



Homegrown Minneapolis



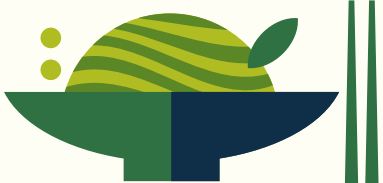
The Minneapolis Food Vision is a plan developed by people who live and work in Minneapolis. Designed to create a resilient, equitable local food system, it provides resources, proven policy strategies and examples of innovative initiatives that can be deployed at a municipal level.





MILAN
URBAN
FOOD
POLICY
PACT

The City of Minneapolis is proud to be part of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). The MUFPP is an international agreement among cities across the globe to develop just, resilient local food systems. Using a human rights-based framework, each participating city develops a plan to provide healthy and affordable food for everyone in their community, minimize food waste, and care for the environment while addressing the impacts of climate change.



Executive Summary

The Minneapolis Food Vision (Minneapolis Food Vision) provides a 10-year plan for a resilient, just, and equitable local food system. It is a companion plan to the 2023 Climate Equity Plan. Through in person and online events, over 1,000 people participated in its development. The Minneapolis Food Vision offers six priorities and 29 strategies to:

- 🌱 **Protect and strengthen our local food supply**
- 🌱 **Expand our capacity to grow food within city limits**
- 🌱 **Nurture locally owned food and farm businesses**
- 🌱 **Foster healthy food skills**
- 🌱 **Improve access to healthy food**
- 🌱 **Reduce food waste**
- 🌱 **Support ongoing innovation, learning, and engagement**

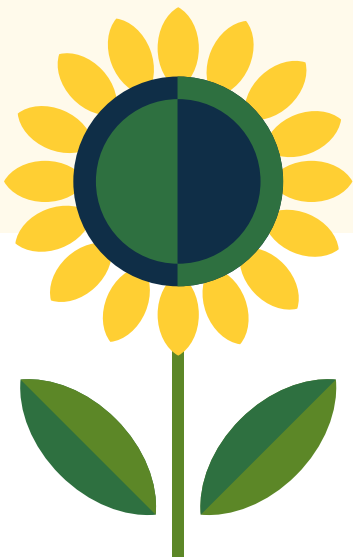
Seven Food Justice Principles, a summary of our shared values, informed the planning process and will guide implementation.

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council is a City-appointed advisory committee. The Food Council developed the Minneapolis Food Vision in partnership with City staff, academic partners, community-based organizations, and food systems advocates. Funding was provided by:

- 🌱 **The City of Minneapolis**
- 🌱 **Innovations at the Nexus of Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS), a collaboration between the National Science Foundation and United States Department of Agriculture**

In 2023, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will produce a companion document — the Minneapolis Food Action Plan. It will contain specific actions and ways to measure impact and progress. The Food Council will implement the action plan in collaboration with community partners.

The Minneapolis Food Vision is part of a larger ecosystem of cities across the globe that have also created plans for their local food systems. Over 200 cities worldwide, including Minneapolis, have signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. This pact is a commitment to developing and deploying a plan for how to nurture a just, equitable, and resilient local food system.



Get involved

- 🌱 **Go to the [Minneapolis Food Vision landing page](#) to learn more about ways to participate**
- 🌱 **Attend [Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council](#) meetings**

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Dear Minneapolis residents,

In partnership with more than 1,000 people who live and work in Minneapolis, we are pleased to share the Minneapolis Food Vision (MFV).

The plan was created collaboratively with many community-based organizations, food systems advocates and leaders, residents, and members of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council. It reflects priorities and actions that will foster a resilient, just, and sustainable food system for our entire city. Our City government is best when we all work together toward an equitable vision for our residents' health and well-being.

The City of Minneapolis, with a history of being a world leader in flour milling and other food processing since the 19th century, has an incredible food history and culture. It consists of:

- 🌱 **A dynamic and diverse culinary scene**
- 🌱 **A thriving network of cooperatively owned grocers that support small and local food producers**
- 🌱 **A community-based and culturally meaningful approach to our hunger relief system**
- 🌱 **An amazing ecosystem of non-profit organizations, public sector agencies, and educational and community-based programs that work on an array of food systems issues**
- 🌱 **The ongoing collaborative efforts of many people and partners who care deeply about the relationship between community, resilience, food, agriculture, and gastronomy**

As part of a global movement of cities committed to advancing equity and climate resilience via our local food system, we're proud of the ideas contributed by so many people contained in this plan. We also believe that the power of communities working locally across the world

will move the dial on food justice and environmental sustainability. Like many other cities across the United States, our food plan enables us to successfully address food-related issues in a strategic, lasting way.

Our efforts to implement the Minneapolis Food Vision will strengthen the food system in Minneapolis, laying the groundwork for policies and systems that:

- 🌱 **Provide equitable access to healthy food for the entire community**
- 🌱 **Grow our local food production and distribution infrastructure**
- 🌱 **Reduce our food waste**
- 🌱 **Build a healthy and just food system**

Together and individually, many agencies, organizations, partners, and people within and beyond city government will need to work together to carry out these strategies between now and 2033. Successful implementation will take alignment and cooperation among the players and the many efforts across our community and commercial sector. Completion of the strategies described in the Minneapolis Food Vision will require your support and involvement to ensure a healthy, equitable, and climate resilient City and food system.

Homegrown Minneapolis, an initiative of the City of Minneapolis, will provide oversight, support, and necessary coordination to ensure successful execution of the plan. We'll use a carefully developed measurement effort to determine our progress, assess our impact, and hold us collectively accountable to fulfilling the plan's goals.

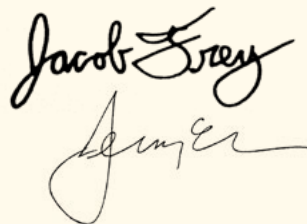
To all who participated in helping shape this plan and to all who will help implement it, we appreciate your leadership and commitment to our city and food system.

In partnership with,

Mayor Jacob Frey

Andrea Jenkins, *City Council President*

Marcus Kar and Jenny Breen, *Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Co-Chairs*





Setting the Context

Nurturing our Local Food System

Home to some of the largest food and agriculture enterprises in the world, Minneapolis is globally recognized as an international food systems leader. Minneapolis is also widely known for its longstanding commitment to and innovation in local food systems. The launch of the Minneapolis Food Vision (Minneapolis Food Vision) is just one milestone in a long, deep, and rich history of a thriving local food system:

- We are proud of our ecosystem of cooperatively owned local grocery stores that support local growers and food entrepreneurs, sustainable agriculture, and healthy lifestyles, grounded in an abiding cultural commitment to cooperative businesses in Minnesota
- We have a dynamic network of large and small farmers markets alike, supported by passionate shoppers who value their relationships with local growers. Low-income residents can use their SNAP benefits and receive Market Bucks that provide matching dollars to purchase healthy items. These markets also feature many new immigrant and Black, Indigenous, and other vendors of color
- We have a longstanding and growing base of restaurants and institutional food services committed to buying healthy items from nearby farmers and locally owned food enterprises
- The University of Minnesota is one of the few urban-based land grant institutions in the United States. Faculty and students from the University of Minnesota and their local post-secondary institutions, conduct research, provide outreach and education, and other support to help sustain our local and regional food system, and address important food- and health-related issues
- We have an expanding network of people, organizations, and enterprises growing and making food in the city for local eaters
- We excel at organizing community members to advance our shared interests around growing and protecting our local food system, such as our successful advocacy to create a statewide grant program for urban agriculture at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture



Homegrown Minneapolis

Considered a national leader in urban food systems, the City of Minneapolis dedicates staff, funding, and other resources to support [Homegrown Minneapolis](#). This citywide initiative, housed in the [Minneapolis Health Department](#), helps our community grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.

Affiliated with and appointed by City government and staffed by the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, the [Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council](#) is an advisory group that:

- Works with diverse stakeholders to build a healthy, resilient local food system
- Connects local government, businesses, organizations, and residents

Homegrown Minneapolis supports urban agriculture (including gardening, beekeeping, pollinator-friendly landscapes, and backyard chickens) through a range of policies and programs; farmers markets through partnerships and support; food access through partnerships and assistance to area food shelves and feeding programs; food waste management; and local food and farm enterprises.





Confronting a Legacy of Historic Inequities

Racial inequality is also a hallmark of Minneapolis' food system. Just and equitable access to affordable, healthy, culturally relevant foods varies across the city, which is one domino effect from these structural practices put in place many decades ago. Furthermore, economic inequities stemming from inequality in hiring and wages persist today, compounding peoples' access to affordable food, housing, and transportation.

The development of the Minneapolis Food Vision is grounded in this context and has also occurred during a profoundly difficult chapter in the history of our city, one where nearly everything seems different than before. As the first phase of this effort, the community engagement process began before:

- 🌱 **The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated existing inequities in access to affordable, healthy food. It resulted in supply chain problems that led to food shortages; and caused closures of restaurants, layoffs of food and farm workers, and outbreaks in food processing plants.**
- 🌱 **The murder of George Floyd, resulting in the destruction of many key food sources during the civil unrest that followed.**
- 🌱 **The dramatic uptick in inflation, which caused major increases in food, housing, and energy prices, generating worsening challenges for people meeting their basic food needs.**

As we move into 2023, times continue to be unpredictable, challenging, and difficult for many. Yet, these crises also fostered creativity and connection in our local food system. Our community stepped up to fill gaps and grow food. Pop-up food distribution sites that featured healthy foods showed up across the community, providing nourishment to people in need. Unemployed restaurant workers banded together to prepare and distribute meals through the hunger relief system. People planted gardens for food, a connection to nature, and a way to heal. Across Minneapolis, we have seen a reawakening of peoples' interest in growing and making food.

It is during this era that we begin the journey of implementing the Minneapolis Food Vision, sowing seeds of possibility for regeneration, resilience, and restoration for ourselves, our communities and our planet.

Introduction



Globally and in Minneapolis, many people and partnerships have formed to create a just, ecologically resilient, abundant, and affordable food supply. This international movement represents a diverse array of agendas, priorities, and cultural communities which share a common aim of shifting how we grow, distribute, prepare, and dispose of our food away from powerful global interests to more control and engagement by local communities.

For many years, grassroots and institutional efforts have fostered a powerful range of food systems activities. These efforts include urban agriculture, farm to institution programs, food hub and farmers market development, local food and farm enterprise incubation, food skills education, healthy food access initiatives, and more. Much of this dynamic growth of food and farm-related activity is grounded in a commitment to equity and assisted by robust municipal policy.

Over 200 major cities across the world, including Minneapolis, have signed on to the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#). Signatories commit to creating food systems plans, which are frameworks that inform strategic action, often developed through research and community engagement. These plans usually contain prioritized goals and strategies in response to community-identified needs, issues, and opportunities, and are designed to foster a resilient, thriving local food supply. They can emphasize things like food production, healthy eating, access to nutritious food, and support for local food enterprises.

With a nationally recognized track record of success in local food systems development, the City of Minneapolis has developed the Minneapolis Food Vision to guide the community's local food systems development work for the next decade. The plan provides a collaboratively developed vision for how to intentionally steward a just, equitable, local food system for the community's well-being — now and into the future.

The Minneapolis Food Vision offers six priorities and 29 associated proven, actionable strategies identified by people who live and work in the city. The Minneapolis Food Vision is a companion document to the City of Minneapolis' 2023 Climate Equity Plan, a roadmap to reducing our city's climate impact.

"A globalizing economy and concerns about climate change have encouraged greater thought about re-localizing food production."

**The Status of Minnesota Food Hubs:
Final Report to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.**
Cooperative Development Services (2016=)

Our Priorities

The below priorities and associated goals are accompanied by specific strategies, designed to address components of our city's food system and determined by many people across the city as the most important:

1. **Local Food Supply** — More food grown and made by nearby food and farm entrepreneurs is available across the city.
2. **Urban Agriculture** — We have the skills, resources, infrastructure, and ecological health needed to produce food within our city.
3. **Local Food Businesses** — We grow opportunity and provide needed support to locally owned food and farm enterprises and workers in the city's food system.
4. **Healthy Food Skills and Healthy Food Access** — Our food system offers a widely available, diverse, and affordable array of nourishing foods that meet peoples' cultural and dietary needs where people work, live, learn, and play. There are ample opportunities to strengthen one's food skills, regardless of who you are or where you live in the city.
5. **Wasted Food** — We prevent food waste where possible, diverting wasted food and making it available to others. There is ample compost available for food production, made by transforming food waste, such as food scraps from food preparation.
6. **Food System Research and Outreach** — Food systems advocates across the city will use collaborative and participatory research methods as a tool to advance a just and sustainable food system, undertaking numerous research efforts to better understand key issues, best practices, and effective solutions. We will foster outreach and educational efforts to enhance understanding of food systems issues and food skills.



Development of the plan was guided and led by members of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, City staff, and academic partners. The priorities and related strategies contained in this plan were identified through an inclusive process that involved many residents, workers from the food system, community-serving organizations and more.

The Minneapolis Food Vision grounds these priorities and strategies in seven Food Justice Principles, identified through the development process. These seven principles, six priorities, and related strategies are accompanied by concrete next steps. By implementing the plan, Minneapolis residents, community-serving organizations, and City government can partner to make sure our food system is healthy, affordable, equitable, profitable, and good for people and the environment.

What is the Food System?



All elements of the food system are shaped by policies, decisions, activities, knowledge, resources, groups, relationships, sectors, and organizational structures.

Public Health Law Center

Creation of the Minneapolis Food Vision

With support and guidance from the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, residents and food systems leaders worked together to:

- 🌱 **Design and convene community engagement processes**, including online input and in person events, conference breakout sessions, focus groups, and interviews with over 1,000 people who live and work across Minneapolis
- 🌱 **Partner with academic researchers** to find useful information, such as existing datasets; best practices on urban food systems development; examples of other food plans; and relevant resources from cities around the world. These researchers also helped with analysis of community input and guidance on how to shape the content of the plan, including design, execution, and analysis of an online survey of over 900 Minneapolis residents
- 🌱 **Identify issues, challenges, needs, assets, and opportunities associated with our local food system** through community conversations, contributing important ideas through successive phases of engagement and monthly meetings of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council
- 🌱 **Create the Minneapolis Food Vision**, based on this extensive data collection and engagement process

How we developed the Minneapolis Food Vision

Created Food Justice Principles



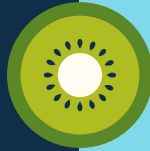
Solicited initial feedback through grassroots engagement activities and Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings
Developed, refined, and approved Food Justice Principles at Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings

Assessed existing food system needs, issues, and assets in Minneapolis



Conducted background research using existing data sets
Deployed data collection activities at Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings

Produced key priorities and related strategies



Conducted focus groups and individual interviews with an array of content experts and community members

Vetted, refined, and finalized key priorities and related strategies



Convened virtual deep dive events for community members
Conducted online city-wide survey (over 900 respondents)
Hosted culturally specific community input events, convened by five community-based organizations
Convened Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings for members and community participants to provide vetting and approval of priorities and strategies

Drafted and approved Minneapolis Food Vision



Developed, refined, and approved Minneapolis Food Vision outline at Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meetings
Drafted, reviewed, and refined all sections of the Minneapolis Food Vision
Conducted further peer review, vetting, and refinement of Minneapolis Food Vision
Provided Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council endorsement of Minneapolis Food Vision

Obtained formal approval of Minneapolis Food Vision



Worked with City officials to obtain formal approval by elected leaders

[PHASE]

[ACTIVITIES]

The six priorities and corresponding 29 strategies described in this plan were proposed, evaluated, vetted, and prioritized by stakeholders and Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council members through multiple cycles of engagement, review, and deliberation. The criteria below informed the final strategy selection process:



Equitable — Does this strategy advance equity, respond to community-identified interests and needs, and align with the Food Justice Principles?

Realistic — With available partners and resources, is this strategy possible? Do the involved partners have the know-how and capacity to implement it? Is there adequate funding available for full implementation?

Proven — Has the proposed strategy been successfully implemented previously? Do we feel confident about the odds of success? Are we open to trying something new and have we done our due diligence to try to make it successful?

Beneficial — Does this strategy help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the health of community members, and strengthen our local food supply? How many people are positively impacted by this strategy and who benefits?

Funding the Minneapolis Food Vision

-  **The City of Minneapolis partnered with the University of Minnesota and Princeton University to support Minneapolis Food Visions development.**
-  **Funders included the Minneapolis Health Department and Innovations at the Nexus of Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS), a collaboration between the National Science Foundation and United States Department of Agriculture.**

With these resources, Homegrown Minneapolis supported a variety of engagement activities, including contracts with community-based organizations and a certified, Minneapolis-based woman/Native American-owned food systems consultancy to hear from communities and work with the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council to draft the Minneapolis Food Vision.

Implementation of the Minneapolis Food Vision

In coming years, this food system plan for Minneapolis will be collaboratively implemented by numerous parties. City government, including elected officials, staff, and members of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, will be involved in supporting Minneapolis Food Vision's strategies. The Food Council will partner with local food system leaders and a diverse array of organizations to identify implementation priorities and available resources, deciding how best to advance priorities described in this plan.





Suggested Metrics for the Minneapolis Food Vision

As part of the implementation phase, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will work with City staff, partners across the community, and researchers to determine progress and impact of the strategies contained in this plan. Suggested metrics are included in this document and will be refined and measured during the implementation process, using existing and new data collection by City government and other partners.

The suggested metrics were identified with guidance from academic partners and included a review of:

- Recommendations from stakeholders participating in the community engagement process
- Standardized indicators from the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
- Measurable outcomes included in relevant food systems plans from other communities

Metrics that correspond to the prioritized strategies and that are feasible for data collection and analysis were proposed. Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council members reviewed and provided feedback on the suggested metrics, which will be further refined during implementation.

Food Justice Principles

Advancing Equity and Environmental Justice



The Food Justice Principles will be used to guide the implementation of strategies contained in the plan and to evaluate progress and impact of these strategies.

Creating the Food Justice Principles

The first step in developing the plan involved convening many people who work and live in Minneapolis to create a values-based framework to guide the content, priorities, and implementation of Minneapolis Food Vision. Through facilitated discussions, people who live and work across Minneapolis identified seven Food Justice Principles. These principles address the way we lead; the central importance of food equity; and a shared vision for our city's food system.

Social Determinants of Health

Individual and community well-being can only be attained through social and institutional equity (such as adequate income, affordable housing, and nutritious food access). These should be available to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, identity, economic status, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and immigration status or where they work, live, learn, and play.

Inclusion, Leadership, and Decision-making

The design, development, and stewardship of our food system reflects diverse values, priorities, and leadership – particularly by those most impacted by injustice.

Recognition, Reparations, and Respect

We recognize and respect the role of many communities in our food system, including a commitment to reparations for past injustices; protection of treaty rights; and fair compensation and treatment for those working in food and agriculture related jobs.

Interconnections Between Systems

The design and care of our urban food system intersects with other resources and sectors, such as water, energy, climate and the city's built environment.

Food Access

We envision having reliable, easy access to safe, affordable, healthy, and culturally relevant food for everyone in our community that is grown and prepared according to their preferences.

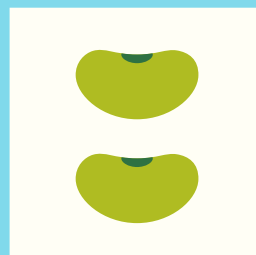
Food Production and Processing

Food should be grown, processed, and distributed in ways that reduce greenhouse gases; ensure clean water and healthy soil; and minimize food waste. We value food that is ethically and sustainably produced and sourced. Together, we will promote regional markets and small food and farm entrepreneurs. Underserved communities should have meaningful, fair engagement in food production and processing, accruing the primary financial benefits.

Food Skills

People should be able to easily learn food skills from a young age, including getting, growing, preparing, preserving, planning, sharing, and eating foods that promote health and reflect one's cultural identity, as well as learning how to minimize and manage food waste.

Priorities





Priority One

Local Food Supply

Goal

More food grown and made by nearby food and farm entrepreneurs is available across the city.

Strengthening our city's local food supply is the single most important priority identified for the Minneapolis Food Vision by people who live and work in the city.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

- 1.1** Provide financing mechanisms and business development support to facilitate connection between local production and local consumption
- 1.2** Increase purchasing of locally and sustainably grown foods by institutions and businesses within the city
- 1.3** Improve accessibility to and increase the number of places selling locally grown and made products
- 1.4** Increase support by local and state agencies for local growers
- 1.5** Decrease regulatory and logistical barriers to selling local food



Our Local Food Supply Includes ...

How, where, and what food is grown and made and by whom

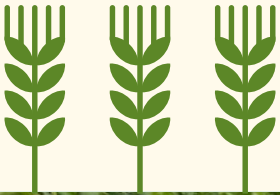
How food is processed, packaged, and distributed

How food is marketed to and obtained by consumers

Minnesota Food Charter (2014)

Case Study Snapshot: Local Food Supply

The Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago (ICNC) developed [the Hatchery](#) to support the growth and development of local food businesses. The 67,000 square foot food incubator includes 54 private commercial kitchens, co-working spaces, walk-in temperature-controlled storage, and a large common kitchen. In addition, the Hatchery also offers on-site business planning and support helping to jumpstart local, BIPOC owned businesses such as Taylor's Tacos, Phoenix Bean, and Nemi Snacks. The Hatchery also shares office space with [Allies for Community Business](#), a non-profit microlender, which further supports local business development.




Suggested Metrics

- Number of food- and farm-related businesses awarded City financing
- Total amount of City funding awarded to food- and farm-related businesses
- Demographic categories of business owners awarded City financing for food- and farm-related businesses



Minneapolis Public Schools is committed to supporting local farmers and food producers, spending more than 25% of its food budget on foods grown and made locally.



“By prioritizing local farms and food makers, we help to create a more vibrant and secure regional foodshed to nourish our students today and enrich our community into the future.”

Kirsten Weigle, Minneapolis Public Schools Farm to School Coordinator



Priority Two

Urban Agriculture

Goal

We have the skills, resources, infrastructure, and ecological health needed to produce food within our city.

Growing nutritious food in Minneapolis is a popular activity for residents, community-serving programs, and entrepreneurs alike. Ensuring comprehensive support and resources to grow food in the city is a key priority for our community.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

2.1

Increase, maintain, and improve land access within the city for growers and year-round growing

2.2

Increase access to materials, equipment, water, lighting, and other resources for growing food using sustainable production methods within the city

2.3

Strengthen food skills to grow, prepare, and preserve healthy, culturally relevant foods for all people, with a focus on underserved communities

2.4

Protect and improve pollinator habitats and water resources



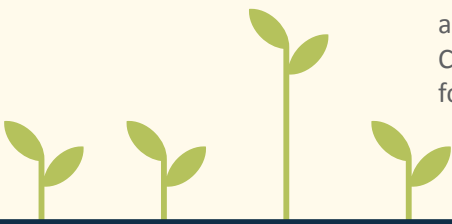
Urban Agriculture Includes ...

Cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban areas.

United States Department of Agriculture

Case Study Snapshot: Urban Agriculture

The City of St. Paul passed a [policy](#) that describes the types of gardening activity permitted on city boulevards — the strip of land between the street and sidewalk. This ordinance stipulates the types of plants allowed, including vegetable crops and flowers, and prevents the use of fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides without permission from the City forester. This policy enables city residents to make use of small patches of city land for food production and the creation of pollinator habitats.



Suggested Metrics

- Acres of land available for urban agriculture within city boundaries
- Type of land access for urban agriculture (e.g., publicly owned and leased land, privately owned land, privately owned and leased land, etc.)
- Socioeconomic demographics of urban growers in city by zip code or census tract



The City of Minneapolis offers a [Garden Lease Program](#), where qualified community gardens and market gardens can lease municipally owned vacant lots to grow food. Sixty-three lots were leased for the 2022 growing season, some of which have been merged to create larger gardens. Six of these gardens have a market garden lease, where the gardeners grow food to sell to people in the community. The Garden Lease Program was developed by the Homegrown Minneapolis Initiative. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board also offers [community garden plots](#) in parks throughout the city to interested growers.



“Food is the one thing
that connects us all.

I look forward to the Minneapolis Food Vision providing guidelines around a healthy, regenerative, and equitable food system. This plan connects us all across geographic and socio-economic lines, including urban and rural productions/producers.”

Marcus Kar, Program Director, Youth Farm
Co-Chair, Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council



Priority Three

Local Food Business

Goal

We grow opportunity and provide needed support to locally owned food and farm enterprises and workers in the city's food system.

People who work and live in Minneapolis, including many who own and work for farm and food-related businesses (such as small growers and craft food makers), have identified numerous ways we can work together to create a thriving, just local food economy.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

3.1

Improve opportunities for food system workers and small business owners, including fostering collaborative business models and other actions

3.2

Improve economic opportunities for growing food in the city

3.3

Improve protections and support for food system workers and small business owners, with special attention to people who are typically underserved

3.4

Enhance workforce development, including job skills training and support for the food system workforce

3.5

Provide support for local food businesses that offer culturally relevant food options

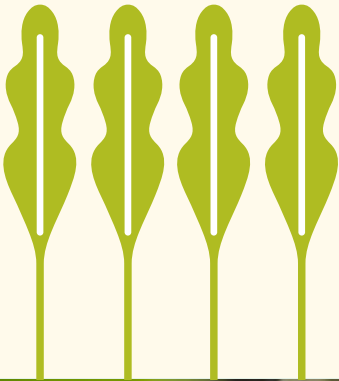


What is a Local Food Business?

A type of agricultural or food/beverage-related commercial enterprise that provides goods, products, or services designed to serve a specific geographic region.

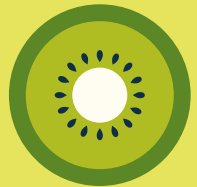
Case Study Snapshot: Local Food Business

The City of Tukwila, Washington, financed the development of a facility that provided a permanent site for the community's farmers market, supported the Food Innovation Network's [Food Business Incubator](#) program that includes a food hall, commercial kitchen, and two years of comprehensive technical assistance for aspiring BIPOC women food entrepreneurs. This complex of food systems amenities is located on the first floor of a new city-financed affordable housing development.




Suggested Metrics

- *Percent of city ZIP codes or wards represented by vendors at Minneapolis farmers markets*
- *Percent of BIPOC farmers market vendors*
- *Amount of funding leveraged to support farmers markets in Minneapolis*



Co-Owners of Owamni by the Sioux Chef, Dana Thompson and Sean Sherman, won the 2022 James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant. Located in downtown Minneapolis on Dakota homeland, Owamni serves delicious food, prepared with Indigenous ingredients and rooted in Indigenous cultures. In 2018, they won the James Beard award for Best American Cookbook.



“It’s joyous when the local women put their hands in the soil, and you can taste the joy. It’s soul-felt and soul-satisfying.”

Heather Jansz, owner of The Curry Diva



Priority Four

Healthy Food Skills and Healthy Food Access

Goal

Our food system offers a widely available, diverse, and affordable array of nourishing foods that meet peoples' cultural and dietary needs where people work, live, learn, and play. There are ample opportunities to strengthen one's food skills, regardless of who you are or where you live in the city.

Minneapolis Food Vision community engagement activities—such as interviews, focus groups, and surveys—surfaced the importance of access to locally grown, affordable, nutritious food in the places where people spend time. Furthermore, people need food skills to prepare these foods for themselves and others.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

4.1

Improve accessibility to and availability of nutritious, culturally relevant, locally, and sustainably grown foods at places such as schools and universities, hospitals, care facilities, childcare providers, correctional facilities, hunger relief programs, worksites, and any places where food is sold

4.2

Offer opportunities for all ages to gain skills to learn about healthy eating, culturally relevant foods, and the health-promoting benefits of food, as well as growing and preparing these foods, strongly emphasizing children and youth

4.3

Improve accessibility and affordability of nutritious, locally grown, and culturally relevant foods

4.4

Encourage greater consumption of a well-rounded, nutritious, plant-rich diet and reduce consumption of unhealthy foods and foods with a high environmental impact

4.5

Place greater emphasis on nutritious eating as part of healthcare provided by mainstream healthcare organizations



Food Skills Includes Knowing...

- How to grow food
- How to identify nutritious and unhealthy options
- How to plan, select, and budget for healthy food
- How to prepare safe, nourishing food from scratch

Minnesota Food Charter (2014)

Understanding...

The food system, including agriculture and cultural aspects of food

Case Study Snapshot: Healthy Food Skills and Healthy Food Access


The City of Denver passed a ballot measure supporting the [Healthy Food for Denver's Kids initiative](#), which levied local sales and use taxes to establish a fund for healthy food and food-based education for Denver's youth. This fund provides an annual average of \$11 million in grants with an emphasis on serving low-income youth.

Suggested Metrics

- *Number of institutions based in Minneapolis purchasing locally grown and locally made foods*
- *Total amount spent on purchasing locally grown and locally made foods by institutions*
- *Percent of institutional food purchases spent on locally grown and locally made foods*
- *Demographics of population served by institutions purchasing and serving locally grown and locally made foods*



[Isuroon](#), a Somali and woman-led organization that serves Somali/East African and Afghan immigrant and refugee families, annually distributes approximately 100,000 pounds of healthy, culturally relevant food items to an average of 3,000 families through their food shelf at three food distribution sites in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, including one in Minneapolis.



“The main thing our youth will take away from our program is how to build healthy relationships with people through food. We use food to break down all the barriers that may be in the way of a group of people being successful together. Food doesn’t just fill our stomachs, but it also fuels our bodies and minds. Teaching someone how to cook helps them be successful in many other ways.”

La'Taijah Powell, *Appetite for Change*



Priority Five

Wasted Food

Goal

We prevent food waste where possible, diverting wasted food and making it available to others. There is ample compost available for food production, made by transforming food waste, such as food scraps from food preparation.

Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis are nationally recognized for their policies, practices, and programs that capture and repurpose wasted food and food waste for consumption and other uses, as well as provide education to individuals and organizations to reduce wasted food. The collaboration between these three units of government and other partners has established a strong foundation for further work identified by participants in the Minneapolis Food Vision engagement process.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

- 5.1** Establish policies including financial incentives to manage food at its highest and best use and prevent food loss (waste reduction, food to people, and food to animals before composting or anaerobic digestion)
- 5.2** Create and maintain food waste management systems that are widely accessible, sustainable, and contribute additional benefits to our food system (such as composting)
- 5.3** Introduce policy changes to improve connections between excess food and those in need
- 5.4** Provide support for farmers, food establishments, and other parties to better enable them to donate edible food



What is Wasted Food?

“Food that was not used for its intended purpose and is managed in a variety of ways, such as donation to feed people, creation of animal feed, composting, anaerobic digestion, or sending to landfills or combustion facilities. Examples include unsold food from retail stores; plate waste, uneaten prepared food, or kitchen trimmings from restaurants, cafeterias, and households; or by-products from food and beverage processing facilities.”

United States Environmental Protection Agency

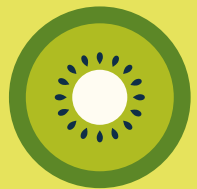
Case Study Snapshot: Wasted Food

The City of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed an [ordinance](#) requiring food stores that amass a certain amount of wasted food to use a licensed collector for this food waste with key exemptions, such as for food waste composted onsite or used for donations to food rescue programs and/or farms for animal consumption.

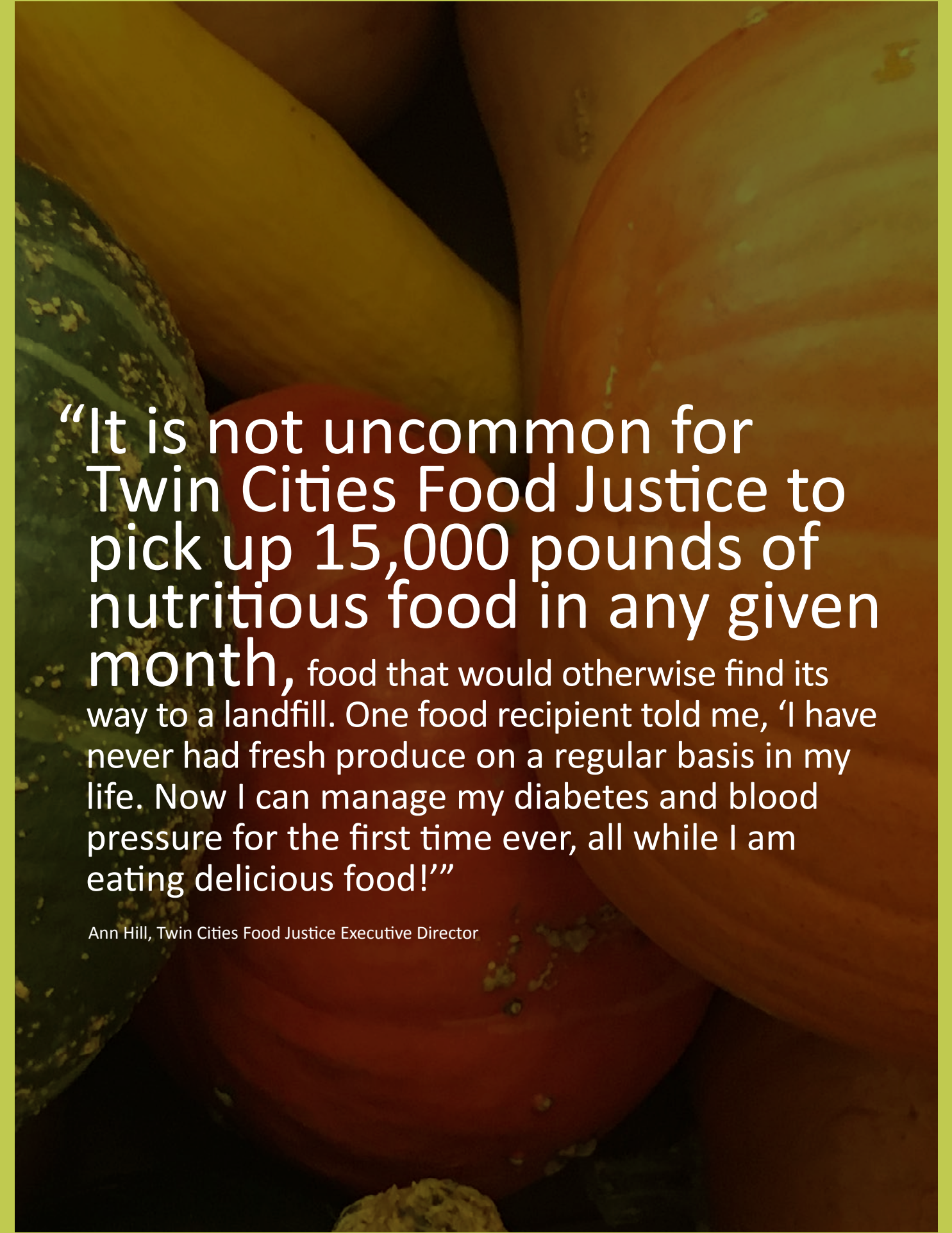


Suggested Metrics

Amount of organics recycling by source (e.g., residences and businesses)



The City of Minneapolis' [residential organic recycling program](#) received the U.S. Composting Council's 2018 Organics Diversion Program of the Year, with nearly half of eligible city households opting to participate in the curbside organics recycling program.



“It is not uncommon for Twin Cities Food Justice to pick up 15,000 pounds of nutritious food in any given month, food that would otherwise find its way to a landfill. One food recipient told me, ‘I have never had fresh produce on a regular basis in my life. Now I can manage my diabetes and blood pressure for the first time ever, all while I am eating delicious food!’”

Ann Hill, Twin Cities Food Justice Executive Director

Priority Six

Food Systems Research and Outreach

Goal

Food systems advocates across the city will use collaborative and participatory research methods as a tool to advance a just and sustainable food system, undertaking numerous research efforts to better understand key issues, best practices, and effective solutions. We will foster outreach and educational efforts to enhance understanding of food systems issues and food skills.

Producing knowledge that helps create a resilient, just food system is an ongoing need. Generating this knowledge together, through strategic partnerships and equitable collaborations, can guide sound decision-making, enhance understanding, and shed light on complex problems.

Furthermore, intentional, ongoing engagement with people who work and live in Minneapolis can extend the knowledge generated by this research and provide important pathways for community members to identify, prioritize, advise on, and find solutions for important food systems issues.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

6.1

Pursue research and collaborations with organizations that work across the food system

6.2

Raise awareness of food system activities and research findings in multiple languages across the city by strengthening networks, collaboration, and partnerships

6.3

Continue studying ways to best achieve health, environmental, economic, equity, and justice outcomes

6.4

Conduct research to better understand the relationship between access to healthy food and consumer demand

6.5

Expand availability of data and data analysis around wasted food to inform actions

6.6

Develop nutrition education that is catered to community-specific and health-specific needs



What is Food Systems Research?

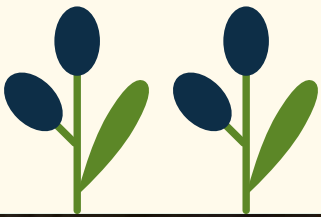
The study of local and regional food systems that help advance just, resilient, profitable, and healthy communities.

What is Food Systems Outreach?

Equitable, transparent processes across sectors, organizations and initiatives for shared governance, decision-making, planning, prioritizing, and action around the food system.

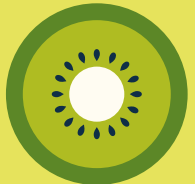
Case Study Snapshot: Food Systems Research and Outreach

Michigan State University established the [Center for Regional Food Systems](#) as a cross-disciplinary umbrella to support and conduct food systems research, facilitate community engagement, and advance initiatives that foster community food systems across the state.

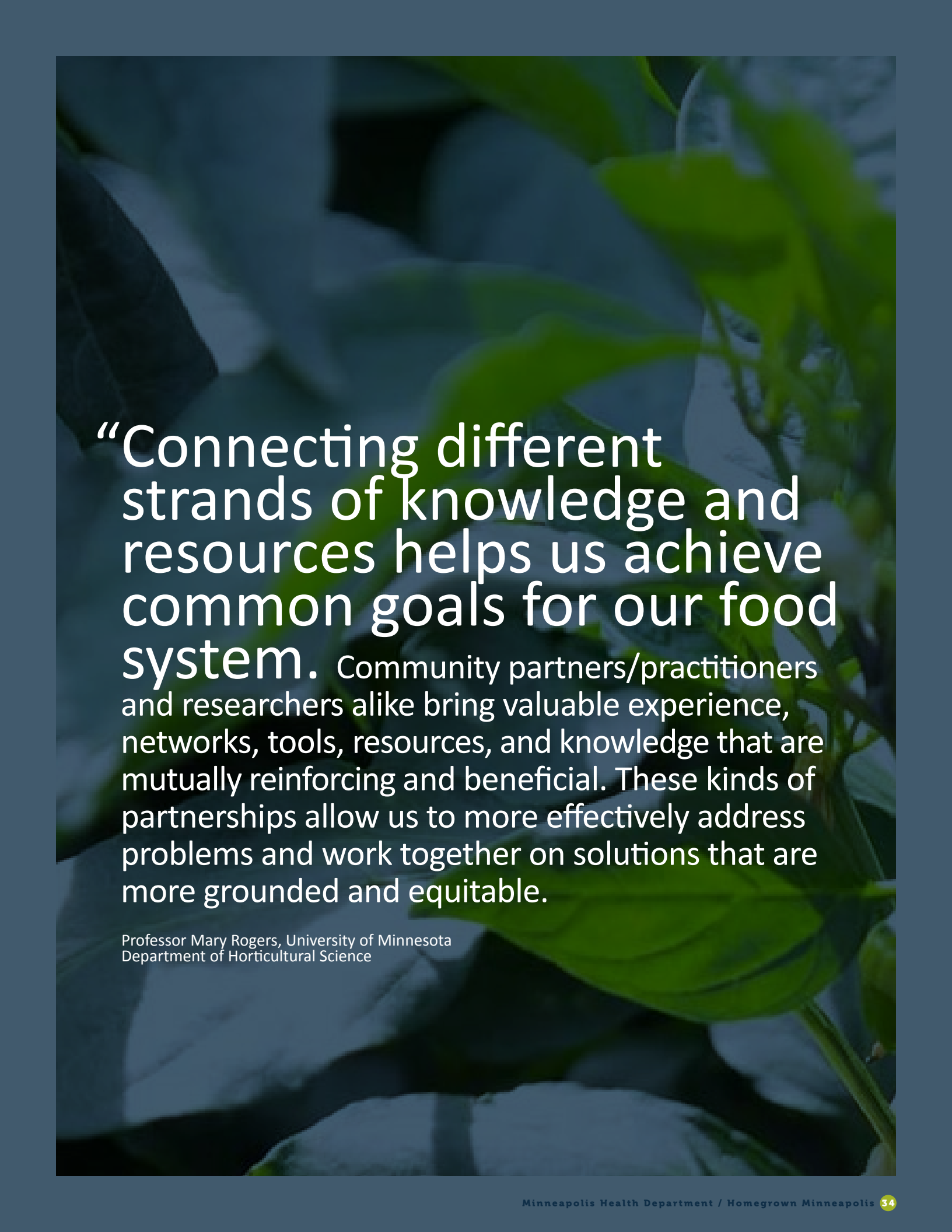


Suggested Metric

Number of food systems-related research projects the City is involved with.



Many Minneapolis-based food systems efforts have partnered with the University of Minnesota to make farmers markets more accessible and economically viable; to increase access to healthy food for all city residents; and to develop visions and business plans for food infrastructure projects.



“Connecting different strands of knowledge and resources helps us achieve common goals for our food system. Community partners/practitioners and researchers alike bring valuable experience, networks, tools, resources, and knowledge that are mutually reinforcing and beneficial. These kinds of partnerships allow us to more effectively address problems and work together on solutions that are more grounded and equitable.

Professor Mary Rogers, University of Minnesota
Department of Horticultural Science

Implementation of the Minneapolis Food Vision




In 2023, implementation of the Minneapolis Food Vision will begin, which will include:

- 1 Laying Groundwork** — Developing a comprehensive work plan to carry out highest priority Minneapolis Food Vision strategies and associated actions
- 2 Taking Action** — Shaping an ongoing engagement strategy to involve a diverse array of partners in implementation
- 3 Measuring Progress** — Creating and executing a measurement process to assess progress and impact of the strategies and the overall plan
- 4 Guiding Execution** — The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will oversee and monitor the overall implementation of the plan

1

Laying Groundwork





In 2023, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will develop the structure to guide the implementation of the food plan. These efforts will include:

-  Establish working groups for Minneapolis Food Vision priorities, including Food Council members, community members, City staff, and other relevant partners, charged with carrying out strategies contained in the plan
-  Create an action plan that includes work plans for each working group, using a common template (includes specific actions, clear deliverables, assignments, milestones, timelines and resource needs)
-  Review and endorse the action plan

2






Taking Action

Following approval of the action plan, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will:

-  Convene regular working group meetings to guide and execute implementation of a work plan and monitor progress
-  Prepare regular updates for relevant City staff, departments, elected officials, and community partners
-  Implement selected strategies and affiliated actions
-  Prepare any necessary policy briefs or advisories needed by City government for proposed regulatory or policy initiatives related to strategy implementation

3 Measuring Progress

To understand the impact that Minneapolis Food Vision strategies are having on the local food system, the action plan will also include a framework and approach to assessing Minneapolis Food Vision's progress and outcomes. The steps will include:

-  Finalize the measurement approach for Minneapolis Food Vision implementation
-  Execute ongoing data collection and evaluation activities, guided by the measurement approach, to track progress toward suggested metrics
-  Monitor progress and impact of implemented strategies, through ongoing review of evaluation findings
-  Prepare regular reports on findings from the measurement approach, articulating progress on each suggested metric
-  Refresh and update work plans and measurement plans, as needed

4 Guiding Execution

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will provide guidance, oversight, and backbone support to the working groups and other partners charged and involved with implementing the Minneapolis Food Vision.

Minneapolis Food Vision Implementation Roles and Resources

Implementation Roles for Minneapolis Food Vision

Like other cities implementing food plans, Minneapolis will take a multi-faceted approach to executing strategies contained in the Minneapolis Food Vision. Elected officials, City staff, and municipal departments will be involved, as will people who live and work in Minneapolis and the numerous organizations, sectors, and institutions who serve them. There will be a lot of different ways to be involved, including ongoing participation in implementing strategies, leadership and oversight of Minneapolis Food Vision implementation, and contribution of important support to help advance Minneapolis Food Vision's priorities.

Specific strategies contained in the plan will be undertaken by a variety of organizations, partners, and leaders — separately and collaboratively, including:

-  **Elected officials, various elected and appointed boards, commissions, and advisory groups, and City departments** (such as the Health Department, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Public Works Department, and the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council) will provide important, ongoing convening and operational support for these players to collaboratively advance these actions
-  **Community-based and community-serving organizations doing food-focused work, local anchor institutions, private sector entities, and other supporting entities** (such as our school district, food and farm businesses, relevant associations and affinity groups, area healthcare organizations, funders at all scales, and others), will also play individual and collaborative roles in implementing components of Minneapolis Food Vision
-  **People of all ages who live and work in Minneapolis and care about local food systems** will also be involved in carrying out Minneapolis Food Vision strategies and providing feedback about the impact and progress of the work

Available and needed resources to implement and measure progress on Minneapolis Food Vision strategies

Many partners will be involved in implementing the plan's strategies. Full implementation of these strategies — and the associated measurement of progress and impact — will require significant investment from diverse public and private sources for numerous organizations and initiatives. The City's Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, via coordinated planning with relevant City decision-makers and the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, will need to determine where funding is needed or available to support plan implementation.

Robust and ongoing funding for Homegrown Minneapolis-related staffing and programs provided through the City’s budget is needed. Additional requests for support to implement specific strategies in the Minneapolis Food Vision will be developed and submitted by Homegrown Minneapolis staff and should be seriously considered and supported as circumstances allow by City government during the budget process.

Finally, some strategies in the plan will need significant investment from foundation, local, state, or federal grant and bonding sources, as well as potential new public funding sources such as tax related options like tax base support, tax increment financing, and tax credit programs. Other private sources, such as equity, venture, and direct investment capital will also be helpful.

Successful implementation of the strategies – and associated efforts to monitor and measure progress and impact — will require careful planning, coordination, cooperation, management, and adequate resources. Together, the strategies are designed to achieve our shared vision for a resilient, climate friendly, and just local food system.












Help Implement the Minneapolis Food Vision

People of all ages who live and/or work in Minneapolis are involved in building an equitable, resilient, and healthy food supply. Some are involved because they care about climate change and the environment, while others are passionate about supporting local farmers and food businesses. Many youths are involved because they want to build a healthy, sustainable future for themselves and their community. Many care deeply about reliable access to affordable healthy food for everyone, and others are eager to ensure that we all have the know-how and opportunity to grow and prepare nutritious food for ourselves and the people we care about.

If you want to ensure that our local food system is equitable and responsive to the needs and priorities of our diverse community, **there are a lot of ways to participate in carrying out the six priorities and 29 strategies in the Minneapolis Food Vision.**

If you're a person who works or lives in Minneapolis, you can:

-  **Help implement the plan** — Join a Minneapolis Food Vision working group. These working groups will meet to develop and guide the implementation of a workplan for the plan's priorities and associated strategies.
-  **Work on a strategy** — Many strategies contained in the plan offer opportunities for people to participate, such as taking a cooking class, having a community garden plot, helping reduce food waste and more.
-  **Support local food and farm enterprises** — Be an informed eater. Whether you buy locally grown food sold at a [Minneapolis farmers market](#), eat at a locally owned restaurant, choose locally made foods or beverages, compost at home, or participate in the City's [curbside organics recycling program](#), you're helping sustain a vibrant local food system. Look for ways to support BIPOC-owned food and farm enterprises.
-  **Stay in the loop** — Attend monthly meetings of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council. [Stay updated](#) on what's going on and get information on the location and agendas of [upcoming meetings](#).
-  **Get a friend involved** — Share the [Minneapolis Food Vision](#) and invite your friends and other community members to join you in being a champion for your local food system.
-  **Reach out to your elected official** — Contact your [City Council member](#) to learn more about how they are supporting implementation of the Minneapolis Food Vision and ask them to support priorities you care about.
-  **Provide resources** — If you are an organization, funder, or agency, explore where and how you can invest in advancing strategies contained in the Minneapolis Food Vision.

Elected or appointed officials in Minneapolis can:

- 🌱 Learn about the strategies and intended impacts contained in the Minneapolis Food Vision
- 🌱 Co-create and approve recommended policies and programs that emerge during the Minneapolis Food Vision implementation phase
- 🌱 Allocate resources to support Minneapolis Food Vision's implementation
- 🌱 Encourage City departments and constituents to be engaged in implementing the plan



Conclusion

Minneapolis is recognized as a national leader among cities for its food systems work. Our community has a powerful legacy of past and current exemplary work by many leaders. We also have a longstanding commitment by City government as an active, supportive partner. These assets provide a strong foundation for the next chapter of sustaining and growing our local food system.

The Minneapolis Food Vision offers a much-needed path for partner organizations, residents, and our City government to foster an equitable, thriving, and resilient food system. This concrete, clear plan contains practical, proven strategies of how we will:

- 🌱 **Protect and strengthen our local food supply**
- 🌱 **Expand our capacity to grow food within city limits**
- 🌱 **Nurture locally owned food and farm businesses**
- 🌱 **Foster healthy food skills**
- 🌱 **Improve access to healthy food**
- 🌱 **Reduce food waste**
- 🌱 **Support ongoing innovation, learning, and engagement**

We do this work together to leave a legacy of good health and equity for our current neighbors and for future generations. Many of the strategies in the Minneapolis Food Vision can advance tangible, effective climate action, spanning the food system.

The Minneapolis Food Vision is intended to be a useful and well-used document. It reflects the needs, concerns, priorities, good ideas, and voices of a diverse range of grassroots and grasstops leaders and city residents. The plan addresses issues and opportunities from farm to table and beyond, based on extensive community engagement involving many hundreds of people who live and work in Minneapolis.

It will take all of us as a community to be stewards of an equitable and thriving food system for our city. The Minneapolis Food Vision spells out ways all of us can be involved in sustaining our local food system and caring for each other.



Get involved!

- 🌱 Go to the [Minneapolis Food Vision landing page](#) to learn more
- 🌱 Attend [Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council](#) meetings
- 🌱 Contact us at homegrown@minneapolismn.gov

Appendix

Minneapolis Food Vision Strategies

Priority One

Local food supply

- 1.1 Provide financing mechanisms and business development support to facilitate connection between local production and local consumption
- 1.2 Increase purchasing of locally and sustainably grown foods by institutions and businesses within the city
- 1.3 Improve accessibility to and increase the number of places selling locally grown and made products
- 1.4 Increase support by local and state agencies for local growers
- 1.5 Decrease regulatory and logistical barriers to selling local food

Priority Two

Urban Agriculture

- 2.1 Increase, maintain and improve land access within the city for growers and year-round growing
- 2.2 Increase access to materials, equipment, water, lighting, and other resources for growing food using sustainable production methods within the city
- 2.3 Strengthen food skills to grow, prepare, and preserve healthy, culturally relevant foods for all people, with a focus on underserved communities
- 2.4 Protect and improve pollinator habitats and water resources

Priority Three

Local Food Business

- 3.1 Improve opportunities for food system workers and small business owners, including fostering collaborative business models and other actions
- 3.2 Improve economic opportunities for growing food in the city
- 3.3 Improve protections and support for food system workers and small business owners, with special attention to people who are typically underserved
- 3.4 Enhance workforce development, including job skills training and support for the food system workforce
- 3.5 Provide support for local food businesses that offer culturally relevant food options

Appendix

Minneapolis Food Vision Strategies

Priority Four

Healthy Food Skills and Healthy Food Access

- 4.1 Improve accessibility to and availability of nutritious, culturally relevant, locally and sustainably grown foods at places such as schools and universities, hospitals, care facilities, childcare providers, correctional facilities, hunger relief programs, worksites and any places where food is sold
- 4.2 Offer opportunities for all ages to gain skills to learn about healthy eating, culturally relevant foods, and the health-promoting benefits of food, as well as growing and preparing these foods, strongly emphasizing children and youth
- 4.3 Improve accessibility and affordability of nutritious, locally grown, and culturally relevant foods
- 4.4 Encourage greater consumption of a well-rounded, nutritious, plant-rich diet and reduce consumption of unhealthy foods and foods with a high environmental impact
- 4.5 Place greater emphasis on nutritious eating as part of healthcare provided by mainstream healthcare organizations

Priority Five

Wasted Food

- 5.1 Establish policies including financial incentives to manage food at its highest and best use and prevent food loss (waste reduction, food to people, and food to animals before composting or anaerobic digestion)
- 5.2 Create and maintain food waste management systems that are widely accessible, sustainable, and contribute additional benefits to our food system (such as composting)
- 5.3 Introduce policy changes to improve connections between excess food and those in need
- 5.4 Provide support for farmers, food establishments, and other parties to better enable them to donate edible food

Priority Six

Food Systems Research and Outreach

- 6.1 Pursue research and collaborations with organizations that work across the food system
- 6.2 Raise awareness of food system activities and research findings in multiple languages across the city by strengthening networks, collaboration, and partnerships
- 6.3 Continue studying ways to best achieve health, environmental, economic, equity, and justice outcomes
- 6.4 Conduct research to better understand the relationship between access to healthy food and consumer demand
- 6.5 Expand availability of data and data analysis around wasted food to inform actions
- 6.6 Develop nutrition education that is catered to community-specific and health-specific needs

Acknowledgements

Many voices participated in developing the Minneapolis Food Vision. Thanks to all community members and partner organizations involved in the Community Food Forum, focus groups, individual interviews, Homegrown Food Council, online surveys and events, community-based engagement events, and other means of sharing views and inputs to develop the Minneapolis Food Vision.

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Community-Based Organizational Engagement Event Partners

Appetite for Change

Advancement of Hmong Americans

CLUES (*Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio*)

Harvest from the Heart

Somali American Farmers Association

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*Organizational affiliations reflect the time period of their involvement with the creation of the MFV.





Homegrown
Minneapolis

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please call 311 at 612-673-3000.
People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000.
TTY users can call 612-263-6850.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700, Yog xav tau kev pab, hu 612-673-2800, Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.