

# 2016 Homegrown Minneapolis Highlights



Homegrown Minneapolis  
healthy food. healthy city.

Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative started in December 2008 by the City of Minneapolis to expand the community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.

The initiative brings together key partners from local government, area businesses, community organizations, non-profits and residents to build a healthy local food system.

## Food system snapshots



In 2016 Minneapolis hosted:

**295** community gardens

**100** food trucks

**35** farmers markets and mini-markets

**1** mobile grocery store

**3** incubator kitchens

**281** chicken coops

**93** beekeepers

Numerous urban farms and market gardens

## Healthy food access

- Supported ordinance changes expanding zoning for food shelf operation in Minneapolis.
- Supported ordinance changes easing backyard chicken and fowl permit requirements, including eliminating the neighbor signature requirement for six or less chickens.
- Co-hosted two backyard chicken-keeping trainings in partnership with University of Minnesota Extension and Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.
- Launched new Minneapolis food shelf map and webpage.
- Leased 57 vacant City-owned lots for community and market gardens in partnership with Community Planning and Economic Development Department. (CPED)

## Improved environment for pollinators and plants

- Supported Minnesota legislature's passage of first in the nation, new state-wide standard for use of the land under and around ground-mounted solar panels which encourages solar developers to seed their solar installation sites with native pollinator habitat plants.
- Supported City policy change to allow City funding for soil testing of gardens on vacant City lots. All currently available lots were tested in partnership with Health, Sustainability and Community Planning and Economic Development Departments.
- Partnered with Health Department to promote free pollinator "patches" containing pollinator-friendly plants.
- Provided free and reduced price compost to 61 community gardens in partnership with Gardening Matters and the Solid Waste and Recycling Department.
- Surveyed bee keepers in the City on mite testing and control.



### Supported food business development

- Supported passage of Minnesota Good Food Access Fund state legislation, which will provide statewide funding for healthy food retail projects.
- Supported ordinance changes allowing food carts on new business corridors including West Broadway Ave.
- Supported ordinance changes streamlining permits and reducing fees for food truck operation at farmers markets and special events.
- Provided food safety training for farmers market vendors in partnership with Health Department and farmers market managers.
- Distributed first ever Homegrown Minneapolis edition of Minnesota Grown catalog in partnership with Minnesota Department of Agriculture.
- Hosted Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for City employees in partnership with three local farms.
- Launched farmers market collaborative strategic planning through support from City of Minneapolis Great Streets program and farmers market metrics collection through partnership with University of Minnesota Applied Economics.

### Recognized for food system action

- Recognized for food system achievements by articles in Civil Eats, Huffington Post, and local media.
- Hosted representatives from City of Baltimore to share experiences regarding the Staple Food Ordinance and other healthy food access efforts.



### Facilitated community engagement and communications about local food

- Hosted input sessions for Minnesota Department of Agriculture's report to the state legislature on urban agriculture.
- Distributed a monthly electronic newsletter to nearly 3000 people.
- Hosted a community open house with more than 250 people in attendance.
- Facilitated conversations and represented Homegrown Minneapolis at numerous events regarding healthy food access, land access, and food business development.



[minneapolismn.gov/homegrown](http://minneapolismn.gov/homegrown)

#### 2016 Food Council members include:

Andrew Dahl • Allison Meyer • Beth Dooley • Briana MacPhee • Caroline Devany • Cam Gordon • DeVon Nolen • Donald Warneke  
Ellen Kennedy • Erick Garcia Luna • Gayle Prest • Jillia Pessenda • Journey Gosselin • Kate Seybold • LaCora Bradford Kesti • Latasha Powell  
Martin Brown • Miguel Goebel • Pakou Hang • Patty Bowler • Roe Reinberg • Ruhel Islam • Russ Henry • Saba Andualem • Zoe Hollomon

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