

Progress Report on Homegrown Minneapolis Recommendations January 2012

Staff Contact Information:

June Mathiowetz
Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator
Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support
june.mathiowetz@minneapolismn.gov
612-673-2027

PROGRESS REPORT ON HOMEGROWN MINNEAPOLIS RECOMMENDATIONS

January 2012

1. Adopt a resolution that puts the City on record supporting the increased growth, sales, distribution, and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced, and locally grown for all Minneapolis residents, with an emphasis on increasing equity and food security.

☆Status: Complete

The Minneapolis City Council adopted a resolution "Recognizing the Importance of Healthy, Sustainably Produced and Locally Grown Foods..." on June 26, 2009 (Resolution 2009R-283).

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/hgresfinal.pdf

www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@health/documents/webcontent/convert_276074.pdf

Council Authors: CM Cam Gordon, CM Elizabeth Glidden, CM Betsy Hodges, CM Diane Hofstede, CM Ralph

Remington, CM Don Samuels, CM Gary Schiff

City Staff and Department Lead: Kristen Klingler, MDHFS

2. Establish a working group comprised of City staff and community experts to oversee the implementation of the Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations.

☆Status: Complete

The Minneapolis City Council adopted a resolution "... Creating the Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force" on June 26, 2009 (Resolution 2009R-283). The resolution established a 16 member Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force that met monthly from July of 2009-June of 2011. www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@health/documents/webcontent/convert 276074.pdf

Task Force Members: CM Cam Gordon (Co-Chair), Cara Letofsky/Erica Prosser (Co-Chair), Maggi Adamek, JoAnne Berkenkamp (IATP), Karin Berkholtz (CPED Dpt), Patty Bowler (Health Dpt), Rose Brewer, Jim Cook, CM Diane Hofstede, CM Elizabeth Glidden, Greg Goeke (Public Works), Tim Jenkins (Regulatory Services), Valerie Martinez, June Mathiowetz/Gayle Prest (Sustainability), Kirsten Saylor (Gardening Matters), David Nicholson.

City Staff and Department Lead: Kristen Klingler and June Mathiowetz, MDHFS

3. Create measurable goals and indicators in order to monitor progress toward increased and equitable growth, sales, distribution, and consumption of local, healthy, sustainable foods in Minneapolis.

☼Status: On track to be completed in early 2012

The City added a Local Food sustainability indicator to the City's sustainability reporting process in 2010. The Local Food indicator in the City's annual sustainability report includes targets, a trend analysis, a summary of recent activities, and maps or graphs.

2010 Sustainability Report: www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/convert_267589.pdf

2011 Sustainability Report: www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/convert_281288.pdf

Targets for the Local Food indicator have also been under development. In 2009, a Local Food Sustainability Targets Working Group held four meetings with community members to develop potential targets. In 2010, the Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force discussed the draft targets at three meetings. A City interdepartmental staff discussion was held in March of 2011. The targets require an investment of City staff time, so City department approval and ongoing support are required. The targets underwent discussion with the Citizens Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) at the September and October 2011 meetings and then traveled to the City's Environmental Coordinating Team (ECT) for review and comment and comment. The proposed target language is

scheduled to go before the City Council for discussion and formal adoption beginning in January of 2012. Once formally adopted, the targets will be added to the annual sustainability reporting process under the Local Food indicator.

Current draft target language is as follows:

- Increase food producing gardens in the city by one acre by 2012, using 14 acres in 2011 as the baseline.
- All residents live within a ¼ mile of a healthy food source (including full service grocery stores, enhanced corner stores, farmers markets or community gardens).

As with other sustainability indicators, City staff will continue to work at evolving these targets and their related data sets and consider other potential options as more is learned. These targets still face the challenge of finding the resources to develop and track the data over the coming years and to fund specific projects that will move the outcomes in the desired direction over time. The first target requires tracking, measuring and reporting on the size of the city's approximately 100 community gardens annually. The second target requires research, development of data sets and further analysis. It was also recognized in discussions that if the goal is to track and drive progress on increasing the amount of local, sustainably grown foods consumed, additional groundwork is needed develop definitions, relationships and a system for tracking these aspects of citywide food sales. The above targets are seen as more viable initial steps.

Working Group Conveners: Valerie Martinez, CM Cam Gordon and June Mathiowetz
City Staff and Department Lead: June Mathiowetz, Sustainability Office and MDHFS
Working Group Participants: Robin Garwood, Julie Ristau, Ana Micka, Maggi Adamek, Alison Rotel, Kirsten Saylor,
Barb Sporlein, Karin Berkholtz, Gretchen Musicant, Patty Bowler, Gayle Prest, Ken Meter, David Nicholson, plus
approximately 20 more community members in attendance during four 2009 community meetings

4. Explore the need for, and structure of, a longer-term advisory entity that will provide ongoing guidance to the City on local food issues and is representative of Minneapolis' diversity. If appropriate, establish such an entity.

☼Status: Complete

In 2009, a Local Food Policy Entity Working Group was established to research the possibility of developing a long-term food advisory entity or "council" that might succeed the Homegrown Implementation Task Force when its authorization to meet (through Council resolution) expired in June 2011.

Initially, the working group reviewed lessons learned by food policy councils around the country to understand context and jurisdiction of those efforts. They also spoke with national food project leaders about their efforts. After several meetings, the group's focus evolved into strategic planning for a new entity. They began considering if and how a long-term food advisory entity might be integrated into existing structures by reviewing current City advisory groups (including the Citizens Environmental Advisory Commission and the Public Health Advisory Committee) and joint City-County initiatives (on homelessness and lead prevention) to look for successful models and areas of potential overlap. A series of approximately 30 strategic interviews with local food system leaders was also conducted to further inform the effort.

At a December 2010 Homegrown Minneapolis stakeholder meeting with more than 70 attendees, a breakout session led by Julie Ristau focused on development of a potential food policy council and provided a space for early discussion of ideas. In January of 2011, a Homegrown Minneapolis community meeting was specifically held to present the research and concept of a food council to Minneapolis residents and other Homegrown Minneapolis stakeholders. Again facilitated by Julie Ristau, more than 60 attendees were given an opportunity to discuss and provide input into the purpose, guiding principles and structure of a potential entity. In April and May of 2011, several design-focused discussions were held to work out a detailed structure for the proposed entity based on feedback received over the prior year and a half. In June of 2011, after several meetings during which it was discussed, the Homegrown Implementation Task Force approved a resolution to be forwarded on to the City Council to create a local food policy council and initiate a third phase of Homegrown Minneapolis. The resolution establishing the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council was heard in the Public Safety & Health Committee on August 24, 2011 and passed the full City Council on September 2, 2011 (Resolution 2011R-445). www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/council/2011-meetings 20110902 council20110902agendax

An open appointments process occurred from October 3-21, 2011 to fill the positions. A nominations committee was convened to establish selection criteria and review the 98 applications submitted. On November 30, 2011, the slate of nominees was presented in the Public Safety and Health Committee. On December 9, 2011, the City Council approved a 15-member community slate that will be joined with 6 City staff representatives (identified by department heads) for the 21-member body which will begin meeting January of 2012. www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/PSCH2011-1130agenda

Working Group Conveners: Julie Ristau, CM Cam Gordon and June Mathiowetz
City Staff and Department Lead: June Mathiowetz, Sustainability Office and MDHFS
Council Authors of Resolution: CM Don Samuels and CM Cam Gordon
Community Participation: More than 150 people participated in conversations on the development of the Food
Council

5. Create and make available to landowners a complete list of environmental engineers that could complete Phase II Environmental Investigations.

<u>☆Status: Complete</u>

The City of Minneapolis cannot recommend specific engineers, but a list of environmental engineers that have worked with the City was provided to the nonprofit Gardening Matters as a reference tool.

City Staff and Department Lead: June Mathiowetz, Sustainability Office

6. Include local foods jobs and small enterprise urban agriculture within the City's Green Job Initiative and include them in all City-sponsored employment and training services.

☆Status: In progress

The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program funds youth internships annually at local urban garden projects including Emerge's Homegrown initiative, and Youth Farm and Market. STEP-UP interns also gain exposure to urban gardening and local food production at employers including Redeemer Center for Life and Park Avenue Youth and Family Services. www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/resources/cped_stepup

City Staff and Department Lead: Tammy Dickinson, CPED

In 2010, the City supported Kindred Kitchen by providing a Great Streets Business District Support grant to Catalyst Community Partners and a Great Streets Real Estate Development gap financing loan for the redevelopment of Kindred Kitchen's 1200 West Broadway location. Kindred Kitchen is a food service incubator, commercial kitchen, and café aimed at providing technical support, kitchen facilities, and/or food handler certification to local businesses. There are 25 users licensed to use the kitchen, and Catalyst has assisted approximately 150 food business entrepreneurs with technical assistance. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/ba/cped_great_streets_home

Linden Hills Co-op and Sojourner Farms received financing through the City's Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department's business financing programs in 2010. Kitchen in the Market received two percent loan financing through CPED in 2011.

City Staff and Department Lead: Kristen Guild (on Kindred Kitchen) and Bob Lind, CPED

7. Expand and support training programs and career pathways (for both youth and adults) for urban agricultural entrepreneurs as part of the City's Employment and Training programs.

☼Status: In progress

The Minneapolis Employment and Training Program's Dislocated Worker program is receiving Project GATE II (Growing America Through Entrepreneurship) funding through December of 2011 to serve dislocated workers interested in starting a business. Urban agriculture entrepreneurs can be a part of this effort. Business consultants train participants in the fundamentals of starting and managing a small business, evaluate the potential of the proposed business, and guide participants through the steps of business planning. Eligible participants must be

unemployed through no fault of their own, at least 45 years old, and eligible for the federal Dislocated Worker Program. Participants go through a five-stage process including pre-assessment and orientation, a business readiness assessment, business consulting, classroom training and financial assistance through organizations that help finance new ventures.

City Staff and Department Lead: Catherine Christian, CPED

8. Complete an inventory of kitchen facilities that can be used for local foods preparation, processing, and preservation purposes. Develop strategies for linking residents and entrepreneurs with these opportunities.

☆Status: Complete

Graduate student interns began work on a community kitchen inventory in August 2009. Homegrown Minneapolis stakeholders were convened to determine the purpose, scope, and details for the inventory. In December 2009, an electronic survey was distributed to managers of community and commercial facilities (recreation centers, churches, schools, businesses, etc.) in order to determine their capacity and availability for community residents to engage in food preparation and processing. Responses were compiled into an inventory and placed in an interactive Google map showing geographic locations of approximately 30 kitchens in the city. In July of 2011, the inventory was updated to include approximately 50 kitchen facilities and reorganized by neighborhood. The inventory is located on the Homegrown Minneapolis website and has been circulated to the Homegrown Minneapolis email distribution list. www.minneapolismn.gov/health/homegrown/index.htm

City Staff and Department Lead: Kelly Wilder, Greg Schweser, Emily Hause, graduate interns, MDHFS

9. Support farmers' market efforts to serve as a launching pad for other methods of food distribution.

☼Status: Not yet addressed

Clearer identification of need and deliverables is needed. Public comment received: "The ideas behind this recommendation included "best of market program", a veggie van to take market stuff to individuals with limited mobility, etc. In other words, the operative idea was for existing farmers' markets to augment services to increase access."

10. Improve promotion of farmers' markets and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)/WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) acceptance in diverse communities.

☼Status: Significant Progress

Through combined efforts of the City, Hennepin County and Blue Cross Blue Shield MN (BCBS), promotion of farmers markets and EBT occurred in 2010 and 2011. The City helped launch EBT at the Minneapolis and Northeast Farmers markets in 2010, making healthy food accessible to more residents. The City also funded a short-term Market Bucks incentive program to increase the purchasing power of EBT at these two markets. BCBS funded Market Bucks at the Midtown Farmers market. During 2011, the promotions campaign and Market Bucks was extended into near North (West Broadway Outdoor Market), Brian Coyle and Augsburg. A sixth market, the Midtown Farmers Market already offered EBT when Homegrown Minneapolis began. BCBS funded Market Bucks at the Midtown Farmers market in 2010. Promotional materials were produced in multiple languages and distributed through various media outlets.

Between May 2010 and November 2011, the markets received a combined total of more than \$90,820 in EBT sales (\$70,487) and Market Bucks redemptions (\$20,333), circulating federal food support into the local economy.

Funding to sustain these efforts at five of the farmers markets was obtained in a new round of State Healthy Improvement Program dollars received for 2012.

City Staff and Department Lead: Alison Moore and Kristen Klingler, MDHFS

I I.Assure access to water hydrants is equitable, reasonable and fair for all community gardens regardless of whether they are located on public or private lands.

☆Status: Complete

Community gardens in Minneapolis access water through the City's Public Works' Water Works Permit Office by taking out a seasonal Garden Hydrant Permit. This permit allows gardeners to use a specific fire hydrant located near a garden site. Approximately 40 of these permits are issued to neighborhood organizations each year.

The Garden Hydrant Permit fee was restructured in 2011 to assure recovery of the City's cost and encourage sustainable practices. During 2011, community gardens will be charged a \$25 permit fee and a \$75 charge for water. Additionally, meters will be placed on the water hydrants and community gardens sent notices of actual water use, but gardens will not be charged per cubic foot of water used during 2011. This notification will assist gardeners in planning and developing strategies to improve water conservation for the 2012 growing season. Community gardens will be charged for actual water use beginning in 2012.

The Garden Hydrant Permit requirements and regulations for will be structured as followed beginning in 2012:

- A. A letter of authorization from the public/private agency granting permission for the use of the land for the current year is required.
- B. Applicant must pay a \$25.00 permit/installation fee and \$75.00 prepayment for water; prior to receiving the hydrant permit. The charge for water will be \$3.20 per cubic foot of water (750 gallons). Additionally, if a meter is tampered with, a \$200 meter tampering charge will apply.
- C. No other hydrant except the hydrant so designated is to be used on this permit.
- D. Hydrants are to be used for watering gardens only.
- E. The applicant is to see that the valve furnished is secured by a padlock when not in use. The padlock is to be furnished by the applicant.
- F. The Signee or Organization holding the Garden Permit takes responsibility for the monthly water bill. Nonpayment may be reflected on one's credit report. The Signee will be asked to present a photo ID with a current billing address.
- G. A ¾ inch male hose bib with shut off valve with meter will be provided.
- H. Misuse of the hydrant, whether by the permittee or others, will void the permit.
- I. The City is not responsible for any damages that may result from the use of the fire hydrant. There will be no Garden Permit issued in the future if the water bill is not paid.

For further information on Hydrant Garden Permit: www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/permits/public-works-pw-water-permits

According to the above requirements, community gardens on public or private land pay the same fee and rate for the water that is used.

Additionally in May of 2011, the City Public Works Department set up a pilot Permanent Water Access for Community Gardens grant project. The goal of this project is to shift community gardens away from use of the fire hydrants for purposes of watering their gardens. The project makes matching grants up to \$2,000 available to nonprofit community gardens on a first-come, first-served basis. The application can be found on the Homegrown Minneapolis website. www.minneapolismn.gov/health/homegrown/dhfs_gardeners

City Staff and Department Lead: Bernie Bullert, Craig Allison and Brette Hjelle, Public Works

12. Establish a scale-appropriate regulatory system for local foods.

☆Status: Significant progress

In April of 2011, Minneapolis Regulatory Services partnered with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to work on improving the regulatory system as it relates to local foods through a project funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute. The goal of the project is to identify and address the regulatory challenges in expanding the sale of fresh, locally grown foods at farmers' markets and licensed food establishments.

As a result of this effort, cross-functional teams from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, University of Minnesota School of Public Health and local leaders were brought together. This group has been discussing local farmers' market issues and working with farmers' market managers to review City ordinances and make changes without compromising public health and safety. Additionally, as part of the

process, 125 farmers' market vendors were surveyed about agricultural practices. This process has allowed regulators and market vendors/managers to learn from each other and from the scientific community about how to improve their systems.

The project documented the current farmer's market application intake process and support flow, identified factors limiting success, and increased understanding of the multiple food system variables regulators and vendors must deal with on a daily basis. Challenges that might be contributing to regulation non-compliance and frustration identified included a lack of knowledge on vendors and regulators part, a lack of resources, and a lack of meaningful educational fact sheets. To improve on these points and expand the ability of these partners to work together for the common goal of food safety, several fact sheets have been created. The team will continue to work on challenges in 2012 to find additional ways to support community needs.

CDC Project on Local Foods:

<u>www2a.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EPHLI/ExecSummary.asp?pid=182</u> www.heartlandcenters.slu.edu/ephli/finalprojects2011/12FernandezandTopie.pdf

Useful Fact Sheet and Information about Food Safety, Regulations, Farmers Market and Local Foods: www.mda.state.mn.us/en/food/safety/food-safety-resources.aspx

City Staff and Department Lead: Curt Fernandez and Tim Jenkins, Regulatory Services-Environmental Health State Partner: Jim Topie, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

13. Review, and revise when necessary, City regulations in order to provide a hospitable regulatory environment for local foods operations including farmers' markets; home, community, and school gardens; restaurants; on-site and industrial composting; and year-round food production, processing, aggregation, and distribution efforts.

Status: On track to be completed by spring of 2012 for first phase efforts. This recommendation is extraordinarily broad. While phase I and II efforts are being considered complete due to the extensive efforts completed, more could be proposed to be addressed in the future through new, more specific recommendations for phase III efforts beginning in 2012.

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 to address how urban agriculture can be better supported in the urban environment. The City's Urban Ag Policy Plan website provides a list of all of the documents from that process and related recommendations www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan. The plan suggests ways to remove regulatory barriers and laid the groundwork for the next phase of efforts that will work out the details of the report's recommendations in what is called a zoning code text amendment process. The text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season. Two public meetings have been led by the Community Planning and Economic Development Department and a draft of the amendments was made public in November 2011. (See also #25 and #26 for additional detail)

www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cped_urban_ag_zoning

City Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold, CPED, Aly Pennucci, CPED, and Robin Garwood, Council Staff

On farmers markets, at the request of the farmers market community, farmers market ordinances were updated in November 2011 to establish a new requirement that 60 percent of vendors at farmers markets be agricultural producers, allow more flexibility for mini market vendor types, and allow more sampling and cooking demonstrations. www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-081599.pdf

Conveners: Robin Garwood (Council Staff), Tim Jenkins (Regulatory Services), David Nicholson

On restaurants, it can be noted that ordinance changes have made it possible for mobile food vendors to sell non-packaged food in downtown and during 2011, this expanded to include certain other areas of the City. Current mobile food vehicle vendors, restaurant owners and entrepreneurs who do not own restaurants now have the opportunity to operate a mobile food vehicle throughout the city that can park at a preapproved location or on the street.

In addition to sidewalks or private lots, approved mobile food vehicle vendors are now able to sell their food curbside. Because of these changes, mobile food vehicle vendors are not committed to a permanent location as was the case in 2010. Mobile food vehicle vendors who use the street must follow all parking regulations and signage and pay the appropriate parking meter rates.

Preapproved locations can be found on the following map: www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@regservices/documents/webcontent/convert 272074.pdf

Approved mobile food vehicle vendors will be required to operate for a minimum of 150 days. Those approved are also prohibited from operating within 100 feet on the same block-face of a licensed sidewalk cafe or restaurant with direct access to the sidewalk.

Restaurants interested in having a mobile food vehicle need to submit an application detailing the plans of their vehicle and the proposed location. The Downtown Improvement District and Public Works Department will provide assistance to direct applicants to prospective sites as appropriate. The license fee in 2011 for a new mobile food vehicle is \$806 along with start up costs totaling \$391.

On composting, a conversation between City staff and community stakeholders about the City's composting ordinance (244.770) and regulations was convened in June of 2011. Challenges were discussed and a list of potential changes was drafted. Plans are to continue working on moving the changes forward on a timeline similar to the Urban Ag Policy Plan's zoning code text amendment process due to be completed by spring of 2012.

City Staff and Department Lead: Robin Garwood, Council Staff
Discussion Participants: Russ Henry, Sarah Sponheim, Lee Waters, Krista Leraas, Sean Alter, Rebecca Harnik,
Kirsten Saylor (Gardening Matters), June Mathiowetz (MDHFS), Susan Young (Solid Waste and Recycling), Patrick
Hanlon (Regulatory Services), Aly Pennucci (CPED), Rachel Henderson, Patsy Parker (Compostadores)

It is also noteworthy that other food-related City ordinance changes are helping improve the Minneapolis food environment including:

- 1) Beekeeping is now allowed in the City.
- 2) Indoor farmers' markets are now allowed.
- 3) Grocery stores can now host farmers' market vendors.
- 4) All corner stores are required to offer at least five varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables.

On community gardens, a Community Gardens Working Group met every 3 weeks for 6 months for part of 2009 and 2010 to consider potential improvements to the City's community garden processes. This included development of the City's Community Garden Pilot Program application process and improving the existing community garden lease agreement. City staff designed a pre-lease checklist to help a neighborhood or not-for-profit group proposing the community garden prepare a management statement that describes how the site will be managed year-round and a community benefit statement describing how the garden would engage and benefit the surrounding community. A two-pronged process was developed where step one is a pre-lease consultation and approval of a site plan, and step two is execution of the lease.

In March 2010 the City Council approved the new community garden lease, the first of its kind for Minneapolis. The lease defined a qualifying group for the pilot program as a not-for-profit or a group with a not-for-profit sponsor. The lease set out requirements for community gardens on city-owned parcels including: a) a refundable \$250.00 deposit as well as a lease fee of \$1.00 per year and an administrative fee of \$25.00 per lease, b) a certificate of liability insurance in an amount of no less than \$2 million with the City of Minneapolis listed as an additionally insured party, and c) a site plan illustrating the layout of the proposed community garden. Public Works provided analysis of water availability to each parcel identified for the pilot. Hennepin County conducted the soils analysis for the parcels. It was determined that any parcel with significant contamination would be removed from consideration under the pilot.

The Community Garden Pilot Program officially kicked off in the spring of 2010 with its revised application and improved lease agreement. The program provided a clear process for staff and residents to lease City-owned land. The City made 18 sites available for community garden development through the program. As of October 2011, seven of these sites were leased to community groups. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis to qualifying groups. Experienced community garden groups may be eligible for three- to five-year leases, while groups gardening for the first time will start with one-year leases. Information about the Community Garden Pilot can be found in an appendix to the Urban Ag Policy Plan and on the Homegrown Minneapolis website. www.minneapolismn.gov/health/homegrown/dhfs_gardeners

The City of Minneapolis supports community gardens in its commitment to promoting access to good nutrition, improving the ecological footprint of the city, encouraging active and healthy living, and providing spaces for human interaction, food production and beauty. There are approximately 100 community gardens overall in the city.

Working Group Conveners: Karin Berkholtz (CPED) Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Kirsten Saylor (Gardening Matters)

Working Group Participants: Cara Letofsky (Mayor's Office), Ruben Acosta (City Attorney's Office), Greg Goeke (Public Works), Darrell Washington (CPED), Kaye Anderson (CPED)

Community Gardens Pilot Project City Staff and Department Leads: Kaye Anderson and Aly Pennucci, CPED

14. Convene appropriate stakeholders to discuss options for meeting insurance needs of community gardens and urban agriculture enterprises. Identify and institute strategies to assist these entities in managing liability risks.

Status: Closed until new proposed strategies or recommendations come forward

Discussions related to this topic revealed that community gardens can obtain the required \$2 million coverage in liability insurance for a fee by being added as a rider to the insurance policy of a local non-profit organization. One area of difficulty that has emerged is that many neighborhood organizations are still in the process of transitioning from \$1 million in insurance coverage to the new \$2 million requirement. In some instances, Gardening Matters has provided insurance for gardens having insurance access issues for approximately \$150. Discussion revealed general agreement that it is optimal if community gardens work with their neighborhood organization to obtain insurance rider for the purposes of building the community garden's connections and the neighborhood relationships and cooperation necessary for long-term community garden success. Though the occurrence of community garden lawsuits is very low, the discussions clarified that at this time the City is not able to justify putting taxpayers at risk by reducing the \$2 million insurance requirement.

On insurance for urban agriculture enterprises, further definition of the issues, barriers and deliverables are needed.

Staff and Departmental Lead: June Mathiowetz, Sustainability and MDHFS
Discussion participants: Kirsten Saylor (Gardening Matters), Ruben Acosta (City Attorney's Office), Darrell
Washington (CPED), Erica Prosser (Mayor's Office), Gayle Prest (Sustainability), Robin Garwood (Council Offices),
Kaye Anderson (CPED)

15. Work with landowners to identify possible soil contamination, provide education to reduce perceived barriers, develop and publicize remediation opportunities.

<u>⇔Status: Complete</u>

The City tested all of its garden plots made available through the Community Garden Pilot Program in 2010 and 2011. Results are available to gardeners. Additionally, the Urban Ag Policy Plan that passed in 2011 contained the following recommendation:

Land Availability

1.2 Assure that soil testing has taken place on all City owned lots used for community gardens. Continue to seek out resources for testing soils on City owned land.

The Twin Cities Community Land Bank received Environmental Response Fund funding in 2011 to provide small grants for environmental assessment and clean-up of property in Hennepin County through its Brownfield Gap Program. This includes analysis of soil contamination levels at proposed community garden sites. The fund is intended to be used for unexpected environmental issues, to prepare for a larger funding request in the County testing cycle, or to identify/clarify and, in some cases, remediate suspected environmental concerns. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis. Eligible community gardens sites must be either owned or controlled by a public entity or a nonprofit organization. The application asks for City approval, but formal authorization was passed by the City Council on May 13, 2011 so Minneapolis community garden applicants do not need to take additional steps to provide it. tcclandbank.org

In 2010, Groundwork Minneapolis conducted soil testing for community gardens and the City through the Environmental Response Funding.

City Staff and Department Lead: Darrell Washington, CPED

Property owners can have their soil tested for lead, salt and major nutrients by sending soil samples to the University of Minnesota's Soil Testing laboratory. Lead testing costs \$15.

Garden Soils Testing soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/garden.htm
Field Soils Testing soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/fields.htm
Soil Testing Form with Prices soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/Scans/2004LG.pdf

16. Develop and implement a Homegrown Minneapolis communications campaign to increase knowledge of, interest in, and demand for local food

In October and November of 2010, a newly formed Communications Working Group met to discuss a draft communications plan to bring awareness to Homegrown efforts in the community. The plan addresses communications objectives, messages, audiences and strategies. It was determined that this group's efforts will focus largely on people already knowledgeable about local food and average consumers who may not be currently aware of the local food initiatives that are part of Homegrown Minneapolis.

In December of 2010, the Communications Working Group played a key role in development of a four page summary communicating the work completed through the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative for the December 9th Homegrown Minneapolis stakeholder meeting. www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@health/documents/webcontent/convert_278371.pdf

In January of 2011, Megan O'Hara presented a Homegrown Minneapolis logo and tagline developed by a pro bono communications professional to the Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force. The Task Force indicated additional discussions will be needed to determine how and when the Homegrown Minneapolis logo is used.

The working group transitioned to a more community-based Communications and Community Engagement Working Group for meetings held in February and March of 2011 led by Megan O'Hara and including representation from three Minneapolis co-ops.

Working Group Conveners: Megan O'Hara, Cam Gordon, June Mathiowetz
Working Group Participants: Elizabeth Haugen, Patty Bowler, Erica Prosser, Robin Garwood, Jeremy Hanson Willis,
Emily Hause, Allie Mentzer, Elizabeth Archerd, Lisa Slick, Dan Nordley, Jan Joannides, Tom Vogel, Luna McIntyre, Liz
Morris Otto, Amy Fields, Molly Gaines, Julie Ristau

17. Ensure that city departments are aware of farmers' markets as a venue for City events and as a method of reaching targeted populations and promoting city and County services.

☼Status: Partial Progress

The City of Minneapolis sustainability website features a list of available farmers' markets along with a Google map of market locations. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/local-foods.asp The five City departments represented on the Implementation Task Force have had the opportunity to learn more about farmers' markets as an outreach opportunity through their participation and the efforts of Homegrown Minneapolis in general have increased staff awareness of farmers markets as a potential communications opportunity.

Feedback from the community indicates that the hope around this recommendation was that City departments and services might have a tent at farmers markets where all variety of information and services might be offered. The idea was to use markets as a way for agencies to reach people. The City has not obtained or designated resources for this purpose at this time. Further clarification of potential deliverables will be helpful in the future.

18. Designate a point person within the Neighborhood & Community Relations Department to address garden issues.

Status: Closed until further strategies, recommendations or funding come forward.

The Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator and Community Planning and Economic Development Department currently handle all incoming inquiries related to garden issues. Homegrown Minneapolis and City staff have opportunities to share neighborhood communication mechanisms and partner with the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department as needed. Efforts have begun to better connect the work of Homegrown with NCR. Having a specific point person in NCR has not been deemed optimal at this time.

19. Develop policies, guidelines, and partnerships to support affordable land ownership and/or affordable long-term leases for small enterprise urban agriculture on various types of land and rooftops.

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 to address how urban agriculture can be better supported in the urban environment. www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan The effort also included a land capacity analysis that primarily found that Minneapolis has sufficient developable land (public and private) to accommodate forecasted growth for at least the next 20 years. This means that both development and urban agriculture uses can be accommodated without competition.

www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/convert_261135.pdf

Additionally, the following related recommendations were included in the Urban Ag Policy Plan:

Land Use and Zoning Recommendations

- 1. Amend the zoning code to better accommodate urban agriculture uses by:
 - 1.1 Define the following terms in the zoning code: community gardens, market gardens, urban farms, and anaerobic digesters. Further evaluate the appropriate zoning districts for these uses based on the guidance below. All urban agriculture zoning code text amendments would involve consultation with technical experts.
 - Allowing market gardens to be located on rooftops and on the ground.
 - In districts typically associated with high density development such as in Downtown districts, Growth Centers, and Activity Centers, encourage gardens on rooftops or as part of development rather than on the ground as a single use.
- 2. Incorporate urban agriculture uses into long range planning efforts.
 - 2.1 Update the City's Comprehensive Plan with additional guidance related to urban agriculture.
 - **2.2** Consider opportunities for farmers' markets, urban farms, market gardens, and community gardens when small area plans are developed, particularly in under served areas.

Land Availability Recommendations

- Review City owned land inventories and consider selling or leasing more parcels that are not desirable for development but are well-suited for urban agriculture, particularly in underserved areas.
- **1.1** CPED and Public Works should work together on a land inventory review to insure a coordinated City effort. **2.** Utilize the existing land sale procedures for the consideration of the sale of land for growing and open space.
- Under the section "Suggested Future Efforts" the following were also listed:

Land Banking, Liability and Taxes -

- Explore a land bank option for community gardens and farmers' markets to manage property and ensure permanency.
- Explore tax incentives and exemptions for growing.

Community Garden Program -

- Advertise the parcels currently on the list one more time to the public.
- Before spring, reassess all parcels on the list to see if a) they are the most desirable for gardening and b) if more can be added in underserved areas.
- Consider selling some of the parcels on the list, depending on their long-term market desirability.
- Revisit the fee structure for CPED owned community garden leases.

The Urban Ag Policy Plan recommendations move to the next phase of efforts that will work out the details in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process." This second phase of efforts, the "text amendment process," is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings.

www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cped_urban_ag_zoning

Urban Ag Policy Plan Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold and Aly Pennucci, CPED Contract Manager and Department: Kristen Klingler and June Mathiowetz, MDHFS Zoning Code Text Amendment Process Staff and Department Lead: Aly Pennucci and Amanda Arnold, CPED and Robin Garwood, Council Offices

Urban Agriculture Steering Committee and Urban Agriculture Technical Advisory Team: Urban Ag Policy Plan Steering Committee: Robin Garwood (Chair), Maggi Adamek, JoAnne Berkenkamp, Patty Bowler, JobyLynn Sassily James, David Motzenbecker, David Nicholson, Bob Patton, Kirsten Saylor, Jeff Ricker

Urban Ag Policy Plan Technical Advisory Committee: Clyde Kane (Minneapolis Public Schools), Jennifer Ringold (Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board), Elizabeth Wieland (U of M Extension/Hennepin County), Courtney Tschida (University of Minnesota), Elfric Porte (City-CPED Housing), Aly Pennucci (City-CPED Planning-Zoning), Tim Jenkins (City-Regulatory Services), Greg Goeke (City-Public Works), Kristen Klingler/June Mathiowetz (City-Health and Family Support)

Land Capacity Analysis: Community Attributes International

20. Expand and promote existing City-sponsored small business financing opportunities and training/business development services to entrepreneurs interested in small-scale urban agriculture.

☆Status: Complete

The City in partnership with the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers launched the pilot Homegrown Business Development Center on April 1, 2011. The Center's \$100,000 total loan fund provides matching loans at two percent interest, up to \$10,000, and access to technical assistance, tailored to the individual needs of each business venture for businesses based in Minneapolis. On October 24, 2011 the City closed on the first Homegrown Business Development Center loan to Black Onyx Creations.

Homegrown Minneapolis Business Development Center www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/ba/cped-homegrown-business-center

The City also funded development of a "Guide to Starting a Local Food Business in Minneapolis" that was completed by Kelly Wilder. www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@health/documents/webcontent/convert 258630.pdf

City Staff and Department Lead: Jessica Green, CPED Community Partner Lead: Kris Maritz, MCCD

21. Support the development of facilities to support urban agriculture-related food aggregation, processing, distribution, food storage, and food waste management.

<u>⇔Status: Partially complete</u>

The Homegrown Business Development Center (See #20) loans support this type of development by providing needed financing to food system entrepreneurs. The City's Great Streets program has also supported businesses' development generally (See #6).

This goal needs further definition of deliverables to determine the City's further role in this.

22. Integrate farmers' markets in the city's development plans.

☆Status: On track to be completed by Spring 2012

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 to address how urban agriculture can be better supported in the urban environment. www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan Farmers' markets were addressed in the plan's recommendations as follows:

Land Availability Recommendations

2. Incorporate urban agriculture uses into long range planning efforts.

- 2.1 Update the City's Comprehensive Plan with additional guidance related to urban agriculture.
- **2.2** Consider opportunities for farmers' markets, urban farms, market gardens, and community gardens when small area plans are developed, particularly in underserved areas.
- 2.3 Consider access to farmers' markets when long range transportation planning is taking place.
- 3. Encourage innovative design in new development
 - **3.3** Where appropriate, consider the inclusion of farmers' markets and community gardens when Requests for Proposals are sought for larger-scale new development on city-owned parcels, particularly in underserved areas.

Under the section "Suggested Future Efforts" the following were also listed:

Land Banking, Liability, and Taxes -

 Explore a land bank option for community gardens and farmers' markets to manage property and ensure permanency.

The Urban Ag Policy Plan recommendations move to the next phase of efforts that will work out the details in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process." The text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings. http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cped_urban_ag_zoning

Urban Ag Policy Plan Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold and Aly Pennucci, CPED

23. Identify additional policies and incentives to encourage the establishment of new green roofs and the adaptation of existing roofs for food production.

☆Status: On track to be completed by Spring 2012

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 to address how urban agriculture can be better supported in the urban environment. www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped/urban_ag_plan Gardens roofs were addressed in this plan as follows:

Land Availability Recommendations

- 1. Amend the zoning code to better accommodate urban ag uses by:
 - **1.1** Define the following terms in the zoning code: community gardens, market gardens, urban farms, and anaerobic digesters. Further evaluate the appropriate zoning districts for these uses based on the guidance below. All urban agriculture zoning code text amendments would involve consultation with technical experts.
 - o Allowing market gardens to be located on rooftops and on the ground.
 - In districts typically associated with high density development such as in Downtown districts, Growth Centers, and Activity Centers, encourage gardens on rooftops or as part of development rather than on the ground as a single use.

Under the section "Suggested Future Efforts" the following were also listed:

Design -

Explore legislative change to make an exception for some building code requirements for rooftop growing.

Please note that discussions have clarified that private commercial roof gardens are not required to be publicly accessible, unlike public roof gardens to which the federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements apply.

The Urban Ag Policy Plan recommendations move to the next phase of efforts that will work out the details in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process." The text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings. http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cped_urban_ag_zoning

Urban Ag Policy Plan Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold and Aly Pennucci, CPED

24. Identify policies and incentives to encourage/require developers to include space for food production and distribution and composting in new developments.

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 to address how urban agriculture can be better supported in the urban environment. www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan The following related recommendations were included in the Urban Ag Policy Plan:

Land Use and Zoning Recommendations

- 1. Amend the zoning code to better accommodate urban agriculture uses.
 - **1.1** Define the following terms in the zoning code: community gardens, market gardens, urban farms, and anaerobic digesters. Further evaluate the appropriate zoning districts for these uses based on the guidance below. All urban agriculture zoning code text amendments would involve consultation with technical experts.
 - o In districts typically associated with high density development such as in Downtown districts, Growth Centers, and Activity Centers, encourage gardens on rooftops or as part of development rather than on the ground as a single use.
 - Allow urban farms in Industrial districts and some Commercial districts.
 - o Examine which Industrial districts are appropriate for anaerobic digesters.
 - 1.9 Explore incentives for installation of gardens as an interim use on stalled development sites.
- 2. Incorporate urban agriculture uses into long range planning efforts.
 - 2.1 Update the City's Comprehensive Plan with additional guidance related to urban agriculture.
 - **2.2** Consider opportunities for farmers markets, urban farms, market gardens, and community gardens when small area plans are developed, particularly in under served areas.
- 3. Encourage innovative design in new development
 - 3.1 Encourage the planting of produce as part of the required landscaping in new developments.
 - **3.2** Explore opportunities for an urban agriculture demonstration project that incorporates new development and growing or the creative reuse of land.

Under the section "Suggested Future Efforts" the following were also listed:

Land Banking, Liability, and Taxes -

Explore tax incentives and exemptions for growing.

Design -

Explore legislative change to make an exception for some building code requirements for rooftop growing.

The Urban Ag Policy Plan recommendations move to the next phase of efforts that will work out the details in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process." The zoning code text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings. http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cped_urban_ag_zoning

Urban Ag Policy Plan Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold and Alv Pennucci. CPED

25. Develop an overarching policy framework that establishes a citywide vision and support for urban agriculture (i.e. urban food production and distribution); inventories public and private land available and suitable for urban agriculture or food distribution; and makes readily available land more accessible for these purposes.

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 to address how urban agriculture can be better supported in the urban environment. . www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan

The plan's development was funded by the Department of Health and Family Support through a Statewide Health Improvement Program grant, and led by the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development. To guide this effort, a Steering Committee (consisting of key City staff and community leaders) was convened in December 2009 and a Technical Advisory Team (consisting of topical experts) was convened in January 2010. These two committees met approximately monthly throughout 2010. In addition, a series of topical discussions were held in the summer and fall of 2010 to discuss land use related issues raised during the first phase of Homegrown Minneapolis and to help shape the plan recommendations.

Many issues covered in the plan provide background information and address a variety of topics related to urban agriculture, but the recommendations focus primarily on land use related actions. The plan serves as a policy document to be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan. With the goal of promoting urban agriculture, it examines existing urban agriculture policies and facilities (farmers' markets, community gardens, etc.), outlines issues

and opportunities (organized by the plan goals outlined by the steering committee), and presents a series of recommendations to be pursued. www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/convert_281459.pdf

Key recommendations of the plan include: defining several urban agriculture related activities, such as market gardens and urban farms, in the zoning code and altering some of the existing zoning that related to community gardens and farmers' markets; incorporating urban agriculture into long range planning and encouraging it to be integrated with new construction projects as appropriate; and reviewing the City owned land inventory to make land that is not desirable for development, but well-suited for urban agriculture available.

In addition, the effort included a land capacity analysis that primarily found Minneapolis has sufficient developable land (public and private) to accommodate forecasted growth for the next 20 years. This means that both development and urban agriculture uses can be accommodated without competition.

www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/convert_261135.pdf

The next phase of efforts that will work out the details of some the report's recommendations in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process" led by the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (Aly Pennucci) has begun. The text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings. Other recommendations will be addressed as part of ongoing City land management and development review and as part of ongoing Homegrown Minneapolis efforts.

City Staff and Department Lead for the Urban Ag Policy Plan: Amanda Arnold, CPED City Staff and Department Lead for the Zoning Code Text Amendment Process: Aly Pennucci, CPED

In addition to the Urban Ag Policy Plan's efforts to create an overarching policy framework for urban agriculture, institutional support from the City for Homegrown's vision is evident in City goals and strategic directions: *Jobs and Economic Vitality* (epicenter for the new green jobs economy, proactive business development in key growth areas); *Eco-Focused* (locally grown food available and chosen, use less energy, produce less waste); *Livable Communities, Healthy Lives* (thoughtful neighborhood design with density done right, healthy choices are easy and economical); and *A City That Works* (shared democracy that empowers residents as valued partners, strong partnerships with parks, schools, government, nonprofits and private sector).

26. Review, and revise when necessary, city zoning codes to support local food production and distribution, including urban agricultural land uses and related infrastructure.

☆Status: On track to be completed by Spring 2012

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 and addresses how City zoning codes can be improved to better support urban agriculture in an urban environment. www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan (See #25 for more Urban Ag Policy Plan detail.) Zoning code issues were specifically addressed in the plan's recommendations as follows:

- 1. Amend the zoning code to better accommodate urban agriculture uses.
 - 1.1 Define the following terms in the zoning code: community gardens, market gardens, urban farms, and anaerobic digesters. Further evaluate the appropriate zoning districts for these uses based on the guidance below. All urban agriculture zoning code text amendments would involve consultation with technical experts.
 - Allow market gardens in a variety of zoning districts
 - Set a maximum lot area and other performance standards for market gardens so the use fits into a neighborhood context.
 - O Establish standards for market gardens similar to or more stringent than those that have been established for community gardens, including no retail sales onsite, except as a temporary use, no overhead lighting, signage limited to a single, non-illuminated flat sign of four square feet, and no more than two vehicles parked on-site, excluding those parked within an enclosed structure.
 - Allow market gardens to be located on rooftops and on the ground.
 - o In districts typically associated with high density development such as in Downtown districts, Growth Centers, and Activity Centers, encourage gardens on rooftops or as part of development rather than on the ground as a single use.
 - Allow urban farms in Industrial districts and some Commercial districts.
 - Examine which Industrial districts are appropriate for anaerobic digesters.
 - 1.2 Further study aquaculture and aquaponics with the goal of developing a zoning code definition.

- 1.3 Amend the development standards for community gardens to allow for larger, more visible signage and community bulletin boards within the garden areas, larger hoop houses, and the periodic sale of produce.
- 1.4 Amend signage regulations to allow temporary farmers' market signs (for local produce markets) to remain onsite all year, but require that the sign be removed after a farmers' market closes permanently.
- 1.5 Change the list of permitted obstructions in the front yard set back to allow for planting beds in front yards. A maximum height for the beds and minimum setbacks from the property lines should be determined.
- 1.6 Make provisions for trellises designed for growing food.
- 1.7 Change the home occupation standards to allow growing as an outdoor operation.
- 1.8 Amend the accessory use standards to include a hoop house as an enumerated accessory use with development standards, including size and height requirements for hoop houses specifically.
- 1.9 Explore incentives for installation of gardens as an interim use on stalled development sites.

The Urban Ag Policy Plan recommendations move to the next phase of efforts that will work out the details in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process." The text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings.

Urban Ag Policy Plan Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold, CPED

27. Ease rules and regulations related to farmers' market and community garden signage.

☆Status: On track to be completed by Spring 2012.

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan passed the City Council in April of 2011 and addresses farmers' markets and community garden signage as follows:

- 1. Amend the zoning code to better accommodate urban agriculture uses.
 - 1.3 Amend the development standards for community gardens to allow for larger, more visible signage and community bulletin boards within the garden areas, larger hoop houses, and the periodic sale of produce.

 1.4 Amend signage regulations to allow temporary farmers' market signs (for local produce markets) to remain onsite all year, but require that the sign be removed after a farmers' market closes permanently.

Under the section "Suggested Future Efforts" the following were also listed:

Marketing and Branding -

• Create universal signage (like the "P" for public Parking) to direct people to farmers' markets.

The Urban Ag Policy Plan recommendations move to the next phase of efforts that will work out the details in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process." The text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings. http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cped_urban_ag_zoning

Urban Ag Policy Plan Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold and Aly Pennucci, CPED

28. Increase the local, healthy food served at City-controlled facilities.

☆Status: In progress

A Local and Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy Working Group focused on researching and developing a local and sustainable food purchasing policy for the City met on December of 2010 and February and June of 2011. The group is in the process of developing recommendations and next steps for the City in defining a preference for local and sustainable foods and developing the criteria and tools to assist in the procurement of those foods. Minutes to these meetings can be found on the Homegrown Minneapolis website.. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/hgminutes.asp

Working Group Convener: Kelly Wilder

Working Group Participants: Aliyah Ali, Cam Gordon, David Schlueter, David Nicholson, Emily Stern, Erica Prosser, Gayle Prest, Greg Goeke, Jean Poppen, June Mathiowetz, Neisha Reynolds, Rhys Williams, Jennifer Sheets

Additionally in 2011, the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support moved a Healthy Food Policy through the City Council on which the Local and Sustainable Working Group's efforts will build:

www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-081644.pdf www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-081643.pdf

29. Facilitate the implementation and evaluation of a citywide Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) and/or Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) system that will allow residents to use food stamps at any farmers' market or farm stand in the city.

<u>☆Status: In progress</u> (See also #10)

The Department of Health and Family Support contracted with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) to conduct research into best practices, challenges, and opportunities for implementing a citywide EBT system in all Minneapolis farmers' markets. The City helped launch EBT at the Minneapolis and Northeast Farmers' markets during 2010, making healthy food more accessible to low-income residents. The City also funded a Market Bucks incentive program to increase the purchasing power of EBT users at these two markets. Additionally, Blue Cross Blue Shield funded Market Bucks at the Midtown Farmers' market in 2010. An analysis of the 2010 EBT efforts was completed by IATP in 2011. . iatp.org/files/Evaluation%200f%202010%20Minneapolis%20EBT%20Pilot%20--%20IATP.pdfThe Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support completed a summary of lessons learned in June of 2011. . iatp.org/files/Evaluation%200f%202010%20Minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@health/documents/webcontent/wcms1q-068667.pdf

FMNP was citywide to the extent possible under state guidelines prior to Homegrown Minneapolis and doesn't actually require a "system."

City Staff and Department Lead: Kristen Klingler and Alison Moore, MDHFS

30. Identify a point-person (or team) to work on all aspects of local foods.

☆Status: Complete

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support took on the role of providing internal institutional (City) leadership for the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative in fall of 2008 through March of 2012. The City's Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator has served as the coordinator of the Homegrown Minneapolis local food efforts, manager of various contracts, and provided staffing for the Implementation Task Force and various working groups and discussions. Kristen Klingler served as Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator as an intern on loan from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from the project's inception in December of 2008 until July 2010 and June Mathiowetz from July 2010 through March of 2012. Additionally, Sarah Stewart and Meredith Schoenfeld Hicks (MDHFS) provided essential project evaluation expertise and monitoring of the Local Foods Resource Hubs Network. These City staff along with certain Homegrown Minneapolis projects were funded by grants through State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) and Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) funds during the last three years of Homegrown Minneapolis. No City General Fund tax dollars directly supported the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative to date. The City continues its efforts to find funding for the position beyond March of 2012.

City Staff and Department Lead: Gretchen Musicant and Patty Bowler, MDHFS
Homegrown Minneapolis Interns December 2008-March 2012: Kelly Wilder, Greg Schweser, Emily Hause, Meredith Schoenfeld Hicks, Erin Swenson-Klatt

31. Develop web-based resources that provide a one-stop-shop for information about urban agriculture enterprise development, City regulations/policies, business development services and other resources.

☼Status: Complete and ongoing

Currently, the Homegrown Minneapolis website content is managed by the Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator and provides updates, minutes, press releases, reports and other information related to the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative. The Homegrown Minneapolis Communications Working Group continues to explore the possibility of further website development and funding.

City Staff and Department Lead: Kristen Klingler, June Mathiowetz, Diane Haugesaug, Emily Hause, MDHFS Communications Working Group Convener: Megan O'Hara

32. Develop an internal farmers' market coordinating entity that is directed by an external advisory board made up of farmers' markets representatives and farmers.

☆Status: In progress

A Farmers Market Working group was convened in May of 2010 to explore the potential benefits and means of creating a farmers market collaborative entity for Minneapolis and will continue meeting into the future. The City applied for funding through the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program in fall of 2011 to advance these farmers markets organizing efforts, but did not receive funding.

Working Group Conveners: David Nicholson, Robin Garwood, Tim Jenkins
Working Group Participants: Aaron Reser (Mill City Farmers Market manager), Erica Prosser (Mayor's Office),
Jim Topie (MDA), Madeline Kastler (IATP), Migdalia Loyola (BCBS), Patty Bowler (MDHFS), Sarah Aughenbaugh,
MDHS, June Mathiowetz (MDHFS)

33. Improve motorized and non-motorized transportation options to increase utilization of and access to markets.

☆Status: In progress

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/plans/cped_urban_ag_plan passed by the City Council in April of 2011 contained the following provision related to transportation:

Land Use and Zoning

Incorporate urban agriculture uses into long range planning efforts.
 Consider access to farmers' markets when long range transportation planning is taking place.

The Urban Ag Policy Plan recommendations move to the next phase of efforts that will work out the details in what is called a "zoning code text amendment process." The text amendment process is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 growing season and will involve further public meetings.

Urban Ag Policy Plan Staff and Department Lead: Amanda Arnold and Aly Pennucci, CPED

34. Broaden business types that can sell whole local foods.

<u>⇔Status: Not yet addressed</u>

35. Modify the existing regulatory environment to allow for most flexible use of market sites for the common good.

☼Status: Not yet addressed

This recommendation related to a desire to allow market vendors (except immediately consumable food vendors) to vend from the grass as allowed in many other parts of the state.

36. Design new City buildings with the capacity for food production where appropriate and feasible.

☼Status: Not yet addressed

37. Commission a study on the local foods value chain. Use the results of the study on the local food value chain to attract new businesses to fill the necessary market niches.

38. Require and/or incentivize non-public institutions to offer local foods.

☼Status: Not yet addressed

The City is exploring development of its own local and sustainable food purchasing policy as a first step and model. (See #28)

39. Create a "healthy/sustainable food" public-private fund that finances small enterprise urban agriculture as well as food distribution, storage, processing, retail, food waste management enterprises, etc.

☆Status: Not vet addressed

The City did establish a new Homegrown Minneapolis Business Development Center. (See #20)

40. Identify and help secure 5-6 sites for the permanent establishment of each of the several existing farmers' markets and the additional establishment of a farmers' market(s) in an area currently underserved.

☆Status: Not yet addressed

The City has provided resources for the early stage start up and promotion of mini farmers' markets in Minneapolis. (See #47)

41. Explore establishing tax incentives for private land owners to lease land to urban farmers, including creating an agricultural tax status for private land use for urban agriculture purposes.

☆Status: Not yet addressed

42. Support the expansion/development of a composting infrastructure in the Twin Cities to ensure access to affordable sources of compost for home, community, and school gardens, and urban agriculture enterprises.

The City expanded the source-separated organics recycling program to include all of Linden Hills and East Calhoun neighborhoods and parts of Cooper, Hiawatha, Howe, Longfellow, Phillips and Seward in 2011. It is scheduled to go citywide by 2013. The City also supplied 54 gardens community gardens with more than 700 cubic yards of free and reduced-rate compost for food growing in 2009 and more than 45 gardens with 285 cubic yards in 2011. Due to a change in vendor agreements, gardeners are now charged a fee for City compost. The compost is tested and results are available to gardeners. The City's vendor currently tests for barium, chromium, lead, silver, mercury, arsenic, cadmium and selenium.

City Staff and Department Lead: Susan Young and Jeff Jenks, Public Works

Additional research is underway to explore potential changes to the City's composting regulations. (See #13)

City Staff and Department Lead: Robin Garwood, Council Staff

43. Support goals of Homegrown Minneapolis through the state and federal legislative agenda.

☆Status: Complete

For the past two years, language supporting healthy, local sustainable food systems has been submitted to the Council for consideration for its State legislative agenda. For 2011, the following language appeared in the City's State legislative agenda:

- Support efforts that will remove barriers and provide incentives for expanding local food production, thereby increasing our food security, expanding green jobs, and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Support efforts to shift to a more sustainable food system that will increase consumption of healthy foods, thereby improving nutrition and reducing obesity and chronic disease.
- Support efforts to ensure equitable distribution of food and expand access to healthy, sustainably produced, locally grown food for people with low incomes.

City Staff and Departmental Lead: June Mathiowetz, Sustainability and MDHFS, and Patty Bowler, MDHFS

44. Advocate for State and Met Council policies that support the overall goals of Homegrown Minneapolis.

☆Status: Not vet addressed

45. Develop neighborhood-level capacity, education, and tools to increase food production.

⇔Status: Complete

A Local Food Resource Hubs Network, a new initiative of the City of Minneapolis, community partners and Gardening Matters, has been under development since July of 2010. Based on a model from Detroit, the network is designed to improve residents' access to the seeds, tools, education and connections needed to grow food successfully. It is anticipated that the project will increase residents' food growing and preparation competencies, improve health through increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables and more physical activity, improve the environment by increased composting of organic waste and decreased food miles traveled, lead to more gardeners becoming urban farmers and small business owners, and improve community connectedness. It is a multi-faceted community and economic development strategy that also uniquely benefits the health of people in Minneapolis by increasing overall access to healthier, sustainable, locally grown food.

The Network is made up of hubs — which are not physical locations, but rather partnerships of individuals, businesses and community organizations — that are now serving residents and community gardens in three pilot areas in Minneapolis: North Minneapolis, Powderhorn/Central and West Phillips/Ventura Village.

For the first year of the project approximately 600 membership spots were filled on a first-come, first-served basis by residents joining a Hub and selecting one of three types of membership: \$10 for a household garden, \$30 for a community garden or nonprofit, or \$10 for an advocate. Household members received 20 packets of seeds and 28 seedlings and community-garden members received 60 packets of seeds and 84 seedlings at two distribution events that took place in April and May of 2011. Classes to train members on various aspects of food growing including soil preparation and food preservation skills were held through the spring, summer and fall. On October 25, 2011, the project's first annual membership meeting was held. A Task Force has guided the Network's efforts over the project's development and transitioned to a Stewardship Council in October 2011. An additional hub is scheduled to be added before December of 2012. More information about the Network can be found on Gardening Matters website. info@gardeningmatters.org.

The Local Food Resource Hubs Network was made possible by funding through the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support from the Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

City Staff and Departmental Leads: June Mathiowetz, Kristen Klingler, Patty Bowler, MDHFS Evaluation Leads: Sarah Stewart (MDHFS), Meredith Hicks (MDHFS graduate intern), Sarah Eichberger (Gardening Matters intern)

LFRHN Project Administrator: Nadja Berneche, Lena Rodriguez, and Kirsten Saylor, Gardening Matters

LFRHN Task Force Members: Ana Micka; Patty Bowler, Colin Cureton, Collie Graddick, Jeanette Lieberman, Julie Ristau, June Mathiowetz, Marie Mossman, Mustafa Sundiata, Nancy Ward, Rachel Henderson, Russ Henry, Shelley Sherman, Susan Young, Vienna Rothberg, Kim Knutson and Ramla Bile

46. Build relationships with rural and peri-urban partners to provide educational and marketing opportunities for new farmers; support preservation and increased access to farmland; develop food systems infrastructure to link rural and urban producers and consumers.

☼Status: Not yet addressed

47. Make local foods more available in communities that have not historically had good access to healthy foods.

The City created the concept of a mini market in City ordinances and provided resources for the early stage start up and promotion of mini farmers' markets in Minneapolis. The number of mini farmers' markets more than tripled over two years by 2010 through the continued work of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. In 2011, there were 19 mini markets and 16 full markets operating in Minneapolis. These markets help bring food to areas with reduced access and help increase awareness of farmers' markets overall.

Additionally, a Food Access Working Group met from December 2009 through December 2010 to discuss and address recommendations related to food access including a citywide EBT system in farmers' markets and promotion of farmers' markets.

Working Group Conveners: Rose Brewer, University of Minnesota-Extension, and Alison Moore, MDHFS

48. Facilitate an increase in the racial and ethnic diversity of vendors and customers at farmers' markets.

☼Status: Not yet addressed

49. Establish a youth gardener coordinator position.

☼Status: Not yet addressed

50. Explore potential development of an urban agriculture/garden center with neighborhood clusters to demonstrate neighborhood-based food production projects and link together organizations and resources.

<u>⇔Status: Not yet addressed</u>

51. Convene an annual Twin Cities food summit.

☆Status: Not yet addressed

52. Work with partners to support the development and use of gardens in school curriculum and after-school programs and identify where community-school-led partnerships could enhance or ensure success of projects.

☆Status: Not yet addressed

53. Help develop the City's organic composting infrastructure by establishing household or communal composting systems that train residents and feed the finished product into the community.

54. Define and address obstacles to increasing local food offered in other non City-owned facilities.

☆Status: Not yet addressed

55. Support or provide a "match-making" service to connect people seeking land with property owners.

☆Status: Complete

The City funded development of the Yards to Gardens website through the City's Climate Change Grants process to connect people who are looking for gardening space or other resources with people who have space or other resources (compost, expertise, tools, etc.). www.y2g.org/

City Staff and Departmental Lead: Gayle Prest, City Coordinator-Sustainability Website development: Jesse Eustis

56. Conduct a listening campaign in marginalized communities to understand the interests, needs and ideas related to accessing healthy foods and accessing land and growing healthy foods.

Julie Ristau worked with students in a sustainability class at the University of Minnesota to develop a video method for potentially conducting a listening campaign. Students interviewed approximately 15 people connected to the food system and edited the video as an example that could be further expanded. The videos were shared with the Homegrown Minneapolis Task Force for further consideration as a tool to be used for future engagement and story telling efforts.

57. Support expanded access to tools and small food production equipment for small enterprise urban ag.

☆Status: In progress

As part of the Local Food Resource Hubs Network (See #45), members will eventually be able to check out gardening tools and food preservation equipment through their local hubs.