

Healthy Food Access Recommendations and Actions

Action Item	Metrics/What does success look like?	Next steps/ milestones	What resources are needed? Existing? New?
Recommendation #1 Enable Renters to garden, and promote gardening for homeowners and businesses			
<p><u>Action item 1.1:</u> NEW INITIATIVE Draft/ Shape a policy to include funding incentives for new buildings and major rehab to incorporate green roofs in their design. Make sure that green roofs as a resource are given back to the people who live there. When installed cannot increase price of rent by more than 5%.</p> <p>Background Information: “intensive” green roofs are “garden-able” but much more expensive than “extensive” green roofs because of required structural reinforcement needed. Incentivizing “intensive” green roofs so that they are comparable in cost to “extensive” will increase the probability that garden space, as part of green roofs, is created.</p>	<p>Number of new green roofs</p> <p>Rent caps on buildings with green roofs</p> <p>Green roof or not, all new buildings should have a space to grow food.</p>	<p>Sustainable Building Policy is a priority for Minneapolis Sustainability Division. Likely to initiate in two- to three-year timeframe.</p>	<p>Need to study economic feasibility impact on affordability etc. Need to evaluate against other financial incentives that are aimed at same goal.</p> <p>Need incentivizes for developers who have community’s best interest at heart like, community benefits agreements or sustainability (is this a zoning ordinance).</p>
<p><u>Action Item 1.2:</u> NEW INITIATIVE Test soil on rental properties</p> <p>1.2.1: Train residents to do testing if microscope is not required. Home teach-ins where information is shared back.</p> <p>1.2.2: Remediate topsoil on rental properties if contamination is discovered.</p> <p>1.2.3: Provide raised garden beds on rental properties if contamination is</p>	<p>Increase in community building and increase access to social activities which will increase our collective health.</p>	<p>None planned at this time.</p>	<p>UMN does not test for all the toxins the City does. Encourage UMN to test more toxins and be partner with City? Create an overall city policy for soil, including testing, communication/ awareness, and clean up?</p>

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<p>discovered and remediation is not an option. 1.2.4: Provide raised garden beds to senior facilities and where people with disabilities live.</p>			
<p><u>Action Item 1.3: ACTIVE/NEW INITIATIVE</u> Allow neighborhood and community-based organizations to buy vacant lots for community and market gardens. <i>City lots for sale technically can be purchased for community and market gardens.</i></p>	<p>Set goal of a community garden plots for each (x) number of residents in the Green Zone, within (Y) miles of their residence. Are there data sets that could accomplish this?</p>	<p>This is a priority of the Minneapolis Food Council. Next step: connect with Minneapolis Food Council on progress or opportunities to support action.</p>	<p>Need urban agriculture identified as a priority activity for use of City-owned vacant lots for purchase. Need tax incentives or other incentive for purchase and operating cost. [Could be prioritized based on proximity to existing gardens in some way. Goal of focusing on area with fewest existing gardens.]</p>
<p><u>Action Item 1.4: NEW INITIATIVE</u> Educate tenants on how to grow edible gardens, especially greens, indoors (on porch or counter-tops).</p>	<p>All education or support happens on site. Go to community and make education convenient.</p>		<p>Connect residents to programs doing the work/education already [UMN Extension Master Gardeners, Hope and Land Stewardship Project, other partners] Need resources to actively engage residents with education materials (Door to door, distribute to landlords etc.) Emphasize graphics to eliminate language barrier as much as possible. If graphics are unable to be used, materials should be in multiple languages. Do not rely on residents to engage with materials on their own, come to them with the knowledge. Need instructional resources on how to set up an indoor aquaponics “farm” in small spaces to raise fish and vegetables. Examples of this Spark and Gandhi Mahal.</p>

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<p>Action Item 1.5: NEW INITIATIVE Require landlords to provide organics recycling and/or backyard composting.</p>	<p>All landlords provide organics recycling and/or backyard composting.</p>	<p>Collaborate with Minneapolis Public Works - Solid Waste and Recycling (Kellie Kish) and Hennepin County Recycling</p>	<p>Support Minneapolis Zero Waste Plan – requires political will and funding for enforcement</p> <p>Require compost in order to get permit for building</p>
<p>Recommendation #2 Grow produce locally and create and sell value-added products in the community</p>			
<p>Action item 2.1: ACTIVE/NEW INITIATIVE Delivery of City compost to garden sites in the Green Zones 2.1.1 Test compost for nutrients and toxins. 2.1.2 Sell compost at discounted price or offer for free to community gardens/residents 2.1.3 Target outreach to garden organizations</p>		<p>Connect with Minneapolis Public Works - Solid Waste and Recycling. Connect with Central Neighborhood Plant-Grow-Share program, EPIC & State funded partners – Urban farm proposals.</p>	<p>Need to increase awareness of nutrient and toxin content of compost. Need resources for drop points for community pick-up of compost (free or affordable). Connect this item with action item 1.2. The same testing and remediation resources necessary for that item could be used to improve and ensure the quality of City compost, and to organize distribution to garden sites. Potentially there could also be soil quality testing and improvement focused on garden sites.</p>
<p>Action item 2.2: ACTIVE/NEW INITIATIVE Resident education around personal composting (Also for small businesses and organizations; eliminate cost barrier)</p>			<p>Hennepin County provides grants to organizations to promote zero waste, composting, etc. initiatives in community</p>
<p>Action item 2.3: ACTIVE/NEW INITIATIVE Identify and publicize funding streams for small businesses (cost share, standard agreements, contracts, micro grants)</p>	<p>Micro grant process for projects a) is designed by community (priority to renters, BIPOC families) and b) leads</p>		<p>Existing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health Department: Green Business Cost Share program - Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED): multiple loan and financing resources - Homegrown Loan Fund [– target to Green Zone’s. Can use Southside food institutions to get involved in food access]

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<p>2.3.1 Provide microgrants for community food projects.</p> <p>2.3.2 Support organizations and businesses promoting job creation through community-based commercial-scale agriculture [financial help and technical assistance on business support]</p>	<p>to transformative community change.</p> <p>Funds go to more grassroots and small organizations.</p> <p>Expand focus to prep and manufacturing. City lot gardening is one facet.</p>		<p>-Village Credit Union -MNAG oversight of lending/ sue banks that discriminate</p> <p>New - Additional resources needed: grants, Step-Up interns, multi-language, uplift cultural experiences for all. - Create revolving loan fund which small businesses can come to for low interest loans - Lobby the State for resources + City-led initiatives</p> <p>Put together a guide that highlights resources available for businesses to enter this area or grow an existing operation. -How to access area farmers markets? -Other vectors for sale or local ag. Products? -How can businesses target applications in Green Zones? -What kind of licensing and oversight is necessary? How should these businesses begin the process of getting those licenses, etc.?</p>
<p><u>Action item 2.4: ACTIVE/NEW INITIATIVE</u> Increase lease period for City garden lots to 5 years</p>	<p>Process for leasing must be transparent, accessible and responsive to needs. Opportunities shared in multiple languages and that long-term needs are met.</p>	<p>This is a Food Council priority. Coordinate with Homegrown Minneapolis and Food Council.</p>	<p>Existing CPED and Public Works; some lots are already available for 5-year lease.</p> <p>New CPED and PW work with Food Council and community on lease length for all lots in the Garden Lease Program</p>

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<p><u>Action Item 2.5</u>: Create a comprehensive program at the City that prioritizes food businesses. Resources to include recruitment of people of color, technical assistance, education, instruction, co-op courses, and more.</p> <p><u>2.5.1</u> Expansion of commercial land uses in City – more opportunity to locate grocers for example</p> <p><u>2.5.2</u> Targeted business attraction efforts by CPED (again, grocers as example)</p>	<p>Local jobs for residents in the Green Zone, set a minimum % of new jobs for local residents.</p>	<p>City’s Comprehensive Plan includes policies to ensure “complete communities” (grocers, etc. allowed in residential areas).</p>	<p>Need resources to increase marketing and outreach for existing programs and services for small businesses [Small Business Team]</p> <p>Need resources to target programs and services and business attraction</p>
<p><u>Action Item 2.6</u>: ACTIVE INITIATIVE Youth training program for growing food</p>	<p>Number of new gardens, number of youth trained.</p> <p>Amount (lbs) of food given away or sold to community for low cost.</p>		<p>Need to catalogue and increase awareness of existing youth training programs for growing food. Include Minneapolis Public Schools, non-profits and community based organizations and businesses.</p>
<p><u>Action Item 2.7</u>: ACTIVE/NEW INITIATIVE</p> <p>Ensure permitting processes for greenhouses, hoop houses, back yard farms and other indoor growing options exist, are up-to-date, and are easy to navigate.</p> <p>Include public edible forests and gardens. Clear and accessible process for individual organizations to access these spaces.</p>	<p>Assess unintended consequences: Will a permit process keep folks from doing this or create a criminal by doing it without a permit?</p>		<p>Need resources to increase accessibility and awareness. Staff capacity and political will for streamlining processes.</p> <p>http://minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/WCMS1P-130152</p> <p>Utilize compost to provide heat to indoor hoop houses in the winter</p> <p>Offer grants for such projects</p>

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Similar to MPRB ordinance allowing for public harvest/picking.			
<p><u>Action Item 2.8:</u> NEW INITIATIVE Explore possibility of land trusts for urban agriculture, or a residential land trust with backyard farms/ urban farms in the City of Minneapolis.</p> <p><i>Very high priority as Minneapolis continues to gentrify this will only be more difficult.</i></p>	<p>Evaluate impact of holding land for urban agriculture on demand for increasing housing supply to ease housing crisis. Can community have a balance (“both/and”)?</p>	<p>Connect with existing urban agriculture land trust. Coordinate with Food Council on study and policy.</p>	<p>Resources to conduct study on best practices and clearly identify City’s role in Land Trust model</p> <p>Resources to explore the possibility of donating land for particular urban agriculture projects with staying power (e.g., use tax dollars to set aside land for urban ag).</p> <p>Resources for land for urban agriculture held in perpetuity (e.g., conservation easements or deed restrictions).</p>
<p><u>Action Item 2.9:</u> NEW INITIATIVE City policy will be reviewed to eliminate unnecessary limits on length of growing seasons to encourage year round growing.</p>			
<p><u>Action Item 2.10:</u> NEW INITIATIVE Seed giveaway in early Spring</p>			
<p><u>Action Item 2.11:</u> MODIFY EXISTING Strengthen the Staple Food Ordinance. Require all businesses with a grocery license to comply with Staple Food Ordinance, not just those who accept SNAP/WIC</p>		<p>Connect with Minneapolis Health Department Healthy Food, Healthy Lives staff; Homegrown Minneapolis; and Food Council</p>	<p>Existing Minneapolis Staple Food Ordinance was updated in 2014 to require most businesses with grocer licenses to meet the Staple Food Ordinance. See www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/eating/staple-foods</p>

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<p><u>2.11.1:</u> MODIFY EXISTING Provide incentives for local grocers/corner stores to have a variety of fresh organic or locally sourced, seasonal fresh produce.</p> <p><u>2.11.2:</u> NEW Limit restrictions on who can sell produce to corner stores.</p> <p><u>2.11.3:</u> NEW Encourage local growers (including residents) to sell produce to corner/ convenience stores. Make connections between farmers and markets (ex. schools, stores, etc.) that will sell produce.</p> <p><u>2.11.4</u> NEW Create a neighborhood tool library (Powderhorn has one).</p> <p><u>2.11.5</u> MODIFY EXISTING Subsidize food permits +/- or provide classes on how to safely prepare products for sale.</p> <p><u>2.11.6</u> NEW? Make sure the City of Minneapolis allows the giveaway of ugly food (food permits)</p>			<p>“Farm Stand” ordinance allows individual gardeners to sell produce (with proper labelling) Market Managers handle vendors. See “product of the farm” guidelines. Example: West Broadway farmers’ market has “aggregation table” model – Devon Nolen, Market Manager</p> <p>Model: See St. Thomas program that matches stores with farmers and/or food broker.</p> <p>New Need additional resources to make fresh produce affordable.</p> <p>Identify incentives for buyers to come back and buy fresh foods regularly, e.g. ugly food buying opportunities.</p> <p>Subsidies reduce barriers to having community garden produce. Provide fridges or storage containers.</p>

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Recommendation #3 Partner with active organizations in local food, including rural POC/ immigrant farmers			
<p><u>Action item 3.1:</u> ACTIVE/PLANNED The City should get connected to mobile markets and work on connecting mobile markets with community sites</p>	<p>Keep track of engagement at community networking event.</p>		<p>Existing Wilder Foundation – Twin Cities Mobile Market – has Cedar-Riverside Route. Also, Homegrown Minneapolis is leading efforts with mobile markets and MP.</p> <p>New Need resources to encourage community collaboration/networking by having event (maybe at the convention center or someplace closer to the community). If it is an annual event, there can be themes.</p>
<p><u>Action item 3.2:</u> ACTIVE/PLANNED Specifically work on developing partnerships with schools <u>3.2.1:</u> Provide healthy food education in public schools / Increase food education in schools so young people see benefits of healthy food</p>	<p>Food is pesticide free/organic.</p>	<p>Coordinate with Minneapolis Public Schools, Homegrown Minneapolis and the Food Council.</p>	<p>Schools are penalized for food not eaten. It should be the opposite. Schools should receive incentives for utilizing local produce in meals or using school funds to purchase local food vs food that harms our kids. Incentives could be used to pay the small farmers a price that promotes living wage for the farmers.</p> <p>Resources to provide presentations on importance/benefits of local food + how to grow in science classes. Similar engagement with relevant after-school programs. With relevant after-school programs. School owned gardens in which kids learn how to grow, and the harvested food is integrated within school lunches/ meals. Could be a class like Home EC/ cooking and or after school program. Outsource produce from school gardens to local businesses to potentially generate funding.</p> <p>Resources to develop a gardening program curriculum. Youth gardening programs after school. [If these programs do not already exist]</p>

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<p><u>Action Item 3.3:</u> NEW Grants (or contracts) for garden sponsors to support and engage community gardens and gardeners through the City’s Garden Lease Program. Context: Community organizations hold the lease. Insurance policy can be prohibitive for some community organizations, as well as winter and year-round maintenance.</p>	<p>Increased awareness of organization sponsors and Garden Lease Program.</p>	<p>Collaborate with Minneapolis Food Council</p>	<p>Need resources to support organization’s time and material and equipment needs.</p>
<p><u>Action Item 3.4:</u> NEW The City should explore a partnership with Roof Depot, Mdewakanton Sioux and Little Earth</p>		<p>Engage with Little Earth, Mdewakanton Sioux, and all residents in Green Zone. Including Cedar Riverside + how they can they partner</p>	<p>City should donate Roof Depot land to EPNI as community economic development.</p>
<p><u>Action Item 3.5:</u> MODIFY EXISTING Create communication process for the City to connect residents to resources (existing + newly created due to Green Zone task force)</p>			<p>Need a way to connect to those not already “connected” via organizations (Ex. Door knocking, door to door mailers, community radio station announcements, strategic flyering, social media, cultural events)</p>
<p><u>Actions Item 3.6:</u> NEW INITIATIVE Create infrastructure to process and or freeze produce which vendors do not sell at farmers markets so as to minimize food waste.</p>			

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<p><u>Actions Item 3.7: NEW INITIATIVE</u> Resources and coordination to collect mulberries while in season (late June, early July) so that less of them go to waste when falling on the sidewalk – a program like “fruits of the City” by the Minnesota project but with soft fruits as well.</p>		<p>Connect with Food Council and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.</p>	<p>Staff time to develop and adopt an ordinance that allows harvesting of mulberries and other soft fruits from public trees.</p>