



# Mapping Detroit: Land, Community, and Shaping a City (Great Lakes Books Series)

*June Manning Thomas*

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One of Detroit's most defining modern characteristics—and most pressing dilemmas—is its huge amount of neglected and vacant land. In *Mapping Detroit: Land, Community, and Shaping a City*, editors June Manning Thomas and Henco Bekkering use chapters based on a variety of maps to shed light on how Detroit moved from frontier fort to thriving industrial metropolis to today's high-vacancy city. With contributors ranging from a map archivist and a historian to architects, urban designers, and urban planners, *Mapping Detroit* brings a unique perspective to the historical causes, contemporary effects, and potential future of Detroit's transformed landscape.

To show how Detroit arrived in its present condition, contributors in part 1, *Evolving Detroit: Past to Present*, trace the city's beginnings as an agricultural, military, and trade outpost and map both its depopulation and attempts at redevelopment. In part 2, *Portions of the City*, contributors delve into particular land-related systems and neighborhood characteristics that encouraged modern social and economic changes. Part 2 continues by offering case studies of two city neighborhoods—the Brightmoor area and Southwest Detroit—that are struggling to adapt to changing landscapes. In part 3, *Understanding Contemporary Space and Potential*, contributors consider both the city's ecological assets and its sociological fragmentation to add dimension to the current understanding of its emptiness. The volume's epilogue offers a synopsis of the major points of the 2012 *Detroit Future City* report, the city's own strategic blueprint for future land use.

*Mapping Detroit* explores not only what happens when a large city loses its main industrial purpose and a major portion of its population but also what future might result from such upheaval. Containing some of the leading voices on Detroit's history and future, *Mapping Detroit* will be informative reading for anyone interested in urban studies, geography, and recent American history.

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