Land Based Projects: A Path to Purchase, Permit and Design

Purchase land

3.

This guide is one of five packets on how to buy publicly owned land and create land based projects in Detroit. Download these resources at www.DetroitMi.gov/Land or pick up at 2 Woodward Ave.

1. Getting started

2. Check land zoning

3. Purchase land

4. Permitting

Plot Plan, Site Design, and Maintenance Guide

Read on if you...

Want to purchase land from the City of Detroit or Detroit Land Bank Authority

Inside you will find...

| What you need to do before buying land owned by the City or Land Bank | |
|---|----|
| How the City and Land Bank sell land | .3 |
| How to fill out the Property Purchase Application | .5 |
| City contact information | 16 |

Need internet or computer access?

Visit or call the Detroit Land Bank Authority, the Detroit Building Authority, or the Public Library. Your District Manager can provide additional information about locations where you can access the internet for free in your City Council District. Turn to page 16.

What is a land based project?

A land based project uses land for activities, such as urban agriculture, gardening, or beautification, whether for profit or community activation.

Why is there so much information to fill out?

The City wants to know that you will be able to complete a successful project before selling you the property. This packet will help you gather important information you will need to fill out a successful Property Purchase Application.

Still need to choose land or ready to get your permit?

If you don't know what land you want to buy, go back to **Packet 2. Check land zoning**. If you already own your land and are ready to start your project, skip ahead to **Packet 4. Permitting**. You can find these packets at www.DetroitMi.gov/Land or at 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 434.

2. Check land zoning

Things you need to check on before buying land

- □ Are you current on your property taxes (or up to date on your payment plan)?
 - For a copy of your current tax bill, visit Room 136 of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (2 Woodward Ave) or call 313-224-3560.
 - Info at: www.bit.ly/2XzyMWS
- ☐ Make sure you don't have any blight tickets, and pay them if you do.
 - Visit the Department of Appeals and Hearings at Suite 1004 of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (2 Woodward Ave).
 - Look up and pay tickets and request clearances at <u>www.detroitmi.gov/dah</u>
- ☐ Are you current on your water bill?
 - Visit the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Customer Portal online or call 313-267-8000.
 - Info at: https://csportal.dwsd.org/
- ☐ Make sure that the property you're interested in buying is owned by the City or the Land Bank.
 - Check **pages 3-4** of this packet for tips. If you haven't chosen a property yet, go to **Packet 2. Check land zoning**.
- ☐ If you're a non-profit, you may be eligible for discounts through the Community Partnership Program.
 - Visit www.BuildingDetroit.org to apply.
- ☐ To start the purchase process today, visit: https://detroitmi.gov/webapp/property-application

Agencies that sell or license land in Detroit

Detroit Land Bank Authority (Land Bank)

Website: www.buildingdetroit.org

Phone: 844-BUY-DLBA

Email: info@detroitlandbank.org

The Detroit Land Bank Authority owns and sells land through different programs. Most Land Bank properties are in residential areas

Detroit Building Authority (DBA)

Website: www.detroitmi.gov/dba

Phone: 313-224-0174

The Detroit Building Authority sells land on behalf of the City of Detroit. Most land is in commercial areas or has other special features (for example, very large lots, parking lots, or lots in industrial or special development areas).

General Services Department (GSD): Community Managed Open

Space Website: www.detroitmi.gov/

departments/asd or

https://detroitmi.gov/departments/parks-

recreation/adopt-park

3. Purchase land

Phone: 313-224-5555

The Community Managed Open Space Program enables community members to activate parks owned by the City. Community members or organizations can get a license to use the property for a land based project or other use. This is not a purchase program. GSD has pre-selected eligible properties for this program.

Licensing land is a temporary option to enter the site, and is less expensive than purchasing.

Program details

General Services Department

Community Managed **Open Space Program**

This program offers a license which is a temporary option to enter the site. tdoes not guarantee permanent ownership or use of the site. You must be interested in activating parks that are eligible for this program. All applications will be reviewed by the General Services Department and the City's Law Department.

Program details, continued

| Detroit Land | Bank Authority (DLBA) |
|---|--|
| Side Lot Program | Eligible vacant lots are \$100. To purchase a side lot, the property must: be next to an occupied residential property of 4 units or less that you own be 7,500 square feet or less and zoned R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, or any R-H, To inquire about Side Lot eligibility, email landreuse@detroitlandbank.org For more information visit: https://buildingdetroit.org/land-reuse-programs |
| Neighborhood Lot Program | Eligible vacant lots are \$250. To purchase a neighborhood lot, the property must: be within 500 ft. of your primary residence of 2 units or less. You must have a current Principal Residence Exemption or provide a driver's license with an address that matches the deed for your primary residence be 7,500 square feet or less and zoned R1, R1-H, R2, R2-H, R3, R3-H, To inquire about Neighborhood Lot eligibility, email landreuse@detroitlandbank. org. For more information visit: https://buildingdetroit.org/land-reuse-programs |
| Create- a-Project Program | Eligible vacant lots are \$250. To purchase a property through this program: This program is for community groups interested in small-scale community-focused projects such as play spaces or community gardens. Projects must be approved by the city's Department of Neighborhoods. You must be an existing legal entity with the legal authority to purchase property Property must be eligible as a Neighborhood Lot (see above) and located within the organization's designated neighborhood For more information, visit https://buildingdetroit.org/create-a-project |
| Community Partner Program | Community Partners receive a reduced purchase price from fair market value*. To participate in the Community Partner program, you must: be a non-profit or tax-exempt organization, be recommended by your City Council member or district manager and approved by the Land Bank to participate, and Fill out a property purchase application To apply, visit https://buildingdetroit.org/community-partnership |
| Marketing Program | The DLBA works with DLBA board-approved brokers to proactively list properties on the traditional real estate market. Listings are posted at https://buildingdetroit.org/marketed-properties and proposals should be submitted to the appropriate broker. |
| Purchasing Property by Application | To purchase property not available through the above programs, submit a Property Purchase Application: https://detroitmi.gov/webapp/property-application . Sales will be reviewed by City Staff and approved by the DLBA board. All sales over 9 parcels must be approved by City Council. Properties are priced at fair market value.** |
| Detroit Build | ding Authority |
| Detroit Building Authority Sales | Properties are priced using fair market value*. The DBA sells all land that is owned by the City of Detroit. All purchasers must be current on tax, water, and blight payments and in good standing with the City of Detroit. All land sales will be reviewed by City staff and approved by City Council. |

⋘What is Fair Market Value? Fair market value for a property is determined by a professional who looks at comparable values of other similar properties that have been sold. This means prices may be higher in an area where market demand is increasing land costs nearby; prices also may be higher for commercial or specially-zoned properties.

4

Property Application

Fill out the Property Purchase Application

at www.DetroitMi.gov/Land. See the link under **Getting your land based project started**. See **page 1** of this packet if you don't have a computer or internet access at home.

Property Application includes:

- **Applicant information:** contact of the purchaser, organizations, community partners, address(es) of all properties you or your organization currently own in the City of Detroit
- ☐ **Property information:** address(es) of the properties you are applying to purchase, offer price, type of project
- ☐ **Project Information:** details about your project, narrative, community support, volunteer support, plot plan, supporting documents.

Continue to **page 7** through **page 15** for the specific questions you will need to answer.

If you save your application prior to submitting, your application will be saved for 30 days. Once you submit your application, your application will not expire.

Application review can take 6-10 weeks.

Tip: you do not need to fill out these forms for the Side Lot Program, Neighborhood Lot Porgram, Marketing Program, Community Open Spaces Program, or if you already own or lease property

- Purchasing land through the
 Side Lot Program (\$100): visit
 www.buildingdetroit.org/sidelots
 or Neighborhood Lot Program (\$250):
 visit https://buildingdetroit.org/sidelots/
 index/neighborhood or contact the
 Detroit Land Bank Authority at 844-289-3522, landreuse@detroitlandbank.org
- Purchasing land through the Marketing Program: visit https://buildingdetroit.org/marketed-properties and contact the listing broker
- Licensing land through the Community Open Spaces Program: Contact the Parks and Recreation Division of the General Services Department at 313-224-1100
- Already own or lease property and now need to permit and maintain your project? Please jump ahead to Packet
 Permitting.

Who can help if you get stuck BSEED Development Resource Center:

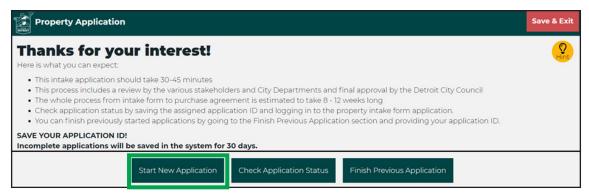
313-224-2372

The Department of Neighborhoods:

See **page 16** of this packet for your District Manager's contact information.

Getting started with the Property Application

When you are ready to get started, Click on "Start New Application"





APPLICATION ID. It is very important to make a note of your Application ID. This will allow you to return to your application or check the status of your application.



Need help or don't understand a question?



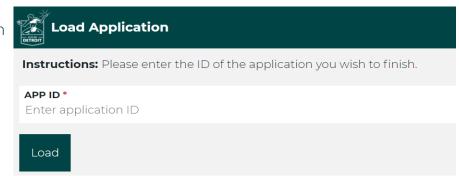
While filling out your application, if you need help or additional resources, check if the question has a **HINT** button. When you click on the lightbulb, a box with helpful information or links will pop up.

If you need more time to fill out your application, you can save your application at any time. In the top right corner you can press **Save & Exit**.



Remember! To return to your application you will need the **Application ID** number you saved! Unsubmitted applications will expire after 30 days.

When you return to the appliction page, you will click **Finish Previous Application.** You will enter your **Application ID**& click **Load**. it will bring you to the application you have already started.



How do you fill out the Property Application?

Part 1: Applicant Information

Q1: Are you representing yourself or serving as an agent on behalf of someone else and/or an entity?

Myself

Someone else / entity

This will be who will be PURCHASING the land. This could be an individual, non-profit organization, or business.

If applying for someone else, make sure you are prepared to fill out all the required information.

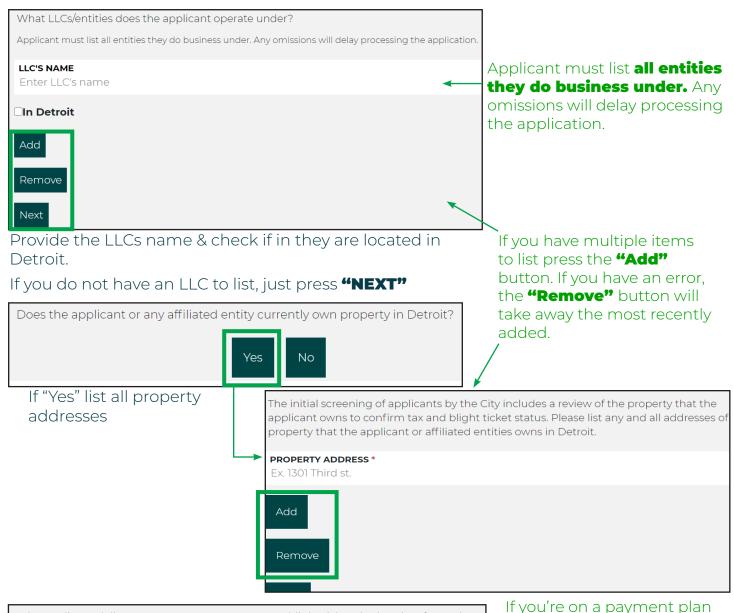
Is the applicant an individual or business? (check one) Q: Input the best contact information to reach the applicant. **OIndividual ONon-Profit Organization** Please first name LAST NAME * **OBusiness** Please last name EMAIL* Ex. name@gmai.com Next PHONE * Ex. (313)333-3333 You will need the contact information for yourself ADDRESS * or the person/entity you CITY * are applying for Ex. Detroit If applying as/for a non-STATE -- Please choose a state -profit or business you will ZIP CODE also need to provide the name and non-profit or COUNTRY * business type. -- Please choose a Country -**BUSINESS / NON-PROFIT NAME** Ex. Always Pizza **BUSINESS / NON-PROFIT TYPE**

Is the applicant a part of the Detroit Land Bank Authority Community Partnership Program or is working with a partner?

What is the name of your partner(s)?

PARTNER LIST *
Enter all partners. (300 character limit)

Next



Is the applicant delinquent on any property taxes or blight tickets in the City of Detroit? If you select "NO" and have back-taxes and/or blight tickets, this could delay your application or result in a denial

> to date on your payment, go to page 2. Please follow the instructions below:

If "Yes", stop and "Save" application. Follow instructions provided. Once payments are made, you can continue & submit your property application

Pay County Taxes Here

Pay City Taxes Here

Pay Blight Tickets Here

Once payments are made, continue and submit this property application.

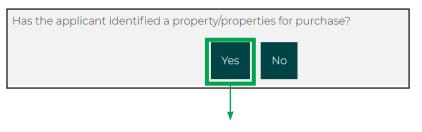
for your property taxes, you're

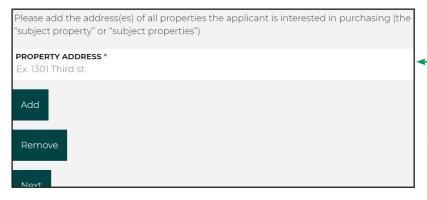
If you are unsure if you are up

not delinquent and still

eligible to buy land.

Part 2: Property Information

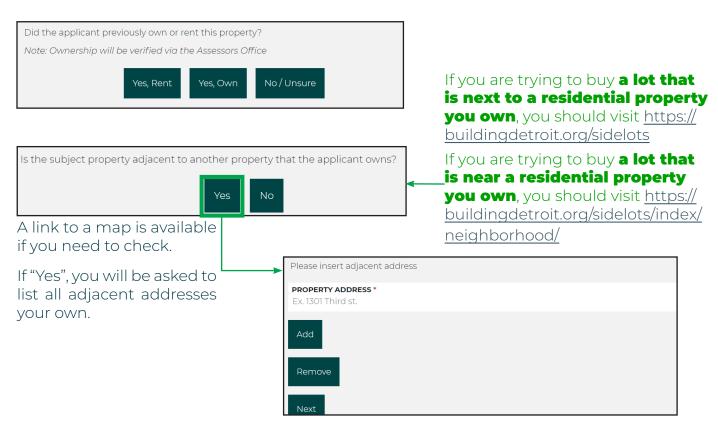




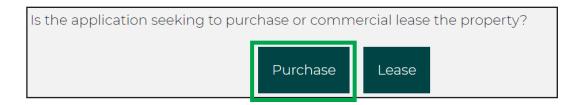
If you answer "No" in the online form, you will be directed to choose a property and you will not be able to continue filling out the application. See **Packet 2. Check land zoning** if you have not chosen a property yet! If you save and exit your application, you have **30 days** before it expires.

_Use the **"Add" or "Remove"**buttons to list multiple properties
you would like to purchase.

If you apply to purchase **more than 9 properties**, your application will go through an additional review with City Council.







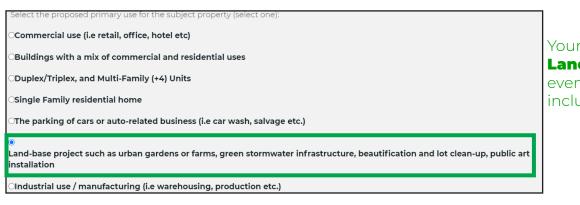
Your answer should be "Purchase"

| The first step in negotiating the purchase price is to put in an offer. | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Enter your offer. | | | |
| | | | |
| OFFER* Enter offer here | | | |
| | | | |
| Next | | | |

After you submit an offer, DLBA or DBA will negotiate final pricing with you.

Try to make an offer that you think is fair, but keep in mind the minimum fair market value for DLBA land is \$0.20/sq. ft. This can be higher in some neighborhoods based on market demand. Commercial properties often cost far more. See Page 4 to learn about Fair Market Value.

The Side Lot Programs, which costs \$100 a lot, is only for people buying a lot next to a residential structure they already own. The Neighborhood Lot Program, which costs \$250/ lot, allows homeowners to purchase a maximum of two eligible lots within 500 ft of their principal residence. Unless one of these applies to you, you will be paying more.



Your answer should be **Land Based Project**, even if your project includes other uses.

Part 3: Project Information

The next section is to tell us about your project. This is your project's and your opportunity to shine!

LAND BASED PROJECTS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: BEFORE YOU BEGIN CHECKLIST

For a successful application, have the following prepared before you proceed:

- Experience you and your partners have relevant to the success of the project
- Plan for clearing the land of debris and fixing any other problems with the land
- A list of physical improvements you are going to make to the property
- If you are using agricultural chemicals or pesticides, create a plan on which chemicals and pesticides you will
 use, how often you will use them and how you will use and store them. This applies even if you are using
 organic methods and products. If you have certification to use these items, have that ready
- A plot plan / site design
- · Information on the financial, volunteer resources you will rely on to complete the project

| Information | to have | ready: |
|--------------------|---------|--------|
|--------------------|---------|--------|

| Experience you and your partners have that are relevant to the success of the project. This includes experience with similar projects, trainings, certifications, qualifications, and other relevant background. |
|--|
| Your plan for clearing the land of debris and fixing any other problems with the land like overgrown trees and plants. |
| Photo or photos of the current conditions of the properties you are applying to purchase, taken from the sidewalk next to the property (do not enter the property). |
| A list of physical improvements you're going to make to the property. |
| If you're using agricultural chemicals or pesticides, create a plan on what chemicals and pesticides you will use, how often you will use them, and how you will use and store them. This applies even if you are using organic methods and products. If you have certification to use these items, have that ready as well. |
| A plot plan (see instructions in the Plot Plan, Site Design Guide, and |
| Maintenance Guide at <u>www.detroitmi.gov/land</u>). |
| Information on the financial, in-kind, and volunteer resources you will use to complete your project; note that you may need an approval letter from a bank letter or a bank statement if the project requires financial resources (see page 14). |
| Any additional information that might help the City in its decision to sell you the land (see page 5). |

2. Check land zoning

Which land use below most closely aligns with the applicants intended use? Beautification / Lot Cleanup Ocommunity gathering space or social space Ourban Agriculture (less than or equal to 1 acre) Ourban Agriculture (greater than 1 acre) Orchard/ tree farm Outdoor Art Project/ sculpture garden Installation Oreenstormwater Infrastructure Project Other

These are the different use types identified in the Detroit Zoning Ordinance. If you are unsure which best applies to your project, see page 3 of Packet 2. Check land zoning to learn the definitions of each.

An urban agriculture project under 1 acre or exactly one acre is considered an urban garden under the City's Agriculture Ordinance. An urban agriculture project over one acre is considered an urban farm.

Does the applicant have partners or supporting organizations that are helping? (select all that apply) Neighborhood Block Club I and Based Non-Profit Religious Institution Educational Institution Other IF YES, ENTER THEIR NAMES AND HOW ARE THESE PARTNERS / ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE PROJECT? Enter organization names and support description here. (500 character limit)

Are you in contact with other project leaders who are working on a similar project and providing you with quidance and support?

Are you working with an organization that is providing you assistance and information? List them. here and describe what they're doing to support you.

| Describe any support from the community: | |
|---|--|
| COMMUNITY SUPPORT * | |
| COMMONT FOR FOR | |
| Enter support description here. (500 character limit) | |
| | |
| | |
| Next | |

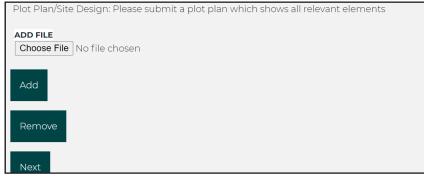
| Does the land-base project include (select all which apply): | |
|--|---|
| □Structures | |
| □Fences/ Borders | |
| □Signage | |
| Compost | |
| □Trees | |
| □Planting(s) | |
| □Art | * |
| □Water irrigation/ New water tap | |
| Green Stormwater Infrastructure | |
| Other | |
| Next | |

Make sure the physical improvements you list here are also shown in the Plot Plan to be submitted in the following question.

A raised garden bed is not a new structure.



Check out the **hint** for this question to see what type of work requires a permit.



Attach a file with your plot plan of how you will use the site

Take a look at the **Plot Plan, Site Design, and Maintenance Guide**for guidance on required physical improvements and best practices.
Attach any relevant files.



Do you have volunteers, neighbors, friends, family, or other people in your social network who will help you with your project without receiving payment? Please tell us about the type of work they will do.

Detroit is actively seeking viable projects with the highest probability of success.

Provide a summary of the applicant's proposal for the property below. The applicant will be able to upload supporting materials separately.

PROPOSAL*
Enter proposal here. (500 character limit)

**Additional supporting materials can be uploaded separately, in a later question.

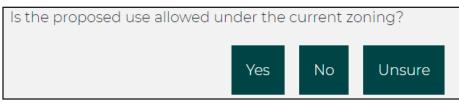
Please note the character limits!

To go into more detail, upload your full project narrative as a separate file (see **page 14**).

Telling your story: How will your project benefit the community?

When writing the story of your project, consider the following questions:

- What do you want to do with the lot, and what motivated you?
- What are some of the benefits you bring to the community?
 - o Beautify a blighted lot
 - Educational opportunities
 - o Jobs for people in the community
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - o Community engagement
 - o Events and spaces that bring community members together
 - Resources like fresh foods



See page 3 of Packet 2. Check land zoning to learn how to check your zoning district and if your proposed use is permitted.

Project and Financing Details

WHAT IS THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COST OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT?*
Please enter development cost.

What funding source(s) will be used?

Equity / Cash on hand

Grants

Income from operations

Loan

Other

What is the proposed project's construction timeline?

O -6 months *

7-12 months *

13-24 months *

Next

Estimate the **total cost** for your project. Expenses may include:

- Property clean up and site preparation
- Site utilities (water, electric, gas)
- Signage
- Site infrastructure (fencing, structures)
- Other construction
- First year of maintenance
- Professional design needs (if any)
- Stipends or contractual services

Be prepared to submit a **certified bank statement** showing cash on hand or **approval letters** for loans or grants.

Development Timeline: Please create and attach a development timeline for your project. Your timeline should include items such as:

- Clean up of the land and clearing it of debris.
 Generally, this must be done within 30 days after closing with a restricted deed but can be adjusted depending on weather and existing conditions.
- Total time it will take to set up and launch your project. This is typically done within 12 to 18 months, but you can indicate whether you need more time.

This is your project's and your opportunity to Tell Your Story & provide any additional details. For more information on what to include, see "Telling your story" on page 13. Have you been taking care of the lot for a while? Tell the City about it.

Are you providing a benefit to the community? Write about it!

Do your neighbors want you to be there? Have them write a letter of support!



Application Agreement

- After reading the agreement you will electronically sign and date your application
- When completed press Finish!
 - · I acknowledge that failure to disclose a material fact or to misrepresent a fact can result in a rejection of my application.
 - I certify that all of the information contained in my application to purchase is true and correct.
 - · I understand by signing this, I am authorizing the Owner, its affiliates and agents to conduct a credit check and additional background checks, as applicable
 - · I acknowledge that the Owner, its affiliates and agents may decline my offer for any reason or no reason.
 - Lacknowledge that the property(ies) that Lam seeking is(are) subject to all land use and zoning requirements and restrictions, and Lagree that L must comply with all applicable land use, zoning, and property maintenance laws and ordinances. I understand and agree that it is my sole responsibility to determine whether the zoning permits my intended use.
 - I acknowledge that the Owner is only offering property "AS IS" with no warranty whatsoever. I understand that I am assuming the risks for any and all defects in the property. Applicant assumes the responsibility to investigate.
 - I acknowledge that the Owner is conveying the property via Quit Claim Deed, and does not warrant a title.
 - I certify that I (or principal or officer if on behalf of a partnership or corporation or affiliated companies) am not in default for the payment of income taxes or property taxes payable to the City of Detroit.
 - I certify that I (or any principal or officer if on behalf of a partnership or corporation or affiliated companies), have no unpaid blight violations owing to the City of Detroit.
 - I understand that if the Owner discovers that I have outstanding blight tickets or taxes at any time prior to the closing, the closing may be delayed until all outstanding balances have been paid.
 - · I certify that I (or any principal or officer if on behalf of a partnership or corporation or affiliated companies) have no unpaid water bills owing to the City of Detroit.
 - I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by all the terms of this application. I further certify that all of the statements set forth in this application are complete and true.
 - I certify that I am authorized to execute this application on behalf of the applicant.
 - · I certify that I have not previously defaulted on a development agreement or property reverter with respect to City of Detroit.

| Type your full name here to signify your agreement and understanding. | |
|---|---|
| | |
| DATE * mm/dd/yyyy | _ |
| Finish | |

Finish! When you submit your application

you will see this message!

Good News. Your application has been loaded successfully. You can now review, edit and submit your form. Start Review

Once you submit your application, your application does not expire. Application review can take about 6 - 10 weeks.

Check the status of your application

On the main application page you can select "Check Application Status":

- Enter the Application ID
- If your application has been submitted it will say you application is "Completed"

Have questions or need help?

This table includes contact information for agencies and organizations involved in purchasing land from the City or the Land Bank. You can contact them to ask questions or get more information.

| Contact | Loc | ation | Con | tact Information |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED) | 2 Woodward Ave. 4th Floor | | Development Resource Center: 313-224-2372 drc@detroitmi.gov Zoning Office: 313-224-1317 zoning@detroitmi.gov Plumbing: 313-224-3157 | |
| Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (CAYMC) 2 Woodward Ave. | | rd Ave. | | |
| Detroit Building Authority (DBA) | 1301 Third Ave. 3rd Floor | | 313-224-0174 | |
| Detroit Land Bank Authority (Land Bank) | 500 Griswo Suite 1200 | old St. | www.BuildingDetroit.org 844-289-3522 landreuse@detroitlandbank.org | |
| General Services Department: Community Managed Open Space Program | 18100 Meyers | | 313-224-5555 | |
| Detroit Public Library You can contact the main branch for information on your local library | Main Branch: 5201 Woodward Ave. | | 313-481-1300 | |
| District 1 Crowell Recrea | tion Center | 16630 Lahse | er | 313-236-3484 |
| District 2 Northwest Act | ivities Cente | ties Center 18100 Meyer | | 313-236-3494 |
| District 3 Farwell Recrea | tion Center | nter 2711 E. Outer D | | 313-348-8464 |
| District 4 Samaritan Cen | iter | ter 5555 Conne | | 313-236-3518 |
| District 5 Butzel Family (| Center 7737 Kerche | | eval | 313-236-3528 |
| District 6 Patton Recreat | ion Center | on Center 2301 Wood | | 313-236-3530 |
| District 7 Adams Butzel | 1 717 99/ 5 | 10500 Lyndon | | 313-236-3540 16 |