



Community Action Plan for Peoria, Illinois

LOCAL FOODS, LOCAL PLACES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2019



For more information about Local Foods, Local Places visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places>

Contact Information:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Project Contact: **John Foster**

Office of Community Revitalization

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (MC 1807T)

Washington, DC 20460

Phone: (202) 566-2870

Email: Foster.John@epa.gov

Peoria, Illinois Contact: **Sara Maillacheruvu**

City of Peoria

419 Fulton St Peoria, IL 61602

Phone: (309) 494-8634

Email: smailacheruvu@peoriagov.org

COMMUNITY STORY

Peoria is a city of about 115,000 situated on the western banks of the Illinois River, where it widens to form Peoria Lake. The city has several commercial, educational, entertainment, and natural assets that make it a hub for the largely agrarian economy of central Illinois. For over a hundred years, East and West Peoria's economic fortunes have been influenced by heavy equipment manufacturer Caterpillar. In 1930, the company moved its headquarters to Peoria, helping to define Peoria's economy.¹ However, after a nearly 90-year presence, Caterpillar announced in 2018 that it would relocate its headquarters to Deerfield, Illinois. Still, it maintains more than 12,000 jobs in the region.² Bradley University and Illinois Central College are also significant employers and contribute to the cultural and social fabric of Peoria, attracting nearly 20,000 students each fall.^{3,4}

Hospital systems also have a strong presence in Peoria: together, OSF Healthcare, Saint Francis Medical Center and UnityPoint Health employ over 9,000 people. Further, OSF has a storied past in the city, having operated out of Peoria for over 140 years, with community-centered care an integral part of its work across time.⁵ With the Jump Simulation Center, established in 2013, OSF and area hospitals continue to strive toward innovation in healthcare and patient and community wellness.

Water is a significant natural feature of Peoria. The Illinois River supported the region's development by providing water transport of agricultural and industrial products. Approximately 200,000 acres—or 50%—of Peoria County is cultivated crop, primarily corn and soybean, due in no small part to the area's fertile soil and



Figure 1 – SW Water Street in downtown Peoria overlooks the Illinois River and is central to many of the city's cultural, culinary, and recreational assets. Image credit: Northbound Ventures



Figure 2 – The Southside neighborhood of Peoria has more than 500 vacant lots in need of attention and revitalization. Image credit: Northbound Ventures

¹ Caterpillar moving its Headquarters from Peoria to Chicago. https://www.stltoday.com/business/local/caterpillar-moving-headquarters-from-peoria-to-chicago/article_9353fd65-3334-5719-9b05-65447c4039d8.html. Accessed July 11, 2019

² Caterpillar's move left behind 12,000 workers. <https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20181027/caterpillars-move-left-behind-12000-workers>. Accessed July 10, 2019.

³ Bradley University. <https://www.bradley.edu>. Accessed July 15, 2019.

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?s=IL&pg=7&id=145682>. Accessed July 15, 2019.

⁵ OSF Healthcare, <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/about/history/>

ample fresh water.⁶ More recently, the river has become a focus of entertainment, recreation, and tourism in the city's Riverfront district.

These features have endowed Peoria with a strong platform for economic development. Yet Peoria, like most cities, has experienced uneven development outcomes. The Caterpillar headquarters move punctuates broader manufacturing and economic trends that have further widened local development disparities. While some areas, such as the Riverfront and Warehouse District, have attracted new investment and visitors, other parts of the city have experienced disinvestment and must contend with high poverty and unemployment rates. One of these areas is the Southside, which is southwest of downtown and the Warehouse District. The neighborhood has a median household income of \$21,730, and its demographics comprise a 75% minority population⁷. The neighborhood has the highest concentration of vacant properties owned by the City and County governments in the entire Peoria region.

With recent grocery store closures, Southside residents have limited access to fresh and nutritious foods. Population health research overwhelmingly shows that decreased access to healthy food means people in low-income communities suffer more from diet-related diseases like obesity and diabetes than those in higher-income neighborhoods with easy access to healthy food, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables.⁸

Peoria recognizes the challenges facing the Southside and other disadvantaged neighborhoods and has recently gathered several public and private entities to tackle them under the Building Healthy Communities Collective. This group of local government agencies, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and community

Local Foods, Local Places Steering Committee

- Sara Maillacheruvu, City of Peoria
- Ross Black, City of Peoria
- Tory Dahlhoff, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council and Regional Fresh Food Council
- Lisa Fuller, OSF HealthCare, Saint Francis Medical Center
- Martha Ross, Southside Community United for Change and Peoria Public Schools School Board
- Dwayne Harris, Intangible Mindz Agriculture Development LLC
- Leslie McKnight, Peoria City/County Health Department
- Tracy Terlinde, Peoria City/County Health Department
- Corin Peplinsky, Peoria City/County Health Department
- Brandee Barroso, Peoria City/County Health Department
- Sean Park, Western Illinois University Institute for Rural Affairs
- Elise Albers, OSF Healthcare Children's Hospital
- Walt Meeks, Peoria Area Humanists

Figure 3 - Steering committee members.

⁶ Peoria County Farm Bureau: Peoria County Farm Facts. <http://www.pec> Accessed July 15, 2019.

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau 2017 ACS 5-Year Survey for Zip Code 61605. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk. Accessed July 15, 2019.

⁸ The Food Trust. *The Grocery Gap: Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters*. http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/grocerygap.original.pdf. Accessed July 15, 2019.

organizations is working to improve health outcomes through improvements to the buildings, infrastructure, and streets that constitute the built environment.

Food access is one of the key issues on which the Collective has focused its efforts, and through Local Foods, the city-owned building at 1312 SW Adams Street was explored as part of the solution. The building was envisioned as a Food Equity Center, where fresh, locally-grown foods could be aggregated and made available to people living in the Southside and other area neighborhoods. While the main focus of the food hub focused on food access—and consequent economic and workforce development—crucial elements include health clinic prescriptions for fresh foods, financial counseling, a health screening clinic, and more.

This project would build upon a recent history of innovation in how the city develops and uses its properties. A key example is the Well Farm, a stormwater farm about a half mile north of the Adams Street property. The farm sits on a former vacant lot and serves several functions to improve the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the neighborhood. First, the Well Farm features green infrastructure elements such as bioswales, which are a landscape design and water-capturing system intended to absorb stormwater. Bioswales can help limit sewer overflows into the Illinois River from the city’s combined sewer-stormwater system, a recurring issue for the city. Secondly, the Well Farm hosts an urban agriculture apprenticeship program that helps residents learn farming and business skills. Finally, Well Farm provides a beautiful green space for recreation and relaxation in the heart of the city, a pocket of green in a largely urban landscape.

In addition to local innovation at the Well Farm, the city also reconstructed SW Adams Street in 2016 as a “complete green street.” Several green infrastructure features are within the right-of-way to manage stormwater, while plants add shade and aesthetic value. Bicycle lanes and wider sidewalks provide improved accommodation for all street users. These creative uses of public land and infrastructure to improve food access and the environment are the types of ideas and projects the federal Local Foods, Local Places technical assistance program encourages. The goals of the Local Foods, Local Places program are to create the following:

- More economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses.
- Better access to healthy, local food, especially among disadvantaged groups.

Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance Team

- John Foster, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Community Revitalization
- Lauryn Coombs, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- Ron Batcher, U.S. Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Marketing Services
- Jason Keller, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
- Kate O’Hara, U.S. Department of Agriculture— Rural Development
- Maria Colangelo, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Brian Gillen, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Holly Fowler, Northbound Ventures (consultant)

Figure 4 - Technical assistance team.

- Revitalized downtowns, main streets, and neighborhoods.

Local Foods, Local Places is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Northern Border Regional Commission. Peoria was one of 15 communities across the United States selected to participate in the program in 2019.

Once selected, a Peoria Local Foods, Local Places steering committee was formed to plan for the technical assistance, with many participants pulled from the Building Healthy Communities Collective. The committee included a variety of community partners (see Figure 3). They were supported by a technical assistance team comprised of multiple federal and state agency partners as well as consultants (see Figure 4).

The Steering Committee expressed a desire to focus the technical assistance around several key topics. These include developing a “food equity center” focused on the Southside neighborhood, improving access to food and nutrition, increasing neighborhood involvement in development decisions, increasing the demand for locally-produced agricultural products, and providing more business development and employment pathways related to local foods. These topics shaped the workshop focus and are the foundation of the action plan goals.

The remainder of this report and appendices document the engagement process, the workshop activities, and most importantly, the outcome: a community action plan to achieve Peoria’s goals.

ENGAGEMENT

The technical assistance (TA) engagement process for Local Foods, Local Places has three phases, illustrated in Figure 5 below. The plan phase consists of three preparation conference calls with the steering committee and TA team to clarify goals and arrange workshop logistics. The convene phase includes the effort’s capstone event—a two-day workshop in the community. The act phase includes three follow up conference calls to finalize a community action plan and strategize on how to maintain momentum generated during the workshop. The community workshop was held over a two-day period from May 22 – 23, 2019 and the activities those days are described below. A workshop photo album is available in **Appendix A**, a community data profile in **Appendix B**, funding resources in **Appendix C**, and general references in **Appendix D**.

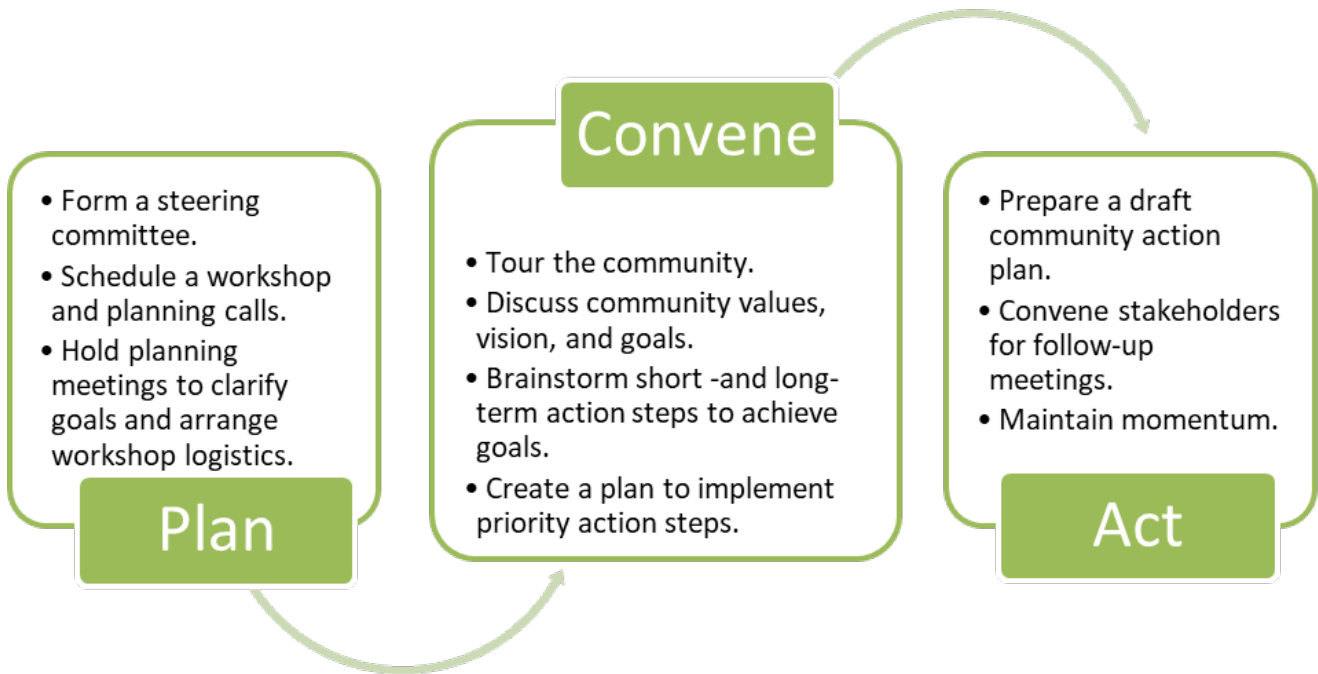


Figure 5 - Local Foods, Local Places technical assistance process diagram.

COMMUNITY TOUR

In advance of the first community session on May 22, the local Steering Committee designed and led a tour of Peoria for the technical assistance team to see the city's downtown, Southside, and Warehouse District neighborhoods, development initiatives, and food-related assets. The group began by shuttle with a drive through downtown and a visit to the Riverfront, where the Peoria Farmers Market sets up weekly, April to October. There is ample parking for market goers but no physical structure in the field where tents are set up, so managing the weather, both rain and sun, can be challenging for vendors. The area is prone to flooding, as well. Eventually, the community would like to extend the season of the market's availability with an indoor location.

Next, the group traveled to Peoria's Southside to see the Garden of Hope at St. Ann's Church. Originally a small project started through the Faith Community Nurse program with the parish's support, the garden has expanded significantly over the past year with funding from the Order of Saint Francis (OSF) and the City of Peoria. The garden now consists of more than 30 large raised beds, covering almost an acre of land and is managed by head gardener, Mike Brooks. The beds are planted by crews of volunteers with a variety of herbs and vegetables, including corn, collard greens, squash, jalapenos, beans, tomatoes, and pumpkins that are harvested every Thursday and donated to local food pantries. There is also a free farm stand for the neighborhood. The city has helped with water hook-up for the site. Other items like seedlings, plywood, soil, and a shipping container for storing equipment have been donated. The garden has turned a vacant lot into productive land and a safe gathering space that is welcoming for Southside residents of all ages.

From the Garden of Hope, the tour continued through part of the Southside, noting that the neighborhood's streets reflect undeniable need for investment and revitalization. The average sale price of a home on the Southside is \$13,000, and several have been on the market for more than six years, receiving no interest at auction. Almost 30% of the neighborhood's homes are vacant. The population of the Southside has declined from 45,000 in the 1950s to 13,000 today, which has also contributed to the area's slow real estate market.



Figure 6 – Lead Gardener, Mike Brooks, describes the planting process at the St. Ann Church Garden of Hope. Photo credit: Northbound Ventures



Figure 7 – Dwayne Harris runs a youth apprenticeship CSA program at Well Farm. Photo credit: Northbound Ventures



Figure 8 – A pop-up event at the 1312 SW Adams Street building helps local residents imagine the services that the space could host in the future related to food, health, housing, workforce development and more. Photo credit: Northbound Ventures

The group then visited the Well Farm, where Dwayne Harris, urban ag farmer, educator, and community leader, explained how the farm is part of a three-year, innovative stormwater management pilot program with the City of Peoria and U.S. EPA. Alongside Dwayne, master gardeners and students from Bradley University help run a farming apprenticeship program that engages up to 10 young adults each summer. Apprentices, who receive \$350 upon completion of the program, help tend the Well Farm's 100 raised beds and market produce via community supported agriculture (CSA) subscriptions. Dwayne's vision for future growth includes establishing a farmers market at Logan Park in the Southside for new and small entrepreneurs.

The culmination of the community tour was a "pop-up" event at 1312 SW Adams with participation by numerous community organizations. Open to the public and attended by dozens, participants could browse tabletop presentations on housing assistance programs, food and nutrition resources, cultural affinity groups, and concepts like the proposed grocery store and food hub. A tour of the currently vacant three-story building, its rooftop, and loading dock revealed ample space for many activities to live under a single roof provided adequate funding for renovations and a sustainable business plan for operations. A local organic farmer staffed a mock food hub in 1312's alleyway garage, giving away free, fresh produce from a rented U-Haul truck to pop-up attendees.

VISION AND VALUES

Forty-five Peoria residents and community stakeholders from more than 30 different organizations attended the first public session of the workshop on the evening of May 22nd. Ross Black, Community Development Director for the City of Peoria, welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of place-making and food enterprises to support Peoria's economic redevelopment. Martha Ross, Southside Community United for Change, provided a profile and perspective of the Southside, and Lisa Fuller, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center, spoke to current initiatives serving the community.

After initial remarks, the technical assistance team introduced the Local Foods, Local Places program with a short presentation. Facilitators shared photos of locations visited during the afternoon community tour and asked the audience what else they would have chosen to include in the tour. The team highlighted the elements and benefits of a local food system, as well as the importance of incorporating equity as a measure of the system's success for ensuring place-making and improved healthy food access that benefit all Southside residents. An equity lens ensures changes and improvement in Southside will be for all who live there now, not just those who can afford to live there in the future. Additionally, the team shared demographic and regional data that demonstrated useful baseline measurements of food access, health, and economic well-being. More publicly-available data about Peoria and specifically the Southside can be found in **Appendix D**.

The primary purpose of the community meeting was to hear from residents and other stakeholders about their vision for increasing food access in and economic recovery for Peoria's Southside. The technical assistance team led attendees through a group exercise called "This I believe...", designed to surface core values of the community (Figure 8).

In a second group exercise, participants created local news headlines from the future, many of which envisioned a

This I Believe...

I believe my community...

- Used to be the greatest place in the world to grow up.
- Has been overlooked and deserves better.
- Needs better food supply, housing, stores, protection, and lighting.
- Is at a junction.
- Needs a kick start.
- Can be united.
- Has potential, desire, and drive to create solutions and make change.
- Is resilient.
- Can be revitalized.
- Will be healthy, whole, and prosperous.
- Is worth caring for.

I believe local food...

- Is the prescription for a healthy community.
- Can improve community physical and economic health.
- Should be affordable and accessible to everyone.
- Is a catalyst / kick start for growth and development.
- Is instrumental in allowing my community to tap into its potential.
- Will be challenging to produce in mass.
- Is necessary and powerful.
- Can help us live longer.

Figure 6 -- In a group exercise designed to capture the community's vision and values, participants were asked to complete the statements "I believe my community..." and "I believe local food..."

thriving food hub in the Southside, expanded food production, vibrant, safe community gatherings, and improved health outcomes for the resident population.

ACTION PLANNING - DAY TWO

Case Studies

The second day of the workshop began with examples of strategies used by other communities to advance their food system and place-making initiatives. The technical assistance team shared examples of community health and wellness centers, youth workforce development programs, commercial kitchen business incubators, and alternative grocery retail models. Profiles of projects touched on key partnerships, funding sources for implementation and ongoing operations, and outcomes to date of each. There was group discussion about lessons learned and takeaways for if and how similar programs could help Peoria advance its goals for the Southside. Many workshop participants were particularly inspired by the United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) youth engagement model in Lowell, Massachusetts, that was reminiscent of programming that once existed in the Southside and could be reintroduced in the future.



Figure 9 – Participants at the Peoria Local Foods, Local Places workshop use large scale maps to identify current resources and gaps in services. Image credit: Northbound Ventures

Mapping Exercises

Next on Day 2, workshop participants engaged in a group mapping exercise aimed to identify different points in Peoria that represent revitalization needs and priorities on a neighborhood scale map. (See Figure 9.) The exercise highlighted favorite community places, locations of current community services, areas in need of immediate help or attention, and potential opportunities for adding resources and building relationships between organizations operating on the Southside.



Figure 10 – Workshop participants split into groups to draft action plans for each of the community's goals. Image credit: Northbound Ventures

Action Plan

The action planning process during the workshop consisted of a few phases of work. First, there was a brainstorming session, where participants were asked to write down potential actions to help advance one or more goals. The next phase was a dot voting exercise where participants were given a set number of dots and were asked to vote on which actions either were most important or needed immediate attention. In the third phase, small working groups assessed the prioritization voting and fleshed out the details of the top 2-5 actions for each

goal, such as importance, timeframe, lead role, etc. In the final phase, each small working group reported back its progress and shared any questions encountered.

During the three post-workshop calls held by the extended local steering committee members, the group considered timeframes of the various goals to channel energy into actions that are foundational to others. Specifically, a Food Equity Center feeds into and serves other goals. Increased access to fresh, healthy food can be served by a Food Equity Center, as can the increase in demand for local produce. Peoria realizes that it needs to build institutional capacity of its neighborhood groups, in particular Southside Community United for Change (SCUC), for the development of a Food Equity Center to truly serve and be adopted into the fabric of the Southside. The group hopes the Food Equity Center that incorporates the input, need, culture, and vision of neighborhood residents through a structured process will serve as a model of “connecting neighborhood voices to development plans for more equitable outcomes” for actions that follow as time and human capital allows.”

Overarching Goals:

- Community voices should guide planning, management, and decision-making to ensure equitable redevelopment on the Southside
- This will result in increased fresh food options, improved health outcomes, and expanded economic opportunities.
- In the process, physical, economic, dietary, and cultural factors will be considered and weighed at each stage of development.

The tables that follow provide additional background information and detail for each goal and action.

- Goal 1 – Create a Food Equity Center (FEC)
 - *Action 1.1* – Establish the structure and scope of services for the Food Equity Center.
 - *Action 1.2* – Identify a space with immediate availability in the Southside for temporary use (2019-2020) for the food hub.
 - *Action 1.3* – Conduct search for a developer or community development corporation (CDC) to realize the initial phase of the Food Equity Center vision.
 - *Action 1.4* – Conduct a long-term feasibility study for the Food Equity Center.
 - *Action 1.5* – Hire a project manager and business development associate to allow for its development.
- Goal 2 – Connect neighborhood voices to development plans for more equitable outcomes.
 - *Action 2.1* – Build the capacity of Southside Community United for Change by encouraging more residents to join to voice ideals and opinions for the organization.
 - *Action 2.2* – Create a project-based community engagement roadmap designed for use by developers for projects that holds them accountable to neighborhood voice and customized the final product accordingly.
 - *Action 2.3* – Integrate Food Equity Center action plan as the “Local Foods” component of: City of Peoria, Peoria County, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, Peoria City/County Health Department and healthcare system strategic plans.

- *Action 2.4* – Develop a grocery steering committee that reflects the demographics of the neighborhood and community to expand, enable, develop, create or attract an affordable food market (i.e., grocer or food cooperative) preferably one that is locally owned.
- Goal 3 – Increase the demand for locally produced agricultural products in Peoria.
 - *Action 3.1* – Create a local agricultural marketing plan to support local businesses and entrepreneurs in the development of a Peoria brand.
 - *Action 3.2* – Establish a food as medicine pilot plan with local health care providers for Southside residents.
 - *Action 3.3* – Plan and host a local food festival that features local farmers, food, cooking demonstrations and education that is sponsored by local health care providers. Kick off to #1.
 - *Action 3.4* – Develop a local food buyers’ club to work with local farmers to create affordable food options.
 - *Action 3.5* – Connect local farmers and local produce to afterschool and summer programming.
- Goal 4 – Provide business development and employment pathways, as well as educational resources, to support a thriving food and farming community in the Southside
 - *Action 4.1* – Establish a food and agriculture workforce development strategy that is inclusive of Southside residents.
 - *Action 4.2* – Create and fill a position for a food systems business development coordinator (value-chain coordinator).
 - *Action 4.3* – Build a garden at each school: Trewyn Middle School, Harrison Primary School, Roosevelt Magnet School, Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Development Center, Manual Academy, and Christ Lutheran School.
 - *Action 4.4* – Incorporate the school garden into the school curriculum.

GOAL 1: Create a Food Equity Center (FEC)

Peoria’s Warehouse District has seen significant investment over the past five years through the rehabilitation of vacant industrial buildings by private developers for housing and commercial use, along with public infrastructure improvements by the City to improve the built environment and create a more livable, walkable, and economically vibrant area. The Warehouse District is adjacent to Peoria’s Southside neighborhood, which has struggled against decades of decline and disinvestment. A physical location to house key community services and showcase efforts happening in and around the Southside Neighborhood tied to local foods could serve as a bridge between these two neighborhoods and help catalyze Southside revitalization.

At the same time, a FEC based in the heart of the Southside may serve more easily as a community hub and prove to offer a more accessible location for residents. In fact, the November 2019 Southside Farmers Market operated out of the currently vacant building at 210 South Western Avenue and saw good traffic. A pilot and greater understanding of the eventual scope of the project will help to determine if this or another space would be most effective in terms of cost and convenience for the community.

Action 1.1: Establish the structure and scope of services for the Food Equity Center.

What this is and why it is important	The steering committee aims to focus on a FEC as the first implementation leg of the plan but needs to define what a FEC would entail, as well as how different entities/funders can plug in. For the scope to be equitably designed, SCUC and neighborhood voices need expanded capacity/membership.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed scope of project is completed. See “roadmap to development” and roles/tasks outlined there as specific points that can be established alongside a scope for the FEC. • Scope of project helps pinpoint how different funders can plug in, gap funding opportunities via grants, loans to apply to. • A committee of Southside residents approves the scope and has played a significant role in shaping, molding it. • The structure and scope of the project align with other Southside redevelopment plans (South Village Implementation Plan featuring the MacArthur Corridor Plan, Southern Gateway Plan, and Western Avenue Plan).
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-6 months
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martha Ross, Southside Community United for Change • Dwayne Harris, Intangible Mindz, LLC
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Peoria (Sara Maillacheruvu) • Regional Fresh Food Council/Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Tory Dahlhoff) • OSF Healthcare, Saint Francis Medical Center (Lisa Fuller) • Peoria Public Schools (Derrick Booth) • Peoria City/County Health Department (Monica Hendrickson) • Peoria County (Scott Sorrel) • Heartland Health Services (Michelle Sanders) • Unity Point Health Services (Amelia Boyd)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded capacity of SCUC/neighborhood voices • Capacity to search for opportunities • Coordination among parties to convene stakeholders, ensure that time, energy, and efforts are well-used and structured • Time to determine specifics of the project scope

Action 1.2: Identify a space with immediate availability in the Southside for temporary use (2019-2020) for the food hub.

What this is and why it is important	A temporary space for the Food Equity Center (FEC) would enable a proof-of-concept project to be run and possibly facilitate interim revenue generation from delivering services for farmers and consumers. The space will prompt conversations and help generate interest while meeting critical needs of the community.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A physical space is secured. • The temporary hub is operational.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-6 months
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tory Dahlhoff, Regional Fresh Food Council/Greater Peoria Economic Development Council • Michael Brooks, OSF HealthCare, Saint Francis Medical Center • Dwayne Harris, Intangible Mindz, LLC
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoria City/County Department of Public Health (Tracy Terlinde) • United States Department of Agriculture • City of Peoria (Ross Black) • Regional Fresh Foods Council members • Community consumers • Local restaurants • Public schools • Anchor institutions • Farmers market coordinators and vendors • Sous Chef (Katie Rodolfi)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10K Invest Health Grant monies that need to be spent by the end of calendar year 2019 (may be leveraged to secure additional discretionary funds) • Demonstration location agreed to work for both communities (smaller space than 1312 Adams Street may be needed; \$2M estimated redevelopment cost) • Space appropriate to planned uses (e.g., offices, food aggregation and distribution) • Temporary or mobile refrigeration and cold storage equipment • Electricity and water • Equipment (portable) • Security • Marketing (e.g., flyers, postcards and social media page) • Explore extant facilities (St. Ann's, e.g.) to see how proof of concept could be executed

Action 1.3: Conduct search for a developer or community development corporation (CDC) to realize the initial phase of the Food Equity Center vision.

What this is and why it is important	Once space is identified for a proof of concept location, a developer can spearhead the project and provide an idea of how much in additional funding is required, as well as oversee overall project feasibility. By contracting a developer that is open to working with SCUC/Southside residents to realize a community-driven project, we can have an organization on demand once feasibility study has been completed and analyzed.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a developer/CDC is contracted for the project and signs an agreement/MOU with SCUC (and/or other Southside resident organization) so that any development has input from and is approved by neighborhood representatives. • Solidified a vision for the project, including phasing (Phase 1: proof-of-concept as small-scale food hub/entrepreneur center; Phase 2: develop into food market with expanded food hub and entrepreneur empowerment opportunities).
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-12 months
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Healthy Communities Collective
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoria City/County Health Department (Monica Hendrickson) • Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Tory Dahlhoff) • City of Peoria (Ross Black and Sara Maillacheruvu) • Community agencies
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadlines • Time • Capacity • Request for proposal templates and application • Concept drawings

Action 1.4: Conduct a long-term feasibility study for the Food Equity Center.

What this is and why it is important	A feasibility study is integral in the development process. A variety of agencies will need to collaborate to solidify the funding of the feasibility study.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for feasibility study is secured • Feasibility study is completed • Results of the feasibility study inform long-term development options for a Food Equity Center (FEC)
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-12 months
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Fuller, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center • Leslie McKnight, Peoria City/County Health Department • Tory Dahlhoff, Regional Fresh Food Council/Greater Peoria Economic Development Council

Action 1.4: Conduct a long-term feasibility study for the Food Equity Center.

Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Foundation of Central Illinois (Mark Roberts) • Peoria County Administrator (Scott Sorrel) • Local Initiatives Support Corporation (Karen Davis) • City of Peoria (Ross Black)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds to complete study (see supporting cast for possible sources) • Time • Capacity

Action 1.5: Hire a project manager and business development associate for the Food Equity Center hub to allow for its development.

What this is and why it is important	If the feasibility study presents a clear and reasonable path forward for development of a Food Equity Center, funding will be needed for the buildout of the permanent physical location and start-up operations including staff, inventory, marketing, and sales. Staffing is critical, as the food hub needs a dedicated staff member to manage the project during the current growing season and a staff member focused on business development to ensure there is a pipeline of activity to support operationally-driven revenue.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When an assessment of needed funds is completed. • When applications are submitted, and partners and founders are identified, who will use the space. • When funding is secured.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-12 months
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Maillacheruvu, City of Peoria • Tory Dahlhoff, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council • Community Foundation of Central Illinois
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSF Healthcare, Saint Francis Medical Center • Peoria City/County Health Department (Monica Hendrickson) • Heartland Health Services (Michelle Sanders) • Participants of the pop-up market held at 1312 Adams Street in conjunction with the Local Foods, Local Places workshop • Eventually, the envisioned Community Development Corporation
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Foundation of Central Illinois • Capacity to search for opportunities • Federal funding • Private philanthropy • PeoriaCorps/AmeriCorps member - could help oversee operations

Goal 2: Connect neighborhood voices to development plans for more equitable outcomes.

Residents of the Southside neighborhood are interested in development plans that will impact them, but communication about what is happening, where, and by whom can be difficult to track. Ideas or projects tend to be advanced beyond the point of input by the time knowledge of them becomes widespread. To ensure that the Southside retains its history and character, it is important to adopt formal strategies by which residents’ voices can be amplified in development planning processes and their ideas incorporated early in the planning process.

Action 2.1: Build the capacity of Southside neighborhood groups, in particular Southside Community United for Change, by encouraging more residents to join to voice ideals and opinions for the organization.	
What this is and why it is important	Resident input should be integrated at the pre-development phase of projects. By including more residents, the community becomes more influential in development decisions.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of social media posts on SCUC Facebook account announcing community events and other opportunities to provide input • Number of organizations, churches, local institutions reached • Number of people who attend meetings to which they were invited • Number of flyers distributed • One to two facilitated community planning meetings on Food Equity Center development, pinpointing top priorities for services desired in FEC, once development stage has been reached
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-6 months: Workshop on capacity building and community engagement for Southside Community United for Change • 6-12 months: Member recruitment and organizing plan
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martha Ross, Southside Community United for Change
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood organizations • PeoriaCorps • City of Peoria via the Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator • Southside community residents • Union (Jimmy Dillon) • Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Brent Baker)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Congregations United • Marketing and outreach • Institutional capacity • Training on community benefits agreements • Bringing the younger generation • Technical assistance/workshop from an organizing entity focused on building local capacity

Action 2.2: Create a project-based community engagement roadmap designed for use by developers for projects that holds them accountable to neighborhood voice and customized the final product accordingly.

What this is and why it is important	A roadmap would create a mechanism to incorporate community feedback in planning processes. The very development of a FEC itself through community-driven channels could act as a proof of concept of sorts for a roadmap.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and implementation of project-based community engagement plan • Use of community benefits agreements to effect change in project designs
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-12 months: document created • 12-24 months: document used
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southside Community United for Change • Peoria neighborhood organizations • University of Illinois Extension
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Peoria Innovation Team (Anthony Corso) • Phoenix Community Development Services (Nick Mitchell)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement • Time, space to convene and collaborate • Peer exchange via an event like this one organized by the Regional Fresh Food Council: https://www.regionalfreshfoodcouncil.org/events/2018/5/8/building-healthy-communities-development-strategies-to-improve-health-and-well-being

Action 2.3: Integrate Food Equity Center action plan as the “Local Foods” component of: City of Peoria, Peoria County, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, Peoria City/County Health Department and healthcare system strategic plans.

What this is and why it is important	Integrating the Local Foods, Local Places action plan into other municipal and county strategic plans will support consistency in the vision expressed by the community and help sustain momentum and accountability for getting things done.
Measures of success	Action plan integrated into each strategic plan to show alignment across activities.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020: City of Peoria • 2020: Partnership for a Healthy Community + Peoria City/County Health Department • 2020: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy • 2021: Peoria County
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leslie McKnight, Peoria City/County Health Department

Action 2.3: Integrate Food Equity Center action plan as the “Local Foods” component of: City of Peoria, Peoria County, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, Peoria City/County Health Department and healthcare system strategic plans.

Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership for a Healthy Community • City of Peoria (Ross Black) • Peoria County (Scott Sorrel) • Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Tory Dahlhoff) • Partnership for a Healthy Community - Healthy Eating/Active Living (HEAL) Committee (Leslie McKnight)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination between government agencies and non-profit sector • Communication plan • Staff time, capacity

Action 2.4: Develop a grocery steering committee that reflects the demographics of the neighborhood and community to expand, enable, develop, create or attract an affordable food market (i.e., grocer or food cooperative), preferably one that is locally-owned and located in FEC.

What this is and why it is important	Having a steering committee that represents the Southside community will provide a base of committed volunteers for establishment of a fresh food market and ensure the goal is achieved and meets the actual needs of residents.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The racial, cultural and demographic makeup of the committee reflects that of the neighborhood fabric. • The first meeting is held. • Subsequent meetings are held • Group representatives attend Regional Fresh Food Council meetings to engage/align with larger/regional effort
Timeframe	8-12 months
Lead	Martha Ross, Southside Community United for Change
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Tory Dahlhoff) • City of Peoria Economic Development Department • Local, institutions churches • Peoria City/County Health Department • OSF Saint Francis Medical Center • UnityPoint Health • Regional Fresh Food Council
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space • List of people • City of Peoria Economic Development Grocery and Healthy Food Strategy Resource Page (http://www.peoriagov.org/economic-development/)

Additional Goals

1. Support neighborhood associations to reach Southside residents
2. Hold stakeholder meetings at various locations and times to account for local participants who may not be able to leave work for these kinds of meetings.
3. Employ local staff to canvas at local schools for their input (not school staff, but parents and teens).
4. Survey Southside residents on what services they desire and preferred locations in for each service.
5. Solicit feedback directly from residents of the area, not just the institutions.

Goal 3: Increase the demand for locally produced agricultural products in Peoria.

Projects like the gardens at St. Ann and the Well Farm have demonstrated the potential for urban farms in Southside to thrive, while providing fresh food to Southside residents, supporting workforce development, and enhancing the landscape, both through beautification and stormwater management. In order to sustain and expand these production efforts, there must be awareness of and demand for locally-grown produce and foods. Programs that facilitate access and incentivize purchases of fresh foods and celebrations that bring community together around food are key ways to drive demand for locally-grown produce, which in turn could help spur increased local/regional supply.

Action 3.1: Create a local agricultural marketing plan to support local businesses and entrepreneurs in the development of a Peoria brand.

What this is and why it is important	A local agricultural marketing plan would raise awareness of locally produced food, instill pride in residents, and hopefully result in increased demand.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed branding campaign and logo • Brand recognition/preference as evidenced through sales growth
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months/September 1 start for Spring 2020
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwayne Harris, Intangible Mindz, LLC • Ryan Spain, Innovation Center – OSF
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Peoria (Planning & Zoning staff) • Minority Business Development Center • Tory Dahlhoff, Regional Fresh Food Council/Greater Peoria Economic Development Council Greater Peoria Economic Development Council • Riverfront Farmers Market Association (logistics help)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States Department of Agriculture Local Foods Promotion Program • Peoria Planning and Zoning • Riverfront Farmers Market Association

Action 3.2: Establish a food as medicine pilot plan with local health care providers for Southside residents.

What this is and why it is important	Healthcare providers can prescribe fresh foods as a component of a patient’s care plan, improving physical health with a low-cost measure, reducing the need for prescribed medications, preventing chronic diseases associated with unhealthy diet behaviors, and reducing the overall cost of healthcare.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial program launched and administered by a local healthcare provider • Number of participating patients • Number of vendors increases • Rate of adoption
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSF Saint Francis Medical Center starting pilot discussion now
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah DeRamirez, OSF Jump Center
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Alliance (Sherry Harris) • Healthcare providers • Hospitals
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local vendors • Primary care providers • Federally qualified clinics

Action 3.3: Plan and host a local food festival that features local farmers, food, cooking demonstrations and education that is sponsored by local health care providers.

What this is and why it is important	A local food festival can raise awareness of local growers and increase demand for their products. The flexibility of the platform allows for various outreach related to local food, including nutrition education and cooking demonstrations. This could be a kick off to Action 3.1.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance levels • Participation of vendors
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-12 months
Lead	Mike Brooks & Jo Garrison, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southside Community United for Change • Peoria Planning and Zoning • Local restaurants • Black Chamber of Commerce • Social service agencies • Park district • Local businesses

Action 3.3: Plan and host a local food festival that features local farmers, food, cooking demonstrations and education that is sponsored by local health care providers.

Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff time and capacity • Communication plan • Event funding
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Action 3.4: Develop a local food buyers’ club to work with local farmers to create affordable food options.

What this is and why it is important	Food tends to be cheaper when purchased in larger quantities. A group of consumers can coordinate to aggregate their purchasing for shared products in order to lower individual costs. Doing this with a local farmer helps guarantee demand for the farmer’s product. Buying groups can help to unify community around a shared outcome: increasing affordability of fresh foods.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More fresh produce is purchased and consumed • Increased farmer contributions • Cost savings
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start now • 3-4 months
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwayne Harris, Intangible Mindz, LLC
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southside Community United for Change • Local vendors • Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Tory Dahlhoff) • Churches
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants • Agreements with farmers • Churches • Donations • Grants • Aggregation location

Action 3.5 Connect local farmers and local produce to afterschool and summer programming.

What this is and why it is important	Time spent out of school, including summer break, is critical for students that may not have sufficient access to fresh foods. A program that would connect local farmers and their produce to afterschool and summer programming would assist families with their children’s food needs and help establish healthy eating habits. Programming and relationship-building could take the form of community-supported agriculture (CSA), visit by farmers to the school garden or classroom, workshops for students and families, etc. A foothold in the community may blossom into wholesale partnerships between farmers and anchor institutions, restaurants, and grocery stores that serve the Southside.
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Action 3.5 Connect local farmers and local produce to afterschool and summer programming.	
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation rates • Quantity of local food demand increases • Number of vendor participants vendor/school ratio
Timeframe	4-12 months
Lead	Martha Ross, Southside Community United for Change
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwayne Harris, Intangible Mindz, LLC • OSF Saint Francis Medical Center • Peoria Public Schools • Current afterschool programs (e.g. Common Place / Neighborhood House, Crittenton Centers)
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSF Saint Francis Medical Center • School system • Local farmers

Goal 4: Provide business development and employment pathways to support a thriving food and farming community on the Southside.

For the food and farming community to thrive, it has to attract, train, and retain talent. Southside youth need more diverse activities to keep busy during out of school time and programs that support learning after high school. Prior workforce training and development programs that once operated in Peoria could be revived and new ones formed, given the current growth in interest in food and farming. A qualified workforce underpins a successful economy, so initiatives that would offer training around food production, service, marketing, sales, and other aspects of business and entrepreneurship would benefit the Southside community.

Action 4.1: Establish a food and agriculture workforce development strategy that is inclusive of Southside residents.	
What this is and why it is important	The community is interested in more opportunities to engage youth in food and agriculture and provide options to learn skills that will enhance their job readiness in the future. Existing workforce development programs for agriculture and food industries can be better target youth and adult workforce in the Southside to train and build business acumen in the fields food and agriculture so that more food-based businesses can thrive in the area.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of existing programs and employers is created. • Phone calls made and contacts established with schools, community groups, interested mentors (e.g., Urban League, 4-H)
Timeframe	3-6 months (in preparation for the 2019-2020 school year).
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Kerr, Illinois Central College • Brent Baker, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council

Action 4.1: Establish a food and agriculture workforce development strategy that is inclusive of Southside residents.

Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri-County Urban League • Community Action Agency • Southside Community United for Change • Special K Productions & Southside Community United for Change (SCUC) & East Bluff Association (Ken Williams) • University of Illinois Extension (Kathie Brown) • Neighborhood associations • Local churches • Local businesses • Peoria Public Schools and Woodruff Culinary Program • University of Illinois Extension • Junior Achievement
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time • Communications • Research

Action 4.2: Create and fill a position for a food systems business development coordinator (value-chain coordinator).

What this is and why it is important	<p>A Value Chain Coordinator position is designed to build capacity within the regional food system increasing the scale, consistency, and affordability of healthy food products to community organizations, institutions such as schools, food banks, hospitals, and local grocery retailers. A Value Chain Coordinator can also help to identify new business opportunities for farmers and underserved food entrepreneurs and connect them with business development resources. A focus on improving the regional food supply chain by strengthening business relationships through shared values—such as equity, transparency, and collaboration—could more effectively mitigate root causes of healthy food access and food security. A value chain coordinator would foster a supply chain that aims to deliver nutritious and sustainably produced food products that are widely available to all communities.</p>
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host organization committed • Funding secured • Person hired
Timeframe	12-18 months
Lead	Tory Dahlhoff, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council / Regional Fresh Food Council
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Peoria (Ross Black) • City/County Health Department (Tracy Terlinde) • University of Illinois Extension (Kathie Brown)

Action 4.2: Create and fill a position for a food systems business development coordinator (value-chain coordinator).

Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting location • Outreach
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Action 4.3: Build a teaching garden at each Southside school: Trewyn Middle School, Harrison Primary School, Roosevelt Magnet School, Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Development Center, Manual Academy, and Christ Lutheran School.

What this is and why it is important	School gardens would be a way to introduce fresh food to students at an early age and provide the opportunity to taste and try fresh, locally grown food. Gardens encourage youth involvement in the local food system and could offer additional local produce to school neighbors.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When each school in the Southside has a garden built and planted. • Garden programming is funded and active.
Timeframe	3-24 months (Likely one school at a time, possibly starting with Trewyn)
Lead	Susan Grzanich, Innovation & Grants Officer, Peoria Public Schools
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoria Public Schools administrators, principals, and teachers (Martha Ross) • Parent Teacher Organizations • Southside Community United for Change • Intangible Mindz, LLC (Dwayne Harris) • University of Illinois Extension, SNAP Education (Kaitlyn Streitmatter) • Peoria County (Rebecca Cottrell, Recycling Coordinator) • Master Gardeners
Needed resources and possible sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplies for building gardens (e.g., raised beds, soil, seeds/seedlings, water) • Volunteers to build gardens • Funding for garden programming staff

Action 4.4: Incorporate school gardens into school curriculum.

What this is and why it is important	Connecting the school gardens to curriculum will help secure their longevity, sustainability, and relevance as a resource. School gardens provide an additional classroom for space constrained schools and support different learning styles (i.e. kinetic). Access to school garden and outdoor exposure has been shown to improve mental and behavioral health and help students to develop important life skills. ⁹
Measures of success	Great Gardening (or similar program) adopted for every grade level
Timeframe	0-6 months after a garden is established at a school

⁹ University of Washington. Green Cities: Good Health. https://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm_Mental.html. Accessed Aug. 5, 2019.

Action 4.4: Incorporate school gardens into school curriculum.	
Lead	Martha Ross, Southside Community United for Change (to research and identify a permanent lead from within the public school system)
Supporting cast	Peoria Public Schools administrators, principals, and teachers (Martha Ross)
Needed resources and possible sources	USDA Great Gardening Curriculum

Additional actions

1. Educate youth on the importance of employment and financial gain.
2. Prepare youth for the future.
3. Develop and implement a strategic plan for produce and flower gardens in Southside to maximize land use, train residents and generate revenue for residents.
4. Enable locally-owned existing or new small business food grocers to expand into underserved areas (this action is related to Action 2.1 & 2.2).

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

The steering committee held three calls in the weeks following the workshop to share progress updates, review the community action plan for clarity and accuracy, and discuss outreach strategies for maintaining momentum and stakeholder engagement in the process. Ongoing progress and outcomes of the workshop include the following:

- Extensive media coverage and awareness building of current initiatives and needs for the Southside community.
- A second annual neighborhood walk in Southside to share its history and good things that are happening there today. The workshop and draft action plan were discussed.
- Peoria released its *Filling the Grocery Gap in Peoria Report* and held a first community meeting to share the findings. Another community meeting is scheduled for later in July.
- Regional Fresh Foods Council met on July 19 to formalize an executive/steering committee to work on the regional food strategy. The council has to date been an informal network but now wants to transition to a more formalized leadership group that can put a strategy on paper, advocate for policy changes and resources for projects. This selection of both Peoria and Mt Pulaski to the Local Foods, Local Places program is a direct result of the early work of the Regional Fresh Foods Council that participating organizations would like to continue with more structure.
- The Great Peoria Economic Development Council and Peoria Innovation Alliance hosted the first of a series of networking events for local food businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. The events was held at Sous Chef and about 30 people attended.
- The Regional Fresh Food Council members have all signed a six-month letter of commitment to continue their collaboration on a regional food systems plan between August 2019 and February 2020.
- A second community meeting to share the results of the Grocery report was held in July.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Workshop Photo Album
- Appendix B – Community Data Profile
- Appendix C – Funding Resources
- Appendix D – References

Appendix C:

Workshop Photo Album



Figure 1 – The community tour begins as participants board the bus in the Riverfront District.



Figure 2 – Ross Black leads the community tour through the Riverfront District and Downtown.



Figure 3 – The Thomas Building is the future site of the Peoria Innovation Hub in Downtown.



Figure 4 – The community tour stops at Riverfront Park, the site of the weekly Riverfront Farmer's Market.



Figure 5 – A railroad station building converted into restaurants is surrounded with sandbags to protect it from river flooding.



Figure 6 – Several abandoned buildings like the one pictured are for sale in the Warehouse District.



Figure 7 – Converted buildings in the Warehouse District now feature restaurants, boutiques, and apartments.



Figure 8 – St. Ann's Catholic Church provides land for the community Garden of Hope in the Southside neighborhood.



Figure 9 – The Garden of Hope has taller raised beds to encourage senior community members to participate in gardening.



Figure 10 – The Garden of Hope provides a space for children to play and learn.



Figure 11 – Neighborhood children decorated wooden skids line the Garden of Hope property.



Figure 12 – Vacant lots next to occupied houses highlight the Southside neighborhood's population loss since 1950.



Figure 13 – Dwayne Harris explains the urban agricultural apprenticeship program underway at the Well Farm.



Figure 14 – Trees at the Well Farm absorb stormwater redirected from the City's combined sewer system.



Figure 15 – The City hosts a pop-up event at 1312 SW Adams Street, showcasing potential demand for a food hub and community center or collectively, a food equity center.



Figure 16 – A variety of health, wellness, and community services are displayed at the pop-up event.



Figure 17 – Outside the pop-up, attendees learn about the OSF Care-A-Van.



Figure 18 – Ross Black leads a tour of 1312 SW Adams Street.



Figure 19 – The 1312 SW Adams Street rooftop overlooks Peoria’s Warehouse District.



Figure 20 – A community-made mural adorns the side of 1312 SW Adams Street.



Figure 21 – Pop-up attendees envision a future food hub and receive fresh produce from a local farm.



Figure 22 – Participants review the workshop goals during the opening evening session.



Figure 23 – Participants identify and map existing touchpoints, needs, and opportunities in the Southside neighborhood.



Figure 24 - A map illustrates workshop attendees' perspective of touchpoints, needs, opportunities, and favorite places.



Figure 25 - Workshop participants brainstorm actions for each goal and prioritize them using dot voting.



Figure 26 - During action planning, participants work in groups to order priority actions and determine roles, resources, and timing.



Figure 27 - Groups report out on the actions selected for each community goal.



Figure 28 - Participants pose for a group picture.

Appendix D: Community Data Profile

This appendix provides some key data for the Southside Neighborhood of Peoria. The Environmental Protection Agency’s EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>, provides demographic and environmental data. The reports from EJ Screen were generated on the City of Peoria, shown in Figure 1 below and the Southside Neighborhood (61605 zip code), shown in Figure 2 below. A second report from the Healthy Food Access Portal, Research Your Community web portal, <http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/access-101/research-your-community>, provides demographic, workforce, food environment, and health indicator data by zip code. The 61605 zip code covers the Southside Neighborhood.

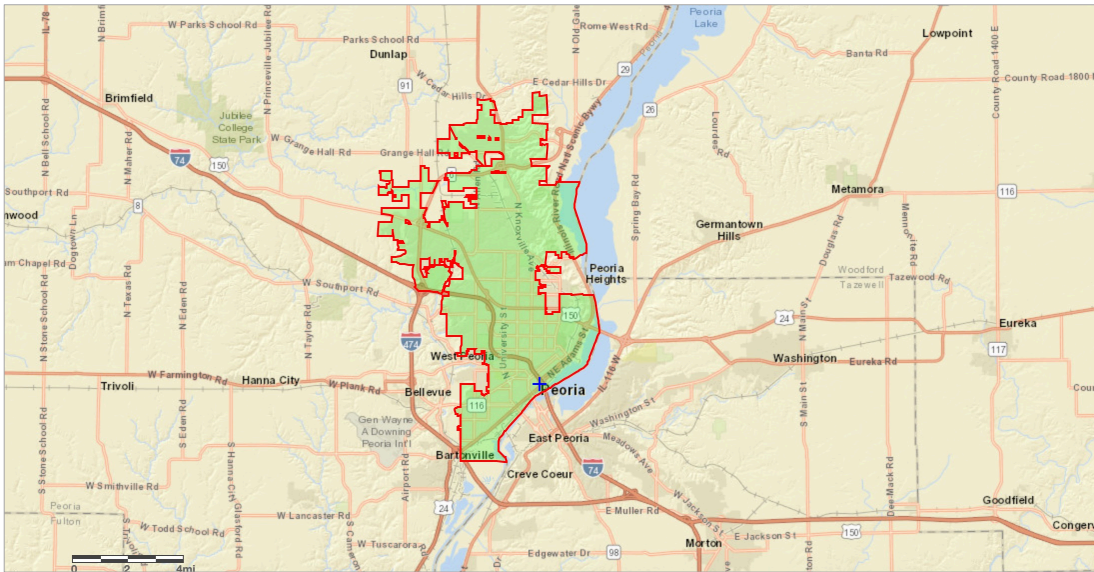


Figure 1 – City of Peoria. Source: EPA EJSCREEN mapping tool.

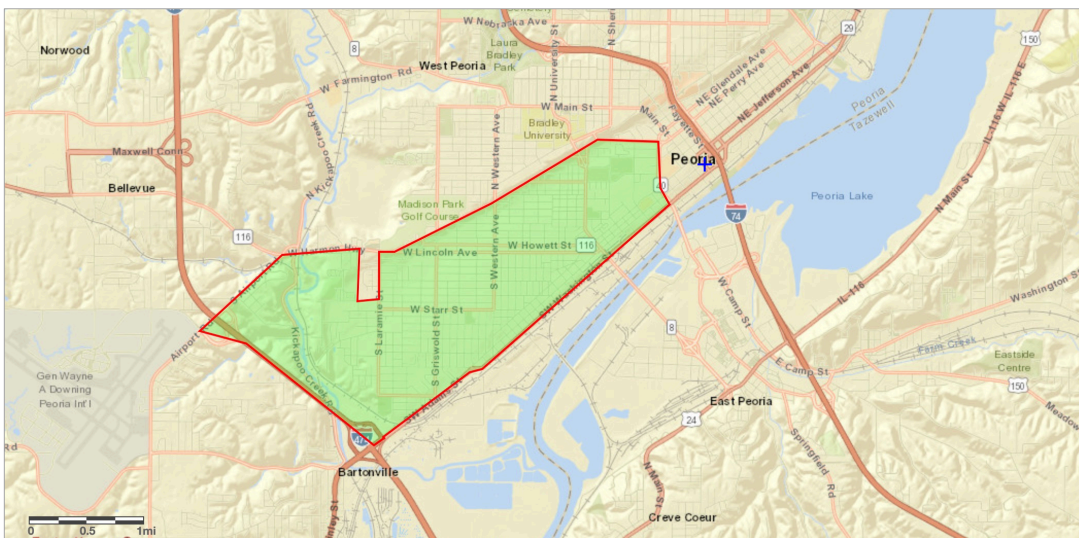


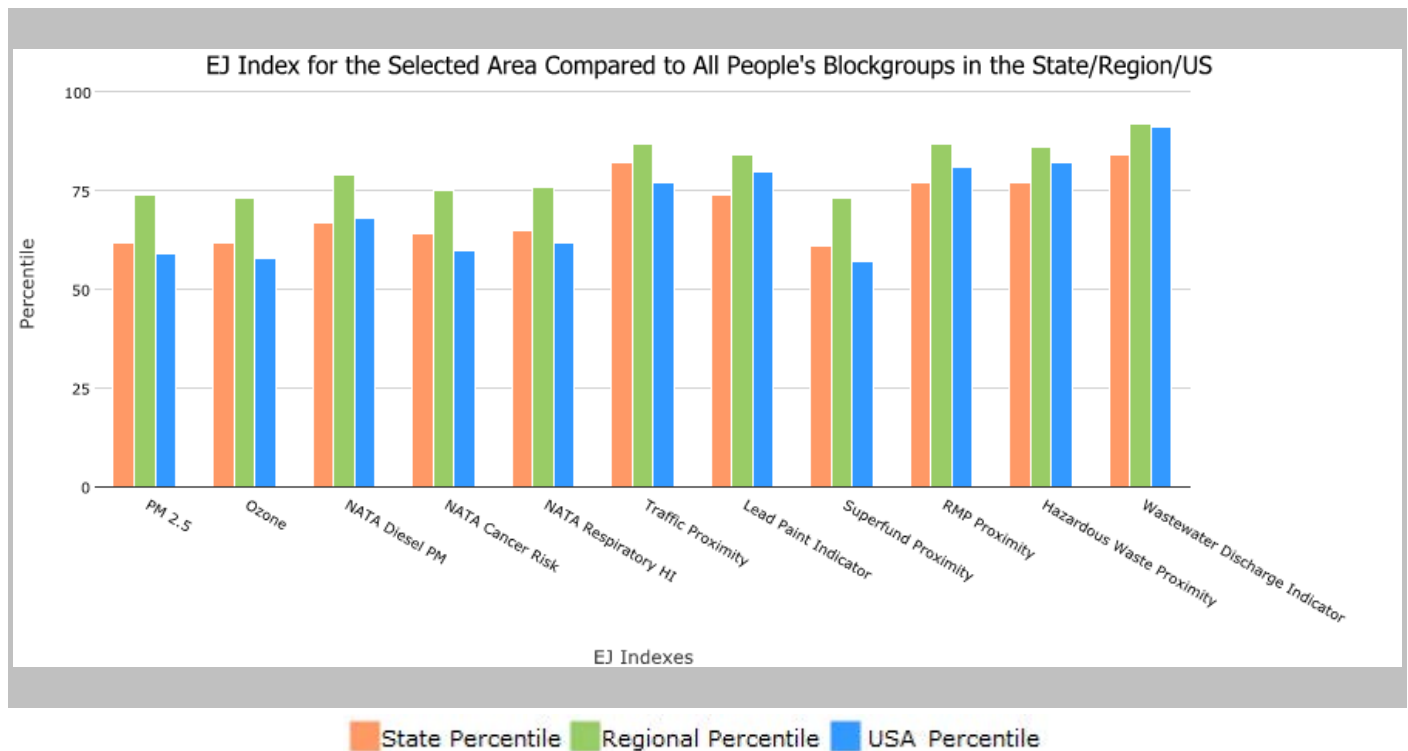
Figure 2 – Data query for the Southside Neighborhood (61605 zip code). Source: EPA EJSCREEN mapping tool.

City: Peoria, ILLINOIS, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 114,828

Input Area (sq. miles): 50.22

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
EJ Indexes			
EJ Index for PM2.5	62	74	59
EJ Index for Ozone	62	73	58
EJ Index for NATA* Diesel PM	67	79	68
EJ Index for NATA* Air Toxics Cancer Risk	64	75	60
EJ Index for NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	65	76	62
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity and Volume	82	87	77
EJ Index for Lead Paint Indicator	74	84	80
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	61	73	57
EJ Index for RMP Proximity	77	87	81
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	77	86	82
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge Indicator	84	92	91

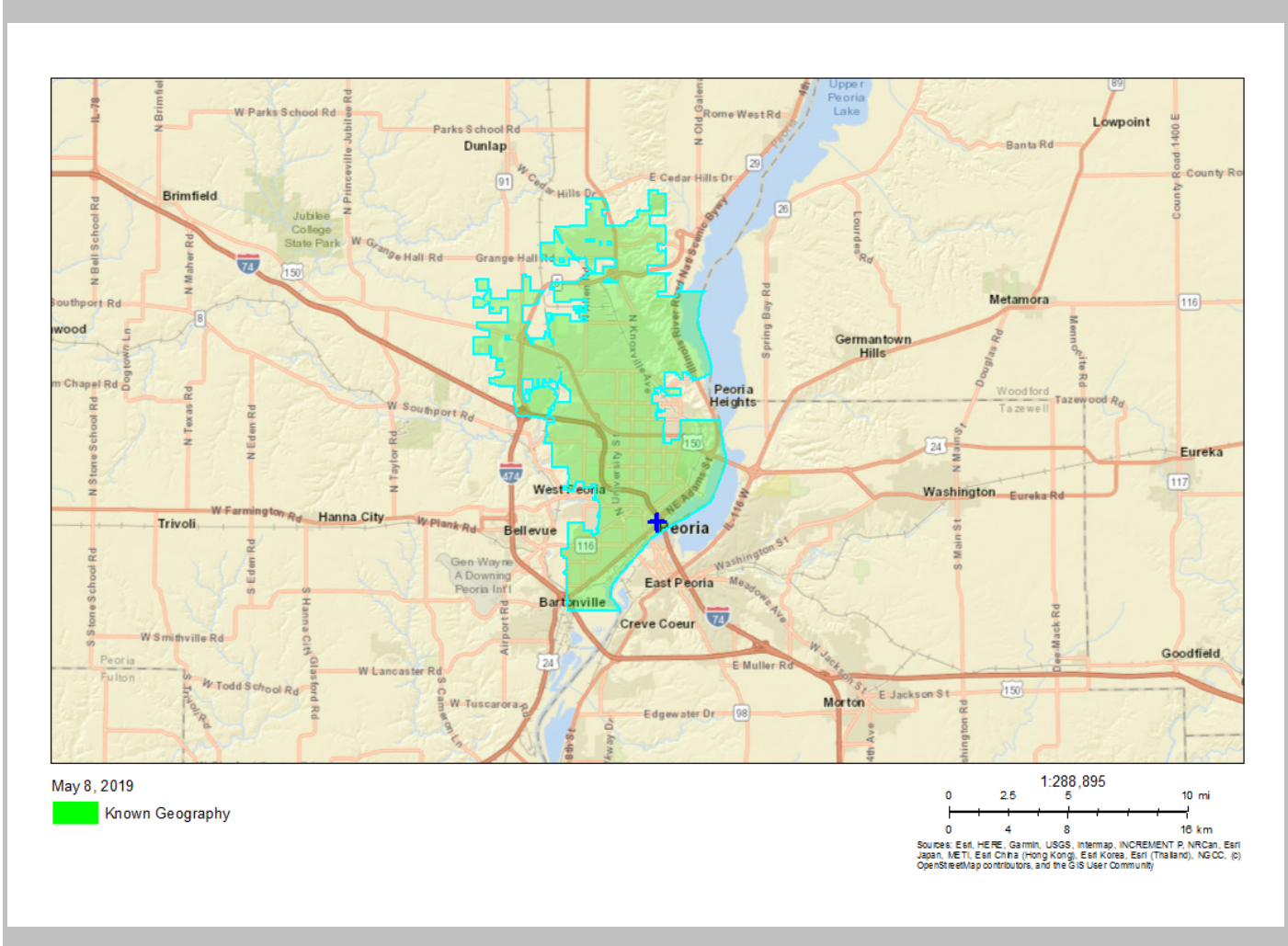


This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.

City: Peoria, ILLINOIS, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 114,828

Input Area (sq. miles): 50.22



Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	8

EJSCREEN Report (Version 2018)

City: Peoria, ILLINOIS, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 114,828

Input Area (sq. miles): 50.22



Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Environmental Indicators							
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	11.6	12.1	35	10.8	67	9.53	88
Ozone (ppb)	43.6	43.3	65	42.6	63	42.5	61
NATA* Diesel PM ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	1.01	1.28	38	0.932	60-70th	0.938	60-70th
NATA* Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million)	35	36	49	34	50-60th	40	<50th
NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	1.5	1.9	39	1.7	<50th	1.8	<50th
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	320	510	70	370	75	600	70
Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.48	0.41	57	0.38	65	0.29	74
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.014	0.091	3	0.12	8	0.12	14
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.92	1.1	58	0.81	70	0.72	74
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.9	2.1	63	1.5	74	4.3	76
Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.011	0.44	58	4.2	73	30	81
Demographic Indicators							
Demographic Index	41%	34%	67	28%	78	36%	65
Minority Population	42%	38%	63	25%	79	38%	61
Low Income Population	40%	31%	69	32%	69	34%	65
Linguistically Isolated Population	2%	5%	52	2%	69	4%	55
Population With Less Than High School Education	11%	12%	61	10%	65	13%	55
Population Under 5 years of age	7%	6%	65	6%	66	6%	64
Population over 64 years of age	14%	14%	57	15%	51	14%	55

* The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. EPA developed the NATA to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that NATA provides broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the NATA analysis can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment>.

For additional information, see: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

EJSCREEN is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJSCREEN outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

Location: City: Peoria city
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius
 Description:

Summary of ACS Estimates		2012 - 2016
Population		114,828
Population Density (per sq. mile)		2,401
Minority Population		47,802
% Minority		42%
Households		46,606
Housing Units		52,297
Housing Units Built Before 1950		16,556
Per Capita Income		25,364
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		47.82
% Land Area		95%
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		2.44
% Water Area		5%

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Race			
Total	114,828	100%	810
Population Reporting One Race	109,446	95%	1,974
White	70,653	62%	669
Black	30,002	26%	455
American Indian	404	0%	130
Asian	5,936	5%	416
Pacific Islander	15	0%	18
Some Other Race	2,436	2%	286
Population Reporting Two or More Races	5,382	5%	356
Total Hispanic Population	6,546	6%	286
Total Non-Hispanic Population	108,282		
White Alone	67,027	58%	667
Black Alone	29,677	26%	452
American Indian Alone	377	0%	130
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	5,936	5%	416
Pacific Islander Alone	11	0%	18
Other Race Alone	391	0%	185
Two or More Races Alone	4,864	4%	356
Population by Sex			
Male	54,592	48%	395
Female	60,236	52%	534
Population by Age			
Age 0-4	8,220	7%	185
Age 0-17	28,409	25%	359
Age 18+	86,420	75%	483
Age 65+	16,143	14%	203

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.
 N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012 - 2016 .

Location: City: Peoria city
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius
 Description:

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population 25+ by Educational Attainment			
Total	73,288	100%	411
Less than 9th Grade	2,327	3%	74
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	5,931	8%	132
High School Graduate	17,842	24%	220
Some College, No Degree	22,841	31%	240
Associate Degree	6,782	9%	192
Bachelor's Degree or more	24,347	33%	373
Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English			
Total	106,609	100%	718
Speak only English	94,764	89%	569
Non-English at Home ¹⁺²⁺³⁺⁴	11,844	11%	477
¹ Speak English "very well"	7,901	7%	462
² Speak English "well"	2,410	2%	174
³ Speak English "not well"	1,372	1%	99
⁴ Speak English "not at all"	160	0%	64
³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than well"	1,533	1%	113
²⁺³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than very well"	3,943	4%	174
Linguistically Isolated Households*			
Total	836	100%	110
Speak Spanish	274	33%	40
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	306	37%	72
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	194	23%	83
Speak Other Languages	62	7%	67
Households by Household Income			
Household Income Base	46,606	100%	271
< \$15,000	7,807	17%	153
\$15,000 - \$25,000	5,404	12%	190
\$25,000 - \$50,000	11,475	25%	207
\$50,000 - \$75,000	7,648	16%	153
\$75,000 +	14,272	31%	307
Occupied Housing Units by Tenure			
Total	46,606	100%	271
Owner Occupied	26,267	56%	216
Renter Occupied	20,338	44%	208
Employed Population Age 16+ Years			
Total	89,293	100%	519
In Labor Force	56,008	63%	351
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	5,458	6%	168
Not In Labor Force	33,285	37%	269

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.

Location: City: Peoria city
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius
 Description:

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Language Spoken at Home*			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	106,609	100%	718
English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spanish	N/A	N/A	N/A
French	N/A	N/A	N/A
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chinese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Asian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tagalog	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Non-English	N/A	N/A	N/A

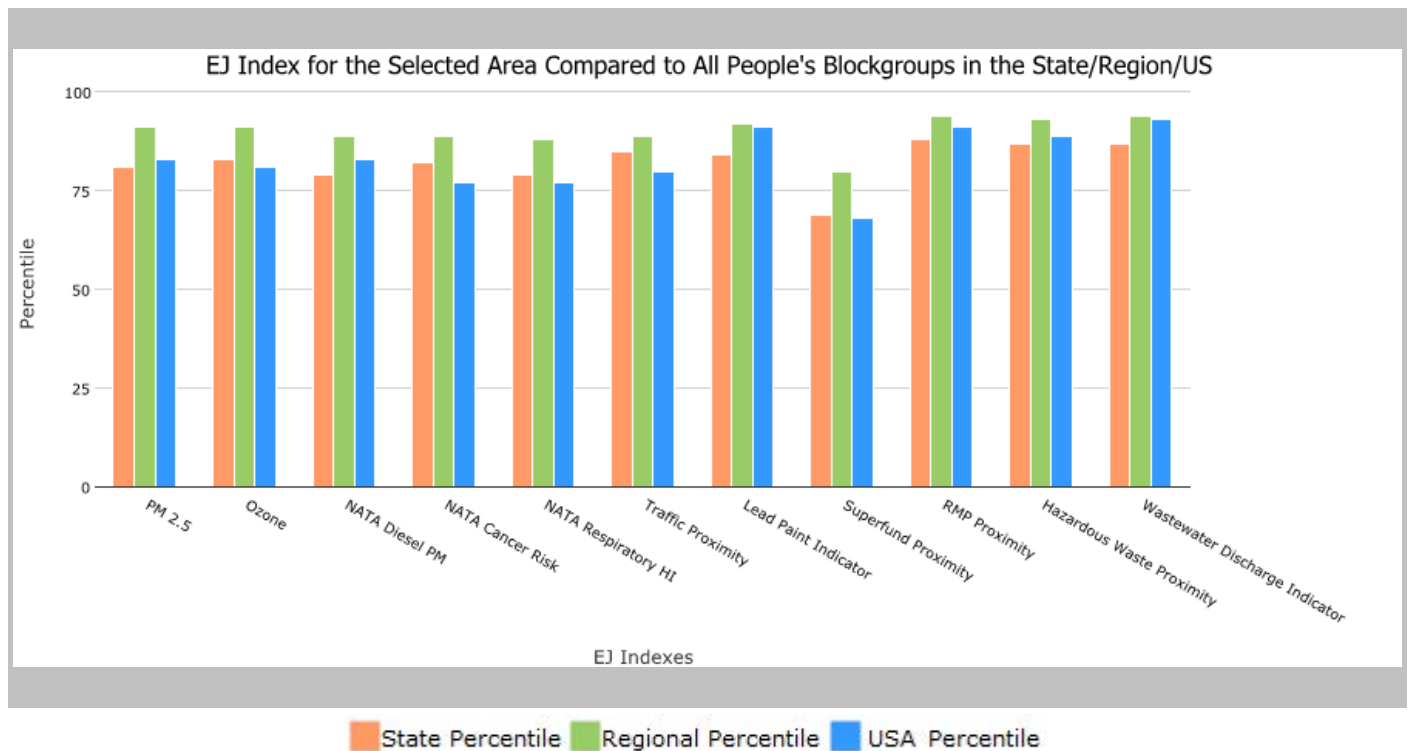
Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.
 N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012 - 2016.
 *Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.

the User Specified Area, ILLINOIS, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 15,857

Input Area (sq. miles): 4.52

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
EJ Indexes			
EJ Index for PM2.5	81	91	83
EJ Index for Ozone	83	91	81
EJ Index for NATA* Diesel PM	79	89	83
EJ Index for NATA* Air Toxics Cancer Risk	82	89	77
EJ Index for NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	79	88	77
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity and Volume	85	89	80
EJ Index for Lead Paint Indicator	84	92	91
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	69	80	68
EJ Index for RMP Proximity	88	94	91
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	87	93	89
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge Indicator	87	94	93

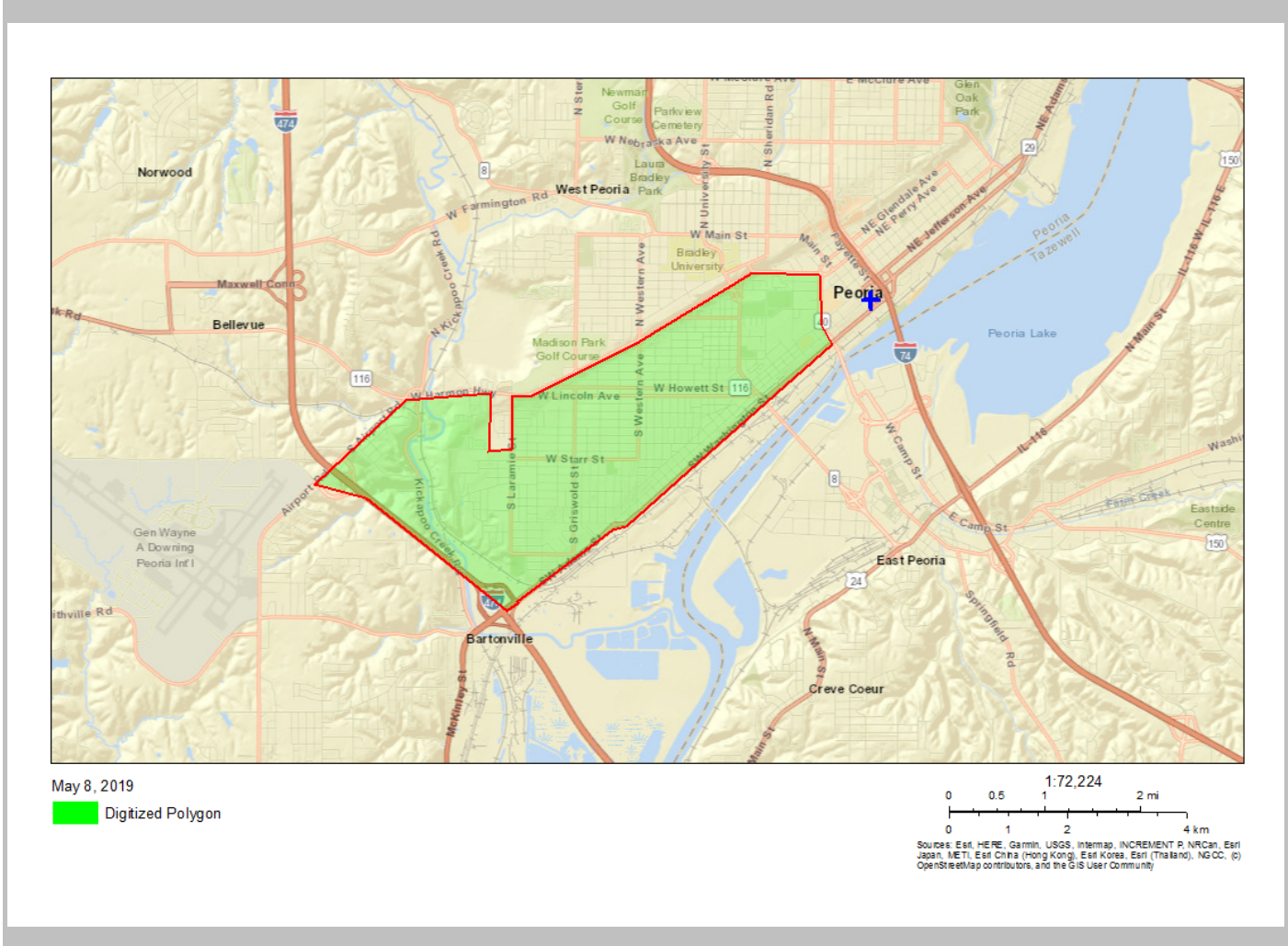


This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.

the User Specified Area, ILLINOIS, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 15,857

Input Area (sq. miles): 4.52



Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	2

EJSCREEN Report (Version 2018)

the User Specified Area, ILLINOIS, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 15,857

Input Area (sq. miles): 4.52



Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Environmental Indicators							
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	11.7	12.1	37	10.8	70	9.53	89
Ozone (ppb)	43.4	43.3	59	42.6	60	42.5	60
NATA* Diesel PM ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.991	1.28	37	0.932	60-70th	0.938	60-70th
NATA* Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million)	34	36	46	34	50-60th	40	<50th
NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	1.5	1.9	36	1.7	<50th	1.8	<50th
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	160	510	56	370	63	600	59
Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.71	0.41	77	0.38	81	0.29	87
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.013	0.091	3	0.12	7	0.12	14
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2.1	1.1	84	0.81	90	0.72	91
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2.5	2.1	73	1.5	81	4.3	81
Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.028	0.44	66	4.2	80	30	85
Demographic Indicators							
Demographic Index	71%	34%	88	28%	93	36%	89
Minority Population	73%	38%	80	25%	90	38%	80
Low Income Population	69%	31%	93	32%	93	34%	92
Linguistically Isolated Population	2%	5%	56	2%	73	4%	58
Population With Less Than High School Education	29%	12%	90	10%	94	13%	88
Population Under 5 years of age	10%	6%	86	6%	87	6%	84
Population over 64 years of age	11%	14%	43	15%	36	14%	40

* The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. EPA developed the NATA to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that NATA provides broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the NATA analysis can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment>.

For additional information, see: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

EJSCREEN is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJSCREEN outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

Location: User-specified polygonal location
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius
 Description:

Summary of ACS Estimates		2012 - 2016
Population		15,857
Population Density (per sq. mile)		3,580
Minority Population		11,520
% Minority		73%
Households		5,658
Housing Units		7,012
Housing Units Built Before 1950		4,086
Per Capita Income		14,968
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		4.43
% Land Area		99%
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		0.06
% Water Area		1%

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Race			
Total	15,857	100%	496
Population Reporting One Race	15,193	96%	913
White	5,508	35%	268
Black	9,068	57%	406
American Indian	70	0%	43
Asian	27	0%	56
Pacific Islander	0	0%	11
Some Other Race	521	3%	129
Population Reporting Two or More Races	664	4%	259
Total Hispanic Population	1,803	11%	184
Total Non-Hispanic Population	14,054		
White Alone	4,337	27%	249
Black Alone	9,029	57%	406
American Indian Alone	70	0%	43
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	27	0%	56
Pacific Islander Alone	0	0%	11
Other Race Alone	0	0%	11
Two or More Races Alone	591	4%	259
Population by Sex			
Male	7,726	49%	210
Female	8,131	51%	317
Population by Age			
Age 0-4	1,579	10%	182
Age 0-17	5,070	32%	233
Age 18+	10,787	68%	222
Age 65+	1,789	11%	119

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.
 N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012 - 2016.

Location: User-specified polygonal location
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius
 Description:

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population 25+ by Educational Attainment			
Total	9,261	100%	243
Less than 9th Grade	697	8%	62
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	1,982	21%	99
High School Graduate	3,570	39%	188
Some College, No Degree	2,381	26%	134
Associate Degree	442	5%	69
Bachelor's Degree or more	631	7%	83
Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English			
Total	14,278	100%	442
Speak only English	12,632	88%	337
Non-English at Home ¹⁺²⁺³⁺⁴	1,646	12%	141
¹ Speak English "very well"	794	6%	134
² Speak English "well"	476	3%	90
³ Speak English "not well"	352	2%	99
⁴ Speak English "not at all"	24	0%	25
³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than well"	376	3%	99
²⁺³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than very well"	852	6%	122
Linguistically Isolated Households*			
Total	130	100%	41
Speak Spanish	130	100%	40
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0	0%	11
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	0	0%	11
Speak Other Languages	0	0%	11
Households by Household Income			
Household Income Base	5,658	100%	123
< \$15,000	1,874	33%	135
\$15,000 - \$25,000	1,218	22%	77
\$25,000 - \$50,000	1,405	25%	100
\$50,000 - \$75,000	664	12%	92
\$75,000 +	497	9%	89
Occupied Housing Units by Tenure			
Total	5,658	100%	123
Owner Occupied	2,399	42%	85
Renter Occupied	3,259	58%	116
Employed Population Age 16+ Years			
Total	11,190	100%	313
In Labor Force	5,990	54%	239
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	1,261	11%	132
Not In Labor Force	5,200	46%	193

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.

Location: User-specified polygonal location

Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius

Description:

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Language Spoken at Home*			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	13,067	100%	393
English	11,824	90%	438
Spanish	1,140	9%	174
French	32	0%	11
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	9	0%	13
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	0	0%	11
Chinese	0	0%	11
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	0	0%	11
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	0	0%	11
Other Asian	0	0%	11
Tagalog	13	0%	43
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	28	0%	56
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	22	0%	29
Total Non-English	1,243	10%	581

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

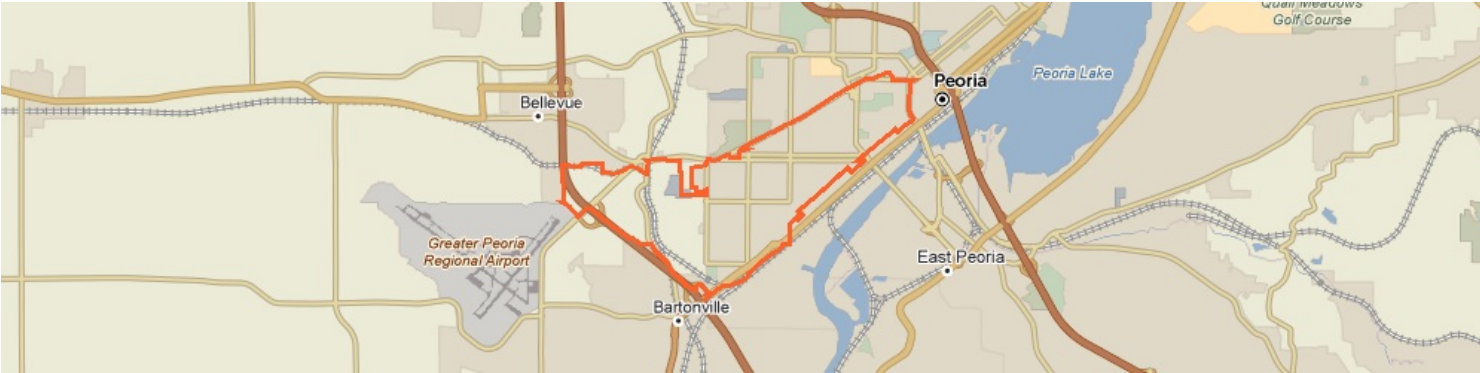
N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012 - 2016.

*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.

Healthy Food Access Portal

Research Your Community
Report for 61605, IL

This report provides information about the population living within the Zip and their food environment.



Demographics

Accessing healthy food is a challenge for some Americans - particularly those living in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Research has shown that, if a person is Black, Hispanic or living in a low-income block group they are more likely to live in an area with limited access to a full service supermarket.

Current estimates show that the area has not grown since 2000 and the total population is 0 people. According to 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) data, the population of a minority race was 0.00% and 0.00% were of Hispanic ethnicity. In terms of age, 0.00% were children under age 18, while 0.00% were over age 65.

Demographics in 61605, IL			
61605	2000	2010	2013-2017
Total Population	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pct. Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pct. Minority	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pct. < 18 Years	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pct. 65 or Older	N/A	N/A	N/A

Median Household Income		
	61605	Illinois
Median Household Income (2013-2017)	\$0	\$61,229

Source: Census 2000, Census 2010, Census ACS 2013-2017

Workforce and Unemployment

Some communities look to improve access to food for existing residents by meeting both the demands from the daytime population (workforce) and the residential population. The table at right shows the number of people in the workforce that are employed within the

Local Employment in 61605	
	Employed
Resident	

area and the number of people who reside in the area who are part of the workforce. This data tells us that N/A people work in 61605, while N/A workers reside in 61605 according to the Local Employer-Household Dynamics data. Increasing the number of healthy food retailers can lead to jobs and may be a force of revitalizing economically distressed communities.

Total Workers (2015)

N/A Resident

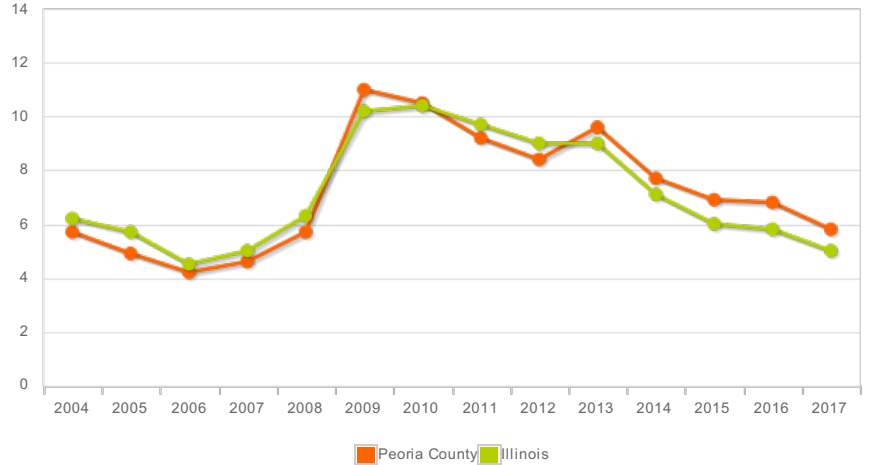
N/A Employed

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Employment-Household Dynamics

61605's unemployment rate is 5.8%, compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 5%. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest domestic hunger safety net program (according to the USDA). It serves many low-income people, including those who are currently unemployed.

Within Peoria County, 17.74% of people received SNAP benefits in 2011, amounting to \$53,579,000 in benefits to program participants.

Annual Unemployment



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Employment-Household Dynamics

Food Environment

Determining if a community is underserved by healthy food retailers can be a complicated process that includes a variety of factors including population density, car ownership rates, and the quality and location of supermarkets, grocery stores and farmers markets. Researchers have produced many studies and online tools to help communities to identify areas with limited access to supermarkets and sources of healthy food. Methods and measures vary but two studies and national online data tools are Reinvestment Fund's **Limited Supermarket Access (LSA) Study** and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **Food Access Research Atlas**. These studies seek to provide guidance on how to understand whether a new supermarket, an expansion of an existing store, or a farmer's market is the appropriate strategy to pursue.

In 2016, there were 0 full service supermarkets located in 61605. There are 7 Limited Service stores located within the study area, and 0 farmers' markets. SNAP benefits are accepted at 21 participating stores, farmer's markets, social service agencies or other non retail providers in this community.

According to the USDA, 7 of 10 census tracts in 61605 are Low-Income, Low-Access tracts. ([Show/hide list of USDA Low-Income, Low-Access Tracts](#))

Based on Reinvestment Fund's 2018 analysis, there is 1 LSA area within 61605. 6,784 people live in this LSA area and are considered to have limited access to a supermarket. The estimated leakage for this area is \$8,767,000; this represents the amount that residents spend at stores located outside of the LSA. Please see the [PolicyMap Data Directory](#) for Reinvestment Fund's methodology.

Food Retailers in 61605	
Full Service Supermarkets	0
Limited Service Stores	7
SNAP Retailers	21
Farmers' Markets	0
Fast-food and Takeout Restaurants	1

Source: USDA ERS Food Access, Census County Business Patterns, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Reinvestment Fund Study of Low Supermarket Access

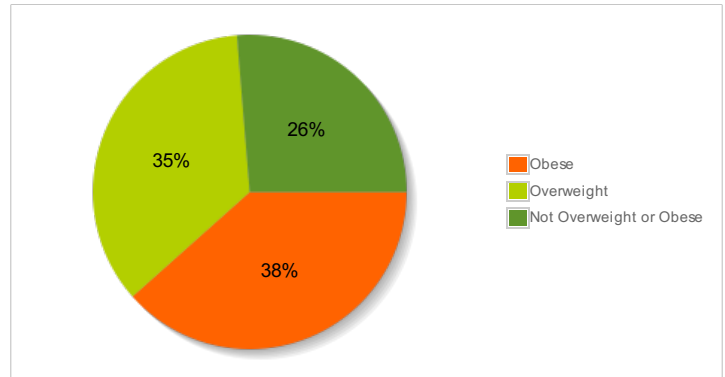
Limited Supermarket Access in 61605	
Population within LSA	6,784
Total Grocery Leakage	\$8,767,000

Source: Reinvestment Fund Study of Low Supermarket Access.

Health

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides survey data about the health of the residents within an area. The chart at right displays the Body Mass Index (BMI) classification for adults in 61605. It reports that 35.25% of the population is considered overweight and 38.39% is considered obese.

BMI Classification in 2013, 61605

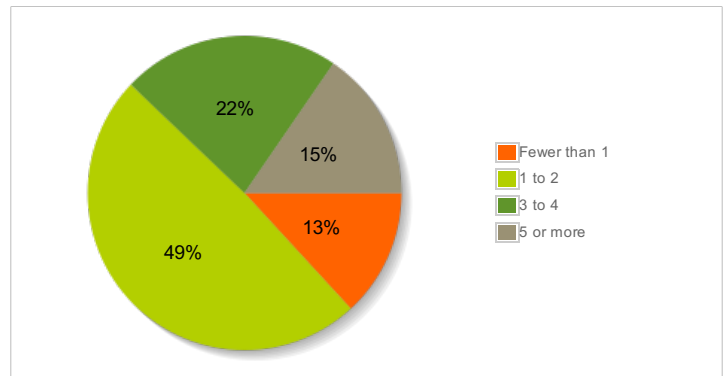


Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2013, ACS 2009-2013

Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

According to the CDC, fruits and vegetables are critical to promoting good health. Most adults need to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables they currently eat to get the amount that's recommended every day. The CDC reports that the recommended level of consumption depends upon an individual's age, weight and current level of physical activity. Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov for specifics on how many servings to eat. Of the adult residents in 61605, 85% reported eating fewer than 5 fruits and vegetables per day, and 15% report eating five or more per day.

Number of Fruits/Vegetables Consumed per day in 2013, 61605



Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2013, ACS 2009-2013

Federal Programs & Investments

Areas within 61605 may be targeted for economic development or community development activities. By working within these areas, community development entities or commercial operators may be able to seek grants or loans to finance intervention strategies that address the community's lack of food access. Some certified Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) operate specific programs designed to finance food retailers that choose to locate in an area that otherwise lacks healthy food access. The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program is another federal incentive structure that can provide financing to large commercial developments in eligible areas.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligible block groups are places that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has designated for targeted resources. Within this target area, there are 21 CDBG eligible block groups and 8 NMTC eligible tracts. There are 34 CDFIs working to improve distressed areas of the state. [\(See list of certified CDFIs in Illinois\)](#)

Federal Program and Investment Dollars in 61605, IL

New Markets Tax Credit Investments (QLICI) 2012-2016	\$579,900
<hr/>	
CDFI Loans/Investments 2007-2016	\$1,650,000

Source: CDFI Fund, HUD

AGRICULTURE	Jurisdiction	Statistic
Total Farms 2012¹	Peoria County	917
Farms by Type²	Peoria County	
Vegetable Farms		N/A
Fruit, Tree Nut, and Berry Farms		N/A
Livestock, Poultry, and their Product Farms		N/A
Change Over Time		
Change in number of farms, 2007-2012³	Peoria County	Sparse Data (1.32)
Change in number of farms, by size, 2007-2012⁴	Peoria County	
<9 acres		Significant Decrease (-5.77)
10-49 acres		Significant Increase (4.11)
50-179 acres		Slight Increase (1.76)
180 – 499 acres		Sparse Data (-0.89)
500 – 999 acres		Sparse Data (0.19)
1000 -1999 acres		Sparse Data (-1.72)
>2000 acres		Sparse Data (-1.29)
Change in acreage of harvested cropland, 2007-2012⁵	Peoria County	Sparse Data (-1.23)
Sales		
	Peoria County	
Total agricultural sales 2012⁶	Peoria County	N/A
Farms with direct sales⁷	Peoria County	N/A
Total amount of direct farm sales⁸	Peoria County	N/A
Percentages of farms with sales <\$10k⁹	Peoria County	39.48
Percentages of farms with sales \$10k-250k¹⁰	Peoria County	40.46
Percentages of farms with sales >\$250k¹¹	Peoria County	20.07
Crops/Produce		
	Peoria County	
Vegetable acreage as percentage of harvested cropland¹²	Peoria County	0.92
Value of vegetables sold as percentage of total agricultural products sold¹³	Peoria County	0.87
Orchard acreage as percentage of cropland¹⁴	Peoria County	0.0
Value of fruits and nuts sold as percentage of total agricultural products sold¹⁵	Peoria County	0.17

¹ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

² Ag Census Full Report, https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level

³ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

⁴ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

⁵ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

⁶ Ag Census Full Report, https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level

⁷ USDA Food Environment Atlas, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>

⁸ USDA Food Environment Atlas, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>

⁹ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

¹⁰ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

¹¹ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

¹² Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

¹³ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

¹⁴ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

¹⁵ Ag Census Web Maps, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/

Appendix E: Funding

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Cities and towns can strengthen their local food systems through a variety of federal, state, local, and philanthropic projects and programs. USDA and other federal agencies help support local food systems by working with producers, engaging with communities, financing local processing and distribution, or helping retailers develop local food connections. Below are some of the resources available.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

Farmers Market Promotion Program

The program aims to increase domestic consumption of and access to locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets. This program can support the development, improvement, and expansion of farmers markets, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Grant awards range from \$50,000 to \$250,000 for capacity-building projects and \$250,000 to \$500,000 for community development, training, and technical assistance projects.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

Local Food Promotion Program

The program offers grant funds with a 25 percent match to support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets. Planning grants fund the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise. Activities can include but are not limited to market research, feasibility studies, and business planning. Implementation grants help establish, improve, or expand local and regional food business enterprises. Activities can include but are not limited to training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise; outreach and marketing to buyers and consumers; and non-construction infrastructure improvements to business enterprise facilities or information technology systems.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp>

Organic Certification Cost Share Programs

Two Organic Certification Cost Share Programs help certified organic operations defray the costs associated with organic certification. Organic operations can be reimbursed for 75 percent of their certification costs up to \$750.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/occsp>

USDA Programs in the Local Food Supply Chain

The Agricultural Marketing Service created a fact sheet to help identify which USDA grants and programs apply to you depending on your place in the local and regional food system.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FoodSupplyChainFactSheet.pdf>

USDA Rural Development

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

This program provides funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas with no more than 20,000 residents. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve local food system facilities such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, and greenhouses. The program offers grants of up to 75 percent of eligible project costs, low-interest loans, and loan guarantees.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

Economic Impact Initiative Grant Program

Funding for essential community facilities is also available through this program for communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/economic-impact-initiative-grants>

Rural Business Development Grants

These grants fund technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small businesses in rural areas with no more than 50,000 residents. Generally, grants range from \$10,000 up to \$500,000 and do not require cost sharing. The program can support activities such as training and technical assistance; acquisition or development of land; construction or renovation of buildings, equipment, roads, and utilities; capitalization of revolving loan funds; rural transportation improvements; feasibility studies and business plans; and rural business incubators.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>

Value-Added Producer Grants

These grants help agricultural producers with the processing and marketing of value-added products. The program aims to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. Planning grants of up to \$75,000 can be used for activities such as conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing a value-added product. Working capital grants of up to \$250,000 can be used for processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses, and some inventory and salary expenses. The grants require matching funds of 50 percent of total project costs.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

This program provides grants to collaborative partnerships of public or private entities for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers.

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>

Rural MicroEnterprise Assistance Program

This micro-loan program can fund agriculture production activities. Potential loan recipients would need to find out if there is an existing loan fund in their geographic area, or an experienced lending organization could apply to Rural Development to start a loan fund.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>

Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program

This program helps private nonprofit entities fight food insecurity by funding community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of low-income communities. Community food projects are designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs. Preferred projects develop linkages between two or more sectors of the food system, support the development of entrepreneurial projects, develop innovative linkages between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors, encourage long-term planning activities, and build long-term capacity of communities to address the food and agricultural problems of communities. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$400,000 and require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources.

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/community-food-projects-competitive-grant-program-cfpcgp>

Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program

This program supports projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by providing incentives at the point of purchase. It funds pilot projects at up to \$100,000 over one year; multi-year, community-based projects at up to \$500,000 over no more than four years; and multi-year, large-scale projects of more than \$500,000 over no more than four years. USDA gives priority to projects that provide locally or regionally produced fruits and vegetables.

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related natural resources on agricultural land. Producers are eligible for payments totaling up to \$450,000 for completed high tunnel systems that can extend the growing season for high-value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The program can also provide up to \$20,000 per year for organic producers and those transitioning to organic to address natural resource concerns and meet requirements for the National Organic Program.

- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

USDA Farm Service Agency

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

This program provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible facilities include cold storage facilities for fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat products. Producers may borrow up to \$500,000.

- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/index>

Microloan Program

The Microloan Program helps finance small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations; farms participating in direct marketing and sales such as farmers markets; and farms using hydroponic, aquaponic, organic, and vertical growing methods. Eligible uses of funds include to make a down payment on a farm; build, repair, or improve farm buildings; purchase hoop houses, tools, and equipment; gain GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), GHP (Good Handling Practices), and organic certification; and market and distribute agricultural products. The maximum loan amount is \$50,000.

- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/microloans/index>

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Farm to School Grant Program

These grants support farm-to-school programs that improve access to local foods in schools.

- Support service grants of \$65,000 to \$100,000 help state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and nonprofit entities develop and provide support services to farm-to-school initiatives.
- Implementation grants of \$65,000 to \$100,000 help schools or school districts scale or further develop existing farm-to-school initiatives.
- Planning grants of \$20,000 to \$45,000 help schools or school districts just getting started on farm-to-school activities organize and structure their efforts for maximum impact by embedding known best practices into early design considerations.
- Training grants of \$15,000 to \$50,000 help state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and nonprofit entities support trainings that strengthen farm-to-school supply chains or provide technical assistance in local procurement, food safety, culinary education, and/or integration of an agriculture-based curriculum.

- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

This program, similar to the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, awards grants to state agencies and Indian Tribal organizations to provide low-income seniors with coupons for fruits and vegetables at

farmers markets. The state agencies provide nutrition education to participants and authorize farmers markets to accept the benefits. For a list of state program contacts, visit:

- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfmnp/sfmnp-contacts>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families. Benefits can be used to purchase many of the foods sold at farmers markets, including fruits and vegetables, dairy products, breads and cereals, and meat and poultry. The Food and Nutrition Service works with state agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to help that those eligible for nutrition assistance access benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service also has resources for farmers markets and retailers interested in accepting SNAP benefits.

- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

USDA Grants and Loans that Support Farm to School Activities

The Office of Community Food Systems created a 2018 fact sheet listing USDA funding available to assist farms, schools, and every link in between in feeding kids healthy local meals; teaching them about food, farming and nutrition; and supporting local agricultural economies.

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/grantsandloans>

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The program is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC. It awards grants to state agencies and Indian Tribal organizations to provide coupons for fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants for use at farmers markets. The state agencies provide nutrition education to participants and authorize farmers markets to accept the benefits. For a list of state program contacts, visit:

- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fmnp/fmnp-contacts>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program

This program provides grants to develop an area-wide plan for assessing, cleaning up, and reusing brownfield sites. Plans focus on a specific project area, such as a neighborhood, downtown district, commercial corridor, old industrial corridor, waterfront, or city block affected by a single large or multiple brownfield sites.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding#tab-5>

Brownfields Assessment Grants

Assessment grants provide funding to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to sites potentially contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. The maximum grant amount is \$350,000.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

Brownfields Cleanup Grants

Cleanup grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. The maximum grant amount is \$200,000 per site. Awardees must contribute 20 percent of the amount of funding provided by EPA, although waivers of this requirement are available. An applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding at time of application.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program

This program provides financial assistance to organizations for projects that address local environmental and/or public health issues in their communities using EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model. The program helps recipients build collaborative partnerships to help them understand and address environmental and public health concerns in their communities.

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>

Environmental Justice Small Grants

This grant program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks and funds projects up to \$30,000. Previously funded projects include Educating South Florida's Residents on Hydroponic Urban Gardening; Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Food Production in Athens, Georgia; Creating Safe Soil for Healthy Gardening; and Promoting Urban Agriculture and Food Sustainability in Brooklyn, New York.

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>

Targeted Brownfields Assessments

This program helps states, tribes, and municipalities minimize the uncertainties of contamination often associated with brownfields. This program supplements other efforts under the Brownfields Program to promote the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields. Services include site assessments, cleanup options and cost estimates, and community outreach. Services are for an average of \$100,000. The sites for this program are selected locally, once a year. Applicants should currently have redevelopment plans for the contaminated property.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/targeted-brownfields-assessments-tba>

Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program

This program funds three organizations who—with their extensive team of subgrantees, contractors, partners, and other network contacts—provide technical assistance to communities and other stakeholders. The program helps communities tackle the challenge of assessing, cleaning up, and

preparing brownfield sites for redevelopment, especially underserved, rural, small and otherwise distressed communities.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/epas-technical-assistance-brownfields-tab-communities-program-providing-technical>

Urban Waters Small Grants

This grant program helps protect and restore urban waters, improve water quality, and support community revitalization and other local priorities. Projects address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution, provide additional community benefits, actively engage underserved communities, and foster partnerships. The grants are competed and awarded every two years, with individual award amounts of up to \$60,000.

- <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Entitlement

This program provides funding to help entitled metropolitan cities and urban counties meet their housing and community development needs. This program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled communities to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-entitlement/>

CDBG Non-Entitlement Communities Program for States and Small Cities

This program provides funding to help states and units of local government in non-entitled areas meet their housing and community development needs. The program provides grants to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services. All CDBG activities must meet at least one of the following national objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight, or meet certain urgent community development needs. No less than 70 percent of the funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons over a period specified by the state, not to exceed 3 years.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-state/>

CDBG §108 Loan Guarantee Program

This program provides loan guarantee assistance for community and economic development. Section 108 is the loan guarantee provision of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Under this section, HUD offers communities a source of financing for certain community development activities, such as housing rehabilitation, economic development, and large-scale physical development projects. Loans may be for terms up to 20 years.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/>

Programs of HUD

This 2017 document provides a complete listing of all HUD programs including major mortgage, grants, assistance, and regulatory programs.

- <https://www.hud.gov/hudprograms>

Others

National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant Program

Our Town supports creative placemaking projects that integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work—placing arts at the table with land use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. Projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000. In 2016, the American Dance Institute and the village of Catskill, New York, received an Our Town grant to renovate a former lumberyard and associated buildings into a permanent home for the institute’s artist residency, which will include a theater, artist housing, and an open interior courtyard for performances, visual arts displays, and the local farmers market.

- <https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/introduction>

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Transportation Alternative Set Aside

This program provides set-aside funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives (including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity); recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways. Funds are allocated to state departments of transportation, which select projects through a competitive process. Local governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs are among the entities eligible to apply for funding.

- http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/guidance_2016.cfm

Private Grant Funding

While funding programs of individual foundations can change from year to year, these resources are good starting points to look for philanthropic and other private support:

Aetna Foundation

The Aetna Foundation funds community groups that are advancing healthy eating and active living in homes, schools, and neighborhoods. A major part of this effort is connecting people of limited means with fresh fruits and vegetables through community gardens, urban farms, and farmers markets.

- <https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/health-eating-living.html>

American Community Gardening Association

The American Community Gardening Association offers a list of grant opportunities for community gardens and other related projects.

- <https://communitygarden.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>

Farmers Market Coalition

The Farmers Market Coalition website includes funding resources for farmers markets and other community food projects.

- <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/education/funding-opportunities/>

Healthy Food Access Portal

The Healthy Food Access portal was created by PolicyLink, The Food Trust, and Reinvestment Fund to better support communities seeking to launch healthy food retail projects. The portal has a funding section including grants, loans, and incentives suited for healthy food projects.

- <http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/funding>

Kresge Foundation

Kresge Foundation's Developing Healthy Places focus area offers programs and grants to promote health equity among people in low-income neighborhoods and foster improved health for entire communities. In 2015, Kresge offered planning grants under the initiative "Fresh, Local & Equitable: Food as a Creative Platform for Neighborhood Revitalization," which "seeks to help create a sense of place in communities where culinary ventures are integrated into community life, creating synergies that exceed the sum of their parts."

- <https://kresge.org/grant/build-healthy-places-network>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supports research and programs to help build a national culture of health. Projects that link local foods assets such as community gardens and farmers markets with recreation and alternative transportation projects that seek to improve access to healthy foods could fit with the foundation's giving. The foundation has programs that help to transform local environments in ways that remove health barriers and make it easier for people to lead healthier lives.

- <http://www.rwjf.org/en/our-focus-areas/topics/built-environment-and-health.html>

The foundation also has programs to increase the ability to provide more free fresh produce in low-income communities, raise public awareness about food insecurity, and encourage healthier eating.

- <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/collections/healthy-food-access.html>

W.K Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation helps communities transform school food systems, improve community access to good food, and create environments for active living. The foundation accepts grant applications from organizations and institutions throughout the year.

- <https://www.wkkf.org/grants>

State Funding

2019 OMEE Notice of Funding Opportunity

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sets forth the requirement of the 2019 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Minority-Owned Business Capital and Infrastructure Program. The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment's (OMEE) newly created state funded capital and infrastructure program, as per Public Act 100-0586, aims to equip minority-owned firms with resources to create jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues, and expand regionally.

\$10 million of the grant funding is available for minority-owned businesses

Capital access remains the most important factor limiting the establishment of minority-owned businesses. It also inhibits the ability of economic growth in minority and underserved communities. The goal is to ensure minority enterprises have an equal opportunity to contribute to the growth of Illinois' economy and serve as an advocate for businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups in traditionally economically-disadvantaged groups. Applicants are eligible for up to \$500,000.

\$5 million of the funding is available for incubators who serve or would like to serve minority-owned businesses

Business incubators provide support to increase survival for new start-ups to assist in growth during the start-up period when many businesses are vulnerable. Incubators can assist by providing space or capacity; networking and consulting opportunities; professional services and training; and, they can supply resources including research and development. Applicants are eligible for up to \$250,000.

- [Eligibility requirements for minority-owned businesses](#)
- [Eligibility requirements for incubators who serve or would like to serve minority-owned businesses](#)

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2019. All applicants must be pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal. Application is not a guarantee of funding.

Direct questions to: ceo.accountability@illinois.gov

- https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/Pages/2019_OMEE_NOFO.aspx?utm_source=May+2019+Small+Business+Connection&utm_campaign=May+2019+Small+Business+Connection&utm_medium=email

Appendix F: References

Additional resources available are grouped into the following categories:

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I. Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity

Case Studies in Delivering Safe, Comfortable and Connected Pedestrian and Bicycle Networks

This 2015 Federal Highway Administration document provides an overview of pedestrian and bicycle network principles and highlights examples from communities across the country.

- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/network_report/

Design Guidance

The National Center for Bicycling & Walking compiled resources that provide design guidance for bicycling and pedestrian facilities.

- <http://www.bikewalk.org/thepractice.php>

Guidebook for Developing Pedestrian and Bicycle Performance Measures

This 2016 Federal Highway Administration document helps communities develop performance measures that can fully integrate pedestrian and bicycle planning in ongoing performance management activities.

- http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/performance_measures_guidebook

Resources for Implementing Built Environment Recommendations to Increase Physical Activity

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has created a 2017 compilation of real world examples, a 2018 Implementation Resource Guide, and a 2018 Visual Guide to help communities implement recommendations for built environment approaches that combine one or more interventions to improve transportation systems (activity-friendly routes) with one or more land use and community design interventions (everyday destinations) to increase physical activity.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/community-strategies/beactive/index.html>

Safety Demonstration Projects: Case Studies From Orlando, FL, Lexington, KY, And South Bend, IN

The National Complete Streets Coalition helped three cities build skills in safer street design, creative placemaking, and community engagement, and then put those skills into practice. This 2018 report includes case studies of local demonstration projects in Orlando, Florida; Lexington, Kentucky; and South Bend, Indiana where communities transformed their streets, intersections, and neighborhoods into slower, safer places for people.

- <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/resources/safety-demonstration-projects-case-studies-from-orlando-fl-lexington-ky-and-south-bend-in/?fbclid=IwAR0qTdwv8j1H1NUiC9LLg-j7m0K3ozRSKFeBOQkPj3t9GDHcxY0Y6JRbi9c>

Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks

This 2016 Federal Highway Administration document helps small towns and rural communities support safe, accessible, comfortable, and active travel for people of all ages and abilities. It provides a bridge between existing guidance on bicycle and pedestrian design and rural practice, encourages innovation in the development of safe and appealing networks for bicycling and walking, and shows examples of project implementation.

- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/fhwahep17024_lg.pdf

II. Community Gardens

Cultivating Community Gardens

The Local Government Commission created a fact sheet on the role of local government in supporting community gardens, including case studies, best management practices, resources, and tools for policy-makers.

- <https://www.lgc.org/community-gardens/>

Elder-Accessible Gardening: A Community Building Option for Brownfields Redevelopment

This 2011 EPA document provides a tip sheet for starting a community garden accessible to people of all age groups and physical activity levels. It includes guidance on starting a garden on a brownfield property.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-elder-accessible-gardening>

Garden Organizer Toolkit

The Vermont Community Garden Network provides tools to help organizers, managers, coordinators, and supporters of community-based gardens, including resources for starting, organizing, and learning in community-based gardens.

- <http://vcgn.org/garden-organizer-toolkit/>

III. Community Kitchens

The Shared Kitchen Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Planning, Launching, and Managing a Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen

The Food Corridor, Fruition Planning and Management, and Purdue Extension Services co-created this 2018 toolkit that delivers guidance on feasibility and planning for new kitchen projects, as well as management practices for the day-to-day operations of shared-use kitchens. It also provides an overview of emerging kitchen models and highlights opportunities for kitchens to expand their community impact and enhance financial sustainability.

- <http://www.thefoodcorridor.com/announcing-the-shared-kitchen-toolkit/>

Commercial Kitchen Guide

The Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture published a guide that provides information on policies and regulations for those looking to open or operate in a community commercial kitchen.

- <http://www.misa.umn.edu/publications/commercialkitchenguide>

Culinary Incubator Map

CulinaryIncubator.com is a nonprofit website to help small food businesses locate commercial kitchens. It includes an interactive map with descriptions of commercial kitchens across the United States.

- <http://www.culinaryincubator.com/maps.php>

IV. Farm to School

Farm to School Resources

The National Farm to School Network has compiled resources for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens, and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings.

- <http://www.farmentoschool.org/resources>

The USDA Farm to School Planning Toolkit

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service created a guide of questions to consider and helpful resources to reference when starting or growing a farm-to-school program. It is designed for use by schools, school districts, and community partners.

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/F2S-Planning-Kit.pdf>

Farm to Child Nutrition Programs Planning Guide

The USDA Office of Community Food Systems created a guide that directs you through questions to consider when starting or growing a farm to school, farm to child care, for farm to summer program. It includes guiding questions, a planning template, and a sample of a completed planning guide.

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-resources>

V. Farmers Markets

Creating a Farmers Market Living Lab: Lessons Learned in Growing a Farmers Market

This booklet from the Historic Lewes Farmers Market is the result of asking the question: What can we do to increase sales and attendance at our market? It is a summary of lessons learned.

- <https://www.historiclewesfarmersmarket.org/living-lab-report/>

Local and Regional Market News

USDA Market News works with state departments of agriculture and local and regional food systems to provide prices, volume, and other information on agricultural commodities sold at local and regional markets throughout the United States.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/local-regional-food>

Market Makeover: 25 Best Practices for Farmers' Markets

This report from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project provides guidance for making market improvements and dealing with common issues in the areas of management, regulations, risk management, food safety, improving vendor sales, and marketing.

- <http://asapconnections.org/downloads/market-makeover-25-best-practices-for-farmers-markets.pdf>

National Farmers Market Directory

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service maintains a directory of information about farmers markets, including locations, directions, operating times, product offerings, and accepted forms of payment.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets>

National Farmers Market Managers Survey

Nearly 1,400 farmers market managers responded to this national survey that the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service conducted in 2014.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/file/2014-farmers-market-managers-survey-summary-report-final-july-24-2015pdf>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at Farmers Markets: A How-To Handbook

This 2010 report from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, and Project for Public Spaces, Inc. describes how to accept SNAP benefits at farmers markets, including what equipment is required, how to install electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems, and how to make SNAP EBT succeed at farmers markets.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SNAPat%20Farmers%20Markets%20Handbook.pdf>

Sharing the Harvest: A Guide to Bridging the Divide between Farmers Markets and Low-Income Shoppers

This 2012 report from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project provides tips and tools to improve the accessibility of local markets and increase consumption of healthy local produce.

- <http://asapconnections.org/downloads/asap-farmers-market-access-guide.pdf>

Understanding the Link Between Farmers' Market Size and Management Organization

This 2007 report by the Oregon State University Extension Service examines common management tools and structures for farmers markets of different sizes to guide strategic planning and resource allocation for new markets and for established markets confronting growth or other significant changes.

- <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sr1082>

VI. Food Co-ops

Capital Campaign Workbook

The Food Co-op Initiative's 2016 workbook helps consumer-owned food co-ops design and implement successful capital campaigns that effectively engage their owners and meet their capital needs.

- <http://www.foodcoopinitiative.coop/sites/default/files/Capital%20Campaign%20Workbook%20Food%20Co-op%20Initiative%20March%202016.pdf>

The FCI Guide to Starting a Food Co-op

This 2017 updated guide from the Food Co-op Initiative provides organizers, board members, and development centers with an introduction to starting a food co-op and an overview of the basic steps and procedures.

- <https://www.fci.coop/sites/default/files/Startup%20guide-02.2017.pdf>

How to Start a Food Co-op Manual

The Cooperative Grocers' Information Network created a guide in 2010 that provides an overview of the basic steps and procedures for starting a food co-op.

- <http://www.cooperativegrocer.coop/library/start-a-food-coop>

Publications for Cooperatives

USDA Rural Development provides publications, reports, and educational materials for cooperatives, including Cooperative Information Reports that provide descriptive information about the cooperative form of business and various cooperative topics, Research Reports, and Service Reports that include USDA's annual compilation of farm cooperative statistics.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/publications-cooperatives>

VII. Food Hubs

Findings of the 2017 National Food Hub Survey

This document by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems in cooperation with the Wallace Center at Winrock International details the scope and scale of food hub activities, their challenges, and their regional influence based on a survey of more than 100 food hubs across the country.

- <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/2017-food-hub-survey>

Moving Food Along the Value Chain: Innovations in Regional Food Distribution

This 2012 report from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service shares lessons learned and best practices from eight producer networks and their partners distributing locally or regionally grown food to retail and food service customers.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Moving%20Food%20Along%20the%20Value%20Chain%20Innovations%20in%20Regional%20Food%20Distribution.pdf>

Regional Food Hub Resource Guide

This 2012 report from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service examines the role of food hubs in regional food systems and compiles information on the resources available to support them.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Regional%20Food%20Hub%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>

Running a Food Hub series

USDA Rural Development developed a technical report series in partnership with Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability and Matson Consulting that offers new and existing food hubs information on how to plan for success, address challenges, and achieve viability.

- Vol 1 – Lessons Learned from the Field (2015)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/SR_77_Running_A_Food_Hub_Vol_1.pdf
- Vol 2 – A Business Operations Guide (2015)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/SR_77_Running_A_Food_Hub_Vol_2.pdf
- Vol 3 – Assessing Financial Viability (2016)
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/publications/SR%2077%20FoodHubs%20Vol3.pdf>
- Vol 4 – Learning from Food Hub Closures (2017)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/publications/SR77_FoodHubs_Vol4_0.pdf

VIII. Food Waste

Excess Food Opportunities Map

EPA created the Excess Food Opportunities Map, a national, interactive map that identifies more than 500,000 potential generators of excess food and estimated generation quantities, as well as over 4,000 potential recipients of excess food. The map can help users identify potential sources of food for rescue; potential feedstocks for compost and anaerobic digestion; potential infrastructure gaps for managing excess food; and, alternatives to sending food to landfill. This resource is intended to give users the tools to understand the potential magnitude of excess food in their communities and help make connections between generators and recipients such that more food is diverted from landfills and put toward beneficial uses.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/excess-food-opportunities-map?fbclid=IwAR1rCQWWKbR6yYZqxnE-fRRWNyWarqvKtoRbP7m1AKGeinRFGJm7uuAdMns>

Food Recovery Challenge

As part of EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, organizations pledge to improve their sustainable food management practices and report their results. Food Recovery Challenge participants and endorsers include groups such as grocers, educational institutions, restaurants, faith organizations, sports and entertainment venues, and hospitality businesses. Participants can reduce their environmental footprint, help their community, receive recognition, and get free technical assistance.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc>

Tools for Preventing and Diverting Wasted Food

EPA offers a variety of wasted-food assessment tools to suit a food service establishment's specific circumstances. Several of the tools are described below.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food>

A Guide to Conducting and Analyzing a Food Waste Assessment

Retail, food service, and other food management establishments can use EPA's 2014 guidebook to learn how to take a "snapshot in time" of their wasted food by either manually sorting through materials in a garbage sample or visually observing and estimating waste.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food#assessguide>

Toolkit for Reducing Wasted Food and Packaging

This 2014 toolkit is designed to help food service establishments and commercial kitchens save money by reducing wasted food and packaging with suggested strategies, templates, and case studies. It includes a tool to track the daily amount, type of, and reason for wasted food and packaging. Users enter information into a spreadsheet, which automatically creates graphs and data summaries to help identify patterns of waste generation. Based on these patterns, a business can make strategic changes to its operation to maximize waste reductions and cost savings.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food#packaging>

IX. Healthy Living

Community Health Online Resource Center

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created this database of webinars, model policies, toolkits, guides, fact sheets, and other practical materials to help implement changes to prevent disease and promote healthy living. Content areas include healthy and safe physical environments and healthy eating.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/online-resource/>

Making the Business Case for Prevention Video Series

This series from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows how healthy living initiatives can help businesses increase profits, bring in more customers, and build goodwill. The series includes videos about healthy food programs, city planning, and community partnerships.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/multimedia/videos.html>

SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework and Interpretative Guide

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service created this 2016 guide to measure the success of SNAP-Ed programs. It provides information on evidence-based obesity prevention interventions and policy, systems, and environmental change interventions. It also provides information on outcome indicators' background and context, outcome measures, surveys and data collection tools, and more.

- <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/evaluation/evaluation-framework-and-interpretive-guide>

X. Smart Growth and Placemaking

The Built Environment: An Assessment Tool and Manual

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2015 assessment tool helps communities measure the core features and qualities of the built environment that affect health, including walkability, bikeability, and access to grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/built-environment-assessment/>

Creative Placemaking on Vacant Properties: Lessons Learned from Four Cities

This Center for Community Progress 2018 report offers practical guidance for communities curious about how to leverage the power of creative placemaking to transform vacant properties. It includes a creative placemaking primer and key takeaways based on work conducted over the course of two years. It also explores emerging practices in four communities: Kalamazoo, Michigan; Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania; Newburgh, New York; and Macon, Georgia.

- http://action.communityprogress.net/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=11388&fbclid=IwAR3Xx0Md0abEeLOVnfiHJbSdgCKliwV9h0C5qeIc7ydsxiPRne1bQp4GsJ0

Growing Food Connections

This website from the American Planning Association provides planning and policy briefs and other resources to help increase food security in vulnerable areas, strengthen the sustainability and economic resilience of urban and rural communities, and support farms engaged in local and regional food systems that use sustainable practices.

- <https://www.planning.org/research/foodconnections/>

Smart Growth

EPA's smart growth website provides publications, tools, and other information on a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more diverse.

- <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth>

XI. Urban Agriculture

Aquaponics Business Plan User Guide

This 2016 EPA document is modeled after the Urban Farm Business Plan Handbook (see below) and provides an outline and guidance for the development of a business plan for an aquaponic farm.

- <https://www.epa.gov/land-revitalization/aquaponics-business-plan-user-guide>

Brownfields and Community Supported Agriculture

EPA's Brownfields program provides information on community supported and urban agriculture projects on brownfield properties.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-community-supported-agriculture>

Brownfields and Urban Agriculture: Interim Guidelines for Safe Gardening Practices

This EPA document is a condensation of the input of 60 experts from academia, state, and local government, and the nonprofit sector who gathered in Chicago on October 21 and 22, 2010 to outline the range of issues which need to be addressed in order to safely grow food on former brownfields sites.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-urban-agriculture-interim-guidelines-safe-gardening-practices>

How Does Your Garden Grow? Brownfields Redevelopment and Local Agriculture

This 2009 EPA document provides some insight on how best grow safe food during brownfields redevelopment.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/how-does-your-garden-grow-brownfields-redevelopment-and-local-agriculture>

Industrial Properties Renewed Through Agriculture: Reusing Land to Support Agriculture and Food Systems

This 2010 EPA document discusses reusing industrial brownfields that might serve a wide variety of agriculture-related reuses, including important public health considerations as well as environmental and planning and zoning considerations.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-industrial-properties-renewed-through-agriculture>

Steps to Create a Community Garden or Expand Urban Agriculture

EPA's Brownfields Program offers information on how to create a community garden or expand urban agriculture, particularly in areas that might be at risk from potential contaminants.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/steps-create-community-garden-or-expand-urban-agriculture>

Urban Agriculture Toolkit

This 2016 toolkit from USDA lays out the common operational elements that most urban farmers must consider as they start or grow their operations. It also contains a section on resources for developing indoor growing operations, such as aquaponic facilities. For each element, the toolkit identifies technical and financial resources from federal, state, and local partners.

- <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/urban-agriculture-toolkit.pdf>

Urban Farm Business Plan Handbook

This 2011 document from EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Transportation provides guidance for developing a business plan for the startup and operation of nonprofit and for-profit urban farms.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/urban-farm-business-plan-handbook>

The associated Urban Farm Business Plan Worksheets provide a framework in which to compile and organize the information needed to draft a business plan.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/urban-farm-business-plan-worksheets>

XII. General

Communities for Healthy Food: The Toolkit – A Practical Guide for Integrating Healthy Food Access and Social Justice into Community Development

This 2018 toolkit from LISC NYC helps community organizations use healthy food access strategies and food justice principles to enhance their community development efforts. The toolkit presents a flexible and comprehensive approach to planning, designing, and implementing a portfolio of programs to ensure low-income communities and communities of color have access to healthier food options, a voice in the food movement, and economic opportunities.

- http://www.lisc.org/media/filer_public/bd/63/bd6327a3-8841-45b0-9eba-1b9fa3f90ce6/lisc_nyc_communities_for_healthy_food_toolkit_march_2018.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3njWOP1Nz3eHGBOQ8wKuehF5z7NvH1XVnWACLbWQ6LcEM7Pn2gmtIkEro

The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments and Choices

This 2016 toolkit produced by the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service helps guide and enhance the capacity of local organizations to make more deliberate and credible measurements of local and regional economic activity and other ancillary benefits.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ILAMSToolkit.pdf>

The Economics of Local Food: An Emerging Community of Practice

Colorado State University hosts a website aimed to help communities understand agriculture and food enterprise viability, market dynamics, and other key socio-economics metrics of local and regional food systems.

- <https://localfoodeconomics.com/>

Farmland Access Legal Toolkit

The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School created this online resource to help farmers and landowners affordably access, transfer, and conserve farmland. The toolkit explains legal arrangements that provide farmers more affordable and equitable farmland access and help

landowners balance earning income for retirement with making their land affordable to the next generation of farmers.

- https://farmlandaccess.org/?fbclid=IwAR12aAoLz84nRya9R-vdPBjFg9pjSHKQzyMsZuk0BlCcmR_ab5K6eFPrk8A

Food Value Chains: Creating Shared Value to Enhance Marketing Success

This 2014 report by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service provides guidance on how food value chains are initiated and structured, how they function, and the benefits they provide to participants.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-value-chain>

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) & Good Handling Practices (GHP) Auditing and Accreditation Programs

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service provides voluntary audit and accreditation programs that let producers and suppliers of agricultural products assure customers of their ability to provide consistent quality products or services. The programs are paid through hourly user fees.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/gap-ghp>

Harvesting Opportunity: The Power of Regional Food System Investments to Transform Communities

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's agencies of Rural Development and the Agricultural Marketing Service published a 2017 book that focuses on regional food systems as a means for enhancing economic opportunity. It explores recent findings; highlights models for collaboration between policymakers, practitioners, and the financial community; and discusses research, policy, and resource gaps that, if addressed, might contribute to the success of regional food systems strategies.

- <https://www.stlouisfed.org/community-development/publications/harvesting-opportunity>

Local Food Compass Map

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service hosts the Local Food Compass Map to provide a quick way for farmers, ranchers, market managers, consumers, and others to learn more about local and regional food projects in their communities and across the United States. The searchable map can be filtered and selected by state or tailored regions to see farmers markets, food hubs, and assets like meat processors and farm to school programs. The map also includes local food projects and programs funded through USDA and other federal agencies.

- www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-sector/compass-map

Local Food Directories

USDA's voluntary Local Food Directories help producers and customers locate farmers markets, on-farm markets, CSAs, and food hubs across the country. These listings can help potential vendors, partners, and customers find local food market opportunities.

- www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories

Local Food Research & Development

The USDA Agriculture Marketing Service produces research-based publications on a range of local food market channels to help producers, market managers, planners, and others better understand the impact of these outlets on local economic development, food access, and farm profitability.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional>

Measuring Rural Wealth Creation: A Guide for Regional Development Organizations

This 2016 document by the National Association of Development Organizations introduces concepts of measuring progress in rural wealth creation for regional development organizations that are involved in a range of community and economic development within their regions. The guide includes information on developing a measurement plan, measuring multiple forms of community capital beyond jobs, measuring inclusiveness and local ownership of assets, and more strategies and tips for measuring and communicating progress.

- <https://www.nado.org/measuring-rural-wealth-creation-a-guide-for-regional-development-organizations/>

National Good Food Network - Webinar Archive

The Wallace Center Winrock International supports the National Good Food Network, which offers monthly interactive webinars to learn and connect with on-the-ground practitioners and experts. Topic areas include: aggregation/distribution; business/finance; certification; farm to school; farming; food hubs; food safety; funding; infrastructure; metrics/evaluation; policy; processing/value add; retail/foodservice; social justice/food access; training/education; value chains; food hubs; food safety; research.

- <http://ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-cluster-calls/ngfn-cluster-calls>

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program is a voluntary membership program that promotes the adoption of innovative, alternative pest control practices such as integrated pest management. It publicly recognizes members who have demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship and made progress in reducing pesticide risk. Members can receive technical support for transitioning to lower-risk pest management practices and developing integrated pest management strategies.

- <https://www.epa.gov/pesp>

Wholesale Markets and Facility Design

The USDA Wholesale Markets and Facility Design Team provides technical assistance on the construction or remodeling of wholesale markets, farmers markets, public markets, and food hubs.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/facility-design>

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits. Learn more about green infrastructure elements that can be woven into a community, from small-scale elements integrated into sites to larger scale elements spanning entire watersheds.

- <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>
- [Downspout Disconnection](#)
- [Rainwater Harvesting](#)
- [Rain Gardens](#)
- [Planter Boxes](#)
- [Bioswales](#)
- [Permeable Pavements](#)
- [Green Streets and Alleys](#)
- [Green Parking](#)
- [Green Roofs](#)
- [Urban Tree Canopy](#)
- [Land Conservation](#)