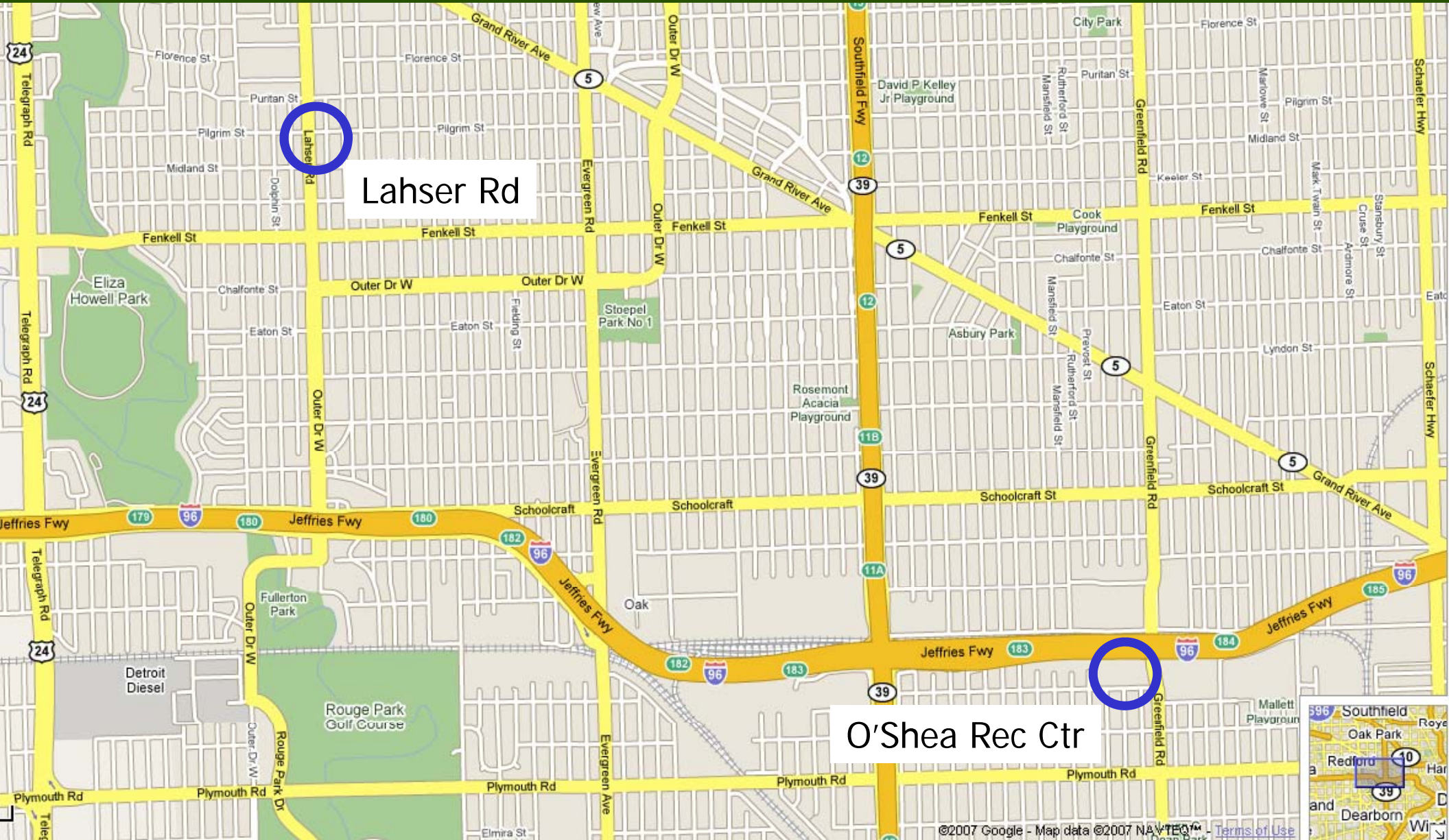




# New Sites Added in June

- 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



# 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

Trinity St



# Eliza Howell Park

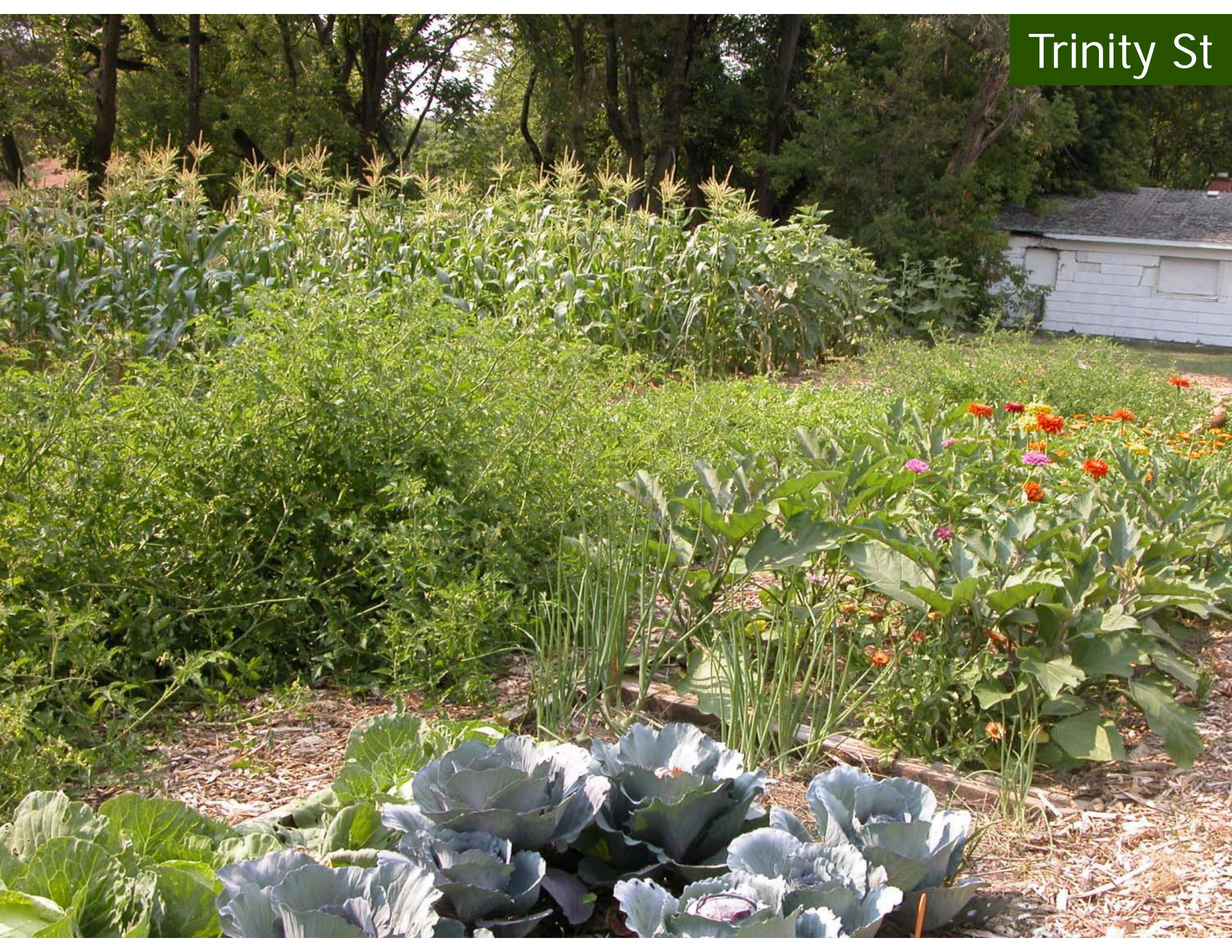


# Eliza Howell Park





Trinity St









**BRIGHTMOOR GARDEN PROJECT**

 **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION** 

[info@msue.org](mailto:info@msue.org) [msu.edu](http://msu.edu) [green.msu.edu](http://green.msu.edu) [greenproject01.com](http://greenproject01.com)

**NO BURNING**  
**PLEASE TAKE OUT**

# Eliza Howell Park



# Eliza Howell Park





Trinity St





Eliza Howell Park



Eliza Howell Park



# Eliza Howell Park







O'Shea Rec Ctr



# 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





# Eliza Howell Park





# Eliza Howell Park



# Tablestock Harvest

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

# Eliza Howell Park



# Eliza Howell Park



# 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





# Eliza Howell Park





# 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 GREEN  
<http://green.msu.edu>
- MSU Potato Breeding & Genetics  
<http://msu.edu/~douchesd>
- State House Rep. Gabe Leland  
<http://house.mi.gov/gleland>
- 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

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



Building on Faith...  
Building a Community

  
**Project GREEN**



**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



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Project GREEN

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# COOPERATORS

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- MSU Extension, Wayne County
  - Garry Bulluck, Kristine Hahn
- Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development, Inc.
  - John O'Brien, 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

<http://www.msu.edu/~douchesd>  
douchesd@msu.edu

