



December 2011

## What is Homegrown Minneapolis?

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

Hundreds of Minneapolis residents, City staff and policymakers have made recommendations, kicked off projects and improved City processes related to local food including gardens, farmers markets, urban agriculture, small business startups, and many other areas.

The collaborative efforts are promoting health, protecting the environment, increasing economic vitality, expanding social connectedness and improving food security. City staff and policymakers have increased their understanding of the community's needs while the community has expanded its understanding of local government. This is improving our ability to plan for our food future together and ensure it is more sustainable, healthy and local.

[www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp)

### Phase II Report

# Homegrown Minneapolis Initiative

Collaborating for a More Healthy, Sustainable, Local Food System



## Homegrown Minneapolis efforts have:

### Increased access to land for food growing

Adopted an Urban Agriculture Policy Plan in 2011, a land use and development plan that provides a framework for commercial and non-commercial growing in Minneapolis. A second phase is under way and the final result will be a slate of zoning code amendments presented to the City Council in early 2012. Final adoption of these revisions will permanently change the zoning code to ease the way for urban agriculture.

Made 18 plots on City land available to residents for community gardening. Seven have been leased to date. Worked with Hennepin County to test the soil on all sites and made improvements to the community garden application and leasing process.

### Developed neighborhood-level capacity to increase food production

Developed the Local Food Resource Hubs Network in partnership with Gardening Matters and others to improve residents' access to the seeds, tools, education and connections needed to grow food successfully. Four pilot hubs with more than 600 members have been established.

### Expanded food support at farmers markets

Made healthy food accessible to more residents by expanding Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) and Market Bucks (coupons worth \$5 of free produce) to the Minneapolis Farmers Market and Northeast Minneapolis Farmers Market in 2010 and West Broadway Outdoor Market, Brian Coyle and Augsburg markets in 2011. Midtown Farmers Market also continues to accept EBT. In 2010 and 2011, the markets received more than \$90,000 in EBT sales and Market Bucks redemptions, circulating federal food support into the local economy.

### Supported farmers markets

Created City ordinances to allow mini markets and provided resources for their development and promotion in the city. Efforts of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and host organizations have resulted in 19 new mini markets in the City. Additionally, Brian Coyle and Augsburg mini markets expanded to full markets in 2011. There were 35 full and mini farmers markets in the City during 2011, supporting local farmers and providing access to fresh, healthy local foods throughout the City.



### Provided support for food entrepreneurs

Partnered with the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers to pilot a Homegrown Business Development Center. The center provides technical assistance and low interest financing to Minneapolis based businesses manufacturing local food products.

### Upgraded City ordinances

Passed food-related ordinance changes allowing beekeeping and indoor farmers markets in the city, allowing grocery stores to host farmers market vendors, requiring all corner stores to offer at least five varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables, and allowing mobile food vendors to sell non-packaged food. At the request of the farmers market community, farmers market ordinances were also 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.

### Developed infrastructure to support community based food preservation

Funded development of a Food Preservation Network that trained 19 community food preservation guides to provide canning instruction. Coordinated 10 community Can Alongs for 125 participants who collectively canned hundreds of pounds of locally grown produce.

Completed a community kitchen inventory identifying more than 50 commercial and non-commercial kitchens available for use by residents.

### Supported youth development and training

Homegrown Minneapolis helped start the EMERGE youth community garden in north Minneapolis – a garden focused on teaching teens about local food growing and sustainability – through the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program.

### Launched a Food Council

Established a new City-community Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council to begin in January 2012.

### Expanded composting

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. The City also supplied community gardens with more than 985 cubic yards of free and reduced-rate compost for food growing in 2010 and 2011. The compost is tested and results are available to gardeners.

### Developed a local food sustainability indicator

Adopted a local food indicator as part of the City's annual sustainability reporting. The proposed targets being presented to the City Council in January 2012 for adoption are:

*Increase food producing gardens in the city by 1 acre by 2014, using 14 acres in 2011 as the baseline.*

*All Minneapolis residents live within a 1/4 mile of a healthy food source (full service grocery stores, enhanced corner stores, farmers markets or community gardens) by 2015.*

### Increased fruit trees in the City

Planted 860 fruit trees around the city as part of the City Trees program between 2009-2011.

### Supported community supported agriculture

Worked with a local farmer for a third year to arrange a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop-off site near City Hall for employees.



For more information, visit Homegrown Minneapolis: [www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp)

A special thank you to everyone that donated their personal time to making Minneapolis a better place to live through this initiative. Homegrown Minneapolis is currently based in the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support. The Minnesota Department of Health's Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funded the Local Food Resource Hubs Network, EBT and Market Bucks. The Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Program funded the Urban Ag Policy Plan, EBT, the Food Preservation Network and the Community Kitchens Inventory. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota provided funding for Food Council development and Market Bucks. All other work has been completed through community partnerships and business processes of City of Minneapolis departments and staff.



Minneapolis **Health & Family Support**

Call **311** or visit [www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov)

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