Case Studies of Projects to Help Grow the Landscape of Ramsey County for Urban Agriculture and Provide Greater Food Security

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Resilient Communities Project
University of Minnesota
Building Community-University Partnerships for Resilience

RAMSEY COUNTY

The project on which this presentation is based was completed in collaboration with Ramsey County as part of a 2024–2025 Resilient Communities Project (RCP) partnership. RCP is a program at the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) that connects University faculty and students with local government agencies in Minnesota to address strategic projects that advance local resilience, equity, and sustainability.

The contents of this report represent the views of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of RCP, CURA, the Regents of the University of Minnesota, or Ramsey County.

This publication may be available in alternate formats upon request.

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Resilient Communities Project
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RAMSEY COUNTY

Resilient Communities Project
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Case Studies Applicability to Ramsey County Based on Client Feedback

Ramsey County made the decision to address food insecurity in part through the expansion of programs, investments, and ordinance reforms related to Urban Agriculture. Our team's role in partnership with county staff has been to develop a set of resources for municipalities within Ramsey to implement urban agriculture projects informed by the most recent and successful examples found in comparable jurisdictions.

The initial challenge this project aimed to address was the challenge of squaring Ramsey County's urban agriculture potential against significant food insecurity experienced in the area and the need to develop more key food access points for residents. To do this, our team focused our analysis of current urban agriculture projects and initiatives on those with specific client-informed characteristics. These included expanding land access, urban agriculture options, unique or inspiring systems and structures, and adult and youth workforce development.

Additionally, our scoring matrix captured to what extent these projects were located in comparable jurisdictions, namely upper Midwest and national Tier 1 and 2 cities and suburbs.

Growing Home

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Workforce Development and Land Access	Growing Home is a USDA-Certified Organic urban farm, workforce development center, and non-profit social enterprise in Englewood, Chicago. It works to realize a vision of healthy people and communities for their neighbors through the following actions: ● Offers a comprehensive, paid Employment Training program for Chicagoans aged 18 and older with a focus on Englewood residents ● Provides extensive services and resources to help those enrolled in the training program find the next step in their career journey. ● Encourages new food-based businesses by partnering with like-minded community organizations through coalition-building. ● Delivering fresh produce to Englewood, a neighborhood they describe as a food desert with a lack of available healthy foods.
Location and Contact Information	Location Chicago, Illinois (Population 2.75 million) Contact Information Email: info@growinghomeinc.org Phone: 773-549-1336 Website: https://www.growinghomeinc.org/contact/
Targeted Audience	Chicagoans, particularly residents of Englewood, that are 18+ in age. All individuals are welcome, but they focus on those that have been justice-involved, African American, and are lower income.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	Growing home has two farms, wood street and Honore Street, that provides .87 acres of cultivable land in Englewood, Chicago. See appendix for image of their facilities.

Growing Home

Executive Summary	
Measurable Outcomes	Workforce Data: ● 120 Participants within their paid, robust training program (2023). ● 94 Participants completed 1+ professional certification (2023). ● 51 Participants completed parole/probation or had their criminal record sealed/expunged (2023). ● 67% of graduates were placed in employment (2023). ● 84% of Participants on average graduate their program (2016-2019) ● 81% of graduates retained their first job post-graduation for at least 30 days (2016-2019) Agriculture: ● 35,000 pounds of organic produce on average is cultivated (On Average) ● 90% of food distribution in greater Englewood & food insecure communities (2023) ● 26,915 individual services of produce shared directly from farms (2023) ● 15,879 people served though food access programs (2023)

Growing Home

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	

Policies Supportive of Farm
 	
Links: Navigating Urban Agriculture (https://www.chicago.gov)
	• Chicago is supportive of urban agriculture options and investment. Especially through the following areas:
	  ○ Land Access: private owned land use is available to farms for purchase or use and the City offers vacant lots for purchase/lease.
	  ○ Selling Produce: City of Chicago offers support in obtaining a license due to the process's complicated nature.

Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture **Links:** Urban Agriculture Zoning Ordinance (https://www.chicago.gov)	• Growing Home forged a path for urban agriculture by having their farms labeled as a technical institute in 2009. • In 2011, the City of Chicago approved a suite of new zoning code provisions. These provisions authorized community gardens up to 25,000 square feet in size, relaxed fencing and parking requirements for larger urban farms, and allowed for hydroponic and aquaponic systems, among other changes.
Workforce Development	Training model components (below) combine real work experience with innovative job readiness curriculum, Roots of Success Environmental Studies Curriculum and TIP Emotional Resiliency Curriculum supports Production Assistants in growing personally and professionally. • Job Readiness Training: Comprehensive curriculum covering interview prep, cover letter and resume writing, professional communication, managing workplace conflict, executive skills, basic computer skills, and more. • On-the-Job Paid Farm Training: Hands-on training on urban farm activities including crop cultivation and harvesting; prepares participants for post-graduation employment with regular re-evaluation based on Covid protocols. • Supportive Services and Employment Search: Access to a Case Manager for social service needs, individualized job search support, partnerships for legal aid, and opportunities for ServSafe certification.
Urban Agriculture Options	At all farms: • A combination of outdoor growing space and unheated hoop houses to extend the growing session through the Chicago winters. • Saff and trained urban growers cultivate 200 varieties of vegetables with a signature tomato production • Harvest cycle lasts from March through December based on current infrastructure

Growing Home

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure	Financial Snapshot ● $4,296,709 of Revenue in 2023 ○ $2,918,151 in grant support ○ $338,868 in individual contributions ○ $305,825 from special events revenue ○ $567,906 in government support ○ $78,908 from farm and program revenue ○ $87,052 from interest and miscellaneous sources ● $2,361,065 of Expenses in 2023 ○ $1,769,699 for training program and farming operations ○ $309,536 for fundraising ○ $281,831 in administration ○ 17-18 FTEs on the payroll currently
Consistent Funding Sources	● Government and non-governmental Grants - 68% of revenues in 2023 ○ City of Chicago Non-Cash Contributions of Land Access and Facilities ● Public/Private Contributions from individuals - 8% of revenues in 2023
Partnerships	See Appendix for the names of the organizations Employer Recruitment Partners ● See Appendix for the names of the organizations ● These are local Chicago employers to help production assistants find jobs after the 12 week training program. Food Access and Community Partners ● See Appendix for the names of the organizations ● These partners assist with food distribution and for general collaborative support to develop a successful training program and a local food economy. ● Average distance to distribution/food access sites is 5.75 miles

Growing Home

Appendix

Growing Home Recruitment Partners

Growing Home Community and Food Access Partners

Growing Home

Physical Overview of Growing Home's Farms

Peel Local Food Literacy in Action

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Community Gardening & Skills Development	Founded in 2019, the mission of The Peel Local Food Literacy in Action is to provide support to youth, community groups and schools across Peel in learning more about local food systems and launching local food action projects. • Grow: organic food • Provide urban agriculture training, Field-to-table education activities, enhance cooking and food literacy skills by providing opportunities to participate in food transformation activities, such as preserving garden harvest. • Provide fruits, vegetables and other food items to the local community.
Location and Contact Information	Location: Mississauga, Ontario (Population: 828,854) Contact: Email: info@ecosource.ca Phone: 905-274-6222 Website: https://ecosource.ca/peel-local-food-literacy-in-action/
Targeted Audience	• Food grown across peel is in partnership with Ecosource and many other funders including the City of Mississauga • Any leftover produce is donated to the local food shelves in the peel community of Ontario. • The Regional Municipality of Peel is a regional municipality in the Greater Toronto Area, Southern Ontario, Canada. It consists of the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the town of Caledon • For the young growers program the targeted audience are those ages 15-25.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	• 10 community gardens • Numerous garden beds through Mississaugua • 15,000 square-foot Icelandic Indoor Facilities
Measurable Outcomes	• 13,409 lbs of grown food (2023) • 49 new garden beds installed (2023) • 20,585 residents engaged (2023) • 1,340 educational sessions held (2023) • 14,362 volunteer hours growing food (2023) • Formal partnership between Ecosource and Glenforest Secondary School • 106 Schools engaged in waste education (2023) • 85 educators trained (2023) • 270 wildflowers, shrubs and trees planted (2023)

Peel Local Food Literacy in Action

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Policies Supportive of Farm: **Links**: City of Mississauga Strategic Plan (https://www.mississauga.ca) Official Plan (https://www.mississauga.ca) Climate Action Plan (https://www.mississauga.ca) Peel Food Charter (https://ecosource.ca/peel-local-food-literacy-in-action/) Ontario Local Food Act (https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/13l07)	City of Mississauga, Ontario • The City of Mississauga Strategic Plan lays out a 10 year plan to enhance and grow urban agricultural efforts, promote & support inclusive, culturally relevant food options, improve food security and combat climate change. • The Official Plan lays out how the City will grow and develop, as required by the Ontario Planning Act. The goals and policies of this Official Plan are intended to be achieved over 25 years, by 2031. • The Mississaugua Climate Change Action Plan includes actions intended to decrease the City's carbon footprint and prepare the community for the effects of a changing climate. Regional and Provincial • The Peel Food Charter a living document developed through input from the community to reflect a collective vision of a just, sustainable and secure food system, for now and the future. • The Ontario Local Food Act helps ensure that local food systems thrive throughout the province, allowing the people of Ontario to know where their food comes from and connect with those who produce it.
Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture: **Links:** Community Garden Site Selection Policy (https://www.mississauga.ca/publication) 2005 Ontario Provincial Policy Statement (https://www.ontario.ca/)	• The Community Garden Site Selection Policy helps Groups wishing to establish a Community Garden on City-owned land must submit a written request to the Manager of Parks, Parks and Forestry Division, Community Services Department. • Community Gardens will be approved only when the establishment of the Community Garden is consistent with the City's overall plans for the land. The site is suitable for successful gardening. There is the ability to follow City standards for raised bed construction and soil/compost use. The establishment of the Community Garden is appropriate for the particular community. • The 2005 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is a land-use planning document for Ontario that provides guidance for local planning experts on how to lay out a community's natural and built environment.
Workforce Development	• Gardens are run by paid staff and volunteers. • Urban Agriculture Classes and training are given throughout the year • Special cooking skills and gardening skills are taught

Peel Local Food Literacy in Action

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Urban Agriculture Options	● 15,000 square-foot urban food growing space ○ Organized as a demonstration garden into four quadrants of 4-foot in ground beds ● Garden Resources Program ○ Skills taught to develop and care for urban agriculture administered over the course of 14,362 volunteer hours ■ planting ■ cultivation ■ cooking ■ Outsourcing ● Educational Resources ○ Community Climate Hub Developed and housed on the Campus of Glenforest Secondary school that has housed 400 hours of educational programming (2023)

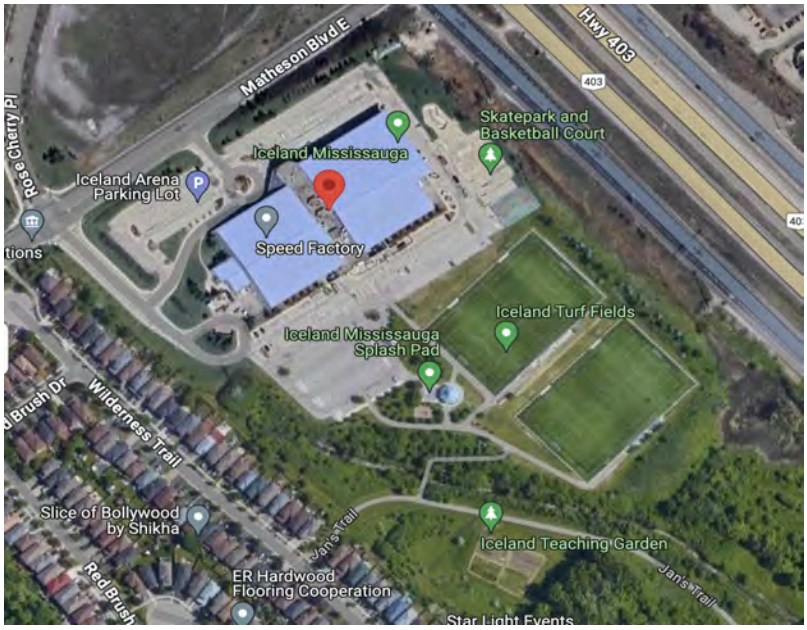
Peel Local Food Literacy in Action

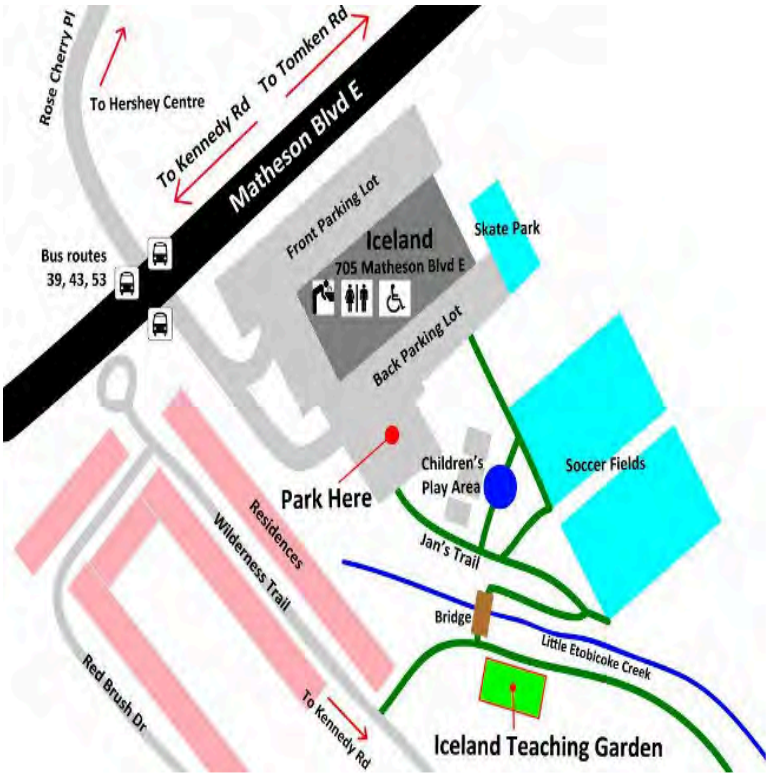
Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure	Financial Snapshot in 2023: ● $1,306,897 in revenue generated ● $1,315,412 in expenses ● 59% of operating funds are through Federal, Municipal and state government funding ● 32% of operating funds are from charity donations from other donors ● Only 10% of operation funds are spent on rent
Consistent Funding Sources	Government Funding: ● Canada Summer Jobs (Federal) ● Pendle Fund Government of Canada's Community Services (federal) ● Recovery Fund Canada (federal) ● Employment and Social Development Canada (Federal) ● City of Mississauga (Municipal) ● Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (State) Non Profit Funding: ● Climate Impact Fund Community Foundation of Mississauga ● Environment Fund ● Novo Nordisk Chronic Disease Fund ● Great Lakes Local Action Fund ● Ontario Trillium Foundation ● Peterborough K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation ● Healthy Communities Initiative ● United Way Greater Toronto Corporate Funding Sources: ● ECO Canada ● Region of Peel ● TD Bank Group ● TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Partnerships	● Partnership with Ecosource and Glenforest Secondary School

Peel Local Food Literacy in Action

Appendix

Physical Overview of Peel Local Food in Action





Farmers Rising (Rockford)

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Urban Agriculture, Workforce Development Rockford Rising CSA Program	Farmers Rising is a nonprofit organization focused on building a network of local and sustainable food systems in the state of Illinois. Primary organizational objectives include: ● Practicing and teaching sustainable and regenerative farming; ● Building a collaborative and supportive farmer community; ● Teaching holistic farm finance and business skills; ● Expanding access to land and locally grown food; and ● Developing a vibrant, creative community centered around local food. Secondary organizational objectives include: ● Advocating for policy change that prioritizes small, diversified farmers; ● Connecting our farmers to market outlets; ● Demonstrating to farmers and eaters how sustainable and regenerative farming impacts climate and natural resources; and ● Creating and strengthening supportive partnerships to broaden impact. The Farmers Rising Rockford CSA is a socially oriented urban farm business located in Rockford, IL that increases access to fresh, healthy, affordable food and provides employment opportunities. The CSA is operated by a youth leadership program focused on increasing job skills through community-based urban farming, business training and cooking. The program's farm and garden is located within Rockford Housing Authority property as a space to learn alongside others, grow business and production skills, and connect with additional local partners and advocates. They also organize field days, workshops, and virtual events throughout the year with topics focusing on the core themes of soils, plants, animals, and people.

Farmers Rising (Rockford)

Executive Summary	
Location and Contact Information	Location Blackhawk Courts, 338 15th Avenue Rockford, IL 61104 (population 148,066) Contact Information 1545 Rockton Rd. Caledonia, IL 61011 815-389-8455 connect@farmersrising.org https://www.farmersrising.org/contact.html
Targeted Audience	This program aims to provide benefits to a variety of groups within the Blackhawk Courts resident population and others in the surrounding area. ● Students interested in learning farming, agri-business, and cooking skills. ● Consumers interested in accessing additional healthy, locally produced food. ● Residents experiencing food insecurity in need of free or low cost food options.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	The urban garden the CSA relies on is located on Rockford Housing Authority property that also hosts the Blackhawk Courts. This 196 unit housing complex is situated several blocks from the Rock River and the Broadway Street commercial district, in addition to Beyers Grade School. The site also has an on-site Daycare Center and the Rockford Boys & Girls Club.
Measurable Outcomes Farmers Rising 2023 Annual Report	In Fiscal year 2023: ● 3000 pounds of fresh food produced ● 65 CSA boxes provided at no cost to Rockford residents in need ● 37 different fruit and vegetable options grown

Farmers Rising (Rockford)

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture	The Illinois Vegetable Garden Protection Act was passed in 2021 to protect all residents' right to cultivate gardens on their private property, and they are allowed to produce vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers, pollinator plants, leafy greens, or other edible plants. Ownership of the Blackhawk Courts allows the Rockford Housing Authority to permit urban agriculture at that location, where it has been active since 2002. This dynamic, as well as the lack of any contradictory municipal ordinance, are the factors that allow for the land accessibility required for the program.
Workforce Development	The Rockford Rising CSA greatly benefits from the resources and support offered through the broader Farmers Rising network, particularly in the area of workforce development. The program itself is staffed by members of the network's youth leadership program, who in addition to thousands of area students, have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational workshops at the Angelic Organics Learning Center, and alongside aspiring, and beginning farmers in the region.
Urban Agriculture Options	The Rockford Rising CSA program moderately broadens urban agricultural options within its region of impact by offering a substantial variety of produce types, filling gaps in food instability experienced by Blackhawk Courts residents by providing free food boxes, and increasing youth opportunities to participate in agricultural education and relevant business experiences. However, these impacts were somewhat limited by the program's scale and seasonality.

Farmers Rising (Rockford)

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure Rockford Rising CSA Program	The CSA program has a summer component that runs from June 21 to August 28, as well as a fall option from September 4 to October 16, with variations in the produce depending on the season. Customers can purchase half or full shares, which they will receive bi-weekly. Additionally, honey shares equal to two 3 lb jars are available throughout the year. The program also includes an option to "gift" a CSA to community members at Blackhawk Courts. The CSA program relies on interest from local students, primarily from the nearby Beyers Grade School, to provide the necessary volunteer hours to grow, pick, and package food at the urban garden. The program originally operated under the name "Roots and Wings," and has built long lasting relationships and trust with area schools, youth organizations, and community members since 2002.
Consistent Funding Sources Farmers Rising 2023 Annual Report	The Rockford Rising CSA Program is part of the nonprofit network Farmers Rising, and operates within that organization's budgetary structure. Income in FY23 (approximate): $96,039 ● Grants 58% ● Earned Income 19% ● Donations 15% ● Other 8% Expenses in FY23: $103,050
Partnerships Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce Rockford Housing Authority 1% For the Planet	● Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce: Regional voluntary business and professional association that promotes civic progress and commercial growth for the area. ● Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce: Regional voluntary business association that promotes economic growth, advocates for the area business community, and provides service and education to members. ● Rockford Housing Authority: Municipal board governed by five commissioners focused on developing strategic community partnerships and initiatives that promote more affordable, inclusive, and innovative housing opportunities. ● 1% for the Planet: International nonprofit organization that, "provides businesses with expertise in environmental giving, credibility consumers trust and the accountability to follow through."

Farmers Rising (Rockford)

Appendix

Links related to Farmers Rising:

Rockford Rising CSA Program https://www.farmersrising.org/rockfordcsa.html

Illinois Vegetable Garden Protection Act
https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=0633&GAID=16&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=129106&SessionID=110&SpecSess=&Session=&GA=102

Farmers Rising 2023 Annual Report
https://www.farmersrising.org/uploads/1/3/6/2/136215202/2023_annual_report.pdf

Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce https://www.belviderechamber.com/

Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce https://www.rockfordchamber.com/

Rockford Housing Authority https://rockfordha.org/

1% For the Planet https://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/

Farmers Rising Community and Food Access Partners

Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation

Operated through the Federal Way Community Caregiving Network

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Land Access	The Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation was formed in 2008 due to an identified need for access to fresh produce by residents of a retirement apartment complex. The mission of the Federal Way Community Caregiving Network is to give hope by providing people's needs. The Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation is to grow, teach and give to the community by building a city of beautiful gardens. ● Grow: organic fruits and vegetables, community gardens, knowledge, relationships, volunteerism, sense of community. ● Teach: provide gardening and nutritional education. ● Give: distribute produce from the gardens, knowledge, a place of rest, give back to the community.
Location and Contact Information	Location Federal Way, Washington (population 97,863) Contact Email: fedwayccn@gmail.com Website: http://www.fwccn.org/community-gardens.html
Targeted Audience	● Food grown at the Senior Center and Truman High School is distributed to residents of a senior living community. ● Any leftover produce is donated to the local food shelves.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	● The Senior Center garden is 100 ft x 100 ft. ● The Truman garden is 120 ft x 180 ft. ● 72 dwarf fruit trees ● Other fruits such as blueberries, grapes, and rhubarb ● Around 20 different vegetables are grown, such as cabbages, radishes, broccoli, etc.

Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation

Executive Summary	
Measurable Outcomes	Workforce Data: ● Around 10 committed volunteers help plant and harvest the produce from the gardens. One of the volunteers who started the project in 2016 is also on the Board of Directors for the non-profit Federal Way Community Caregiving Network. Produce Distribution ● Around 15,000 lbs of organically grown produce distributed over the year.

Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Policies Supportive of Farm	In 2013 Federal Way partnered with Forterra to draft a new vision for food access. Under the banner of Urban Agriculture, the new policies and codes allowed residents to grow food to feed their families, sell food to supplement incomes and made way for a new Farmers Market in downtown.
Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture **Links:** Chapter 19.262 URBAN AGRICULTURE (codepublishing.com)	The purpose of Chapter 19.262 in Federal Way's codes are to: • Support urban agriculture uses, including community gardens, urban farms, farmers markets, farm stands, and cottage food operations; • Provide opportunities for Federal Way residents to access locally produced healthy foods; • Increase local food security; • Reduce greenhouse gas production related to transport of fresh produce from distant locations; • Provide additional economic opportunities for Federal Way citizens; • Ensure that urban agriculture uses are compatible with surrounding land uses
Workforce Development	• Gardens are volunteer run. • Federal Way Community Gardens volunteers have allowed students at the Truman High School to have an area within the Truman High School Garden to plant and learn about gardening from the volunteers.
Urban Agriculture Options	• Gardens were created at the Federal Way Senior Center and Truman High School. Those continue to be run by a volunteer force through the non-profit Federal Way Community Caregivers (FWCC). • In collaboration with FWCC, other gardens were created at several schools throughout Federal Way, WA. Those gardens were then turned over to the school/students. Produce from those gardens are distributed to the families at the schools.

Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance	Financial Snapshot in 2023: ● Lead Gardener Mike Stanley estimated that to build the gardens and make them productive, around $50,000 was fundraised. ● Garden operations for vegetable prep $5,911 (from 990 for 2023). ● Mike Stanley reported a budget of about $3,000/yr for seeds, other needed maintenance for gardens or equipment. ● All staff are unpaid volunteers. ● Federal Way Senior Center is paid around $700/yr for water usage. Truman High School allows Federal Way Community Gardens access to water for the gardens for free.
Consistent Funding Sources Utilized	● Funding received from Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received.
Partnerships	● Partnerships with the Federal Way Senior Center and Truman High School for land usage. ● Other larger partnerships for the broader Federal Way Community Caregiving Network are with Fred Meyer community rewards program, Bartell Drugs “B Caring Card”, and Amazon Smile program.

Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation

Appendix

Physical overview of Federal Way Community Gardens

Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation

Partnerships

Appetite for Change Urban Farming

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Workforce Development	Appetite For Change uses food as a tool to build health, wealth and social change in North Minneapolis. Their programs include community cooking workshops, urban agriculture and organized food policy efforts. They train North Minneapolis youth in urban farming, food preparation and leadership, with a focus on providing direct career pathways to the food service industry. Appetite For Change also owns and operates Breaking Bread Café & Catering—a fast-casual restaurant on W Broadway serving meals inspired by the Black American culinary legacy.
Location and Contact Information	Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota (Population 425,096) Contact: Email: info@afcmn.org Phone: (612) 588-7611 Website: https://appetiteforchangemn.org/training-and-opportunities/
Targeted Audience	• Youth (ages 15-21) interested in learning the intricacies of urban agriculture, in the twin cities area • Any leftover produce is donated to the local food pantries.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	• Temperature Controlled GreenHouse • Numerous garden beds throughout Minneapolis • 26 distribution sites • 55 full time team members
Measurable Outcomes	• 28 Paid youth completed the Workforce Training & Opportunities Program (2023) • 18 Community Cooks Workshop Events (2023) • 96,500 meals served (2023) • 400 Meal Boxes Delivered Weekly (2023) • 7,700 lbs of good grown (2023) • 5000 meals in total prepared and delivered weekly • 485,000 meals delivered since 2020

Appetite for Change Urban Farming

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Policies Supportive of Farm **Links**: Minneapolis 2040 https://minneapolis2040.com/policies/urban-agriculture-and-food-production/	• Homegrown Minneapolis aims to increase residents' access to locally-grown, healthy, and sustainable food. • Passed in 2019 The Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan includes historic zoning reforms to allow for a diversity of use in all neighborhoods across the city.

Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture:
Links: Minneapolis Urban Agriculture Activity Plan https://www.minneapolisparks.org/_asset/15kfy0/urban_ag_activity_plan.pdf
	• The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Urban Agriculture Activity Plan aims to expand the ability to grow, process, distribute, consume, and compost local food. The plan includes establishing community gardens in neighborhood parks to:
	  ○ Provide education and access to healthy foods
	  ○ Support the local food system
	  ○ Develop and renew park facilities to encourage urban agriculture activities
	  ○ Make food available on parkland to benefit residents, visitors, and the environment
	  ○ Apply a racial equity lens to the plot application process
	• Land Access Application Process Minneapolis:
	  ○ Applications to create a community garden in parks with urban agriculture in master plans:
	  ■ Interested Minneapolis residents should contact the MPRB Staff with the request to create a community garden
	  ■ Following application approval, a community driven design must be created and approved for the community garden's layout
	  ■ Anyone interested in becoming a community gardener at an existing community garden is required to complete a garden plot application, indicating their City of residence (preference given to Minneapolis residents),Connection with the garden of choice (Preference given to those with a connection to the park), Intended garden use (preference given to edible gardens), Land access (preference will be given to gardeners with no other available space in which to grow)
	  ■ After scoring is complete, the top scoring applications will be shared with a group of reviewers (a combination of MPRB staff and interested community members with training in racial equity) to

Appetite for Change Urban Farming

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture:	determine which will be accepted, based on responses to open ended questions. This group will conduct their review with Urban Agriculture Activity Plan goals and strategies in mind. ■ Once the committee has conducted their review and made their selections, the Staff will notify all applicants of the outcome, and plots will be assigned for a one year term by a specific park's Community Garden Lead prior to gardeners beginning their activities. Plots will be limited to one plot per household.
Workforce Development	● Youth engage in peer-led activities that aid in the development of a positive self image, leadership, organizing, and advocacy skills. This paid training takes place in the kitchen, garden, classroom, and even in the music studio.
Urban Agriculture Options	● Temperature controlled greenhouse. ● Rain Garden with over 60 plants used to capture rainwater ● Deep Winter Greenhouse

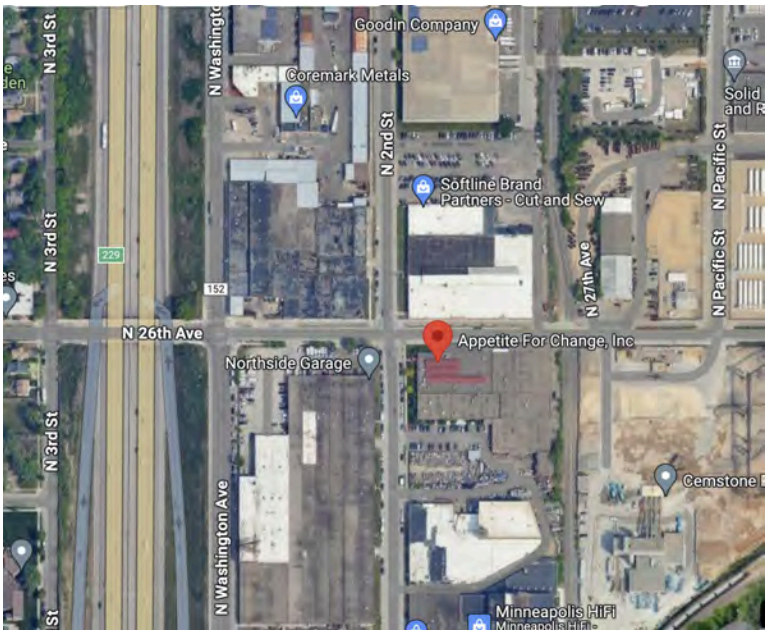
Appetite for Change Urban Farming

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure	Financial Snapshot in 2023: ● $1,248,685 in earned revenue (2023) ● $1,205,842 in contributed income ● $4.3 million in revenue (2022) and $3.97 in expenses (2022) ● 37% of expenses were towards personnel (2023) ● Another 37% of expenses were towards the supportive program (2023) ● Only 11% of operation funds are spent on the cost of goods. (2023)
Consistent Funding Sources	● Corporate Donations by: ● General Mills ● Government Donations: ● City of Minneapolis ● State of Minnesota (urban ag grant) ● Revenue generated from crops sold at farmers markets
Partnerships	● General Mills ● Hands on Twin Cities

Appetite for Change Urban Farming

Appendix

Map of Appetite for Change Location



Deep Winter Greenhouse

Badger Rock Urban Farm

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Urban Agriculture, Workforce Development Badger Rock Urban Farm City of Madison food access mapping	Badger Rock Urban Farm is a project of Rooted, which is a nonprofit organization focused on collaborations that support people interested in growing food in healthy, equitable, and sustainable ways within their own neighborhoods. They also have a stated commitment to, "building racial equity and inclusion and dismantling racism in our communities, in our education and food systems, in the environmental movement, and within our organization." The organization develops a series of youth education and resident volunteer programs in collaboration with several area community gardens and schools. The Badger Rock Urban Farm is an educational farm located in Madison, WI that supports a region of the city that has been identified as a food access priority area. Students attending Badger Rock Middle School (BRMS) can participate in a garden class on the farm using organic growing practices and grow year-round using a heated greenhouse, hoop houses, and garden beds. In the summer months, former BRMS students can return as youth employees who are paid a stipend for their work. The produce is then sold at a local stand with proceeds from sales supporting the middle school garden class.
Location and Contact Information	Location Rooted Business Office & Badger Rock Neighborhood Center 517 East Badger Road, Madison, WI 53713 (population 269,084) Contact Information 608-240-0409 https://rootedwi.org/about-us/contact-us/
Targeted Audience	This program is first targeted towards area youth at several different age levels. The farm is located on the same property as Badger Rock Middle School, where students are offered the opportunity to learn a variety of farming techniques hands-on in a class setting, while also encouraged to return to apply these skills for pay once they've graduated to high school. The program also aims to serve neighborhood residents at large by improving food access

Badger Rock Urban Farm

Executive Summary	
Targeted Audience	through the sale of fresh produce at its affiliated food stands. The City of Madison has designated the surrounding area as a food access priority area, defined primarily by USDA indicators of high average distance to a grocery store with high rates of poverty by census tract.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	Badger Rock Neighborhood Center, a project of Rooted, is open to all, but primarily serves residents of the Moorland-Rimrock, Indian Springs, and Highland Manor neighborhoods of South Madison and the Southdale neighborhood of the Town of Madison. Home to Badger Rock Community Gardens and Urban Farm, and Badger Rock Community Market. Monthly CommUNITY Dinners and on-site classes and workshops are offered. The land is open to the public. Badger Rock Middle School and South Side Elementary School are also on site. Includes a heated greenhouse, hoop houses, and garden beds to allow for year-round activity.
Measurable Outcomes Badger Rock Urban Farm Rooted Wi, Inc. Candid summary	• One of three farms/gardens locations in the Rooted network provided field trip experiences to over 2000 students in 2022. • Designed curricula from 2017 to 2022 for all ages around home/school gardening, urban agriculture, and beginning farmer training. • Recognized for over a decade of success via numerous municipal and civic awards.

Badger Rock Urban Farm

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Policies Supportive of Farm Support for Madison Urban Farming Ordinances	In recent years, the City of Madison has adopted several initiatives to promote urban agriculture practices in standards in order to balance the health and wellbeing of residents and the environment. These include guidelines for the raising of livestock and operating community-supported agriculture programs.
Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture City of Madison urban agriculture ordinance	The land needed to host the Badger Rock Urban Farm and Neighbor Center is provided through a partnership with Madison Metropolitan School District and Badger Rock Middle School. Regarding zoning, the project is made possible through a series of ordinances the City of Madison developed that provide regulatory support to a broad range of urban agricultural activities, including community gardens, aquaponics, commercial urban farms, and edible landscaping. Specific to Badger Rock Urban Farm, city ordinance 28.093 defines the approved dimensions of an urban garden and farm areas to ensure they are, *"appropriately located and protected to meet needs for local food production, and to enhance community health, community education, garden-related job training, natural resource protection, preservation of green space, and community enjoyment. Because urban agriculture will typically exist in close proximity to residential and other uses, concern will be given to ensuring compatibility between uses."*
Workforce Development Badger Rock Urban Farm	Badger Rock Urban Farm provides workforce development for area youth by: ● Providing training and experience in urban agricultural work in a formal school setting; ● Creating employment opportunities for highschoolers to return as paid interns. ● Integrating additional business skills like accounting, sales, and management through the program's farm to market structure. This lateral pipeline provides Badger Rock Urban Farm a reliable workforce while ensuring a complimentary educational and economic benefit to the community in addition to the food generated.

Badger Rock Urban Farm

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure Badger Rock Urban Farm	Badger Rock Urban Farm aims to be both an agricultural educational resource and a location to provide community and healthy food access to the surrounding neighborhoods. The farm is managed by Rooted staff year-round, while employing some students as paid staff to coordinate summer production activities. ● The farm hosts monthly community dinners, educational workshops, and other events year-round for all ages, families and children, often at no cost to participants. ● Fresh, organically grown produce is sold weekly at the Badger Rock Community Market. ● Students use organic growing practices, starting produce from seed in a heated greenhouse over the winter, planting out seedlings in two hoop houses and garden beds come spring. ● Returning highschool interns handle summer harvesting.
Consistent Funding Sources Rooted Wi, Inc. Candid summary Rooted Wi, Inc. ProPublica Summary Rooted Wi, Inc. Madison Youth, Young Adult and Adult Employment 2022 Grant Application Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions Rooted Wi, Inc. credentials lookup	In 2022, over a fifth (22.4 percent) of Rooted Wi, Inc.'s revenue came from program services, showing a notable amount of funds flowing back to the program through its commercial activities, while also highlighting the significant, and in this case the majority of revenue (76.6 percent) coming from grants and charitable contributions. The funding for the paid internship program offered to highschoolers in the Rooted youth leadership program is provided specifically through the City of Madison's Youth, Young Adult and Adult Employment Grant.
Partnerships	Madison Metropolitan School District/Badger Rock Middle School. Rooted Wi, Inc. network of area farms and community gardens.

Badger Rock Urban Farm

Appendix

Links related to Badger Rock Urban Farm:

Badger Rock Urban Farm https://rootedwi.org/farms/badger-rock-urban-farm/

City of Madison food access mapping
https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/programs/food/food-access-improvement-map

Support for Madison Urban Farming Ordinances
https://discover.texasrealfood.com/urban-farming-ordinances/wi/madison

City of Madison urban agriculture ordinance
https://library.municode.com/wi/madison/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COORMAWIVOICH1--10_CH28ZOCOOR_SUBCHAPTER_28GSPDI_28.093URAGD

Rooted Wi, Inc. Candid summary
https://www.guidestar.org/profile/39-1854762#:~:text=aiming%20to%20accomplish%3F-,Rooted%20evolved%20from%20a%20desire%20to%20merge%20the%20strengths%20of,food%2C%20land%2C%20and%20learning.

Rooted Wi, Inc. ProPublica Summary

https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/391854762

Rooted Wi, Inc. Madison Youth, Young Adult and Adult Employment 2022 Grant Application

https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/community-development/documents/_RootedWIFullApp.pdf

Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions Rooted Wi, Inc. credentials lookup
https://dfi.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx

Badger Rock Urban Farm

Physical Overview of Badger Rock Urban Farm:

Cultivate KC

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Land Access and partnerships	Cultivate Kansas City is a locally-grown nonprofit working to grow food, farms, and community in support of an equitable, sustainable and healthy local food system for all. Their Vision is A democratic, just and sustainable community with: ● Equitable and viable farm and food businesses across the food system ● Access to local food for everyone ● Food integrated into civic life An equitable and inclusive food system where: ● Local food, and the producers who grow it, are valued ● People are empowered and equipped to engage and to participate ● Resources are shared among all
Location and Contact Information	Location Kansas City, MO (population 509,297) Contact Information Email: info@cultivatekc.org Phone: 913-831-2444 Website: https://www.cultivatekc.org/our-work/about-us/
Targeted Audience	Creating partnerships with organic farmers to produce food to connect low-income populations with locally grown food. Additionally their program, New Roots, targets new Americans so they may learn to become independent farmers.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	● Juniper Gardens Training Farm is a 9-acre site. It has 18 community garden plots, 5 program graduates of the New Roots program leasing plots on-site, and a large staff plot. ● Food Forest is a quarter-acre lot that is home to 39 varieties of fruit and nut trees and 12 different shrubs. ● A third garden called Westport Commons Farm is currently in the process of finding new land, as the owners of the property plan to build apartments on the current land.

Cultivate KC

Executive Summary	
Measurable Outcomes	New Roots Training Program ● Farmers and graduates are selling at 25 markets across the Kansas City metro. ● There have been 46 graduates of the New Roots program; 31 still grown food and 25 continue to grow and sell in the KC metro. ● New Roots graduates currently farm 16 acres of land. ● In 2023 there were 72 crop varieties, 158 Farm Share Customers, 13 Wholesale Partners and 12 training farmers. Food Access: ● Dotte Mobile Grocer is a retrofitted mobile grocery store. Cultivate KC launched the truck in 2018, paused in 2021 and then returned in 2023. ● In the last 3 years Cultivate KC has reached over 2,600 seniors in the community and supported local farmers with over $58,000 in fresh produce sales. ● In 2022 Westport Commons Farm had 627 volunteers logging 1,985 hours of growing food. ● Westport Commons produced 1,900 lbs of produce with 765 lbs donated to food banks and senior centers.

Cultivate KC

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	

Policies Supportive of Farm
Links:
Zoning and Development Code
https://library.municode.com/mo/kansas_city/codes
	• In 2010 the city of Kansas City, MO passed an ordinance amending the Zoning and Development Code to address agricultural and horticultural activities in residential neighborhoods.
	  ○ Increased access to home-grown, healthy produce
	  ○ Economic opportunities from the sales of agricultural and horticultural products
	  ○ Employment and learning opportunities
	  ○ The creation of productive, community-building green space in a rapidly changing city landscape

Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture **Links:** 88-312-02 - URBAN AGRICULTURE **https://library.municode.com/mo/kansas_city/codes/zoning_and_development_code?nodeId=ZODECOKAMI_300_SERIESUSRE_88-312AG_88-312-02URAG**	• On July 14, 2011 the KCMO City Council unanimously voted to amend the City Ordinance NO. 110479, amending Chapter 14, Code of Ordinances, by repealing Section 14-15, Keeping of small animals and fowl in pens, and enacting in lieu thereof one new section of like number and subject matter pertaining to keeping of small animals and fowl in pens.

Workforce Development	• New Roots
	  ○ 4 year training program that supports new Americans with agricultural experience to become independent farmers.
	• Metro Farms & Food Systems
	  ○ Educational opportunities for urban growers with an emphasis on climate resilience and conservation.
	  ○ Facilitating direct access to resources for growers
	  ○ Increasing collaborative planning and advocacy efforts with local, state, and national organizations.
	• Cultivate KC is dedicated to helping potential farmers and farmers access resources around them. Their website has different grants/resources/educational materials that farmers may be interested in, or eligible for.

Cultivate KC

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Urban Agriculture Options	• Westport Commons Farm aims to be an organic urban farm that creates a place for neighborhood residents and businesses to connect with their food and with each other. • The Food Forest has 39 varieties of fruit and nut trees and 12 different shrubs.

Cultivate KC

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure	Financial Snapshot of 2022 ● $1,242,439 total income ○ $383,135 in grant support ○ $71,331 in individual contributions ○ $81,020 from earned income (contracted services and fees, sales, educational events, miscellaneous) ○ $581,439 in government support ○ $96,764 in Contributions from Corporate and Business ○ $28,750 from fundraising (Cultivate KC and third party) ● $1,198,979 of Expenses ○ $18,293 Administrative and Advertising Expense/Market Fees ○ $33,527 Agricultural Inputs ○ $184,059 Direct Assistance to Individuals and Organizations ○ $22,311 Equipment ○ $84,931 Fees and Insurance ○ $109,289 Maintenance, Occupancy, and Supplies ○ $746,568 Staff Expenses and Travel
Consistent Funding Sources	● 2021 and 2022 990 forms show government and other grants being consistent at around 75% of Cultivate KC's income.
Partnerships	● New Roots is run in partnership with Catholic Charities of NE Kansas ● Cultivate KC partnered with the Mid-America Regional Council to create a program called Double Up Food Bucks and Senior Market Match to increase the amount of locally grown produce low-income residents can purchase directly at farmers markets. ● A tool library was created in 2022 in partnership with MARC Solid Waste Management District, Greater KC Chamber of Commerce Centurions, and others. ● National Resources Conservation Service has a cooperative agreement with Cultivate KC to help farmers learn about the basics of repairing high tunnels, and offers financial cost-share assistance to farmers to help build them.

Cultivate KC

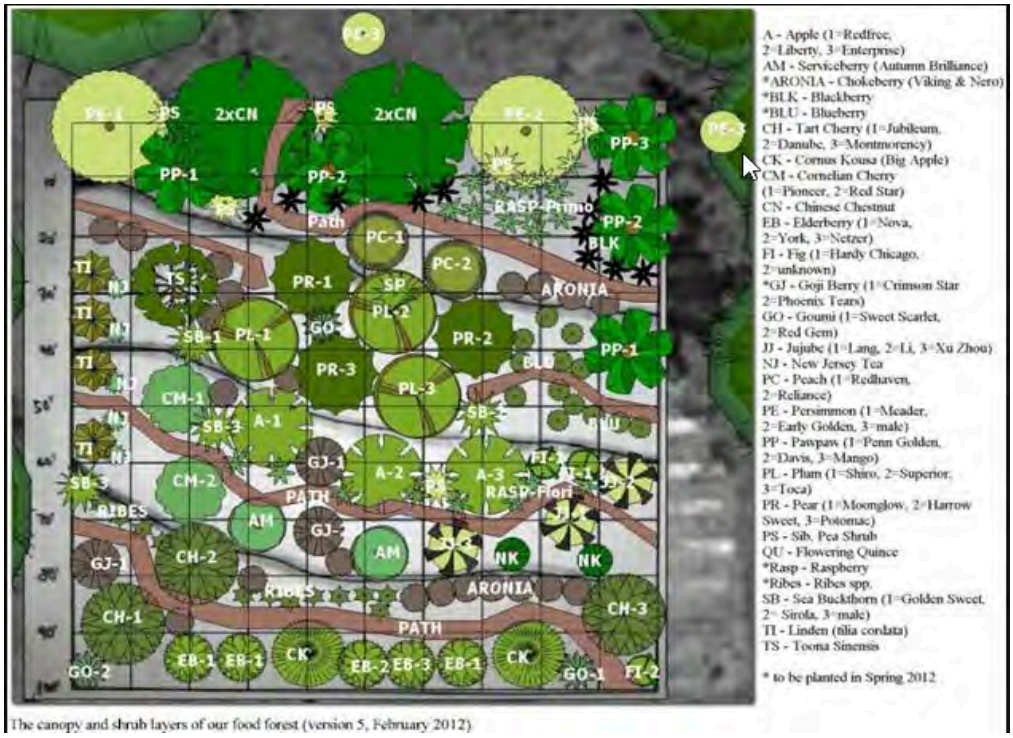
Appendix

Cultivating KC Community and Food Access Partners

Physical Overview of Juniper Gardens Training Farm

Cultivate KC

Physical Overview of Food Forest



The canopy and shrub layers of our food forest (version 5, February 2012).

Physical overview of Westport Commons Farms

Keep Growing Detroit

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Urban Agriculture Options and Land Access	Keep Growing Detroit aims to create a self-sustaining food system where most fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroit residents are grown within the city. Their programs, including the Garden Resource Program and Grown in Detroit, support urban gardens and help growers sell produce locally. They also operate a farm and education center to teach urban farming practices and empower community leaders
Location and Contact Information	Location Detroit, Michigan (Population of 639,011) Contact Information Email: info@keepgrowingdetroit.org Phone: 313-656-4769 Website: https://www.detroitagriculture.net/
Targeted Audience	Keep Growing Detroit provides training, resources, and selling opportunities to Detroit's urban gardeners, prioritizing African American growers. Their food is directed to the Eastern Market District, but individuals across Detroit can purchase it or join their CSA program.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	The organization's one farm is a 1.38-acre site located in Detroit's Historic Eastern Market District.
Measurable Outcomes	African American Growers ● Urban Root Community Garden Training program supported 14 black community leaders to establish urban gardens and farms in 2023. ● Grown in Detroit opened opportunities to 18 black growers to sell produce and generate income in 2023 ● Keep Growing Detroit utilized assets in 2023 to foster the creation of new farm infrastructure at black-led farms, including 91% of little orchards (out of 11 builds), 83% irrigation stations (out of 7 builds), and 80% high tunnel projects (out of 5 builds). ● In partnership with the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund, they awarded $140K in 2023 to 50 black farmers to purchase lots or complete infrastructure projects. Since 2020, they, in association with the DBFLF, have given out 171 awards with 62 new landowners that purchased 17.83 acres for urban agriculture use.

Keep Growing Detroit

Executive Summary	
Measurable Outcomes	<u>Produce and Distribution</u> ● The Garden Resource Program successfully served more than 26,000 residents, 2,283 ● gardens across Detroit in 2023. ● To the 1,645 of family gardens, 104 school gardens, 433 community gardens, and 101 market gardens Keep Growing Detroit distributed 68,901 seed packs, 365,225 transplants, 246 answers to garden development support requests, 100 raised beds, 217 tests of supplied garden soil samples, 128 individual visits to gardens within their network ● At Keep Growing Detroit's main farm: ○ Hundreds of thousands of vegetable and herb transplants and 7,000 heads of Motown Music seed garlic are grown for the garden resource program partners ○ 10,000 native plants and nearly 10,000 pounds of produce for Keep Growing Detroit programs, donation to community partners, and sale to detroit-based residents, organizations, and food businesses. ● Grown in Detroit is the program to which Keep Growing Detroit sells the produce of their community gardeners, at 100% profit to the grower. This program, in 2023, earned and distributed: ○ $64,380 in total sales ○ 877 CSA boxes and $16,550 Pounds of produce ● Keep Growing Detroit also operates various training programs, in 2023 they had the following outcomes: ○ 80 Classes ○ 711 Attendees ○ 2,747 hours of training

Keep Growing Detroit

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Policies Supportive of Farm **Links:** Mayor announcement of urban agriculture coordinator and associate agriculture coordinator along with reporting on priorities (https://detroitmi.gov)	Detroit's infrastructure offers limited to no support to urban farmers. Detroit hired a Director of Urban Agriculture, Tepfirah Rushdan, in 2023. Prior to taking the role, Tepfirah was the co-director of Keep Growing Detroit. Tepfirah's outlined goals in her new position are the following: ● Lowering bureaucratic hurdles to allow urban growers to easily navigate city regulations to set up a urban farm and access land ● Water accessibility for community gardens, one of their ideas is to utilize city fire hydrants ● Increase the allowability of animals in urban agriculture, specifically the use of chickens. ● Increase access to food through a local food economy ● Greater community engagement and internal collaboration within the City of Detroit.
Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture **Links:** 2013 ordinance allowing urban agriculture and proposed 2024 adjustment (https://detroitmi.gov)	● Urban ordinance 61-12-325 doesn't limit urban agriculture to specific acreage or square footage. Also allows the use of composting, sale of farm products, and all farm products excluding oats, what, rye, and certain tree species. ● Ordinances state that owning, keeping, maintaining, selling or transferring of farm animals is prohibited. However, this may change with new ordinance proposals. ● Ordinance for urban farming is restrictive, requiring a large level of property maintenance and spacing of farm products within the area of operation.
Workforce Development	Urban Roots ● Six week program, for community leaders interested in starting and maintaining community gardens. ● Participants receive one-on-one garden development support and develop a personal garden portfolio and be connected to the resources and network of Keep Growing Detroit Build Crew ● Crew of participants that are provided a paid training stipends help Keep Growing Detroit build water catchment systems and hoop houses ● Upon completion of the course hours related to build crew, participants receive a Keep Growing Detroit Certified Builder's Certificate. MSU Organic Farmers Training Program ● Program blends hands-on farm work, online learning, and field trips ● 33 Class Days, 10 on-farm learning days that focus on cultivating farming

Keep Growing Detroit

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Workforce Development	○ skills for students ○ Certificate is provided upon completion ● Youth Leadership Program and Summer Apprenticeship ○ 6 week program for ages 14-19 ○ Participants will will receive paid employment and work alongside Keep Growing Detroit staff as they gain experience in the field of urban agriculture, building skills and capacity around food justice, food sovereignty, financial literacy, and work readiness
Urban Agriculture Options	● Keep Growing Detroit Farm has 1.38 acres which houses: ○ Pollinator habitats, beekeeping ○ Micro-irrigation and 4,400 gallon rainwater collection system ○ High tunnels, ○ Produce that includes ground cherries, beans, edible flowers, grape tomatoes as well as other diverse varieties of vegetables and fruits. ● Garden Resources Program: Provides garden resources, educational opportunities, and technical support to Detroit-based growers in establishing and maintaining gardens and farms. ● Grown in Detroit uses only fruits, vegetables, flowers, honey, and herbs grown in the urban gardens and farms throughout Detroit. The program sells produce in markets, farm stands, and the Grown in Detroit CSA. All Garden Resource Program participants are welcome to join the Grown in Detroit marketplace and receive 100% of the revenue from the sale of their produce.

Keep Growing Detroit

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure	Financial Snapshot in 2023: ● $1,671,539 in Revenue ○ $986,208 Grants ○ $167,154 Mission Related Earned Income ○ $234,015 Contributions ○ $167,154 Corporate Gifts ○ $117,008 Government Contracts ● $1,453,002 in Expenses ○ $1,307,701 for direct programming ○ $101,710 for management ○ $45,590 for fundraising ● 13 FTEs are needed for ongoing operations, they also utilized 1,785 temporary volunteers to ensure Keep Growing Detroit farm operations and direct programming was possible. Volunteers worked 4,048 total hours in 2023.
Consistent Funding Sources	● Governmental/Non-Governmental Grants - 59% in 2023 ● Contributions from individuals/entities - 14% in 2023 ● Mission Related Income - 10% in 2023
Partnerships	● Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund (DBFLF), which is a collaboration that Keep Growing Detroit is a part of with the Black Community Food Sovereignty Network and Oakland Avenue Urban Farm. ● Hope Starts Here Collaborative, utilized to reach families with young children ● Numerous neighborhood organizations within Southwest Detroit, including: ○ Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation ○ CHASS Clinic ○ Congress of Communities ○ Urban Neighborhood Initiatives ● Michigan State University, utilized to offer the Organic Farmers Training Program

Keep Growing Detroit

Appendix

Physical Overview of Keep Growing Detroit's Farm

The Food Project

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme:** Urban Agriculture Options and Land Access	The Food Project is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 that works at the intersection of youth, food, and community to ensure access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food. They employ teenagers to work on 70 acres of farmland in eastern Massachusetts, producing 200,000 pounds of produce annually, which supports various food initiatives, particularly in Boston's Dudley neighborhood and the City of Lynn. Their mission is to create a diverse, sustainable food system through youth leadership and community engagement. They acknowledge the Indigenous stewardship of their land and commit to continuous learning and support for Native activists. Over three decades, The Food Project has empowered over 2,000 youth, distributed produce through multiple channels, and trained 1,000 individuals from 300 organizations.
Location and Contact Information	Location Boston, Massachusetts (Population of 675,065) Contact Information Lex Nicolas, Director of Institutional Relations Email: anicolas@thefoodproject.org External Contact Form Website: https://thefoodproject.org/
Targeted Audience	The Food Project's goal is to provide affordable food to residents within the Boston area, specifically low-income individuals or those that are already on food assistance. They also work to provide training and career development opportunities to teenagers within Boston. Lastly, they work specifically with the Dudley neighborhood residents to improve their access to healthy foods.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	The Food Project operates 7 farms, these are listed below: • Beverly – Glen Urquhart School Greenhouse, Food Project partnered with the Glen Urquhart School (GUS) to use half of their newly renovated, 7,000-square-foot greenhouse to grow both food and social consciousness. • Boston – West Cottage Street & Langdon Street Farms, youth, staff, and neighbors of The Food Project cultivate two acres of previously vacant land on West Cottage Street and Langdon Street.

The Food Project

Executive Summary	
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	• Boston – Dudley Greenhouse, the Food Project has managed the lush 10,000-square-foot greenhouse in partnership with the Greenhouse Advisory Committee, an elected body of Dudley neighborhood residents. The Dudley Greenhouse was built by, and is owned by the Dudley Neighbors Land Trust. • Lincoln – Baker Bridge Farm, The Food Project stewards 31 acres of conservation land in Lincoln, MA (approximately 15 miles outside of Boston), growing vegetables, herbs, flowers, and cover crops. • Lynn – Ingalls School Farm, Food Project partnered with the Lynn Public School Department and Lynn Community Development to lease an acre of under-utilized land on the school's grounds. • Lynn – North Shore Community College Greenhouse, 1,200-square-foot greenhouse opened on the Lynn campus of North Shore Community College. This unique project was funded by a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant, and creates a unique partnership between The Food Project and the college to learn and grow together. • Wenham – Reynolds Farm, The Food Project has stewarded the Reynolds Farm in Wenham. This picturesque farm sits on 34 acres of conservation land owned by the town of Wenham. At the Reynolds Farm, we currently grow vegetables on five acres and cover crops on the remaining fields to build soil health.
Measurable Outcomes	Urban Agriculture • Cultivate 200,000 pounds of produce on 70 acres of urban and suburban land each year • Build 100 raised-bed gardens in backyards and community spaces each year • Donated more than 180,000 servings of produce each year Workforce Development 140 teenagers from Greater Boston and the North Shore of Eastern Massachusetts cultivate The Food Project's urban and suburban land. These young people participate in workshops, serve at local hunger relief organizations, lead volunteers on the farms, build raised bed gardens, and work with the community to find innovative ways to expand food access.

The Food Project

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Policies Supportive of Farm **Links:** **Urban Farming Boston and GROW BOSTON (https://www.boston.gov/)**	Boston is highly supportive of urban farming, offering the following resources to prospective growers: Grants, Microloans, Land Purchases, Training Program, Business Planning (inclusive of community gardens and zoning information of farms). These resources are managed by GROWBOSTON, which is the City of Boston's Office of Urban Agriculture whose goals are to increase food production and support local food producers.
Land Accessibility/ordinances for Urban Agriculture **Links: Article 89 of Boston Ordinances (https://library.municode.com/ma/boston/codes)**	The City of Boston has comprehensive and understandable urban agriculture ordinances and zoning requirements. Article 89 of their ordinance is supportive of the following types of farming practices: ● Ground Level, roof level, freight containers, and water based growing methods ● Infrastructure for growing operations including cold frames and greenhouses ● A cooperative comprehensive farm review to ensure the farm is a good neighbor ● Soil and compost based on health standards and testing ● Farm sales to vendors, farmers markets, and on site. Goal is for commercial farming. ● Hens, bee, and other varieties of animals based on location and land use
Workforce Development	Each year, the Food project apprentices 140 teenagers from greater Boston and North Short of Eastern Massachusetts to cultivate their urban and suburban farms. ● Seed Crew - recruit 84 high school students, ages 14-17, to be paid hourly to grow, distribute produce while learning through workshops about food access and agriculture ● Dirt Crew - graduates of seed crew, dirt crew work during the school year to deepen their learning, build grow boxes, lead volunteers, and support community events ● Root Crew - graduates of the seed crew, these individuals work to run the CSA distribution program, farmers market management, and act as activities of food systems change within their community.
Urban Agriculture Options	● On their 70 acres of urban and suburban farm, they produce roughly 200,000 pounds of produce that is distributed to SNAP/HIP accessible farmers' markets, neighborhood stores, their own CSA program, and hunger relief organizations to alleviate food insecurity and raise a healthier community. ● Build a Garden program builds on the belief that individuals have the right to grow food. To support this they assist their community by: ○ Building raised garden beds (100 a year, 1,800 built in total) and offer the use of their Dudley Greenhouse ○ They offer resources in terms of seedlings, free garden planning & planting workshops, and ongoing support through drop in hours at the Dudley Greenhouse.

The Food Project

Operational Maintenance of Programs and Infrastructure	Financial Snapshot in 2022: Revenue in 2022 • Grants and Contribution - $4,073,375 • Food Sales - $298,494 • Rental Income - $41,740 • Contributed Goods and Services - $50,613 • Gain on Extinguishment of Debt - $346,400 • Investment Income - -$98,025 • Loss on Disposal of Income - -$1,029 Expenses • Program Services - 3,051,298 • Management and General - $457,638 • Development - $450,657 • 35 FTEs are utilized to keep operations running as well as a cadre of volunteers that assist with harvesting and farm operations.
Consistent Funding Sources	• Grants from individuals and fellow non-profits and Federal/Municipal entities - 86% of all revenue for 2022. • Earned Food Sales - 6% of all revenue for 2022. • Miscellaneous and Federal Pandemic Relief - 8% of all revenue for 2022
Partnerships	See appendix for food security and corporate partnerships. Average distance to food security partners varies

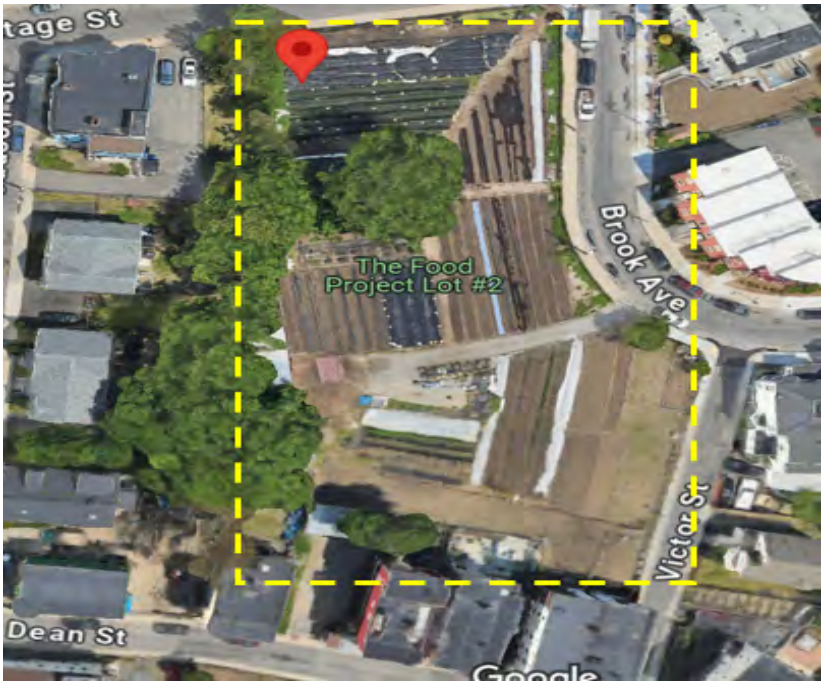
The Food Project

Appendix

Urban Farm Locations

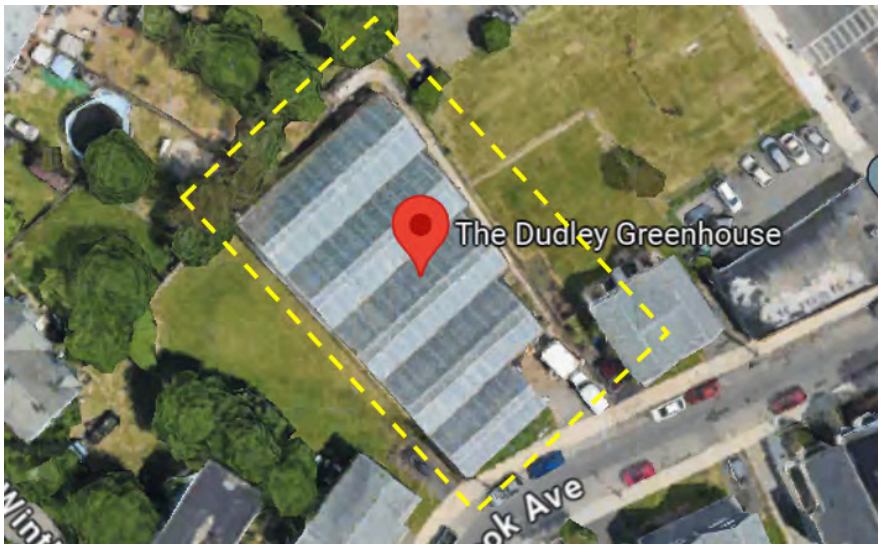
Beverly – Glen Urquhart School Greenhouse

Boston – West Cottage Street & Langdon Street Farms

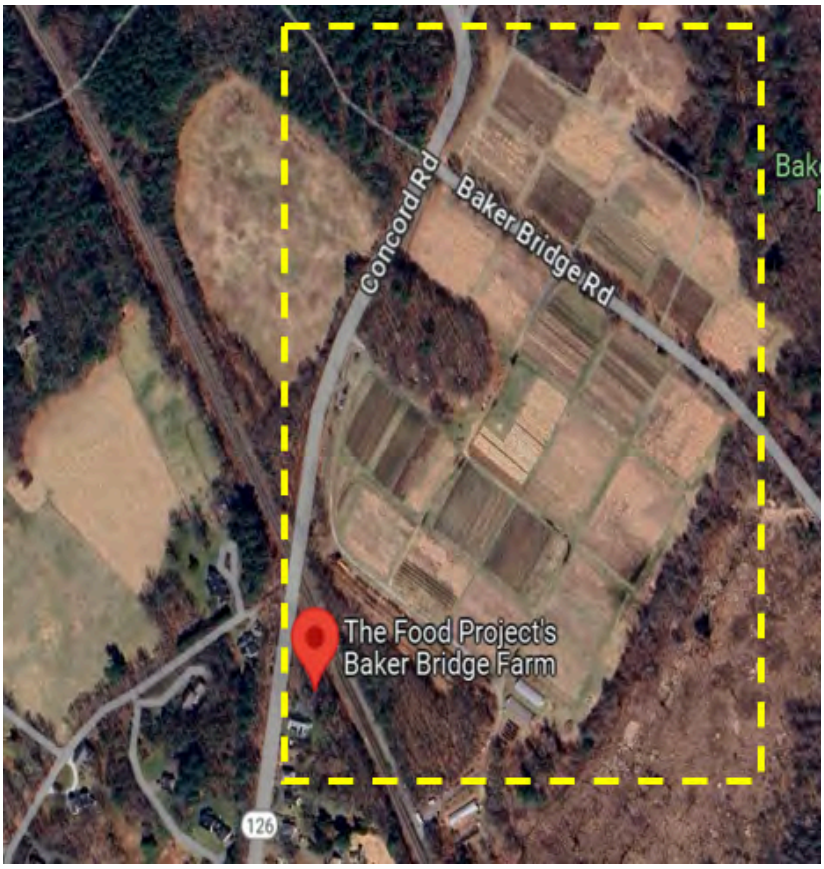


The Food Project

Boston – Dudley Greenhouse

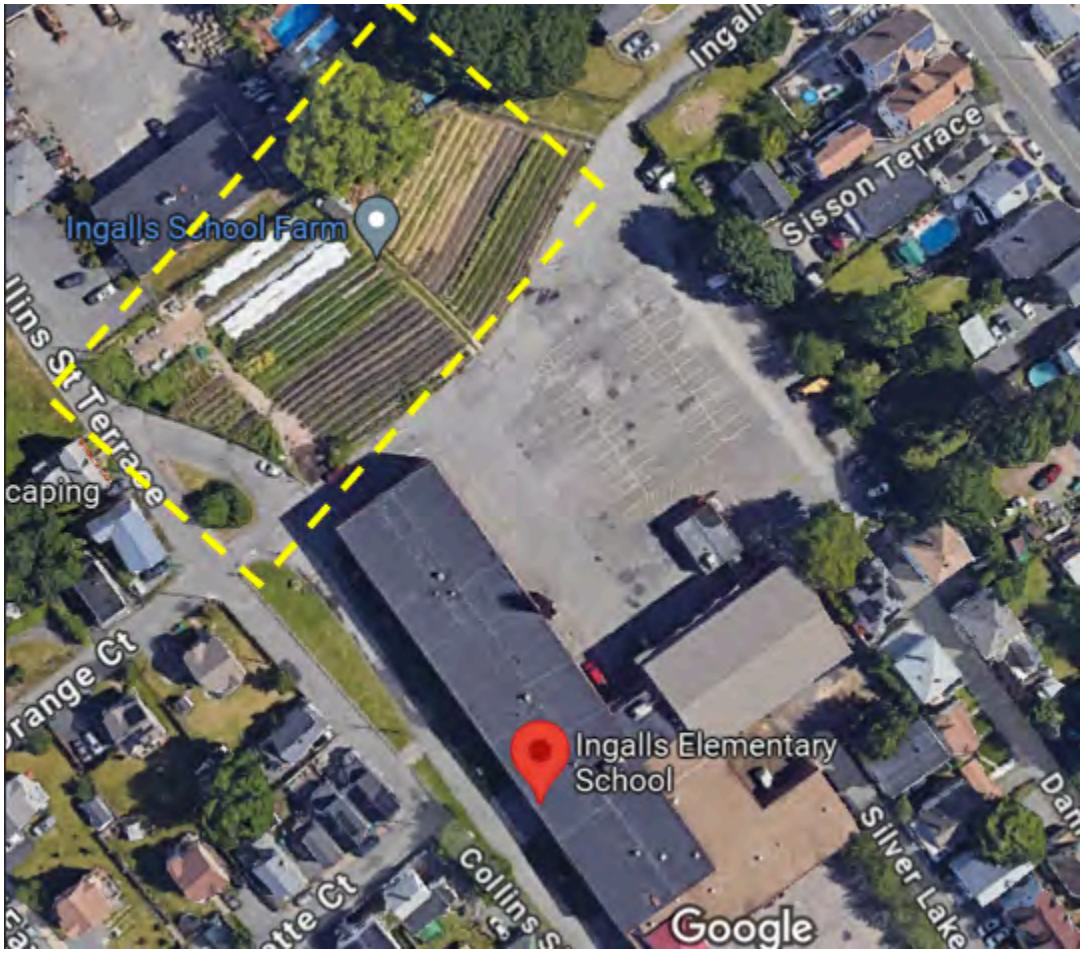


Lincoln – Baker Bridge Farm

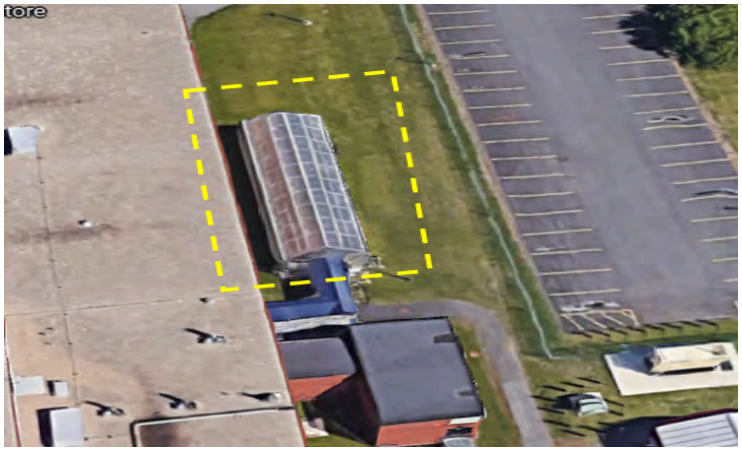


The Food Project

Lynn – Ingalls School Farm



Lynn – North Shore Community College Greenhouse



The Food Project

Wenham – Reynolds Farm

The Food Project

Partnerships

Food Security Partners:

- Acord Food Pantry, Hamilton MA
- Boston Area Gleaners, Waltham, MA
- Chelsea Collaborative, Chelsea, MA
- Community Care Cooperative, Boston, MA
- Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, Dorchester, MA
- Dudley Neighbors Incorporated, Roxbury, MA
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Roxbury, MA
- Fresh Food Generation, Greater Boston, MA
- La Alianza Hispana, Roxbury, MA
- Lincoln Food Pantry, Lincoln, MA
- Madison Park Development Corporation, Roxbury, MA
- Mosque for the Praising of Allah, Roxbury, MA
- Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Acton, MA
- My Brother's Table, Lynn, MA
- Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc., East Boston, MA
- Open Table, Maynard, MA
- Project Hope, Roxbury, MA
- Rosie's Place, Boston, MA
- Rounding the Bases, Boston, MA
- YMCA, Dorchester, MA

Corporate and Institutional Partners:

- Anonymous (7)
- Accenture
- Ann Theodore Foundation
- Bank of America
- Beacon Hill Garden Club
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Cell Signaling Technology
- City of Boston Center for Youth and Families
- City of Boston Health and Human Services
- City of Boston Office of Food Justice
- Digital Federal Credit Union
- ERM Foundation - North America
- FAO Schwarz Family Foundation
- Fidelity Foundation
- Foundation M
- Harvard Memorial Church

The Food Project

- High Meadows Foundation
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Life Science Cares
- Linde Family Foundation
- Llewellyn Foundation
- Mass General Brigham
- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
- Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General
- McCarthy Family Foundation
- Merck Family Fund
- Neal Rantoul Foundation
- New Balance Foundation
- North Shore Garden Club
- North Shore Workforce Investment Board
- Pace Center
- Project Bread
- Reebok Foundation
- Takeda
- The Alfred E. Chase Charity Foundation
- The Baupost Group L.L.C.
- The David E. Retik & Christopher D. Mello Foundation
- The Doe Family Foundation
- The Paul & Edith Babson Foundation
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- The Sudbury Foundation
- TJX Foundation
- Towards Sustainability Foundation
- UNFI Foundation
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn
- Whole Foods Market
- Wild Geese Foundation
- William E. & Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Executive Summary	
Description of Organization Mission **Theme**: Land Access	The Village Agricultural Cooperative is a collaborative of people from all over the world who are building the economic power of historically marginalized communities through food justice initiatives that are sustainable. The program started in 2020 and has continued to expand since then. Their mission is three-fold: 1. Connect people with land, water, and culture 2. Provide education and resource connections 3. Grow the farmers and food producers of tomorrow
Location and Contact Information	Location Rochester, Minnesota (Population 121,878 as of 2022) Contact Information Email: Contact@rochvillage.org Phone: (507)271-7069 Website: https://www.rochvillage.org/
Targeted Audience	The Village Agricultural Cooperative has farmers representing over 25 countries from around the globe, who are recent immigrants and first-generation individuals who come from agrarian communities. Currently the program has supported over 200 families at 6 different sites of leased properties in and around Rochester. Growers rent land on a pay-what-you-can basis and grow foods specific to their country of origin.
Physical Characteristics of Urban Agriculture Facilities/Land	The Village Agricultural Cooperative has 6 farms, growing cultural foods such as sweet Italian chili peppers, bok choy, ong choy, bitter melon, Asian broccoli, and an array of herbs. ● The Village Community Garden at Rochester Covenant Church is 3.5 acres. ● The Presbyterian Church Farm has 40x30 foot plots. ● The Jubilo Farm is 75 acres in total, with the Cooperative renting out 2 acres of the 75. There is a high tunnel and water access on the property. ● The History Center rents out 3 acres to the Cooperative outside the fenced area and a half acre inside a fenced area. There is water plumbed throughout the farm, the Cooperative has a heated greenhouse measuring 28’x40’ and a low-tunnel that is 16’x20’. ● The newest farm is called Century Pine. It is 11 acres located five miles east of Rochester. ● John Adams Middle School Gardens is a 30’x60’ bed.

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Executive Summary	
Measurable Outcomes	● The program has connected more than 200 families with land access to grow their own food. ● 30% of the farmers preserve more than 100 pounds of food per year, primarily through freezing. ● Culturally specific greens are the main food that farmers preserve ● 40% of farmers are interested in growing their own farm business and earning income from farming. ● 15% report earning “life-changing income” through the food they sell from their farm. ● 45% are interested in participating in the Village Agricultural Cooperative technical assistance programs to grow their own business.

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Policies, Land Accessibility, Workforce Development, and Urban Agriculture	
Policies Supportive of Urban Agriculture	Ability to use public lands for community gardens or urban agriculture are left up to neighborhood associations.
Land Accessibility/ordinances	In speaking with the City of Rochester Parks and Recreation, there are no specific ordinances in place for community gardens, or urban agriculture. There was a group created called RNeighbors that acts as a liaison between the city and neighborhood associations to improve communities.
Land Access	• Applications are submitted for a garden plot around 25'x30'. The cost is based using a sliding scale up to $75 • Due to the farms being full every year, and waiting lists needing to be added, additional sites are being sought out to accommodate more farmers.
Urban Agriculture	• Three high tunnels and two high tunnels in production for winter research. • Currently installing a seed-starting infrastructure and a heating system at the History Center • Farmers Markets held at the History Center in 2023, for farmers to sell excess produce to the community. • Through a donation, a small tractor was able to be purchased to cut down on the cost of contractors to help manage the land. • The Cooperative is aggregating produce out of two sites and has refrigerated trailers at those two sites.

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Operational Maintenance, Consistent Funding Sources, and Partnerships	
Operational Maintenance	Financial Snapshot from 2022 990 form ● $122,388 total ○ Contributions, gifts, grants, and other: $92,960 ○ Program services revenue including govt fees and contracts: $26,635 ○ Membership dues: $250 ○ Investment Income: $13 ○ Net Income from fundraising: $2,530 ● $92,404 of Expenses in 2022 ○ Grants paid: $10,800 ○ Salaries paid: $56,322 ○ Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors: $19,532 ○ Rent, Utilities, Maintenance: $4,890 ○ Printin, publications, postage, and shipping: $860
Consistent Funding Sources Utilized by Growing Home	Grants through the USDA, Mayo Clinic and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.
Partnerships Supportive of Growing Home	The Mayo Clinic, Big River Farms, American Rescue Plan Act, USDA, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (Inclusive and Equitable Communities Fund), Minnesota Department of Agriculture: Local Food Purchase Agreement, Mardag Foundation, Minnwest Bank, Compeer Financial. See Appendix for more partnerships

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Appendix

Ongoing and Funding Partnerships

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Physical Overview of The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Rochester Covenant Church Site

The History Center site

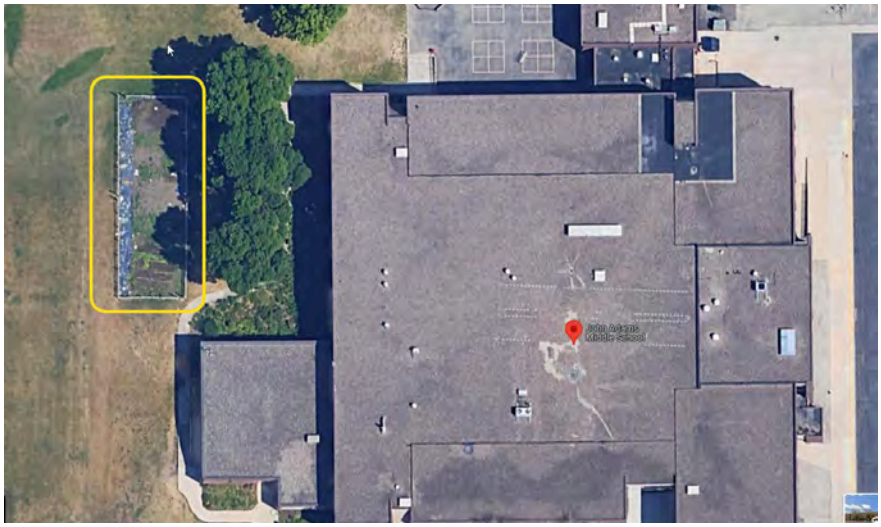
The Village Agricultural Cooperative

Jubilo Farms site

Presbyterian Church site

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

John Adams Middle School site



An overview of the Century Pines garden was unavailable at this time.

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