





### homegrown minneapolis

### Dear community members,

oday marks the start of a third year for Homegrown Minneapolis!
Hundreds of Minneapolis residents have been drawn into this local food system work and together - community members working side-by-side with City staff - have raised questions and addressed issues related to food and its connection to health, sustainability, land use, farmers markets, urban agriculture, small business startups, and many other areas.

We can celebrate that these efforts have already increased and improved the growing, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods in the City of Minneapolis. Over the last two years, Homegrown Minneapolis efforts have:

- Amended City ordinances and regulations and promoted policies to allow beekeeping and indoor farmers markets.
- Released the first draft of the urban agriculture policy plan for public comment following a 10 month planning effort and land capacity analysis.
- Kicked off the development of Food Preservation and Local Food Resource Networks.
- Developed a small business training and financing resource guide to support people interested in starting up food-related businesses.

While we celebrate these advances, we also recognize there is more to do. The obesity epidemic, climate change, the accumulation of toxins in the environment and the struggles of farmers signal more changes are needed. We will continue working on these challenges together.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has shown up at meetings; contributed your thoughts, observations and recommendations so constructively; worked through the challenges of understanding new perspectives and reached out your hand to bring new people on board. Your efforts have strengthened the social fabric of this city and improved our future capacity to work together on even bigger challenges.

Sincerely,

Mayor R.T. Rybak

Council Member Cam Gordon



In coordination with partners and residents in 2009 and 2010, the City:

- Created a community garden application and lease and streamlined processes to make it easier for residents to start up gardens. Approximately 100 community gardens on 18 acres of land are growing food in the city each year.
- Made 18 plots on City land newly available to residents for community gardening. Five have been leased to date.
- Planted 275 fruit trees around the city as part of the City Trees program.
- Developed a draft Urban Agriculture Policy Plan, a land use and development plan that will provide a policy framework for commercial and noncommercial urban agriculture. The plan is available for public comment until Jan. 31, 2011.
  - www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban ag plan.asp
- Started the EMERGE Youth Community Garden in north Minneapolis – a garden focused on teaching teens about local food production and sustainability through the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program.

## work it!

- Funded development of a Food Preservation **Network** that trained 19 community food preservation guides to provide canning instruction and coordinate food preservation events at six locations for more than 81 participants in 2010. More trainings and events are planned for 2011.
- Funded development of a Local Food Resource Network. This network will link residents, gardeners and entrepreneurs to more easily access seeds, seedlings, education and tools needed for food growing, preservation, distribution and waste management.
- Provided resources for mini farmers markets and their promotion in the city. The number of mini farmers markets has more than tripled to 21 markets over the last two years. These markets help bring food to areas with reduced access.

### homegrown minneapolis

is a citywide initiative to develop recommendations and implement strategies to increase and improve the growing, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.



- Helped the Minneapolis and Northeast Farmers Markets launch Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), making healthy food accessible to more residents. The City funded a short-term Market Bucks incentive program this summer 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.
- Worked with a local farmer to arrange a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop-off site near City Hall for employees.
- Completed an inventory documenting the more than 30 **community kitchens** available throughout the city for use by residents.

## reuse it!

- Expanded the source-separated organics recycling program to include five neighborhoods: Linden Hills East Calhoun, Seward, Longfellow and parts of Phillips.
- Supplied 54 gardens with more than 700 cubic yards of free and reduced-rate **compost** for food growing in 2009. The compost is tested before distribution and results are available to gardeners.
- Installed raised gardening beds made of recycled materials at 11 fire stations and provided soil for gardens at five other stations.
- Funded development of the Yards to Gardens website through the City's Climate Change Grant 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.).



#### homegrown website www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp

#### Recent food-related ordinance changes

- 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. Most corner stores are required to offer at least five varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- 5. Mobile food vendors can sell non-packaged food in downtown for the first time.

# next steps

Many food-related projects continue to emerge across the city. Here are some ways you can join us!

- The Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation
   Task Force continues to meet the third Wednesday of every month at 3 p.m. You are welcome to attend.
   Contact: June Mathiowetz at 612-673-2027
- Review and provide feedback on the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan by Jan. 31, 2011. Contact: Amanda Arnold at 612-673-3242 www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban ag plan.asp
- A working group is exploring how the city can work with institutional partners to increase local food purchasing. If this topic interests you, please join us. Contact: Kelly Wilder at 612-963-2889
- Organize a community garden on one of the City's garden plots. Visit the Homegrown Minneapolis website for a map of



available locations.

Contact: *Aly Pennucci at 612-673-5342* www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp

- The City's Community Planning and Economic
  Development Department is developing a pilot
  Homegrown Business Development Center to
  support emerging local food-related enterprises
  with up to \$10,000 in low-interest loans during 2011.
  Contact: Bob Lind or Jessica Green at 612-673-5232
- A working group is convening farmers market managers to develop a set of changes to **farmers market regulations**. If this topic interests you, please join us. Contact: *Robin Garwood at 612-673-3654*

**Homegrown Minneapolis** is a City and community partnership. Many of its projects are funded by the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support's (MDHFS) Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Community Putting Prevention to Work grant funding.

 If you have ideas about data-based measures that could be used to track progress around foodrelated efforts



or want to weigh in on initial local food sustainability targets drafted by a working group, please be in touch. Contact: *June Mathiowetz at 612-673-2027* 

- The source-separated organics composting program is scheduled to go citywide by 2013.
   Questions? Contact: Susan Young at 612-673-2433
- The current Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation
  Task Force expires in July 2011. Discussions are under
  way to establish a third phase local food policy entity.
  If you would like to offer recommendations about the
  design of that entity, please contact us. Contacts:
  Julie Ristau and June Mathiowetz at 612-673-2027
- To learn more about or become a member of the Local Food Resource Network, go to the Gardening Matters website.
   Contact: Nadja Bernache at 612-492-8964 www.gardeningmatters.org
- The Food Preservation Network plans to increase its number of trainers, provide more canning events, develop an equipment lending library and offer instruction in Spanish and Somali. To learn more, go to the Food Preservation Network website. Contact: Ana Micka at 612-741-6437 www.foodpreservationnetwork.net



#### City of Minneapolis

For more information call **612-673-2027** or visit **www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us** 

If you need this material in an alternative format please call 612-673-2301. Deaf and hard-of-hearing people call 311 agents at 612-673-2301. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

**Attention-** If you have any questions regarding this material please call 612-673-2027. **Hmong -** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800. **Spanish -** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700. **Somali -** Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.