

# THE FIELD GUIDE TO WORKING WITH LOTS

## Working with Lots

Detroit Future City's (DFC) Working with Lots Program aims to accelerate vacant land revitalization in Detroit using the Field Guide to Working with Lots. The program has three components: an annual grant program, workshop series, and maintenance program.

The Working with Lots Program helps Detroiters to install one of 38 lot designs to transform vacant lots into intentional landscapes that beautify neighborhoods, activate community spaces, and address increased rainfall through green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) practices.

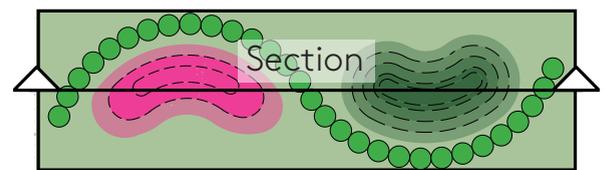


## The Field Guide to Working with Lots

The "Field Guide to Working with Lots" is a user-friendly tool with over 35 landscape designs. Available as a PDF and online toolkit, the Field Guide is the foundation of the Working with Lots Program, and offers Detroiters step-by-step instructions on how to transform vacant land in their neighborhoods.

## The Working with Lots Grant

The Working with Lots Program offers annual grants for community organizations to transform vacant land throughout the city. Since 2016, 50 Detroit organizations – a mix of non-profits, small-businesses, faith-based institutions, and block clubs – have received grant awards. These grants have ranged from \$3,500 to \$12,000 and have supported groups in installing lot designs from the Detroit Future City's Field Guide to Working with Lots.



## About Detroit Future City

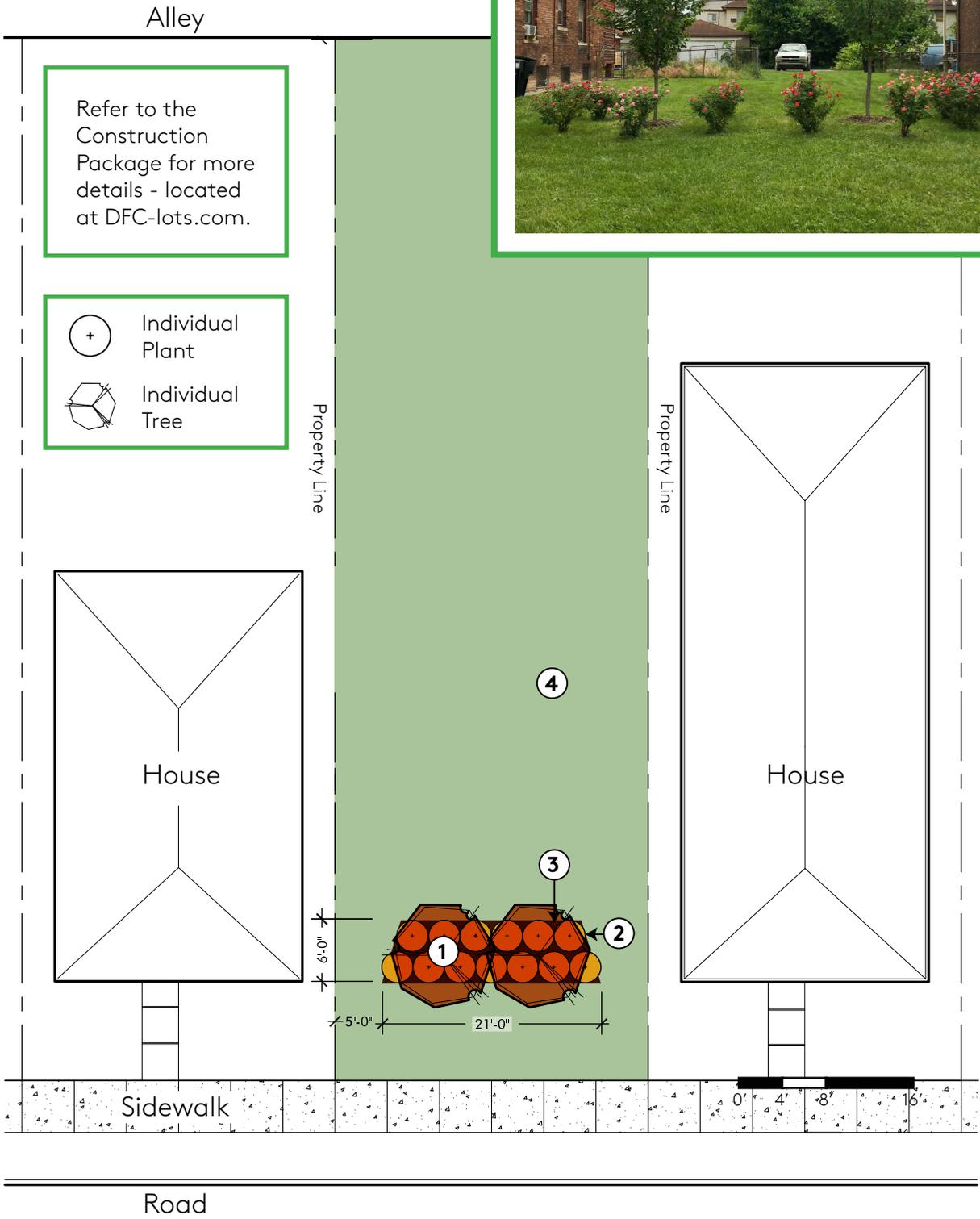
Detroit Future City (DFC) is committed to advancing the quality of life for all Detroiters. We accomplish this in partnership with residents and public and private stakeholders, and through data-driven strategies that promote the advancement of land use and sustainability, and community and economic development.

DFC is charged with catalyzing implementation of the DFC Strategic Framework, a 50-year vision for the City of Detroit developed with input from more than 100,000 Detroiters. Our role is to steward equitable implementation of the recommendations made in the Strategic Framework through providing access and information to Detroiters, informing and guiding decision-makers' initiatives and projects, and the coordination of a multitude of stakeholders.

For more information on DFC's publications and programs, visit [www.detroitfuturecity.com](http://www.detroitfuturecity.com)

# ROSE APPEAL LOT DESIGN

To view details on this and 35+ other lot designs, visit <https://dfc-lots.com/lot-designs>



- 1 Ornamental Tree
- 2 Flowering Hedge (Rose)
- 3 Mulch
- 4 Grass or Groundcover

# GETTING STARTED

## The Workbook

The Field Guide to Working with Lots Workbook is a great resource for exploring what is possible on your lot. The Workbook helps you to identify important site conditions, and think through existing resources and assets in your neighborhood along with additional resources and materials you'll need to successfully implement a landscape project.

Download the Workbook or view or it online here: <https://dfc-lots.com/resources/>

## The Workshop Series

In 2019, DFC's Working with Lots Program launched a workshop series to increase Detroiters' capacity to successfully install land-based projects. DFC partnered with different Detroit organizations to offer workshops aimed at strengthening skills and knowledge to better install, maintain and enhance Field Guide lot designs and other community spaces.

The [Working with Lots Workshop Series](#) continues to invite Detroiters to participate in workshops around community engagement, gardening and designing land-based projects.

## Lots to Maintain

Through the maintenance component of the Working with Lots Program, DFC conducts site visits and evaluations of past projects and offers maintenance recommendations.

## Resources + Materials

Transforming vacant lots requires access to resources. You need the right people at the right time; it's not just about the land! In our Workbook, we identify many different resource and material providers in and around Detroit that will be invaluable in installing a lot design. Refer to our resource list on page 65 of the Workbook, to find local connections for the following stages of your project.

### Site Prep

Site prep often requires:

- special yard waste or bulk pick-up requests, and occasionally dumpsters;
- tool rental;
- soil testing;
- tree trimming services; and
- utility line checks

### Planting

When you're ready to plant, you'll need to have resources for:

- top soil, compost, and mulch;
- perennial plants and trees; and
- water catchment + irrigation systems

## Property Owners Guide to Bioretention

The [Detroit Property Owner's Guide to Bioretention](#) provides details on how to plan for and implement a bioretention basin on non-residential properties to better manage stormwater.

View past projects at [dfc-lots.com](https://dfc-lots.com)