



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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