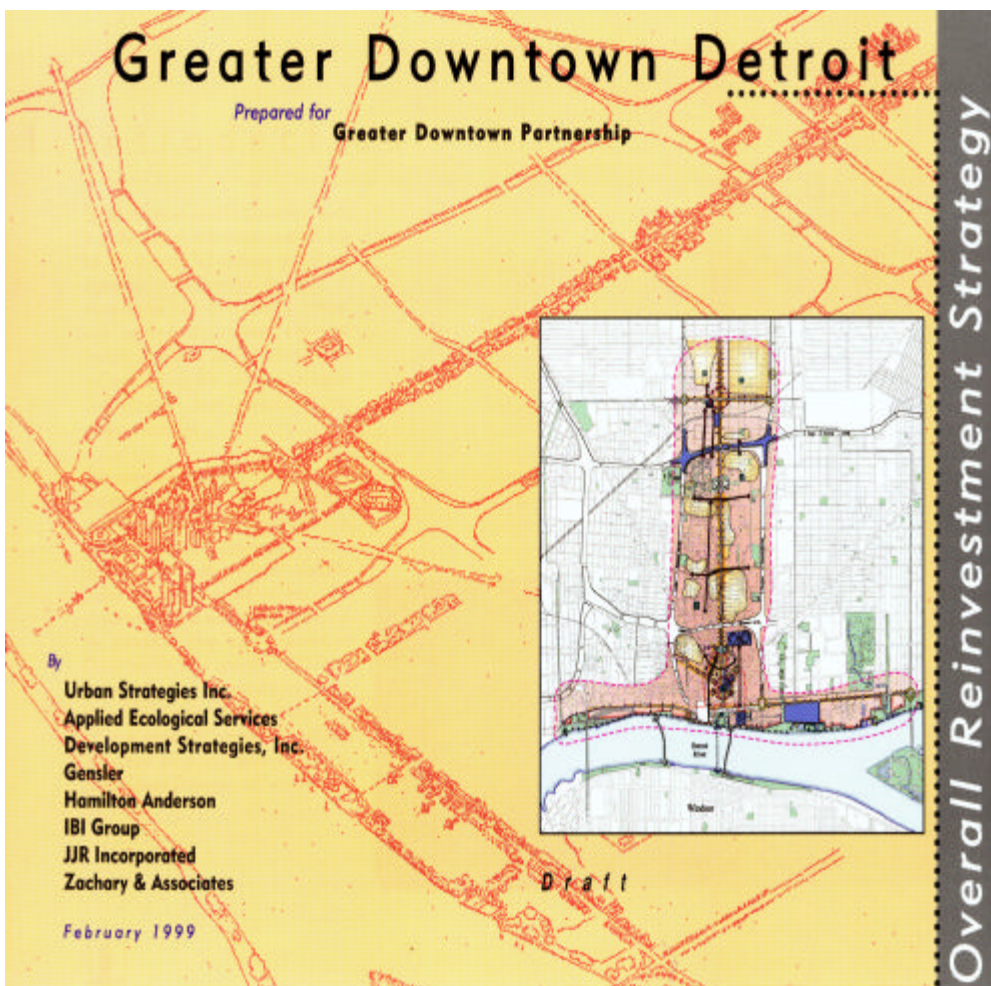


Detroit Michigan Urban Core Reinvestment Plan

Detroit, Michigan

Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES) was involved in a major study exploring reinvestment opportunities for five square miles of downtown Detroit, Michigan, between the Ambassador Bridge and Belle Island. The process involved characterizing existing conditions of built landscapes, natural landscapes and financial, economic, and social environments. With participation from local expertise and stakeholder groups, a series of workshops was held to identify proposed directions of change that allowed opportunities for reinvestment. The workshops focused on connecting downtown Detroit with the Detroit Riverfront by taking formerly industrial landscapes and softening, or “greening” them to provide a green infrastructure, improved water quality, and a system of passive recreational parks.

AES provided design concepts for softening and stabilizing deteriorated river shorelines. Concept designs were jointly prepared by AES and other partners from the Detroit area. AES also assisted in addressing the development potential of contaminated brownfield sites, reconnecting Detroit with the river, providing connections between regional greenways and addressing fishing opportunities along the Detroit River.



The history of industrial development along the Detroit River was a major area of inquiry in our attempt to develop a reinvestment strategy. In addition, recognizing the history of social change and racial issues became key elements in understanding the long-standing inability of Detroit to reshape its future. The framework plan captured the inspiration and vision of the many community leaders and local stakeholders. Major initiatives for reinvestment and redevelopment are being undertaken as a direct result of this project. AES had the pleasure of working on this project with several local firms, the City of Detroit staff, the Greater Downtown Detroit Partnership, and others.