*For Immediate Release*

**Mapping Detroit** Explores the City’s Unique Geography from a Variety of Viewpoints

DETROIT—March 1, 2015—One of Detroit’s most defining modern characteristics—and most pressing dilemmas—is its huge amount of neglected and vacant land. New from editors June Manning Thomas and Henco Bekkering *Mapping Detroit: Land, Community, and Shaping a City* uses 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 begin by tracing the city’s beginnings as an agricultural, military, and trade outpost and map both its depopulation and attempts at redevelopment. They move on to discuss particular land-related systems and neighborhood characteristics that encouraged modern social and economic changes and offer case studies of two city neighborhoods—the Brightmoor area and Southwest Detroit. Contributors also 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. 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.

**Book information:** Pre-order now! Available March 2015, 10x8.5”, 252 pages, 130 illustrations ISBN 978-0-8143-4026-4, $34.99 paper (ebook also available). More information: [http://wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/mapping-detroit](http://wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/mapping-detroit)

**Ann Arbor panel and book launch:** March 12, 2015, Art & Architecture Building (UM Taubman College), Roon 2104, 6:00 pm. Featuring the editors and several contributors.

**Editors will also appear at the Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference!** March 13, 2015, Sterling Heights, MI.

# # #

For more information on the book or to speak to the authors, please contact Sarah Murphy, Promotions Manager, Wayne State University Press, (313) 577-6077 tel; (313) 577-6131 fax; murphysa@wayne.edu.

To learn more about the Press, please visit wsupress.wayne.edu.