

FARMLINE: A Hub for Urban Agriculture in Detroit

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The farm line envisages a different type of urban renaissance for Detroit. With more than one third of the land lying vacant or under-used, Detroit has witnessed an inversion of urban and rural conditions. The hinterlands have reclaimed parts of the city, and with it, a strong return to rural agrarian practices has rooted in the communities of Detroit. The Detroit Works Project proposes a new future for Detroit as a region of neighborhoods and productive landscapes. As the saying goes, “All roads lead to Rome.” In Motown, all roads lead to the central waterfront.

Embracing the region’s rich agricultural history and industrial urbanism, we propose a Central Market Place that serves as the regional agricultural resource center to support the growing urban agriculture movement in Detroit. The Central Market Place will re-purpose existing buildings and parking structures along the waterfront, and under-utilized transit infrastructure to build a new place for the region to connect to each other and the waterfront. The Detroit People Mover becomes the Farm Line. The UAW building becomes the Farm House. The Renaissance Center parking structure becomes the Barn.

FARM LINE CONNECTIONS

Formerly known as the Detroit People Mover, the Farm Line re-purposes the elevated track into a grazing pasture that winds through

Downtown. Rotational grazing provides a constant nutrient re-charge for this unique system of animal husbandry. The stations function as loading, herding, feeding, watering and composting areas. The animals winter in the “barn” and the pasture can be used as a winter walking trail. An extension of the elevated pasture connects the Farm House and the Barn and serves as a gateway to the site.

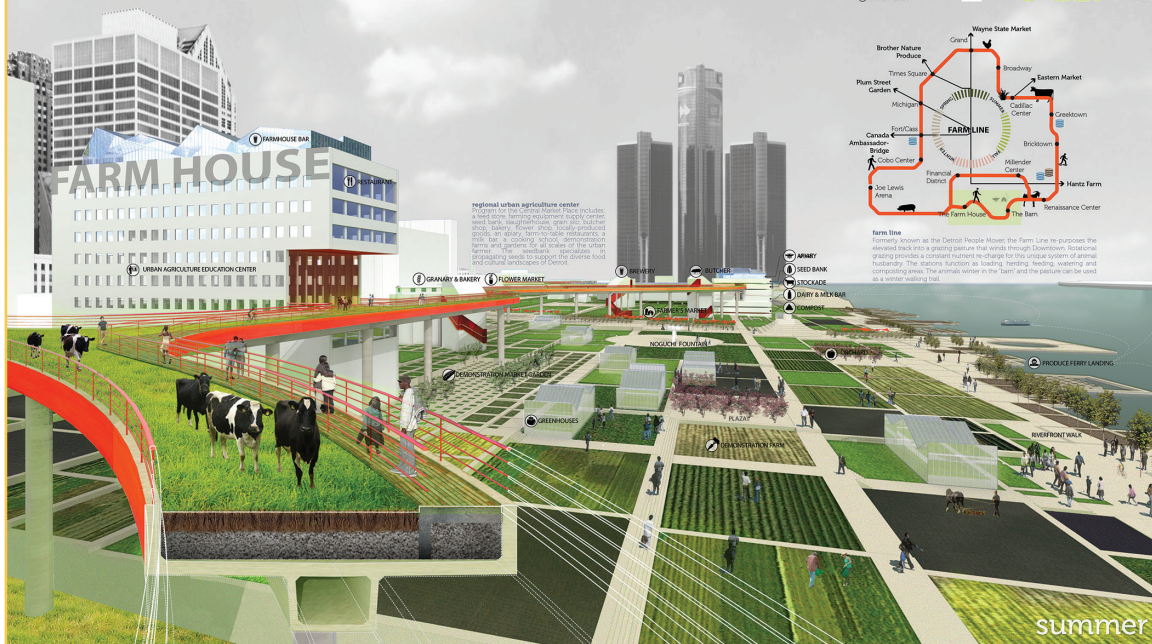
REGIONAL URBAN AG CENTER

Program for the Central Market Place includes: a feed store, farming equipment supply center, seed bank, slaughterhouse, grain silo, butcher shop, bakery, flower shop, locally-produced goods, an apiary, farm-to-table restaurants, a milk bar, a cooking school, demonstration farms and gardens for all scales of the urban farmer. The seed bank specializes in propagating seeds to support the diverse food and cultural landscapes of Detroit.

THE NEW MOTOWN: GROWN IN DETROIT

Locals and tourists alike can enjoy the seasons of the Central Marketplace; it will be a great resource for urban farmers and an entertainment and educational venue for everyone. Where else in the world can you walk out of a convention center into fields and orchards? In what other city can you eat at a restaurant overlooking the fields where the vegetables were grown? In what other city can you see cows grazing above the streets of downtown?

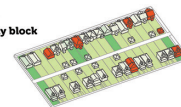
Were I an aspiring farmer in search of fertile land to buy and plow, I would seriously consider moving to Detroit. There is open land, fertile soil, ample water, willing labor, and a desperate demand for decent food. And there is plenty of community will behind the idea of turning the capital of American industry into an agrarian paradise. —Mark Doner "Food Among the Ruins"



farmline

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1 city block

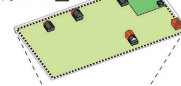


urban garden

< 1 acre
one family
150 acres = 22,750 lbs of strawberries

urban farm

> 1 acre
4 acre farm
96,000 lbs of lettuce
7000 soft greenhouses



32 city blocks (125 acres) supports 1 farmers market

1 tractor
366,000 lbs of sweet corn

