Abstract. The “Paris of the West” was once a booming city, growing to almost 2 million people with no end in sight. The post-WWII suburban growth, rampant highway construction, race riots, white flight, crack epidemics, and years of bureaucracy have left the city in shambles – literally a hulking shell of its former self with a 60% population decline. The city was a one trick pony, betting all chips on an industry that eventually collapsed. Detroit’s sprawling nature and rapid decline opens up the huge void of empty buildings and vacant land. Many undereducated, unemployed, poorly nourished, isolated, and “left-behind” residents of Detroit now have the opportunity to shift gears and turn the City’s biggest liability into one of mankind’s greatest assets – productive agricultural land. While many challenges abound, no other city has the amount of vacant land as does Detroit. People are working to overcome the social, environmental, and political challenges associated with urban agriculture. Hundreds of young people are moving back to the city, attempting to create a new life for themselves. Detroit has the unique opportunity of becoming the first self-sufficient city in America in terms of food, and serve as a new sustainable model of reinvention to the entire nation.