

TITLE PAGE

MINNEAPOLIS FOOD PLAN

2023

BANNER QUOTE

The Minneapolis Food Plan is a roadmap developed by people who live and work in Minneapolis. Designed to create a resilient, equitable local food system, it provides tools, resources, proven policy strategies, and examples of innovative initiatives that can be deployed at a municipal level.

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INSERT BANNER QUOTE AS DESIGN ELEMENT ON THIS PAGE:

The City of Minneapolis is proud to be part of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), an international agreement among cities across the globe to develop just, resilient local food systems. Using a human rights-based framework, each participating city develops a plan to provide healthy and affordable food for everyone in their community, minimize food waste, and care for the environment, while addressing the impacts of climate change.

ENDORSEMENT

In partnership with more than one thousand people who live and work in Minneapolis, we are pleased to share the Minneapolis Food Plan (MFP). Created collectively with many community-based organizations, food systems advocates and leaders, residents, and members of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, this Plan reflects priorities and strategies that will foster a resilient, just, and vital food system for our entire city. Our municipal government is best when we all work together to create an inspiring and equitable vision for our food future.

Far and wide, the City of Minneapolis is known for its dynamic and diverse culinary scene; a thriving context for cooperatively owned grocers that support nearby farmers; the high caliber, culturally competent, best practices approach to our hunger relief system; numerous farmers markets of all sizes; many gardeners and food entrepreneurs; an amazing ecosystem of non-profit organizations, public sector agencies, and programs that work on an array of food systems issues; and the ongoing collaborative spirit of many people and partners who care deeply about community, resilience, food, agriculture, and gastronomy. Our urban food system is a national exemplar, and we work hard to make it that way. But there's always more work to be done!

As part of a global movement of cities committed to advancing equity and climate resilience via our local food system, we're proud of ideas contributed by so many people contained in this Plan. We believe that the power of communities working locally across the world will meaningfully move the dial on food justice and environmental sustainability. Like many other cities across the United States, our Plan enables us to successfully address food-related issues in a strategic, lasting way.

Our efforts to implement MFP will strengthen our city's food system, providing equitable access to healthy food for the entire community; growing our local food production and distribution infrastructure; reducing our food waste; and laying a groundwork for a healthy and just future.

Together and individually, many agencies, organizations, partners, and people within and beyond city government will carry out these strategies between now and 2033. Successful implementation will take alignment and cooperation among these players and the many efforts across our community and commercial sector. Completion of the strategies described in the Minneapolis Food Plan will require your support and involvement to ensure a healthy, equitable, and climate resilient city and food system.

We invite you to become involved!

Homegrown Minneapolis, an initiative of the City of Minneapolis, will provide oversight and necessary coordination to support successful execution of the Plan. We'll use a carefully developed measurement effort to determine our progress, assess our impact, and hold us collectively accountable to fulfilling the Plan's goals.

To all who participated in helping shape this Plan and to all who will help implement it, we appreciate your leadership and commitment to our city and food system.

In partnership,

Marcus Kar and Jenny Breen

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Co-Chairs

Andrea Jenkins, President, Minneapolis City Council

Jacob Frey, Mayor, City of Minneapolis

SETTING THE CONTEXT

Home to some of the largest food and agriculture enterprises in the world, Minneapolis is globally recognized as an international food systems leader. Minneapolis is also widely known for its longstanding commitment to and innovation in local food systems. The launch of the Minneapolis Food Plan is just one milestone in a long, deep, and rich history of a thriving local food system:

- We are proud of our ecosystem of cooperatively owned local grocery stores that support local growers and food entrepreneurs, sustainable agriculture, and healthy lifestyles, grounded in an abiding cultural commitment to cooperative businesses in Minnesota
- We have a dynamic network of large and small farmers markets alike, supported by passionate shoppers who value their relationships with local growers. Customers of all incomes shop at Minneapolis farmers markets, as low-income residents can use their SNAP and WIC benefits and ‘market bucks’ that provide matching dollars to purchase healthy items. These markets also feature many new immigrant and Black, Indigenous, and other vendors of color.
- We have a longstanding and growing base of restaurants and institutional food services committed to buying healthy items from nearby farmers and locally owned food enterprises.
- We have an expanding network of people, organizations, and enterprises growing and making food in the city for local eaters.
- We excel at organizing community members to advance our shared interests around growing and protecting our local food system, such as our successful advocacy to create a statewide grant program for urban agriculture at the state department of agriculture.

The development of the Minneapolis Food Plan is grounded in this context and has also occurred during a profoundly difficult chapter in the history of our city, one where nearly everything seems different than before. As the first phase of this effort, the community engagement process began:

... before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated existing inequities in access to affordable, healthy food; resulted in supply chain problems that led to food shortages; and caused closures of restaurants, layoffs of food and farm workers, and outbreaks in food processing plants

... before City of Minneapolis police officers murdered George Floyd, resulting in the destruction of many key food sources during the related civil unrest and a worldwide uprising that demanded profound and real remedies to racial injustices

... before the dramatic uptick in inflation caused major increases in food, housing, and energy prices, generating real challenges for people in meeting their basic food needs

Times continue to be unpredictable, challenging, and difficult for many. Yet these crises also fostered creativity and connection in our local food system. Our community stepped up to fill

gaps and grow good. Pop-up food distribution sites that featured healthy foods showed up across the community, providing nourishment to people in need. Dislocated restaurant workers banded together to prepare meals to be distributed through the hunger relief system. People planted gardens for food, a connection to nature, and a way to heal. Across Minneapolis, we have seen a reawakening of peoples' interest in growing and making food.

It is during this era that we begin the journey of implementing the Minneapolis Food Plan, sowing seeds of possibility for regeneration, resilience, and restoration for ourselves, our communities, and our beloved planet.

INTRODUCTION

Globally and in Minneapolis alike, many people and partnerships have formed to create a just, ecologically resilient, abundant, and affordable food supply. This international movement represents a diverse array of agendas, priorities, and cultural communities who share a common aim of shifting how we grow, distribute, prepare, and dispose of our food away from powerful global interests to more local control and engagement. For many years, grassroots and institutional efforts have fostered a powerful range of food systems activities. These efforts include urban agriculture, farm to institution programs, food hub and farmers market development, local food and farm enterprise incubation, food skills education, healthy food access initiatives, and more. Much of this dynamic growth of food and farm-related activity is grounded in a commitment to equity and assisted by robust municipal policy.

Over two hundred major cities across the world—including Minneapolis—have signed on to the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#). Signatories commit to creating food systems plans, which are frameworks that inform strategic action, often developed through research and community engagement. These plans usually contain prioritized goals and strategies, in response to community-identified needs, issues, and opportunities, and are designed to foster a resilient, thriving local food supply. They can emphasize things like food production, healthy eating, access to nutritious food, and support for local food enterprises.

“A globalizing economy and concerns about climate change have encouraged greater thought about re-localizing food production.”

[The Status of Minnesota Food Hubs: Final Report to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Cooperative Development Services \(2015\)](#)

The Minneapolis Food Plan (MFP) offers a blueprint of six priorities and 29 associated proven, actionable strategies identified by people who live and work in the city. MFP is a companion document to the City of Minneapolis’s [Climate Action Plan](#), a roadmap to reducing our city’s climate impact.

The strategies in this document are designed to address components of our city’s food system prioritized by many people across the city as the most important:

1. Local food supply
2. Urban agriculture
3. Local food businesses
4. Healthy food skills and healthy food access
5. Wasted food
6. Food system research and outreach

These priorities and related strategies were identified through an inclusive process that involved many residents, workers from the food system, community-serving organizations, City staff, academic partners, and members of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council (an

appointed City advisory group that works with diverse stakeholders to build a healthy, resilient local food system).

The Minneapolis Food Plan grounds these priorities and strategies in seven Food Justice Principles, identified through the development process. These seven principles, six priorities, and related strategies are accompanied by concrete next steps. By implementing the Plan, Minneapolis residents, community-serving organizations, and city government can partner to make sure our food system is healthy, affordable, equitable, just, profitable, and good for people and the environment.

ADD BANNER GRAPHIC ALONG BOTTOM



Graphic credit: Public Health Law Center

HOW WAS THE MINNEAPOLIS FOOD PLAN CREATED?

With support and guidance from the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, residents and food systems leaders worked together to:

- **Design and convene community engagement processes**, including online input and in person events, conference breakout sessions, and focus groups and interviews with over 1000 people who live and work across Minneapolis
- **Partner with academic researchers** to find useful information, such as existing data sets, best practices on urban food systems development, examples of other food plans, and relevant resources from cities around the world. These researchers also helped with analysis of community input and guidance on how to shape the content of the Plan. They also designed, executed, and analyzed an online survey of over 900 Minneapolis residents
- **Identify issues and opportunities** through community conversations, contributing important ideas through successive phases of engagement
- **Create the Minneapolis Food Plan**

WHAT IS HOMEGROWN MINNEAPOLIS?

Considered a national leader in urban food systems, the City of Minneapolis dedicates staff, funding, and other resources to support [Homegrown Minneapolis](#). This citywide initiative helps our community grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.

What is the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council?

Affiliated with and appointed by City government, the [Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council](#) is an advisory group that:

- Works with diverse stakeholders to build a healthy, resilient local food system
- Connects local government, businesses, organizations, and residents

Involving the Community, Creating the Plan

Designed and guided by the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, the content of the Minneapolis Food Plan (MFP) was based on a broad-based, inclusive public engagement and research process. Through focus groups, interviews, surveys, engagement events, and Homegrown Food Council meetings, people identified the needs, challenges, assets, and opportunities associated with our local food system that should be addressed in the final plan.

The below table describes the phases and associated activities that occurred during the development of the Minneapolis Food Plan.

Phase	Activities
Created Food Justice Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solicited initial feedback through grassroots engagement activities and Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings ● Developed, refined, and approved Food Justice Principles at Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings
Assessed existing food system needs, issues, and assets in Minneapolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducted background research using existing data sets ● Deployed data collection activities at Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings
Produced key priorities and related strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducted focus groups and individual interviews with an array of content experts and community members
Vetted, refined, and finalized key priorities and related strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convened virtual ‘Deep Dive’ events for community members ● Deployed online city-wide survey (over 900 respondents) ● Hosted culturally specific community input events, convened by 5 community-based organizations ● Convened Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings for members and community participants to provide vetting and approval of priorities and strategies
Drafted and approved Minneapolis Food Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developed, refined, and approved MFP outline at Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Meetings ● Drafted, reviewed, and refined all sections of the MFP ● Conducted further peer review, vetting, and refinement of MFP ● Provided Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council endorsement of MFP
Obtained formal endorsement of MFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Worked with City officials to obtain formal endorsement by elected leaders ● Worked with partner organizations to obtain support for the final MFP

The 6 priorities and corresponding 29 strategies described in this Plan were proposed, evaluated, vetted, and prioritized by stakeholders and Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council members through multiple cycles of engagement, review, and deliberation. The below factors helped inform the final strategy selection process:

Equitable – Does this strategy advance equity, respond to community-identified interests and needs, and align with the Food Justice Principles?

Realistic – With available partners and resources, is this strategy possible? Do the involved partners have the know-how and capacity to implement it? Is there adequate funding available for full implementation?

Proven – Has the proposed strategy been successfully implemented previously? Do we feel confident about the odds of success?

Beneficial – Does this strategy help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the health of community members, and strengthen our local food supply? How many people are positively impacted by this strategy and who benefits?

How was MFP funded?

- The City of Minneapolis partnered with the University of Minnesota and Princeton University to support MFP’s development.
- Funders included the National Science Foundation, the [Sustainable Healthy Cities initiative](#), the City of Minneapolis’s Health Department and Office of Sustainability

With these resources, Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council sponsored a variety of engagement activities, including contracts with community-based organizations and a certified, Minneapolis-based woman/Native American-owned food systems consultancy to hear from communities and work with the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council to draft the MFP.

How will the MFP be implemented?

In coming years, this food system blueprint for Minneapolis will be collaboratively deployed by numerous parties. City government—including elected officials, staff, and members of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council—will be involved to implement MFP’s strategies. The Food Council will partner with local food system leaders and a diverse array of organizations to identify key priorities and available resources, deciding how best to advance strategies described in this Plan.

How will the MFP be measured?

As part of the implementation phase, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will work with City staff, partners across the community, and researchers to determine progress and impact of the strategies contained in this Plan. Proposed metrics are included in this document and will be refined and measured during the implementation process, using existing and new data collection by the City and other partners.

FOOD JUSTICE PRINCIPLES: Advancing Equity and Environmental Justice

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SUBHEADER: How We Created the Food Justice Principles

The first step in developing the Plan involved convening many people who work and live in Minneapolis to collectively create a values-based framework to guide the content, priorities, and implementation of MFP. Through facilitated grassroots discussion, people who live and work across Minneapolis identified seven Food Justice Principles. These principles address how we lead; the importance of centering equity in the design of our food system; and the kind of food system we want to create together. The Food Justice Principles will be used to guide the implementation of strategies contained in the Plan and to evaluate progress and impact of these strategies.

Social Determinants of Health

Individual and community well-being can only be attained through social and institutional equity (such as adequate income, affordable housing, and nutritious food access). These should be available to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, identity, economic status, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and immigration status.

Inclusion, Leadership, and Decision-making

The design, development, and stewardship of our food system reflects diverse values, priorities, and leadership—particularly by those most impacted by injustice.

Recognition, Reparations, and Respect

We recognize and respect the role of many communities to our food system, including a commitment to reparations for past injustices; protection of treaty rights; and fair compensation and treatment for those working in food and farm related jobs.

Interconnections Between Systems

The design and care of our urban food system intersects with other resources and sectors, such as water, energy, and the city’s built environment.

Food Access

We envision having reliable, easy access to safe, affordable, healthy, and culturally relevant food for everyone in our community that is grown and prepared according to their preferences.

Food Production and Processing

Food should be grown, processed, and distributed in ways that reduce greenhouse gasses; ensure clean water and healthy soil; and minimize food waste. We value food that is ethically and sustainably produced and sourced. Together, we will promote regional markets and small

food and farm entrepreneurs. Underserved communities should have meaningful, fair engagement in food production and processing, accruing the primary financial benefits.

Food Skills

People should be able to easily learn food skills from a young age, including getting, growing, preparing, preserving, planning, sharing, and eating foods that promote health and reflect one's cultural identity, as well as how to minimize and manage food waste.

HEADER: PRIORITY 1 | LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY

GOAL: *More food grown and made by nearby food and farm entrepreneurs will be available across the city.*

Strengthening our city's local food supply is the single most important priority identified by people who live and work in the city for the Minneapolis Food Plan.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

1. Provide financing mechanisms and business development support to facilitate connection between local production and local consumption
2. Increase purchasing of locally and sustainably grown foods by institutions and businesses within the city
3. Improve accessibility to and increase the number of places selling locally grown and made products
4. Increase support by local and state agencies for local growers
5. Decrease regulatory and logistical barriers to selling local food

Our **local food supply** includes...

- How, where, and what food is grown and made and by whom
- How food is processed, packaged, and distributed
- How food is marketed to and obtained by consumers

*Minnesota Food Charter
(2014)*

2033 LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY METRICS

- Number of food- and farm-related businesses awarded City financing Total amount of City funding awarded to food- and farm-related businesses
- Demographic categories of business owners awarded City financing for food- and farm-related businesses

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT | BUILDING A LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY

To help grow local food businesses, the City of Boston passed an [ordinance](#) requiring City departments and agencies that buy food and beverages (direct purchases or through vending, concessions, and catering contracts) to adopt values-based procurement standards. These standards include prioritizing small and mid-sized food and farm businesses; sustainable and humane agricultural production and processing methods; protection of workers' rights and safety; fair prices for farmers and fair wages for workers; and healthy options.

PROUD MINNEAPOLIS MOMENT: The [Minneapolis Public Schools](#) is committed to supporting local farmers and food producers, spending more than 25% of its food budget on foods grown and made locally.

BANNER QUOTE:

“By prioritizing local farms and food makers, we help to create a more vibrant and secure regional foodshed to nourish our students today and enrich our community into the future.” Kirsten Weigle, Farm to School Coordinator, Minneapolis Public Schools Culinary and Wellness Services

HEADER: PRIORITY 2 | URBAN AGRICULTURE

GOAL: We have the skills, resources, infrastructure, and ecological health needed to produce food within our city.

Growing nutritious food in Minneapolis is a popular activity for residents, community-serving programs, and entrepreneurs alike. Ensuring comprehensive support and resources to grow food in the city is a key priority for our community.

Urban agriculture includes ...
Cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban areas
[United States Department of Agriculture](#)

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

1. Increase, maintain, and improve land access for growers within the city for growers and year-round growing
2. Increase access to materials, equipment, water, lighting, and other resources for growing food using sustainable production methods within the city
3. Strengthen food skills to grow, prepare, and preserve healthy, culturally relevant foods for all people, with a focus on underserved communities
4. Protect and improve pollinator habitats and water resources

2033 URBAN AGRICULTURE METRICS

- Acres of land available for urban agriculture within City boundaries
- Type of land access for urban agriculture (e.g. publicly owned and leased land, privately owned land, privately owned and leased and leased land, etc.)
- Socioeconomic demographics of urban growers in city by zip code or census tract

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT | GROWING URBAN AGRICULTURE
The City of St. Paul has passed a [policy](#) that describes the types of gardening activity permitted on city boulevards – the strip of land between the street and sidewalk. This ordinance stipulates the types of plants allowed, including vegetable crops and flowers, and prevents the use of fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides without permission from the City forester. This policy enables city residents to make use of small patches of city land for food production and the creation of pollinator habitats.

PROUD MINNEAPOLIS MOMENT: The City of Minneapolis offers a [Garden Lease Program](#), where qualified community gardens and market gardens can lease municipally owned vacant lots to grow food. The Garden Lease Program was developed by the Homegrown Minneapolis

Initiative. The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board also offers [community garden plots](#) in parks throughout the city to interested growers.

ADD FOOTER AT BOTTOM:

"Food is the one thing that connects us all. I look forward to the Minneapolis Food Plan providing guidelines around a healthy, regenerative, and equitable food system. This Plan connects us all across geographic and socio-economic lines, including urban and rural productions/producers." Marcus Kar, Program Director, Youth Farm and Co-Chair, Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council

HEADER: PRIORITY 3 | LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES

GOAL: We grow opportunity and provide needed support to locally owned food enterprises and workers in food and farm enterprises in our city.

People who work and live in Minneapolis, including many who own and work for food-related businesses (such as small growers and craft food makers), have identified numerous ways we can work together to create a thriving, just local food economy.

What is a local food business?
A type of agricultural or food/beverage-related commercial enterprise that provides a goods, products, or services designed to serve a specific geographic region.

We will achieve this goal by advancing these strategies:

1. Improve opportunities for food system workers and small business owners, including fostering collaborative business models and other actions
2. Improve economic opportunities for growing food in the city
3. Improve protections and support for food system workers and small business owners, with special attention to traditionally underserved people
4. Enhance workforce development, including job skills training and support for the food system workforce
5. Provide support for local food businesses that offer culturally relevant food options

2033 LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES METRICS

- Percent of City zip codes or Wards represented by vendors at Minneapolis farmers markets
- Percent of BIPOC farmers market vendors
- Amount of funding leveraged to support farmers markets in Minneapolis

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT | LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES
The City of Tukwila, Washington, financed the development of a facility that provided a permanent site for the community’s farmers market, supported the Food Innovation Network’s [Food Business Incubator](#) program that includes a food hall, commercial kitchen, and two years of comprehensive technical assistance for aspiring BIPOC women food entrepreneurs. This complex of food systems amenities is located on the first floor of a new city-financed affordable housing development.

PROUD MINNEAPOLIS MOMENT: Co-Owners of *Owamni* by the Sioux Chef, Dana Thompson and Sean Sherman, won the 2022 James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant. Located in downtown Minneapolis on Dakota homeland, *Owamni* serves delicious food, prepared with

Indigenous ingredients and rooted in Indigenous cultures. In 2018, they won the James Beard award for Best American Cookbook.

ADD FOOTER AT BOTTOM:

“It’s joyous when the local women put their hands in the soil, and you can taste the joy. It’s soul-felt and soul-satisfying.” *Heather Jansz, owner of The Curry Diva*

HEADER: PRIORITY 4 | HEALTHY FOOD SKILLS AND HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

GOALS: Our food system offers a widely available, diverse, and affordable array of nourishing foods that meet peoples’ cultural and dietary needs where people work, live, learn, and play. There are ample opportunities to strengthen one’s food skills, regardless of who you are or where you live in the city.

MFP community engagement activities –such as interviews, focus groups, and surveys–surfaced the importance of access to affordable, nutritious food in the places people spend time. Furthermore, people need food skills to prepare these foods for themselves and others.

We will achieve these goals by advancing these strategies:

1. Improve accessibility to and availability of nutritious, culturally relevant, sustainably grown foods at places such as schools and universities, hospitals, care facilities, childcare providers, correctional facilities, hunger relief programs, and worksites and any places where food is sold
2. Offer opportunities for all ages to gain skills to grow and prepare nutritious foods and learn about healthy eating and the health-promoting benefits of food, with a strong emphasis on creating food skills learning opportunities we promise to create opportunities for children and youth
3. Improve affordability of nutritious and culturally relevant foods
4. Encourage greater consumption of a well-rounded, nutritious, plant-rich diet and reduce consumption of unhealthy foods and foods with a high environmental impact.
5. Place greater emphasis on nutritious eating in mainstream healthcare practices

<p>Food skills includes <i>knowing...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to grow food How to identify nutritious and unhealthy options How to plan, select, and budget for healthy food How to prepare safe, nourishing food from scratch <p><i>Understanding...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The food system, including agriculture and cultural aspects of food <p><i>Minnesota Food Charter (2014)</i></p>

2033 HEALTHY FOOD SKILLS AND HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS METRICS

- Number of institutions based in Minneapolis purchasing locally grown and locally made foods
- Total amount spent on purchasing locally grown and locally made foods by institutions
- Percent of institutional food purchases spent on locally grown and locally made foods
- Demographics of population served by institutions purchasing and serving locally grown and locally made foods

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT | HEALTHY FOOD SKILLS AND HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

The City of Denver passed a ballot measure supporting the [Healthy Food for Denver's Kids initiative](#), which levied local sales and use taxes to establish a fund for healthy food and food-based education for Denver's youth. This fund provides an annual average of \$11 million dollars in grants with an emphasis on serving low-income youth.

PROUD MINNEAPOLIS MOMENT: [Isuroon](#), a Somali and woman-led organization that serves Somali/East African and Afghan immigrant and refugee families, annually distributes approximately 100,000 pounds of healthy, culturally relevant food items to an average of 3,000 families through their food shelf at three food distribution sites in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, including one in Minneapolis.

HEADER: PRIORITY 5 | WASTED FOOD

GOALS: We increase the amount of wasted food that is rescued and made available to others and prevent food waste where possible. We increase the amount of compost available for food production by transforming food waste, such as food scraps from food preparation.

Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis alike are nationally recognized for their policies, practices, and programs that capture and repurpose wasted food and food waste for consumption and other uses, as well as provide education to individuals and organizations to reduce wasted food. The collaboration between these three units of government and other partners has established a strong foundation for further work, identified by participants in the Minneapolis Food Plan engagement process.

We will achieve these goals by advancing these strategies:

1. Establish policies including financial incentives to manage food at its highest and best use and prevent food loss (waste reduction, food to people, and food to animals before composting or anaerobic digestion)
2. Create and maintain food waste management systems that are widely accessible, sustainable, and contribute additional benefits to our food system (such as compost)
3. Introduce policy changes to improve connections between excess food and those in need
4. Provide support for farmers, food establishments, and other parties to better enable them to donate edible food

2033 WASTED FOOD METRIC

- Amount of organics recycling by source (e.g. residences and businesses)

What is wasted food?

“Food that was not used for its intended purpose and is managed in a variety of ways, such as donation to feed people, creation of animal feed, composting, anaerobic digestion, or sending to landfills or combustion facilities. Examples include unsold food from retail stores; plate waste, uneaten prepared food, or kitchen trimmings from restaurants, cafeterias, and households; or by-products from food and beverage processing facilities.”

[United States Environmental Protection Agency](#)

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT | FOOD WASTE AND WASTED FOOD

The City of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed an [ordinance](#) requiring food stores that amass a certain amount of wasted food must use a licensed collector for this food waste with key exemptions, such as on site composting or donations to food rescue programs and/or farms for animal consumption containers for this waste.

PROUD MINNEAPOLIS MOMENT: The City of Minneapolis' [residential organic recycling program](#) received the US Composting Council's Organics Diversion Program of the Year, with nearly half of eligible city households opting to participate in the curbside organics recycling program.

ADD FOOTER AT BOTTOM:

"It is not uncommon for Twin Cities Food Justice to pick up 15,000 pounds of nutritious food in any given month - food that would otherwise find its way to a landfill. One food recipient told me, 'I have never had fresh produce on a regular basis in my life. Now I can manage my diabetes and blood pressure for the first time ever, all while I am eating delicious food!'"

Ann Hill, Executive Director of Twin Cities Food Justice

HEADER: PRIORITY 6 | FOOD SYSTEM RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

GOALS: Food systems advocates across the city will use collaborative and participatory research methods as a tool to advance a just and sustainable food system, undertaking numerous research efforts to better understand key issues, best practices, and effective solutions. We will foster outreach and educational efforts to enhance understanding of food systems issues and food skills.

Producing knowledge that helps create a resilient, just food system is an ongoing need. Generating this knowledge together, through strategic partnerships and equitable collaborations, can guide sound decision-making, enhance understanding, and shed light on complex problems.

Furthermore, intentional, ongoing engagement with people who work and live in Minneapolis can extend the knowledge generated by this research and provide important pathways for community members to identify, prioritize, advise on, and find solutions for important food systems issues.

We will achieve these goals by advancing these strategies:

1. Pursue research and collaborations with organizations that work across the food system
2. Raise awareness of food system activities and research findings in multiple languages across the city by strengthening networks, collaboration, and partnerships
3. Continue studying ways to best achieve health, environmental, economic, equity, and justice outcomes
4. Conduct research to better understand the relationship between access to healthy food and consumer demand
5. Expand availability of data and data analysis around wasted food to inform actions
6. Develop nutrition education that is catered to community-specific and health-specific needs

<p>What is food systems research?</p> <p>The study of local and regional food systems that help advance just, resilient, profitable, and healthy communities.</p> <p>What is food systems outreach?</p> <p>Equitable, transparent processes across for shared governance, decision-making, planning, prioritizing, and action around the food system.</p>

2033 FOOD SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND OUTREACH METRIC

- Number of food systems-related research projects the City is involved with

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT | FOOD SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

Michigan State University established the [Center for Regional Food Systems](#) as a cross-disciplinary umbrella to support and conduct food systems research, facilitate community engagement, and advance initiatives that foster community food systems across the state.

PROUD MINNEAPOLIS MOMENT: Many Minneapolis-based food systems efforts have partnered with the University of Minnesota to make farmers markets more accessible and economically viable; to increase access to healthy food for all city residents; and to develop visions and business plans for food infrastructure projects.

HOW WILL THE MINNEAPOLIS FOOD PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

In 2023, implementation of the Minneapolis Food Plan will begin, which will include:

1. **Laying Groundwork** - Developing a comprehensive work plan to carry out highest priority MFP strategies and associated actions
2. **Taking Action** - Shaping an ongoing engagement strategy to involve a diverse array of partners in implementation
3. **Measuring Progress** – Creating and executing a measurement process to assess progress and impact of the strategies and the Plan
4. **Guiding Execution** – The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will oversee and monitor the overall implementation of the Plan

Laying Groundwork

In 2023, Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will develop the structure to guide the implementation of the Food Plan. These efforts will include:

- Establish working groups for each MFP priority, including Food Council members, community members, city staff, and other relevant partners, charged with carrying out specific strategies contained in the Plan
- Create 3-year Action Plan that includes work plans for each working group, using a common template (includes specific actions, clear deliverables, assignments, milestones, and timelines)
- Review and endorse Action Plan
- Develop funding strategy for each priority

Taking Action

Following approval of the Action Plan, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will:

- Convene regular working group meetings to guide and execute implementation of workplan and monitor progress
- Prepare regular updates for relevant City staff, departments, elected officials, and interested community members
- Implement selected strategies and affiliated actions
- Prepare any necessary policy briefs or advisories needed by City government for proposed regulatory or policy initiatives related to strategy implementation

Measuring Progress

To understand the impact that MFP strategies are having on the local food system, the Action Plan will also include a framework and approach to assessing MFP's progress and outcomes.

The steps will include:

- Finalize measurement approach for MFP implementation
- Create measurement plan for each MFP priority and related metrics
- Execute ongoing data collection and evaluation activities, guided by measurement approach, to track progress toward metrics
- Monitor progress and impact of implemented strategies, through ongoing review of evaluation findings
- Prepare annual reports on findings from measurement approach, articulating progress on each metric
- Refresh and update work plans and measurement plans, as needed

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will provide guidance, oversight, and backbone support to the working groups and other partners charged and involved with implementing MFP.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE MINNEAPOLIS FOOD PLAN?

Like other cities implementing food plans, Minneapolis will take a multi-faceted approach to executing strategies contained in MFP. Elected officials, City staff, and municipal departments will be involved, as will people who live and work in Minneapolis and numerous organizations and institutions who serve them. There will be a lot of different ways to be involved, from ongoing participation in implementing strategies, leadership and oversight of MFP implementation, and contribution of important support to help advance MFP's priorities.

Specific strategies contained in the Plan will be undertaken by a variety of organizations, partners, and leaders—separately and collaboratively, including:

- **Elected officials, various elected and appointed boards, commissions, and advisory groups, and City departments** (such as the Health Department, Community Planning and Economic Development, Public Works and the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council) will provide important, ongoing convening and operational support for these players to collaboratively advance these actions
- **Community-based and community-serving organizations doing food-focused work, local anchor institutions, private sector entities, and other supporting entities** (such as our school district, food and farm businesses, relevant associations and affinity groups, area healthcare organizations, funders at all scales, and others), will also play individual and collaborative roles in implementing components of MFP
- **People of all ages who live and work in Minneapolis and care about local food systems** will also be involved in carrying out MFP strategies and providing feedback about the impact and progress of the work

What kinds of resources are available and needed to implement and measure progress on strategies contained in the Minneapolis Food Plan?

Many partners will be involved in implementing the Plan's strategies. Full implementation of these strategies—and the associated measurement of progress and impact—will require significant investment from diverse public and private sources for numerous organizations and initiatives. The City's Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, via coordinated planning with relevant City decision-makers and the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, will need to determine where funding is needed or available to support Plan implementation.

Robust and ongoing funding for Homegrown Minneapolis-related staffing and programs provided through the City's annual budget is needed. Additional requests for support to implement specific strategies in the Minneapolis Food Plan will be developed and submitted by Homegrown Minneapolis staff and should be seriously considered and supported as circumstances allow by City government during the annual budget process.

Finally, some strategies in the Plan will need significant investment from foundation, local, state, or federal grant and bonding sources, as well as potential new public funding sources such as tax related options like tax base support, tax increment financing, and tax credit

programs. Other private sources, such as equity, venture, and direct investment capital will also be helpful.

Successful implementation of the strategies—and associated efforts to monitor and measure progress and impact—will require careful planning, coordination, cooperation, management, and adequate resources. Together, the strategies are designed to achieve our shared vision for a resilient, climate friendly, and just local food system.

HOW CAN WE HELP IMPLEMENT THE MINNEAPOLIS FOOD PLAN?

People of all ages who live and work in Minneapolis are involved in building a just, resilient, and healthy food supply. Some are involved because they care about climate change and the environment, while others are passionate about supporting local farmers and food businesses. Many youths are involved because they want to build a healthy, sustainable future for themselves and their community. Many care deeply about reliable access to affordable healthy food for everyone, and others are eager to ensure that we all have the know-how and opportunity to grow and prepare nutritious food for ourselves and the people we care about.

If you care about justice, climate change, our food system and want to ensure that our local food system is equitable and responsive to the needs and priorities of our diverse community, **there are a lot of ways to participate in carrying out the 6 priorities and 29 strategies in the Minneapolis Food Plan.**

If you're a person who works or lives in Minneapolis, you can:

- **Help implement the Plan** - Join a Minneapolis Food Plan Working Group! These Working Groups will meet regularly in coming years to develop and guide the implementation of a workplan for each priority and associated strategies.
- **Work on a strategy** – Many strategies contained in the Plan offer opportunities for people to participate, such as taking a cooking class, having a community garden plot, helping reduce food waste and more.
- **Support local food and farm enterprises** – Be an informed eater! Whether you buy locally grown food sold at a [Minneapolis farmers market](#), eat at a locally owned restaurant, purchase a locally made food or beverage, compost at home, or participate in the City's [curbside organics recycling program](#), you're helping sustain a vibrant local food system. Look out for ways to support BIPOC-owned food and farm enterprises.
- **Stay in the loop!** - Attend monthly meetings of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council! Go [here](#) to stay updated on what's going on and go [here](#) to get information on the location and agendas of upcoming meetings.
- **Get a friend involved!** – Share the [Minneapolis Food Plan](#) and invite your friends and other community members to join you in being a champion for your local food system.
- **Reach out to your elected official!** – Contact your [city council person](#) to learn more about how they are supporting implementation of the Minneapolis Food Plan and ask them to support priorities you care about.
- **Provide resources!** – If you are an organization, funder, or agency, explore where and how you can invest in advancing strategies contained in the Minneapolis Food Plan.

If you're an elected or appointed official in Minneapolis, you can:

- Learn about the strategies and intended impacts contained in the MFP
- Co-create and approve recommended policies that emerge during the MFP implementation phase

- Allocate resources to support MFP's implementation
- Encourage City departments and constituents to be engaged in implementing the Plan

CONCLUSION

Minneapolis is recognized as a national leader among cities for its food systems work. Our community has a powerful legacy of past and current exemplary work by many leaders. We also have a longstanding commitment of City government as an active, supportive partner. These assets provide a strong foundation for the next chapter of sustaining our local food system.

The Minneapolis Food Plan offers a much-needed path for partner organizations, residents, and our city government to sustain a just, thriving, and resilient food system. This concrete, clear blueprint contains practical, proven strategies of how we will:

- Protect and strengthen our local food supply
- Expand our capacity to grow food within city limits
- Nurture locally owned food and farm businesses
- Foster healthy food skills
- Improve access to healthy food
- Reduce food waste
- Support ongoing innovation, learning, and engagement

We do this work together to leave a legacy of good health and equity for our current neighbors and for future generations. Many of the strategies in the Minneapolis Food Plan can reflect tangible, effective climate action, spanning the food system.

The Minneapolis Food Plan is intended to be a useful and well-used document. It reflects the needs, concerns, priorities, good ideas, and voices of a diverse range of grassroots and grassstops leaders and city residents. The Plan addresses issues and opportunities from farm to table and beyond, based on this extensive community engagement involving many hundreds of people who live and work in Minneapolis.

It will take all of us as a community to be stewards of a just and thriving food system for our city. The Minneapolis Food Plan spells out ways all of us can be involved in sustaining our local food system and caring for each other.

INSERT CALL OUT BOX

Header - WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Go to the [MFP landing page](#) to learn more!

Attend [Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council](#) Meetings!

APPENDIX

MINNEAPOLIS FOOD PLAN STRATEGIES SUMMARY

The table below contains all goals and strategies for each priority in the Plan, connecting them to the Food Justice Principles. The Priorities and related Strategies are listed in descending order of importance, determined through multiple rounds of prioritization involving grassroots community members and the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council.

Priority	Goal	Strategies	Food Justice Principles
Local Food Supply	<i>We grow opportunity and provide needed support to locally owned food enterprises and workers in food and farm enterprises in our city.</i>	<p>Improve opportunities for food system workers and small business owners, including fostering collaborative business models and other actions</p> <p>Improve economic opportunities for growing food in the city</p> <p>Improve protections and support for food system workers and small business owners, with special attention to traditionally underserved people</p> <p>Enhance workforce development, including job skills training and support for the food system workforce</p> <p>Provide support for local food businesses that offer culturally relevant food options</p>	<p>Social Determinants of Health</p> <p>Inclusion, Leadership, and Decision-making</p> <p>Recognition, Reparations, and Respect</p> <p>Food Production and Processing</p> <p>Food Access</p> <p>Interconnections Between Systems</p>
Urban Agriculture	<i>We have the skills, resources, infrastructure, and ecological health needed to produce food within our city.</i>	<p>Increase, maintain, and improve land access for growers within the city for growers and year-round growing</p> <p>Increase access to materials, equipment, water, lighting, and other resources for growing food using sustainable production methods within the city</p> <p>Strengthen food skills to grow, prepare, and preserve healthy, culturally relevant foods for all people, with a focus on underserved communities</p> <p>Protect and improve pollinator habitats and water resources</p>	<p>Social Determinants of Health</p> <p>Inclusion, Leadership, and Decision-making</p> <p>Recognition, Reparations, and Respect</p> <p>Food Production and Processing</p> <p>Interconnections Between Systems</p> <p>Food Skills</p>
Local Food Businesses	<i>More food grown and made by nearby food and farm entrepreneurs will be available across the city.</i>	<p>Provide financing mechanisms and business development support to facilitate connection between local production and local consumption</p>	<p>Recognition, Reparations, and Respect</p> <p>Food Production and Processing</p>

Priority	Goal	Strategies	Food Justice Principles
		<p>Increase purchasing of locally and sustainably grown foods by institutions and businesses within the city</p> <p>Improve accessibility to and increase the number of places selling locally grown and made products</p> <p>Increase support by local and state agencies for local growers</p> <p>Decrease regulatory and logistical barriers to selling local food</p>	<p>Food Access</p> <p>Interconnections Between Systems</p>
<p>Healthy Food Access and Healthy Food Skills</p>	<p><i>Our food system offers a widely available, diverse, and affordable array of nourishing foods that meet peoples' cultural and dietary where people work, live, learn, and play. There are ample opportunities to strengthen one's food skills, regardless of who you are or where you live in the city.</i></p>	<p>Improve accessibility to and availability of nutritious, culturally relevant, sustainably grown foods at places such as schools and universities, hospitals, care facilities, childcare providers, <u>correctional facilities</u>, hunger relief programs, and worksites and any places where food is sold</p> <p>Offer opportunities for all ages to gain skills to grow and prepare nutritious foods and learn about healthy eating and the health-promoting benefits of food, with a strong emphasis on creating food skills learning opportunities we promise to create opportunities for children and youth</p> <p>Improve affordability of nutritious and culturally relevant foods</p> <p>Encourage greater consumption of a well-rounded, nutritious, plant-rich diet and reduce consumption of unhealthy foods and foods with a high environmental impact.</p> <p>Place greater emphasis on nutritious eating in mainstream healthcare practices</p>	<p>Social Determinants of Health</p> <p>Inclusion, Leadership, and Decision-making</p> <p>Food Access</p> <p>Food Skills</p> <p>Social Determinants of Health</p> <p>Inclusion, Leadership, and Decision-making</p>

Wasted Food	<p><i>Our food system offers a widely available, diverse, and affordable array of nourishing foods that meet peoples’ cultural and dietary where people work, live, learn, and play. There are ample opportunities to strengthen one’s food skills, regardless of who you are or where you live in the city.</i></p>	<p>Establish policies including financial incentives to manage food at its highest and best use and prevent food loss (waste reduction, food to people, and food to animals before composting or anaerobic digestion)</p> <p>Create and maintain food waste management systems that are widely accessible, sustainable, and contribute additional benefits to our food system (such as compost)</p> <p>Introduce policy changes to improve connections between excess food and those in need</p> <p>Provide support for farmers, food establishments, and other parties to better enable them to donate edible food</p>	<p>Food Access</p> <p>Food Production and Processing</p> <p>Interconnections Between Systems</p>
Food Systems Research and Outreach	<p><i>Food systems advocates across the city will use collaborative and participatory research methods as a tool to advance a just and sustainable food system, undertaking numerous research efforts to better understand key issues, best practices, and effective solutions. We will foster outreach and educational efforts to enhance understanding of food systems issues and food skills.</i></p>	<p>Pursue research and collaborations with organizations that work across the food system</p> <p>Raise awareness of food system activities and research findings in multiple languages across the city by strengthening networks, collaboration, and partnerships</p> <p>Continue studying ways to best achieve health, environmental, economic, equity, and justice outcomes</p> <p>Conduct research to better understand the relationship between access to healthy food and consumer demand</p> <p>Expand availability of data and data analysis around wasted food to inform actions</p> <p>Develop nutrition education that is catered to community-specific and health-specific needs</p>	<p>Social Determinants of Health</p> <p>Inclusion, Leadership, and Decision-making</p> <p>Recognition, Reparations, and Respect</p> <p>Interconnections Between Systems</p> <p>Food Access</p> <p>Food Production and Processing</p> <p>Food Skills</p>

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Mayor Jacob Frey, Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins, and the Minneapolis City Council

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Appetite for Change

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