Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

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Email: metrocog@fmmetrocog.org http://www.fmmetrocog.org

To: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission

From: Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI)
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)

Date: March 19, 2015

RE: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Agenda and Correspondence

1st Meeting of the

Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission

March 25, 2015 1-2:30pm

Location: Fargo City Commission Chambers

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approve Appointment of Chairperson **(Attachment 1)** – Adam Altenburg
3. Approve Appointment of At-Large Members **(Attachment 2)** – Adam Altenburg & Megan Myrdal
   a. Andrea Baumgardner, Barry Foundation
   b. Janet Paul, Concordia College
   c. Jessica Arneson, Great Plains Food Bank
   d. Dana Rieth, Lakes Country Service Cooperative/PartnerSHIP 4 Health
   e. Jon Evert, Retired Farmer, Former Clay County Commissioner
4. Review Purpose and Powers of the Commission **(Attachment 3)** – Adam Altenburg
5. Presentation – Megan Myrdal & Kim Lipetzky
   - Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative History
   - Local Needs – Food Security, Overweight/Obesity & Economic Development
   - Task Force Groups & Projects
   - Role of the Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
   - A Look at Similar Councils/Commissions
6. Public Comment Opportunity **(Attachment 4)** – Megan Myrdal
7. Commission Action Steps **(Attachment 5)** – Megan Myrdal & Whitney Oxendahl
8. Adjournment

Questions, comments, or concerns prior to the meeting can be directed to Adam Altenburg (701.232.3242 x34; altenburg@fmmetrocog.org).

People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and need special arrangements should contact Kate Wurtzler at Metro COG (701.232.3242 Ext. 31), at least two days before the meeting to make arrangements.

Attachment 1

To: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
From: Adam Altenburg, Metro COG
Date: March 16, 2015
Re: ***Appoint 2015 Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Chair***

The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establishing the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission allows for the provision of a Chair to be selected in one of two ways: a non-jurisdictional member appointed bi-annually by a majority vote of the Commission; or rotated annually amongst current jurisdiction members. It is the recommendation of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative Steering Committee that the Chair for the Commission be rotated annually amongst jurisdiction members.

Using the rotation schedule developed by Metro COG for its Policy Board and other committees, the Steering Committee has recommended that the representative from the City of Moorhead serve as Chair, beginning with the second meeting of the Commission and serving for the remainder of 2015. The Chair would then be appointed annually beginning in January 2016. The Commission representative from Cass County is slated to fill-in as Chair if the City of Moorhead representative is unable to be in attendance at a meeting.

The current schedule for rotation of Chair and Alternate is as follows:

Year(s)	Chair Representative from:	Alternate from:
2015, 2021	City of Moorhead	Cass County
2016, 2022	Cass County	City of West Fargo
2017, 2023	City of West Fargo	Clay County
2018, 2024	Clay County	City of Dilworth
2019, 2025	City of Dilworth	City of Fargo
2020, 2026	City of Fargo	City of Moorhead

Requested Action:
Approve the appointment of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Chair.

Attachment 2

To: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
From: Adam Altenburg, Metro COG & Megan Myrdal, Interim Chair and Project Coordinator
Date: March 16, 2015
Re: ***Approve Appointment of At-Large Members to the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission***

In addition to the six (6) jurisdiction members, the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission makes the provision for an additional five (5) at-large members to serve on the Commission. It is the intent that at-large members will bring additional and varied expertise to the Commission as it relates to food systems issues. At-large members are to be initially vetted by the Steering Committee before being brought to a vote by the Commission. Each at-large member will serve a two (2) year term.

In December 2014 and January 2015, the Steering Committee met to discuss possible candidates to recommend to the Commission. The Selection Committee narrowed its search to the following five (5) candidates:

a) Andrea Baumgardner – Barry Foundation
b) Janet Paul – Concordia College
c) Jessica Arneson – Great Plains Food Bank
d) Dana Rieth – Lakes Country Service Cooperative/ParternSHIP 4 Health
e) Jon Evert – Retired farmer; former Clay County Commissioner

Requested Action:
Approve the appointment of the five At-Large Members to the Commission

Attachment 2a

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name: Andrea Baumgardner		
Phone: 701.306.2613		
Email: andrealbaumgardner@gmail.com		
Preferred mailing address: 1506 12th Street South		
City: Moorhead	State: MN	ZIP Code: 56560
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION		
Current employer: Part Time : The Barry Foundation		
Employer address: 15 Broadway, Ste. 600		
Phone: 701.356.7800	E-mail: abaumgardner@barryfoundation.org	Fax: 701.356.7801
City: Fargo	State: ND	ZIP Code: 58102
Position: Program Associate		

WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

I am a restaurant chef and owner who has sourced local food and developed relationships with local producers for the past 13 years locally and in California for the nine previous years. As of one year ago, I began working with a private family foundation in researching and developing their health and nutrition initiatives. We currently focus on food exposure at the early elementary level and are in the process of developing collaborative community food events with diverse local partners.

REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

Food is my lens for the world. I believe that access to nourishing, healthy food is something that all citizens should enjoy and not only impacts one's ability to perform on a daily basis, but also impacts long-term health and well-being. We all must eat and the way we eat can change the trajectory and quality of our lives.

I appreciate the opportunity to learn from the commission members' expertise and understand more about our community.

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): *NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.*

College experience in France and Spain opened my eyes to food as a career and avocation. After graduation from Macalester College in 1991, I ultimately decided to attend the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, California. I spent the following nine years working in San Francisco and Los Angeles restaurants, corporate catering and retail operations. I returned to North Dakota to be the opening chef at the Hotel Donaldson in the fall of 2001. Although not expecting to resettle in my hometown, it proved to be a permanent and fulfilling decision. I was a co-owner of Green Market, a restaurant and catering enterprise which operated for 6 ½ years until the partners chose to close it in 2013. Currently, I primarily work for a local nonprofit as a health and nutrition program associate. My husband and I have a six-year old son and live in Moorhead.

Signature: Andrea Baumgardner Date: 1/26/15

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – meganmyrdal@gmail.com

Or mail to:

Fargo Cass Public Health
Attn: Kim Lipetzsky
401 3rd Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

Attachment 2b

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Janet Paul		
Phone: Mobile 701-866-5854		
Email: janetfromfargo@yahoo.com		
Preferred mailing address: 2916 13th Ave South		
City: Moorhead	State: MN	ZIP Code: 56560

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer: Concordia College		
Employer address: Dining Services, 901 South 8th Street		
Phone: 218-299-4488	E-mail: jpaul@cord.edu	Fax: 218-299-4409
City: Moorhead	State: MN	ZIP Code: 56562
Position: Director of Dining Services		

WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

I have more than 25 years of experience in both commercial and noncommercial food service management, with the past 21 years in college dining, and I understand the challenges faced and requirements that must be met in the procurement process. In my role as director, I coordinate the efforts of60+ regular staff, supervisors, and managers, and oversee an $8 million budget. In addition, my extensive volunteer participation in a 600-member national trade association, including terms as national president, at large director, and committee chair, has provided excellent experience in consensus-building and increased my skill in working effectively with diverse groups of various sizes.

REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

I would like to serve on the CCFSAC because I have a personal and professional interest in helping develop a sustainable and practicable local food system.

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): *NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.*

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Janet Paul is the director of Dining Services at Concordia College. Located in Moorhead, MN, Concordia is a private, 4-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Janet has 27 years of hospitality management experience, including 20 years in college and university dining. She holds a Master's degree in management with a minor in human resources from the University of Mary.

Janet is very active in the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS), a 600 member trade association for college and university food service operators. She has served as national president of the association, national at-large director, regional president, facilitator and coach-mentor for education institutes, committee chair, and presenter. She is currently chair of the bylaws committee.

Janet has also been an active member of the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative as part of the food infrastructure working group.

In her spare time, Janet enjoys cooking, reading, volunteering, and spending time with family, friends, and her rescued dog, Joseph.

Signature: Janet Paul Date: 27 January 15

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – meganmyrdal@gmail.com

Or mail to:

Fargo Cass Public Health
Attn: Kim Lipetzsky
401 3rd Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

Attachment 2c

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name: Jessica Arneson		
Phone: 701-261-6928		
Email: jarneson@lssnd.org		
Preferred mailing address: 1720 3rd Ave. North		
City: Fargo	State: ND	ZIP Code: 58102
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION		
Current employer: Great Plains Food Bank, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota		
Employer address: 1720 3rd Ave. N		
Phone: 701-476-9121	E-mail: jarneson@lssnd.org	Fax: 701-232-3871
City: Fargo	State: ND	ZIP Code: 58102
Position: Agency Relations Manager		
WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?		
As a community-based, macro-level social worker in a food bank setting, I am skilled at: system assessment in the context of community; creating and facilitating collaborative platforms for groups and individuals to explore opportunities to leverage one anthers' work through community engagement and development; and creating educational tools to bring awareness to food system issues. Representing the Great Plains Food Bank on the commission, I bring the understanding of the food assistance systems in our area that work to recover surplus food and redirect it to people in need, as well as the know-how of how to challenge mindsets that lead to the abstract – but very real - barriers to food by people in need of stigma and judgment.		
REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:		
I strongly believe that there is enough food currently being produced to eliminate food insecurity in our region, and that access, distribution, and our Midwestern cultural mindset towards food assistance are the greatest challenges. I am committed to doing whatever I can professionally and personally to work towards solutions to these challenges, and to advance policies that promote a more just food system that eliminates barriers between people and food so families and individuals of all ages, abilities and socioeconomic status in our region can be stable, healthy, and thrive. I am dedicated to being 'part of the solution'!		
PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): *NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.*		
Community-based social worker Jessica Arneson first began advocating for a more just food system after becoming involved with faith-based advocacy organization Bread for the World as a Hunger Justice Leader in 2008. Since 2009 she has served on the Eastern North Dakota ELCA Hunger and Justice Committee, raising support and awareness for ELCA World Hunger and local hunger relief programs, educating Lutheran congregations on food justice issues, and urging others to become advocates for policies that impact poverty and hunger. In June of 2012, Jessica joined the Great Plains Food Bank as Agency Relations Manager, where she builds and supports partnerships with over 150 food assistance programs in eastern North Dakota. In addition to being passionate about food access issues, she is also very passionate about community development and engagement, particularly through platforms that bring people of all generations, socioeconomic status, and cultures together to collaborate and share leadership towards local solutions. She lives in south Fargo with her husband Jered, their daughter Riley, three dogs and a cat, and spends her free time in the winter making hats and mittens and cheering for the Green Bay Packers, and in the summer breathing fresh air and planting things in dirt.		

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – meganmyrdal@gmail.com

Or mail to:

Fargo Cass Public Health
Attn: Kim Lipetzsky
401 3rd Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

Attachment 2d

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Dana Rieth		
Phone: 218-737-6553 (work), 701-367-7388 (cell)		
Email: drieth@lcsc.org		
Preferred mailing address: 3240 44 Ave S		
City: Fargo	State: ND	ZIP Code: 58104

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer: Lakes Country Service Cooperative/ PartnerSHIP 4 Health		
Employer address: 1001 E Mount Faith		
Phone: 218-737-6553	E-mail: drieth@lcsc.org	Fax:
City: Fergus Falls	State: MN	ZIP Code: 56537
Position: Registered Dietitian		

WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

I am a licensed, registered dietitian with over 20 years of work experience. I have worked in healthcare food service management, and currently work with LCSC and PartnerSHIP 4 Health. I have served on the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative subcommittees and have been active in local food systems work.

REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

I have attended Cass Clay Food Systems meetings since 2012 and have served on the Economic Development and Infastructure subcommittee. I have assisted with arranging grower-buyer networking meetings as part of CCFSI and have made several connections within the grower community in our region. I have a strong desire to increase access to healthy and local foods within the community in a variety of ways such as strengthening farmers markets, community gardens, and improving food choices in healthcare institutions, restaurants, and food pantries.

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): *NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.*

I am a licensed, registered dietitian, and also hold a School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) credential. I am currently a Registered Dietitian with Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Fergus Falls, where I provide consultation services to K-12 school food service programs in a 9-county region of west central Minnesota. In addition, I work with PartnerSHIP 4 Health in Clay, Becker, Otter Tail and Wilkin counties. My work is focused on healthier food access in schools, worksites, human service organizations, and the community. As a result of local food systems work and recognizing the need for a sustainable infrastructure to support local foods, I assisted with the launch of a regional food hub in Fergus Falls in 2014.
I served on the drafting committee for the development of the Schools Leader Guide of the Minnesota Food Charter. I have given presentations at several conferences including the Minnesota School Nutrition Association, the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits, and the Minnesota Food Access Summit on topics including school meal regulations, Farm to School, and supporting healthy options in human service organizations.

Signature: Dana Rieth Date: 3/2/15

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – meganmyrdal@gmail.com

Or mail to:

Fargo Cass Public Health
Attn: Kim Lipetzsky
401 3rd Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

Attachment 2e

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name: Jon Evert		
Phone: 218-585-4148 (H); 218-849-4227 (C)		
Email: pjevert46@gmail.com		
Preferred mailing address: 6429 170th Avenue South		
City: Moorhead	State: MN	ZIP Code: 56560
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION		
Current employer: Retired		
Employer address:		
Phone:	E-mail:	Fax:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Position:		

WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

I have experience in farming (27 years), agricultural business (13 years), and agricultural sales (25years). I have worked for USDA, as a farm advocate for a statewide social service agency, rural ministry coordinator for a three state area, and executive director for an 18 county non-profit organization. I have served on scores of boards and committees involving issues related to farming, hunger advocacy, local government, history, religion, politics, education, local foods and many others.

REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

I have long been interested in local food production and marketing. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Food Association, the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, the U of M NW MN Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, as well as the U of M RSDP Statewide Coordinating Committee. Having served my maximum number of years on each of these boards and having served as the chair of each, I would welcome the chance to apply the experience I have had on a local food system.

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): *NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.*

I am a lifelong resident of Clay County. I graduated from Barnesville High School and Concordia College and did graduate studies at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. I was a 5th generation family farmer and an agricultural business owner and operator. I now assist my son on his organic farm operation when needed. I served as the Mayor of Comstock for 4 years and as a Clay County Commissioner for 20 years. I am married to Phyllis. We are the parents of 4 adult children and the grandparents of 7.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – meganmyrdal@gmail.com

Or mail to:

Fargo Cass Public Health
Attn: Kim Lipetzsky
401 3rd Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

Attachment 3

To: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
From: Adam Altenburg, Metro COG
Date: March 16, 2015
Re: ***Review Purpose and Powers of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission***

Background. In the fall of 2014, Metro COG worked closely with Fargo Cass Public Health and Clay County Public Health to develop a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establishing the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission. This agreement was signed by the City of Fargo and Clay County, the entities directly responsible for public health in Cass and Clay Counties respectively.

Purpose. As laid out in the JPA, the purpose of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission is to advise policy makers and elected officials in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on how to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable foods. Amongst other activities, this Commission will:

a) Assess the food system in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area with consideration of state and national trends and issues;
b) Educate policy makers in all local jurisdictions on food systems issues;
c) Provide language for policies and codes based on research;
d) Support community wellness through various activities related to healthy food consumption;
e) Cultivate partnerships and foster collaborative communication between local jurisdictions and other public and private partners;
f) Encourage inquiries from local jurisdictions on food systems issues;
g) Propose recommendations on ways to improve the food system in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area; and
h) Oversee the implementation of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan.

Powers. Consistent with and subject to the terms of the JPA and applicable laws, the Commission shall have the following powers:

a) To coordinate and prioritize food systems planning efforts and activities undertaken by the Commission;
b) To enter into agreements with entities, including private entities, to provide assistance on food systems activities, projects, or reports;
c) To expend available funds in accordance to any and all stipulations, including funds received on behalf of the Commission through voluntary contributions from Members, grants, or other sources; and
d) To perform other acts consistent with and necessary to implement the purpose of the Agreement.

Members. Following the terms of the JPA, the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission would consist of members appointed by each of the following governing bodies:

1. City of Fargo – one member of the City Commission
2. City of Moorhead – one member of the City Council
3. City of West Fargo – one member of the City Commission
4. City of Dilworth – one member of the City Council

5. Cass County – one member of the County Commission
6. Clay County – one member of the County Commission

In addition to six appointed member from the area governing bodies, five at-large members would be recommended by the CCFSI and agreed upon by a majority of appointed members at the first meeting.

Ex-officio Membership. Ex-officio (non-voting) membership shall be granted to the Fargo Cass Public Health, Clay County Public Health, the Steering Committee, and Metro COG.

Attachment 4

To: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
From: Megan Myrdal, Interim Chair and Project Coordinator
Date: March 16, 2015
Re: ***Public Comment Opportunity***

The Public Comment Opportunity is an open forum for the public to provide comments about specific items on this meeting's agenda, as well as any other issues that may pertain to food systems policies, programs, or documents.

Comments to the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission will be limited to one (1) minute per individual or at the discretion of the Food Systems Advisory Commission Chair.

Attachment 5

To: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
From: Megan Myrdal, Interim Chair and Project Coordinator & Whitney Oxendahl, Steering Committee
Date: March 16, 2015
Re: ***Commission Action Steps***

As part of the initial efforts by the Steering Committee, a series of draft blueprints have been created that address current possible gaps and needs with regard to food system issues in the area. Moving forward, these documents are intended to provide much of the information and guidance on key food system issues relevant to the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area.

Before the next tentatively scheduled meeting on May 13, the Steering Committee would ask that members of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission consider possible food systems issues in their respective jurisdictions and bring those to the next meeting. The Steering Committee would also like to ask that Commission members review implementation strategies on pages 34-37 of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan to help determine next possible set of blueprints and other work moving forward.

Urban Animal Keeping

Background

Individuals across the U.S. are increasing their consumption of food grown and raised near them or by them. Why has there been a push for more locally-grown foods? A vibrant local food system enhances the local economy and improves environmental and social health. People are looking for creative solutions to obtain cheaper, less-travelled food. Others want to know where their food has been, and raising their own animals or growing their own vegetables allows them that control and self-sufficiency. Even those who might want agricultural land outside city limits have barriers, like the difficulty finding available land and the expense to purchase it.

The Fargo-Moorhead area has been experiencing increased interest in discussing and strengthening the local food system with a focus on urban agriculture. An aspect of urban agriculture that is picking up steam is urban animal husbandry, which is raising livestock within cities for products like milk, eggs, and manure, and/or for companionship. These animals can be pigs, ducks, rabbits, pygmy goats, chickens, and bees. There has been growing interest in the F-M area to address the last two animals on the list, especially chickens. In the fall of 2014, a request was brought to the Fargo city commission to address the issue of raising backyard chickens, and the question has been raised in other jurisdictions in recent years.

Backyard Chickens

This issue brief will provide background information related to urban chickens, and address the common concerns and benefits from a health, environment, social, and economic standpoint. The brief will also address how each concern can be remedied through ordinance language and education. An appendix has been provided to share example policy language from other jurisdictions.

Background

Hundreds of cities across the U.S. and at least 20 communities in Minnesota, including Fergus Falls, have permitted urban chicken keeping. People have a desire for urban chickens for a number of reasons, including companionship, teaching children about agriculture, and the ability to raise one's own food (one hen provides on average 3-4 eggs per week). After setting up the coop and the initial learning curve, urban chicken farmers say a small flock can be as easy as raising a dog.

The following are common issues addressed in local ordinances:

- Number of birds permitted per household
- Permit and fee process
- Regulation of roosters
- Enclosure/containment restrictions
- Distance of coop from other homes/property line (setback)
- Location on the lot (e.g. backyard)
- Nuisance clause
- Requiring written consent by neighbors
- Storing chicken feed in rat-proof containers
- Slaughtering restrictions
- Number of chickens based on property size
- Restrictions of chickens in multi-family areas
- Violation or penalty

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- If eggs can be bought/sold or only consumed by owner

Table 1. Summary of chicken keeping approval in local jurisdictions

Moorhead	Dilworth	Clay County	Fargo	West Fargo	Cass County
Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted as accessory use*	Permitted with conditions**	Prohibited	Permitted***

** For Residential Parcels: Minimum parcel size of two acres. A maximum of one animal unit per fenced acre of usable area (one chicken=0.01 animal unit). Fences should be located at least 10 ft from adjoining property lines. All manure shall be properly disposed of. Note: feedlots have different standards*

***Fowl cannot run at large. The enclosures must be at least 75 ft away from neighboring dwellings, unless written consent is signed by the neighbor. If an animal is deemed a nuisance, either by odor, noise, attracting vermin or danger to the health of neighbors, it must be kept at least 200 feet from neighboring dwellings. Must abate any nuisance within 10 days of notice.*

****Requires a 250 feet buffer zone and individual townships may have their own zoning regulations.*

Table 2. Framework for evaluating urban chicken keeping

DOMAIN	BENEFIT	CONCERN
Health	Increases access to nutritious food source	Disease risk[1]
Environment	Keeps yard clean by eating bugs, pests, and weeds Chicken droppings can be composted and used as fertilizer, as long as safe composting practices are used May reduce food waste in garbage by feeding it to chickens Sustainable way to raise food in an urban environment (i.e. less energy used to transportation)	Attraction of unwanted pests or predators
Economic	Possible financial relief for low-income families Potential for individuals to sell backyard chicken eggs (if permitted) Reduces kitchen waste in municipal trash collections system	Cost of permitting fee, setting up a coop and the equipment may be cost prohibitive for low-income families Jurisdiction cost of monitoring and addressing issues Disposal of dead birds can be expensive for individuals if the only disposal option is a vet's office

[1] Human Health Concerns about Raising Poultry. Illinois Dept of Public Health. Accessed 2015 January 21. http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/Poultry.htm

DRAFT

Social	Can be regarded as pets and allows for positive social, cognitive, physical and emotional connection Increased awareness of the food cycle and connection to agriculture Can bring neighbors together Provide a positive family activity	Possibility of noise nuisance Odor and visual appeal of neighborhood if not properly cared for Can be difficult to keep in winter

Table 3. Common urban chicken keeping concerns addressed

CONCERN	MORE INFORMATION	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Disease	Contracting a communicable disease, like the flu or respiratory illness is negligible for urban poultry farming because of the size of the flock. This is a larger concern in industrial farming. Bacteria, like *Salmonella*, can be found in poultry droppings	The hazards of bacterial infections can be mitigated by education regarding how to handle and care for poultry, including washing hands after returning indoors, and how to properly compost droppings for fertilizer. This can easily be addressed by educating urban chicken farmers with printed materials or offering classes.
Attracting pests and predators	Flies and other pests lay their eggs in droppings because they like moisture. Chickens do not attract urban predators any more than a cat or dog.	Pests can be minimized through proper bedding care, and chickens also help by eating pests.
Cost for low-income families		Part of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan is addressing issues of food access, possible barrier reduction could include funding and management from outside sources, like a nonprofit, to cover the startup costs
Disposal		Other communities have offered these: 1. City provides dead animal pick-up free of charge 2. Buried on property at least two feet down. 3. Closed securely in a plastic bag and placed in municipal trash
Noise	Hens “talking” at their loudest, speak at the same decibel level as human conversation (about 60 decibels). This is also personality-based; some hens are more talkative than others. Roosters crow at about the same decibel level as a barking dog (90 decibels).	Many urban ordinances ban roosters, because of their loud crowing.

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Smell	Chicken manure is high in nitrogen, which can lead to an ammonia smell if not properly cared for.	Adding carbon material, like dried leaves and straw, to the bedding will get rid of the smell; it's all about carbon to nitrogen ratio. Can be remedied through quality bedding.
Winter keeping		Proper education can reduce the impact of winter poultry farming: make sure to keep combs warm and use a heat lamp when the temperature gets below 20 degrees.

Backyard Beekeeping

This issue brief will provide background information related to urban beekeeping, and address the common concerns and benefits from a health, environment, social, and economic standpoint. The brief will also address how each concern can be remedied through ordinance language and education. An appendix has been provided to share example policy language from other jurisdictions.

Background

In 2014, the USDA issued a report declaring we are in a "critical time for efforts" to support our honeybee populations, since these populations have been in decline for decades. The colonies in the U.S have decreased from 6 million in 1947 to 2.5 million today.[2] No one knows the reason for the sharp decline, although some suspect colony collapse disorder (CCD) caused by a combination of environmental stressors such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, and pesticides.[3]

Beekeepers and citizens are concerned about colony collapse since bees are responsible for up to one-third of the food eaten by U.S. consumers.[4] With concerns about CCD, encouraging new research suggests that bees are thriving in urban environments due to the diversity plants in urban areas compared to farmland, which tends to consist of large swaths of a single crop (known as monocropping).[5]

The popularity of urban beekeeping has grown rapidly, and in the past few years, Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Duluth, MN have addressed that call by issuing permits for backyard hives.

The following are common issues addressed in local ordinances:

- Number of hives permitted
- Permit and fee process
- Hive restrictions
- Location on the lot (e.g. backyard)
- Removal of beekeeping equipment and bee combs from apiary* grounds to prevent robbing**
- Equipment requirements (e.g. hives with removable frames and in sound condition)
- Flyway barriers***
- Source of fresh water

[2] USDA [online]. 2014. USDA Provides $8 Million to Help Boost Declining Honey Bee Population. Accessed 2015 January 21. http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/06/0130.xml

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- Setback distances
- Minimum lot size
- Rooftop considerations
- Nuisance clause
- Re-queening an aggressive colony
- Hive clearly marked with owner's contact information/permit number
- Hive disposal
- Educational requirements (e.g. beginner beekeeping class)
- Violation or penalty
- If honey and other products can be bought/sold or only consumed by owner

**Apiary: place where honeybee hives or colonies are kept*
***Robbing: pilfering of honey from a weak colony by other honeybees or insects*
****Flyway barrier: an obstacle like a fence, wall, or vegetation used to force bees to fly upwards when they leave the hive to avoid contact with people and reduce the risk of stinging*

Beekeeping is not addressed in Fargo*, Moorhead**, Dilworth, West Fargo, Cass County, or Clay County ordinances.

**Bees are not addressed in the Fargo ordinances, although the city attorney's opinion is that bees would be illegal in the city*
***Moorhead ordinances were recently reviewed by a city attorney who ruled that bees are not allowed since bees are not addressed as an accessory use*

Table 1. Framework for evaluating urban beekeeping

DOMAIN	BENEFIT	CONCERN
Health	Increases easy access to nutritious food source	Allergies to bee stings
Environment	More fruitful gardens and plants due to increased bee pollination Increase in biodiversity Helps support dwindling honeybee populations	
Economic	Furnishing individuals and families with honey, wax and other useful products Potential for individuals to sell honey Increased pollination of food crops	Cost of permitting fee, setting up a hive and the equipment may be cost prohibitive for low-income families Jurisdiction cost of monitoring and addressing issues
Social	Increased awareness of the food cycle and connection to agriculture Provide a positive family activity	Fear of getting stung Nuisances include occasional stinging when they feel threatened, swarming, and gravitating to nearby shallow bodies of water

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Table 2. Common urban beekeeping concerns addressed

CONCERN	MORE INFORMATION	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Bee sting	One of the key concerns regarding urban beekeeping is the fear of being stung. We have a handout that addresses common misconceptions about bee stings and may be a useful resource for citizens and beekeepers. Yellow jackets are the most aggressive and prone to stinging. Honeybees, by contrast, are the least likely to attack because honeybee strains have been bred for traits like gentleness and reduced swarming. A majority of individuals are allergic to yellow jackets, not honeybees.	Public education is crucial to minimizing the fear of stinging. Most ordinances require a six-foot tall flyway barrier at the hive exit which forces bees to fly up and away, reducing their contact with humans. Many ordinances have requirements, such as: 1. The barrier be located a certain number of feet from the hive (e.g. 3-5 ft.) 2. It extends anywhere from 2-10 feet on either side of the colony 3. No barrier required if the hive is a certain number of feet (e.g. 15-30 ft.) from the property line or located on porches or balconies at least 10 feet high and five feet from the property line.
Cost for low-income families		Part of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan is addressing issues of food access, possible barrier reduction could include funding and management from outside sources, like a nonprofit, to cover the startup costs
Gravitating toward bodies of water		Most ordinances require urban beekeepers to provide a water source for their colonies during the non-dormant period as to minimize the nuisance to surrounding property owners.

Resource

If you have questions, please contact Kim Lipetzky with the Fargo Cass Public Health Office at 701-241-8195 or klipetzky@cityoffargo.com.

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Appendix: Example Ordinances

Ann Arbor, MI (population 117,025)
Chapter 107 (Animals) - 9:42. Keeping of Chickens
(1) Any person who keeps chickens in the City of Ann Arbor shall obtain a permit from the City prior to acquiring the chickens. No permit shall be issued to a person, by the City, and no chickens shall be allowed to be kept unless the owners of all residentially zoned adjacent properties (as defined below in subsection 3 (j)) consent in writing to the permit and this consent is presented along with an application for a permit. Written statements waiving the distance requirement in subsection (3) below shall also be submitted at the time of application and become a part of the permit if issued. Application shall be made to the City Clerk and the fee for the permit shall be as determined by Council resolution.
Permits expire and become invalid five (5) years after the date of issuance. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall have obtained a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements that are applicable at the time the person applies for a new permit.
(2) Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the City, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.
(3) A person who keeps or houses chickens on his or her property shall comply with all of the following requirements:
a. Have been issued the permit required under subsection (1) of this section.
b. Keep no more than four (4) chickens.
c. The principal use of the person's property is for a single-family dwelling or two-family dwelling.
d. No person shall keep any rooster.
e. No person shall slaughter any chickens.
f. The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure at all times. Fenced enclosures are subject to all provisions of Chapter 104 (Fences).
g. A person shall not keep chickens in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this section, "backyard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family or two family structure and extending to the side lot lines.
h. No covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall be located closer than ten (10) feet to any property line of an adjacent property;
i. All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure. A covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than forty (40) feet to any residential structure on an adjacent property provided, however, this requirement can be waived as follows:
(i) If the principal use of applicant's property is for a single-family dwelling, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of all adjacent landowners that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
(ii) If the principal use of the applicant's property is for a two-family dwelling, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of all adjacent landowners and of the occupants of the other dwelling stating that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
j. For purposes of this section, adjacent property means all parcels of property that the applicant's property comes into contact with at one or more points, except for parcels that are legally adjacent to but are in fact separated from the applicant's property by a public or private street.
k. All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure.
l. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice, or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them.

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m. If the above requirements are not complied with, the City may revoke any permit granted under this section and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation.
(4) A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any police officer or code enforcement officer.

Boston, MA (population 645,966)
SECTION 89-9. **Accessory Keeping of Hens.**
1. Use Regulations. See Underlying Zoning for applicable use regulations.
(a) For all areas covered under the Base Code, see Article 8 – Use No. 76.
(b) For all other areas not covered under the Base Code, see Use Regulation Table in specific Article.
(c) Where the Accessory Keeping of Animals is a Conditional Use in the applicable Underlying Zoning, the Board of Appeal shall not grant a Conditional Use Permit for the Accessory Keeping of Hens unless the following conditions are met.
(d) The maximum number of adult Hens in all Districts and Subdistricts not covered under the Base Code shall be six (6) per Lot.
(e) The maximum number of non-egg-laying replacement Chicks or Pullets in all Districts and Subdistricts not covered under the Base Code shall be six (6) per Lot.
(f) Roosters are expressly Forbidden.
(g) The on-site slaughtering of Hens is prohibited.
2. Dimensional Regulations.
(a) Maximum Height.
i. Coop. Enclosed Coop space shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.
ii. Run. Runs shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.
(b) Size.
i. Coop. Coop space must allow a minimum of two (2) square feet per Hen and one (1) nest box per three (3) Hens within, and shall not exceed a maximum size of eight (8) feet by six (6) feet.
ii. Run. Runs must allow a minimum of four (4) square feet per Hen, but in no case shall occupy more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the rear yard.
(c) Setbacks.
i. Subject to Article 10 (Accessory Uses), Coops and Runs shall be set back five (5) feet from all property lines in all Districts and Subdistricts unless there is a solid, opaque barrier such as a wall of fence along the property line.
ii. Coops and Runs shall not be located in the front yard or in a side yard that abuts a street in all residential and commercial Districts and Subdistricts.
iii. Coops and Runs shall not be within a fifteen (15) foot buffer of habitable structures on adjacent properties in all residential Districts and Subdistricts unless prior permission is granted in writing by the neighboring property owner(s).
(d) Materials.
i. All Coops shall be made of washable and sanitizable material such as fiberglass reinforced plastic.
ii. All Runs shall have a securely built frame, preferably wooden; shall be covered in wire mesh material such as hardware cloth; and designed to be predator proof.
(e) Screening.
i. Any portion of the Coop or Run directly visible from a street at any distance shall be screened by either a fence that is constructed to be at least sixty percent (60%) opaque or a landscaped buffer of at least four (4) feet in height.
(f) Free Ranging.
i. Free-ranging of adult egg-laying Hens shall be supervised and is allowed exclusively in fenced yards with consent of all residents and property owners who have legal access to the premises.

Fergus Falls, MN (population 13,351)
(F) Keeping of Chickens.
(1) Chickens permitted. It is unlawful for any person to own, control, keep, maintain or harbor chickens on any premises within the City unless issued a permit to do so as provided in this section. No permit shall be issued for the keeping or harboring of more than four (4) female chickens or hens on any premises. The keeping or harboring of male chickens or roosters is prohibited.

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(2) Definitions. For the purpose of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.
“CHICKEN” means a female chicken or hen.
“AT LARGE” means a chicken out of its chicken run, off the premises or not under the custody and control of the owner.
“CHICKEN COOP” means a structure for housing chickens made of wood or other similar materials that provides shelter from the elements.
“CHICKEN RUN” means an enclosed outside yard for keeping chickens.
“PERSON” means the resident, property owner, custodian, or keeper or of any chicken.
“PREMISES” means any platted lot or group of contiguous lots, parcels or tracts of land and is located within the city.
(3) Permit. No person shall maintain a chicken coop and/or chicken run unless granted a permit by the Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to issue a maximum of 12 permits annually for the keeping of chickens. The permit shall be subject to all the terms and conditions of this section and any additional conditions deemed necessary by the Animal Control Officer to protect the public health, safety and welfare. The necessary permit application may be obtained from the City Administrator‟s office. Included with the completed application must be a scaled diagram that indicates the location of any chicken coop and/or chicken run, and the approximate size and distance from adjoining structures and property lines, the number and species of chickens to be maintained at the premises, and a statement that the applicant/permittee will at all times keep the chickens in accordance with this ordinance and all the conditions prescribed by the Animal Control Officer, or modification thereof, and failure to obey such conditions will constitute a violation of the provisions of this section and grounds for cancellation of the permit. The applicant shall include written consents/approval of the keeping of chickens on their premises from all abutting property owners, or shall provide proof of the certified mailing of a notice, and copies of said notice(s) to all abutting property owner(s) which advises the abutting property owner(s) the applicant is applying for a permit from the City of Fergus Falls for the keeping of chickens on their premises, the abutting property owner may object to the applicant‟s permit application, any objection must be received by the Animal Control Officer within 10 days of the mailing date of said notice, and failure to provide written objections to the Animal Control Officer within 10 days of the mailing of said notice will authorize the Animal Control Officer to issue a permit for the keeping of chickens to the applicant at their premises. Upon receipt of a permit application, the Animal Control Officer shall determine if the application is complete and contains the required consents/approvals and/or proof of the certified mailing of the required notices. If the application is complete and includes written consents/approval from all abutting property owners, the Animal Control Officer shall issue a permit for the keeping of chickens to the applicant. If the application is complete and includes proof of mailing certified notices to abutting property owner(s) as required by this section, the Animal Control Officer shall issue a permit to the applicant 10 days after receipt of the completed application, unless the Animal Control Officer receives a written objection from an abutting property owner objecting to the applicant‟s application for the keeping of chickens, in which case no permit shall be issued. No permit shall be issued for an incomplete application or for the keeping of chickens on any rental premises. A permit for the keeping of chickens may be revoked or suspended by the Animal Control Officer for any violation of this section following written notice. The applicant / permittee may appeal the revocation or suspension of their permit by requesting in writing a hearing before the city council within seven (7) days of the notice of revocation or suspension. The request for hearing must be either postmarked or received in the city administrator‟s office within seven (7) days of the date of the notice. The city council shall hold a hearing on the applicant/permittee‟s request for hearing within thirty (30) days of the request for hearing. An annual fee will be set by resolution.
(4) Confinement. Every person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains, or harbors chickens must keep them confined at all times in a chicken coop and chicken run and may not allow the chickens to run at large. Any chicken coop and chicken run shall be at least twenty-five (25) feet from any residential structure or any other structures on any adjacent premises.
(5) Chicken Coops and Chicken Runs.
(a) All chicken coops and chicken runs must be located within the rear yard subject to a twenty (20) foot setback from any adjacent premises and be at least twenty-five (25) feet from any residential structure or dwelling or any other structures or dwellings on any adjacent premises. All chicken coops must be a minimum of four (4) square feet per chicken in size, must not exceed ten (10) square feet per chicken in size and must not exceed six (6) feet in total height. Attached fenced-in chicken runs must not exceed 20 square feet per chicken and fencing must not exceed six (6) feet in total height. Chicken runs may be enclosed with wood and/or woven wire materials, and may allow

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chickens contact with the ground. Chicken feed must be kept in metal predator proof containers. Chicken manure may be placed in yard compost piles.
(b) Chicken coops must either be:
(i) Elevated with a clear open space of at least twenty-four (24) inches between the ground surface and framing/floor of the coop; or,
(ii) The coop floor, foundation and footings must be constructed using rodent resistant construction.
(c) Chicken coops are not allowed to be located in any part of a home and/or garage.
(d) Chickens must be secured in a chicken coop from sunset to sunrise each day.
(6) Conditions and Inspections. No person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains, or harbors chickens shall permit the premises, whether the chickens are kept to be or remain in an unhealthy, unsanitary or noxious condition or to permit the premises to be in such condition that noxious odors are carried to adjacent public or private property. Any chicken coop or chicken run authorized by permit under this section may be inspected at any reasonable time by the Animal Control Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or other agent of the City. A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by the Animal Control Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or other agent of the City. Slaughter and breeding of chickens on any premises within the City is prohibited.
(7) Private Restrictions and Covenants on Property. Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the City, private restrictions and/or covenants on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, covenant declarations and deed restrictions. A permit issued to a person whose premises are subject to private restrictions and/or covenants that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.
(8) Refusal to Grant or Renew Permit. The Animal Control Officer may refuse to grant or renew a permit to keep or maintain chickens for failure to comply with the provisions of this section, submitting an inaccurate or incomplete application, if the conditions of the permit are not met, if a nuisance condition is created, or if the public health and safety would be unreasonably endangered by the granting or renewing of such permit.
(9) Removal of chicken coop and chicken run. Any chicken coop or chicken run constructed or maintained on any premises shall be immediately removed from said premises after the expiration of the permit or shall be removed within thirty (30) days upon ceasing to use the chicken coop and/or chicken run for the keeping of chickens.
(10) Residential Agricultural District. This ordinance does not apply to premises located in a residential agricultural district as that area is defined in this Code.
(11) Prohibited. The keeping of chickens, male or female, is prohibited in R-3, R-4 and R-5 Multiple-Family and Multiple-Residence Districts and all Business and Industrial Districts (B-1 though B-6 and I-1 through I-3) as those areas are defined in this Code.
(12) Violations a Misdemeanor. Any person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains or harbors chickens in the City of Fergus Falls without obtaining or maintaining a current permit or after a permit has been suspended or revoked by Council action shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Minneapolis, MN (population 400,070)
70.10. - Permit required.
(a) No person shall anywhere in the city keep, harbor, or maintain care, custody, or control over any small animal or any fowl such as a chicken, turkey, duck, or pigeon, without obtaining a permit issued by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.
(b) Minneapolis Animal Care and Control may grant permit pursuant to this section after the applicant has sought the written consent of at least eighty (80) percent of the occupants of the several descriptions of real estate situated within one hundred (100) feet of the applicant's real estate. Such written consent shall be required on the initial application and as often thereafter as Minneapolis Animal Care and Control deems necessary.
(c) No permit shall be granted to keep any animal, fowl, or pigeon within a dwelling unit or part thereof, nor on any real estate which contains three (3) or more dwelling units.
(d) This section shall not apply to dogs, cats, ferrets, or rabbits nor to veterinarians or licensed pet shops or licensed kennels.
(e) Application for permit. Any person desiring a permit under this chapter shall make written application to Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Approval of application is subject to conditions prescribed by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Failure to adhere to conditions is cause for cancellation of the permit and/or result in an administrative fine.

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(f) Duration of permit. All permits issued shall expire on January 31 of the following year after its issuance unless sooner revoked. The application fee for such permit shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) which shall be paid at the time of application. The annual renewal fee thereafter for such permit shall be forty dollars ($40.00). Minneapolis Animal Care and Control will inspect the premises annually or as deemed necessary.
(g) Five-year permit. The fee for a five-year permit will be one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00). All five-year permits issued shall expire on January 31 of the year following the fifth year after its issuance unless sooner revoked. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control will inspect the premises annually or as deemed necessary.
(h) Refusal to grant permit. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control may refuse a permit to keep or maintain animals or fowl hereunder for failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, and shall refuse a permit if such animals or fowl should not be kept upon the premises described in the application for the permit. If any such permit is refused, the fee paid with the application shall be retained by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.
(i) Enforcement. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Park River, ND (population 1,390)
AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO CONTROL OF ANIMALS AND POULTRY
Animals and poultry not to be raised or kept in certain areas, penalty. No person or persons shall raise or keep any domestic animals or poultry, or both, of the species of horses, mules, asses, cattle, sheep, goats , swine, geese, chickens, ducks, turkeys, peacocks, guinea hens, or similar livestock or fowl within the city limits of the City of Park River, except as follows:
I. Up to 8 hen chickens (no roosters) will be allowed with a license.
2. Initial license must be approved by 75% of the property owners within 200 feet of the coop.
3. Applicant shall pay an initial license fee of $25.00 and annual fee of $5.00.
4. In the event a complaint has been filed with the City of Park River prior to renewal of said license within the past calendar year, the Building Inspector will determine if the license renewal is issued. If no complaints have been filed, the renewal shall be considered extended for all additional year provided payment is received.
5. Slaughtering of chickens on the premises is prohibited.
6. A separate coop and run is required to house the chickens. Coop must be located in the rear and be setback at least five feet from the property lines.
7. All premises on which hens are kept or maintained shall be an enclosed fence and be kept clean from filth, garbage, and any substances which attract rodents. The coop and its surrounding area must be cleaned to control odor so as not to be detectible on another property.
8. All grain and food stored for the use of the hens on premises with a chicken license shall be kept in a rodent proof container.
9. All applicants must notify the owner of the property if the applicant is not the owner.
10. A complaint against any person owning, keeping or harboring chickens may be filed with the City of Park River Building Inspector. If an investigation from the Building Inspector reveals that the use of chickens is in violation of this section or any other section of this Code the City Building Inspector shall have authority to require the owner or user of the property to fix, abate, or alleviate the problem. If the problem is not satisfactorily abated or alleviated the City Building Inspector shall have authority to revoke the license.

Salt Lake City, UT (population 191,180)
8.08.010: DOMESTIC FOWL AND LIVESTOCK; PERMIT REQUIRED:
A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, it is unlawful for any person to keep within the city any chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons or other similar domestic fowl, or more than two (2) rabbits, or other similar animals, without first making application for and obtaining a permit from the office of animal services to do so. The fee for such permit shall be five dollars ($5.00) per animal, but shall not exceed forty dollars ($40.00) per year.
B. Notwithstanding Subsection A of this section, chickens may be kept in any area zoned as a residential district under Chapter 21A.24 of this code or its successor, subject to the requirements of Section 8.08.065 of this chapter.
C. It is unlawful for any person to keep within the city any sheep, goats, cows, calves, pigs, horses, jacks, jennies, or other similar animals, without first making application for and obtaining a permit from the office of animal services to do so. The fee for such permit shall be forty dollars ($40.00) each year. Such permits shall not be issued for any area of the city except areas zoned as agricultural districts under Section 21A.32.050 of this code, or its successor section.
SECTION 2. **Amending Section 8.08.060.** That Section 8.08.060 of the *Salt Lake City Code,* shall be, and hereby is, amended to read as follows:

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8.08.060: HOUSING AND FEEDING OF ANIMALS; LOCATION RESTRICTIONS:
It is unlawful to house, keep, run or feed any of the above mentioned animals within fifty feet (50') of any structure used for human habitation except as provided in Section 8.08.065 of this chapter.
SECTION 3. **Enacting Section 8.08.065.** That Section 8.08.065 of the *Salt Lake City Code* shall be, and hereby is, enacted to authorize the keeping of chickens in residential districts, subject to certain requirements, as follows:
8.08.065: KEEPING CHICKENS:
A. Subject to the requirements of this section and any other applicable provision of this chapter, fifteen (15) hen chickens (and no roosters) may be kept on a lot or parcel of land in a residential district for the sole purpose of producing eggs. The principal use on the lot or parcel shall be a one-family dwelling, a two-family dwelling, or a multi-family dwelling. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person who complies with the requirements of Section 8.08.030 of this title may keep chickens as provided in such section.
B. Chickens shall be confined within a secure outdoor enclosed area.
1. The enclosed area shall include a covered, ventilated, and predator-resistant chicken coop.
a. The coop shall have a minimum floor area of at least two (2) square feet per chicken.
b. If chickens are not allowed to roam within an enclosed area outside the coop, the coop shall have a minimum floor area of six (6) square feet per chicken.
2. The coop shall be located in a rear yard at least twenty-five (25) feet from any dwelling located on an adjacent lot.
a. The coop and enclosed area shall be maintained in a neat and sanitary condition and shall be maintained as provided in Section 8.08.070 of this chapter.
b. No chicken shall be permitted to roam outside the coop or enclosed area.
3. Chicken feed shall be stored and dispensed in rodent-proof and predator-proof containers.
C. Chickens shall not be kept on a residential lot or parcel unless the person keeping chickens first obtains a permit as provided in Section 8.08.010 of this chapter.
1. The permittee shall acknowledge the rules set forth in this section and shall, as a condition of permit issuance, agree in writing to comply with such rules.
2. The permit shall be good for one (1) year and may be renewed annually.
D. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any chicken in a residential district in a manner contrary to the provisions of this section.
SECTION 4. **Amending Section 8.08.080.** That Section 8.08.080 of the *Salt Lake City Code,* shall be, and hereby is, amended to read as follows:
8.08.080: TRESPASS BY FOWL OR DOMESTIC ANIMALS:
It is unlawful for the owner or any person in charge of domestic fowl, such as turkeys, ducks, geese, chickens or other similar domestic fowls, or domestic animals such as dogs or cats, to permit such fowls or domestic animals to trespass upon the premises of another. It is unlawful for any person to house, keep, run or feed any such fowls within fifty feet (50') of any house used for human habitation except as provided in Section 8.08.065 of this chapter.

Boston, MA
SECTION 89-10. Accessory Keeping of Honey Bees.
1. Use Regulations. For proposed ground level or roof level Hives, see Underlying Zoning for applicable use regulations.
(a) For all areas covered under the Base Code, see Article 8 – Use No. 76.
(b) For all other areas not covered under the Base Code, see Use Regulation Table in specific Article.
(c) Where the Accessory Keeping of Animals is a Conditional Use in the applicable Underlying Zoning, the Board of Appeal shall not grant a Conditional Use Permit for the Accessory Keeping of Honey Bees unless the following conditions are met.
2. Maximum Number of Hives.
(a) The maximum number of Hives on any given Lot or roof for personal consumption of Honey Bee products shall be two (2).
3. Maximum Height and Size.
(a) No Hive shall exceed five (5) feet in height and twenty (20) cubic feet in size on any Lot or roof.
4. Specific Ground Level Beekeeping Requirements.
(a) Setbacks.

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i. Where there is a wall, fence or similar barrier between the subject property and adjacent property, no setback from the property line is required. Where there is no wall, fence or similar barrier between subject property and adjacent property, Hives shall be set back five (5) feet from the property line.
ii. Hives shall not be located in the front yard or in a side yard that abuts a street in all residential and commercial Districts and Subdistricts.
iii. No Hive shall be located closer than ten (10) feet from a public sidewalk.
(b) Hive Placement and Flyways.
i. For any ground level Hive that is within twenty (20) feet of the doors and/or windows of the principal building on an abutting Lot, either of the following conditions must exist:
a. The Hive opening must face away from doors and/or windows; or
b. A flyway of at least six (6) feet in height comprising of a lattice fence, dense hedge or similar barrier must be established in front of the opening of the Hive such that the Honey Bees fly upward and away from neighboring properties. The flyway shall be located within three (3) feet of the entrance to the Hive and shall extend at least two (2) feet in width on either side of the Hive opening.
5. Specific Rooftop Beekeeping Requirements.
(a) Setbacks.
i. Hives shall be set back six (6) feet from the edge of the roof.
(b) Hive Placement and Flyways.
i. For any roof level Hive that is within twenty (20) feet of the doors and/or windows of the principal building on an abutting Lot, either of the following conditions must exist:
a. The Hive opening must face away from doors and/or windows; or
b. A flyway of at least six (6) feet in height comprising of a lattice fence, dense hedge or similar barrier must be established in front of the opening of the Hive such that the Honey Bees fly upward and away from neighboring properties. The flyway shall be located within three (3) feet of the entrance to the Hive and shall extend at least two (2) feet in width on either side of the Hive opening.
6. Compliance with State and Local Laws.
(a) All beekeeping shall comply with applicable State and local laws and regulations.

Duluth, MN (population 86,128)
Sec. 6-80.1. Keeping of honeybees.
(a) Each person holding a license to keep honeybees within the city of Duluth shall comply with the following
(1) No more than five hives may be located on a lot;
(2) No hive shall exceed 20 cubic feet in volume
(3) A constant supply of water shall be provided for all hives, except during the dormant period;
(4) No ground hive shall be located closer than five feet from any property line;
(5) No ground hive shall be located closer than 15 feet from a public sidewalk or 30 feet from a principal building on an abutting lot;
(6) A flyway barrier at least six feet in height shall shield any part of a property line that is within 30 feet of a ground hive. The flyway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof and it shall be positioned to transect both legs of a triangle extending from an apex to each end point of the part of the property line to be shielded;
(7) Rooftop apiaries are allowed but shall not be located closer than 15 feet from a principal building on an abutting lot.

Minneapolis, MN
74.80. - Keeping of honeybees.
(a) No person shall keep, maintain, or allow to be kept any hive or other facility for the housing of honeybees on or in any property in the City of Minneapolis without a permit.
(b) The number and location of hives, colonies and/or facilities for the housing of honeybees permitted by this section shall be determined by a permit issued by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. The permit shall specify any restrictions, limitations, conditions or prohibitions required by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control as necessary to safeguard public health and the general welfare. Subject to a hearing to be held by a committee of the council or other designated hearing examiner, if requested within five (5) days of the notification, Minneapolis Animal Care and

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Control may deny, suspend, or revoke any permit applied for or granted pursuant to this section if any condition or requirement is violated or if the keeping of honeybees becomes a public nuisance.
(c) Minneapolis Animal Care and Control may grant a permit pursuant to this section only after the applicant has met any educational requirements as established and published by the manager and has provided evidence of notification to all immediately adjacent property owners, in a format supplied by or approved by and to the satisfaction of Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. If the applicant is a renter, approval from the property owner will be required. Neighbor notification will be the responsibility of the property owner, though it may be carried out by the applicant.
(d) Any person desiring a permit for the keeping of honeybees shall make application to Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Approval of the application is subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. All permits issued shall expire on January thirty-first of the year following issuance unless sooner revoked. The application fee for such permit shall be one hundred dollars ($100.00) which shall be paid at the time of application. There shall be no fee for annual renewal but the permit must be renewed annually for administrative tracking and notification purposes in a format supplied by or approved by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Failure to provide such renewal may result in an inspection and penalties including citation and revocation of permit. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control shall inspect the premises as deemed necessary. Should the permit be refused, denied or revoked, the fee paid with the application shall be retained by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.
(e) Minneapolis Animal Care and Control shall enforce the provisions of this section.
(f) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) Apiary means the assembly of one (1) or more colonies of honeybees at a single location.
(2) Beekeeper means a person who owns or has charge of one (1) or more colonies of honeybees.
(3) Beekeeping equipment means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.
(4) Colony means an aggregate of honeybees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one (1) queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.
(5) Hive means the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured for that purpose.
(6) Honeybee means all life stages of the common domestic honeybee, Apis mellifera species of European origin.
(7) Lot means a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.
(8) Nucleus colony means a small quantity of honeybees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose.
(9) Undeveloped property means any idle land that is not improved or actually in the process of being improved with residential, commercial, industrial, church, park, school or governmental facilities or other structures or improvements intended for human occupancy and the grounds maintained in associations therewith. The term shall be deemed to include property developed exclusively as a street or highway or property used for commercial agricultural purposes.

(g) Standards of practice. Any person obtaining a permit pursuant to this section shall comply with the following standards of practice:

(1) Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
(2) Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony prior to and so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive.
(3) Each beekeeper shall ensure that no wax comb or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot. Such materials once removed from the site shall be handled and stored in sealed containers, or placed within a building or other insect-proof container.
(4) For each colony permitted to be maintained under this article, there may also be maintained upon the same apiary lot, one (1) nucleus colony in a hive structure not to exceed one (1) standard nine and five-eighths-inch depth ten-frame hive body with no supers.
(5) Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. It shall be a violation of this section for any beekeeper's unused equipment to attract a swarm, even if the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping honeybees.
(6) Each beekeeper shall enclose their property and/or the apiary with a latching fence. A fence shall not be required if the hives are approved to be located on a rooftop so as to be inaccessible to the general public

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so that bee movements to and from the hive do not interfere with the ordinary movements of persons on adjacent properties or the public right-of-way.

(7) Each beekeeper shall, if unable or unwilling to continue to maintain their permitted hives, promptly notify Minneapolis Animal Care and Control so that the hives may be made available to an approved honeybee rescue entity, or, if necessary, disposed of by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. There shall be a fifty dollar ($50.00) fee for disposal of hives.

(h) Colony density. Any person obtaining a permit pursuant to this section shall comply with the following restrictions on colony density:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in each instance where a colony is kept less than twenty-five (25) feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, and any entrances to the hive faces that lot line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof, such that honeybees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony. If a flyway barrier of dense vegetation is used, the initial planting may be four (4) feet in height, so long as the vegetation normally reaches six (6) feet in height or higher. The flyway barrier must continue parallel to the apiary lot line for ten (10) feet in either direction from the hive. All other sides of the area encompassing the colonies shall consist of fencing, a wall, dense vegetation or combination of at least four (4) feet tall. The area encompassing the colonies need not entail the entire property. A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line is undeveloped, or is zoned agricultural or industrial, or is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land with no horse or foot trails located within twenty-five (25) feet of the apiary lot line. A flyway barrier is not required if the hives are located on the roof of a structure containing at least one (1) full story if all hives are located at least five (5) feet from the side of the structure and at least fifteen (15) feet from any adjacent and occupied structure.

(2) No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot:

a. One-half (½) acre or smaller lot: Two (2) colonies;
b. Larger than one-half (½) acre but smaller than three-quarter (¾) acre lot: Four (4) colonies;
c. Larger than three-quarter (¾) acre lot but smaller than one (1) acre lot: Six (6) colonies;
d. One (1) acre but smaller than five (5) acres: Eight (8) colonies;
e. Larger than five (5) acres: As determined by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.

(3) Regardless of lot size, so long as all lots within a radius of at least two hundred (200) feet from any hive, measured from any point on the front of the hive, remain undeveloped, the maximum number of colonies may be increased by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. No grandfathering rights shall accrue under this subsection.

(4) If a beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honeybees from locations where they are not desired, a beekeeper shall not be considered in violation of the portion of this section limiting the number of colonies while temporarily housing the swarm on the apiary lot in compliance with the standards of practice established pursuant to this section if the swarm is so housed for no more than thirty (30) days from the date acquired.

(i) Pursuant to section 244.2000(a) of this Code, any rental dwelling license holder notified by an immediately adjacent property owner of the intent to house beehives on the immediately adjacent owner's property shall post said notice in a common area of the rental property or, if a single-family home, the rental license holder shall provide said notice to the tenant by means of mail, hand delivery, or posting. Said notice shall be provided by the rental license holder to each new tenant thereafter for as long as the adjacent property continues to house beehives.

Salt Lake City, UT

Chapter 8.10 BEEKEEPING

8.10.010: PURPOSE:

The purpose of this chapter is to authorize beekeeping subject to certain requirements intended to avoid problems that may otherwise be associated with beekeeping in populated areas.

8.10.020: CERTAIN CONDUCT UNLAWFUL:

Notwithstanding compliance with the various requirements of this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to maintain an apiary or to keep any colony on any property in a manner that threatens public health or safety, or creates a nuisance.

8.10.030: HIVES ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS:

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A. As provided in this chapter, and notwithstanding any contrary provision in Title 21A of this code, an apiary, consisting of not more than five (5) hives or an equivalent capacity, may be maintained in a side yard or the rear yard of any residential lot. On a residential lot which is larger one-half (0.5) acre or larger, the number of hives located on the lot may be increased to ten (10) hives.
B. A person shall not locate or allow a hive on property owned or occupied by another person without first obtaining written permission from the owner or occupant.
8.10.040: BEEKEEPER REGISTRATION:
Each beekeeper shall be registered with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food as provided in the Utah Bee Inspection Act set forth in Title 4, Chapter 11 of the Utah Code, as amended.
8.10.050: HIVES:
A. Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
B. Hives shall be placed at least five (5) feet from any property line and six (6) inches above the ground, as measured from the ground to the lowest portion of the hive; provided, however, that this requirement may be waived in writing by the adjoining property owner.
C. Hives shall be operated and maintained as provided in the Utah Bee Inspection Act.
D. Each hive shall be conspicuously marked with the owner's name, address, telephone number, and state registration number.
8.10.060: FLYWAYS:
A hive shall be placed on property so the general flight pattern of bees is in a direction that will deter bee contact with humans and domesticated animals. If any portion of a hive is located within fifteen (15) feet from an area which provides public access or from a property line on the lot where an apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, a flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height shall be established and maintained around the hive except as needed to allow access. Such flyway, if located along the property line or within five (5) feet of the property line, shall consist of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation, or a combination thereof, which extends at least ten (10) feet beyond the hive in each direction so that bees are forced to fly to an elevation of at least six (6) feet above ground level over property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.
8.10.070: WATER:
Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony continuously between March 1 and October 31 of each year. The water shall be in a location that minimizes any nuisance created by bees seeking water on neighboring property.
8.10.080: BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT:
Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other beekeeping equipment is left upon the grounds of an apiary site. Upon removal from a hive, all such equipment shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.
8.10.090: CONFLICT WITH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS:
In the event of a conflict between any regulation set forth in this chapter and honeybee management regulations adopted by the Salt Lake Valley Health Department, the most restrictive regulations shall apply.
8.10.100: VIOLATIONS:
A violation of this chapter may be remedied as provided in Sections 8.04.500, 8.04 510, and 8.04.520 of this title. When a violation of this chapter is committed, and provided it is not charged in conjunction with another criminal offense and does not constitute a fourth or succeeding notice of violation within a twenty-four (24) month period, an authorized agent of the City shall issue a civil notice of violation to such violator in lieu of a misdemeanor citation.

Littleton, CO (excerpt from ordinance)
(G) Queens: In any instance in which a colony exhibits usually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to requeen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and nonswarming characteristics.

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Metropolitan Food Systems Plan

October 2013

Prepared by the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)

In cooperation with North Dakota State University Center for Social Research & Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative

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The contents of this document reflect the views of the authors, who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the policies of the state and federal Departments of Transportation.

Resolution in Support of Metropolitan Food Systems Plan

Whereas, the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI) was created in 2010 with the goal to increase access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food for our residents by strengthening all aspects of the local food system, and has been guided by existing staff from the City of Fargo, Clay County, Cass County, and a host of other partnering agencies; and

Whereas, the local food system includes producers, processors, distributors, and consumers; and strengthening the local food system will benefit the health, food security, economy, and environment of our bi-state metropolitan area; and

Whereas, CCFSI has worked continuously since 2010 to build consensus and momentum from throughout the community to build data sets, create awareness, and expand the understanding among a multi-disciplinary set of both public and private stakeholders regarding the conditions and opportunities of the local food system with Cass and Clay County; and

Whereas, CCFSI has forged commitments from both public and private partners to sustain three (3) ongoing Task Forces to address food systems issues related to Urban Agricultural, Food Access/Outreach & Education, and Food Infrastructure/Economic Development; and

Whereas, in 2012 CCFSI secured support through the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) to develop a metropolitan wide Food Systems Plan; and

Whereas, Metro COG has completed a Food Systems Plan for the FM Metropolitan Area which outlines a series of issues, opportunities, and implementation strategies to address Food Systems within its study area; and

Whereas, the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan outlines five (5) Strategic Objectives to improve the local food system: 1) Support the Development of Local Food; 2) Address Issues of Food Access and Environmental Justice; 3) Support Public Policy that Recognizes and Supports the Local Food System; 4) Increase Public Awareness Regarding the Benefits of the Local Food System; and 5) Improve Community Health Outcomes; and

Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Fargo City Commission does hereby endorse the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan.

Dennis R. Walaker
Mayor, City of Fargo

10-14-13
Date

P:\Bachmeier, Ruth\City Commission\2013\Resolution in Support of Metropolitan Food Systems Plan_cityoffargo.docx 10/14/2013

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1st District - WAYNE INGERSOLL, Moorhead
2nd District - FRANK GROSS, Dilworth
3rd District - JON EVERT, Comstock
4th District - KEVIN CAMPBELL, Moorhead
5th District - GRANT WEYLAND, Moorhead
Office Telephone: (218) 299-5002
Fax: (218) 299-5195

CLAY COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2013-49

In Support of Metropolitan Food Systems Plan

Whereas, the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI) was created in 2010 with the goal to increase access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food for our residents by strengthening all aspects of the local food system, and has been guided by existing staff from the City of Fargo, Clay County, Cass County, and a host of other partnering agencies; and

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Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Clay County Board of Commissioners does hereby support and approve the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan.

W Ingersoll — 9/24/13

Clay County Board of Commissioners Chair — **Date**

Clay County Courthouse
807 11th Street North
P.O. Box 280
Moorhead, Minnesota 56561-0280

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Fargo Cass Public Health
Board of Health
Metropolitan Food Systems Plan Resolution

Whereas, the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI) was created in 2010 with the goal to increase access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food for our residents by strengthening all aspects of the local food system, and has been guided by existing staff from the City of Fargo, Clay County, Cass County, and a host of other partnering agencies; and

Whereas, the local food system includes producers, processors, distributors, and consumers; and strengthening the local food system will benefit the health, food security, economy, and environment of our bi-state metropolitan area; and

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Now Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Fargo Cass Public Health Board of Health does hereby support and approve the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan and recommends the Fargo City Commission consider approval as well.

Dinah Goldenberg

Dinah Goldenberg
Chair

September 20, 2013
Date

BACKGROUND

In recent years there has been a growing national movement to produce and consume more healthy and locally grown food. The movement to increase the support and capacity of the local food system has taken hold in the F-M Metropolitan area over the past several years. The local movement has been embraced by a collection of City and County public health officials, University Extension service officials, and a small group of individuals involved in the local production of food.

National and local data indicates a growth in the area of Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) and farmers markets, suggesting an increased interest in the production and consumption of local foods. There are a handful of emerging community gardens within the F-M Metropolitan area. However, there is an increasing interest by the general citizenry and public health officials to find more space within neighborhoods to garden and produce food.

Recently in the F-M Metropolitan area, there is a growing understanding that the production and consumption of healthy and local food could reduce transportation and energy costs involved in the traditional food system and support the economic vitality of local economies, specifically smaller growers, producers, and markets. The local food movement puts forward the notion that the ability to produce, eat, and cook locally-sourced foods is an important part of community connectivity, long-term livability, self-reliance, and local food security. Finally, the public health community believes that increasing access to healthy and local food can improve health outcomes for large segments of the population of the F-M Metropolitan area.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CASS-CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS INITIATIVE AND THE FOOD SYSTEMS PLAN

In late 2010 the Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI) Steering Committee was created in response to the growing local interest in accessing healthy food for all residents and providing opportunities to produce and consume locally grown food. The goal of CCFSI is to impact all levels of the local food system to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable foods. The CCFSI Steering Committee includes members from the University of Minnesota Extension Service, North Dakota State University Cass County Extension Service, Fargo Cass Public Health, and Clay County Public Health. Soon after the formation of the CCFSI Steering Committee, CCFSI recruited members from all sectors of the local food system to form the Initiative's Planning Committee.

The preliminary work of the Planning Committee set the direction of CCFSI by developing a framework for moving forward to address local food systems within the F-M Metropolitan area. Additionally, the Planning Committee created and defined five (5) task force groups that would report back to the committee on their functional focus area: economic development, food access, food infrastructure, outreach and education, and urban agriculture. The task forces were populated by local individuals and interest groups who have indicated a willingness to work towards supporting the local food systems within the F-M Metropolitan area.

After several months of working on local food issues, CCFSI approached Metro COG regarding the development of a Metropolitan Food Systems Plan. The plan would detail existing conditions while also identifying strategies and policy considerations to improve the local food system based on five (5) functional focus areas.

- Economic Development – Influence the development and expansion of local food systems by positively impacting the local market place.

- Food Access – Increase the ease, availability, affordability, and accessibility of safe and nutritious food to all residents of Cass and Clay Counties.

- Food Infrastructure – Facilitate the use of local foods among producers, consumers, and institutions throughout the local food system.

- Outreach and Education – Improve the promotion, production, purchase, preparation, and presentation of local foods.

- Urban Agriculture – Influence public policy decisions to support the improvement of local food systems and local food production.

Work by the CCFSI over the previous months in all five (5) of these areas has served to strengthen the local food system as a regional issue that crosses jurisdictional boundaries. Producers, growers, and distributors of local food operate within and throughout the entire F-M Metropolitan area (and beyond).

The Metropolitan Food Systems Plan emphasizes coordination. It recognizes that a food systems plan needs to be region-wide and inclusive to ensure successful implementation of the whole food systems from the farmer, grower, and producer, to the table.

The Food System Plan: Structure and Framework

The Metropolitan Food Systems Plan is intended to outline major components of local food. It was designed to provide the necessary background material and research to inform conversations regarding potential policy choices. This plan uses a combination of pre-existing and new data collected by the CCFSI in 2012. Sources include Cass and Clay County, local non-profit organizations, and the Centers for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

The plan begins by defining local food and the associated benefits, followed by local and national trends surrounding local food and barriers to access. Metro COG created a framework to understand the local food system that uses food access and infrastructure, health outcomes, food security, and urban agriculture factors. Using the research of CCFSI and public input, key issues were created and used to develop strategic objectives and desired outcomes. These objectives and outcomes guided the creation of an implementation plan, reviewed and adjusted by CCFSI and the public.

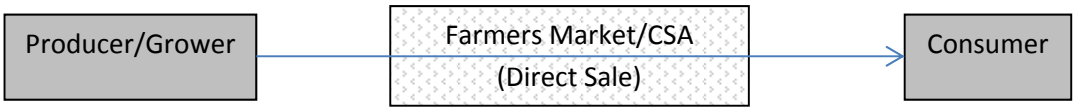
Definition of Local Food & the Local Food System

There is no singular definition of local food. However, there is emerging research and study on what local food is, and how local food makes its way into the market place. USDA Rural Development, pursuant to the 2008 Farm Act, has defined *local or regionally produced* agriculture as being within 400 miles of its origin. More recently, trends have emerged that suggest flexibility in defining *local* based on local conditions and geographies.

Perhaps more important than how local food is defined is how local food enters the market place and is transacted to consumers. There are two ways to understand what local food means in economic conditions.

Firstly, local food can be viewed as those food products which go directly from the *grower/ producer* to the *consumer*. This would typically be called *direct to consumer,* where growers/ producers are selling their products directly to consumers. Examples of *direct to consumer* transactions would be farmers markets and CSAs (Figure 1).

Figure 1.



Secondly, is the concept of *direct to retail/ food services.* Such an example would be a local food distributor (grocery store) or restaurant purchasing direct from a producer/ grower and then reselling to the consumer with or without additional post-purchase processing (Figure 2). Both of these concepts were more clearly outlined in a May 2010 Report issued by the UDSA titled *Local Food Systems – Concepts, Impacts, and Issues.*

Figure 2.

In both cases, the sale of local food requires the development of a *market place(s)* (and related market infrastructure) to allow for the exchange of local food prior to final consumption by a consumer. With this in mind, we can typically describe the local food systems as those growers, producers, distributors, and consumers of food and food products which deal in the sale of food directly from producer/ grower to consumer, or via a retail/ services establishment.
The Metropolitan Food System Plan is focused on aspects of the entire spectrum of this food system by ensuring:

- Appropriate conditions for the production of locally grown/ produced food
- Adequate markets are available to sell and distribute local food to consumers
- Adequate consumer demand for locally grown/ produced food

As with any part of the local economic structure, the right balance of private and public forces must come into alignment to support the local food system. The Metropolitan Food Systems Plan will outline the issues and opportunities available for the F-M Metropolitan area for strengthening the local food system.

The Benefits of Local Food

There has been a growing national movement supporting the development of local food. Based in large part on a 2010 USDA Report titled *Local Food Systems – Concepts, Impacts, and Issues,* the benefits of local food have been explored broadly over the past decade or more. The four (4) primary benefit areas typically heralded by the local food movement are:

- Economic Development – Local food consumption supports producers/ growers within the local market place keeping local dollars local; local food/ farmers markets can often have a secondary effect on distributors or adjacent retailers.

- Health and Nutrition – Empirical data is lacking regarding the impact of local food production on local health outcomes, but it is suggested that local foods may contain a higher nutrient value than non-local foods. While the production of local food may increase the availability of healthier food, it is a requisite that these foods be integrated into the local food system for local consumption, particularly targeted at more vulnerable populations.

- Food Security – It is generally expected that food security is improved when you increase the production of local foods, but there is little empirical data to back this claim. However, it is generally understood and recognized by the local food movement that the opportunity exists to address food security of lower income households by improving access to locally produced food through local markets. Further integrating local food choices into neighborhoods improves choice for the whole population, but most specifically for lower income neighborhoods, where access to fresh food is found to be limited.

- Energy Use – Empirical data is also lacking regarding the measurable benefit of local food to reduce energy use. On the surface however, the ability to positively reduce energy consumption through the production and consumption of local food is a real possibility, and resonates as a community benefit of the local food movement.

There is more research and analysis needed to develop empirical evidence regarding the measurable benefits of the local food production and consumption. As a growing trend nationally, research and analysis regarding local food is emerging more frequently in an ever growing array of inter-disciplinary fields and practices. The development of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan is reflective of a growing trend to recognize local food systems through public processes and policy. The development of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan is an opportunity to more clearly understand the local opportunities of how local food can positively impact local conditions in the area.

Dynamics and Trends of Local Food and Local Food Production – Locally and Nationally

Most local food is transacted to the consumer at either farmers markets and or CSAs. In all cases, farmers markets and CSAs are on the rise nationally. The 2010 USDA Report points clearly to market forces at play regarding local food. According to the USDA, local food production and consumption is on the rise, and the dynamics of local food varies widely by region of the country.

As part of the early efforts of the CCFSI, a Food Systems Indicator Survey was developed to provide a base line report of local food and the local food systems. This information is laid out in detail starting on page 9. Key data from the *Food Systems Indicator Survey* reveal the following data regarding local food systems in both Cass and Clay County, referred to herein as the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):

- As of the end of the year 2012, there were currently eight (8) farmers markets and two (2) produce stands within the MSA, most of which are located directly in the F-M Metropolitan area.

- The MSA has 0.038 farmers markets per 1,000 residents.

- As of 2012 it was reported that there were currently seven (7) total CSAs serving the F-M Metropolitan area; of which there were 2,320 subscribers, up from 135 in 2007.

- Within the MSA there are a total of 13 community gardens.

- As of 2007, there were a total of 31 farms in the MSA providing for *direct to consumer* sales of food products.

These data sets are important to monitor and track over time to understand the changing conditions of the local food systems within both counties, and specifically within the F-M Metropolitan area. When tracked over time, this data will show how the conditions of the local food systems are changing or being influenced by various public or private initiatives.

Based in large part on data provided in the 2010 USDA report, local food is most successfully distributed *direct to consumers* when produced in close proximity to medium or larger sized metropolitan areas. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, proximity to the medium or large sized metropolitan areas improves the market place for the sale of locally grown/ produced food, with national data suggesting that most *direct sales farms* are located in metropolitan counties, as opposed to more rural counties. Given the agricultural conditions in the exurban and rural areas adjacent to the F-M Metropolitan area, the conditions appear appropriate to foster the development and improvement of the local food system within the MSA.

Producer/ grower barriers outlined by USDA relate directly to conditions and forces which can only be addressed by collectively brining to bear both public and private resources. Without question, food production in the United States is the by-product of two centuries or more of both public (policy) and private investments in the food production and distribution systems. Support and expansion of the local food systems of the F-M Metropolitan area will require the same.

The development of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan aims specifically at putting in motion cooperative efforts to improve access to healthy food as well as improve the production and distribution of locally grown/ produced food. The more overarching barriers outlined by the USDA provide a meaningful starting point to initiate the development of more specific strategies and public actions to support and improve the production and distribution capacity of local food.

Barriers to Local Food Production & Distribution

According to the USDA several barriers present themselves regarding the development and expansion of *direct to consumer* food production. Work completed as part of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan indicates that these barriers are present at not only a national level, but at the local level as well, resonating with efforts to develop local food within the F-M Metropolitan area. These barriers have been grouped by the USDA into five (5) overarching areas:

- Capacity Limitations – The efficiencies of smaller growers/ producers are constrained by their relative size and inability to react to market conditions.

- Lack of Infrastructure (to increase production) – Smaller producers and growers lack adequate resources to efficiently distribute their product(s) and suffer from inefficient market conditions for reaching consumers in a cost effective manner.

- Traceback Mechanisms – Smaller producers and growers are limited by the concerns with reliability and quality, increasing the relative perception of consumer risks, specifically retail/ service consumers who would resell or redistribute the products.

- Lack of Expertise and Training – Producers/ growers of local food typically lack certain skills regarding marketing and accounting, which hinders access to retail and service markets. Additional training needs exist in agricultural practices as well as packaging and distribution techniques.

- Regulatory Uncertainties – Local food producers/ growers face uncertainty regarding variations in local, State, and Federal rules regarding food production and distribution; there is no clear local recognition in land use and development ordinances addressing food production, specifically at the residential or community garden scale.

As discussed later, a series of interrelated strategies and action steps are needed to fully address these barriers at the local level.

Stakeholder Consultation and Public Involvement

Ongoing Work of CCFSI, Task Forces, and Stakeholder Groups

As stated earlier, the CCFSI created and defined five (5) task force groups populated by individuals associated with the local food system. The groups' original framework focused on Economic Development, Food Access, Food Infrastructure, Outreach and Education, and Urban Agriculture. Since their creation in 2010, these five (5) task force groups have merged into three (3) groups; Economic Development merged with Food Infrastructure and Food Access merged with Outreach and Education.

For the past three years, these task force groups have met monthly to discuss the issues and opportunities of specific areas of the local food system.

CCFSI held large task force meetings quarterly that brought together all the task force groups to provide updates and briefings on the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan.

Public Input

Metro COG has completed several public input activities to identify needs, issues, and opportunities within the food systems of the F-M Metropolitan area. Metro COG is using its Public Participation Plan to ensure it gains insights into the community's vision for the future of the Metropolitan Food System. To date, Metro COG has held eight (8) focus group meetings and one public input meeting.

Focus Group Meetings

On March 19 and 20, 2013 Metro COG held eight (8) focus group meetings at the Fargo Public Library to gather input from a range of interested persons and stakeholders form various sectors of the local food system. These meetings were formed based on the five (5) functional focus areas and task groups, identified earlier, and three (3) additional groups focused on Environmental Justice, Land Use, and Grocers. Meeting announcements were distributed widely to members of the CCFSI's task force groups as well as to Metro COG's list of food system related interested persons and stakeholders.

Public Input Meeting #1

Metro COG held a public input meeting at the Fargo Public Library on March 19, 2013, which served as the first public input meeting in support of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan. The meeting was advertised to the public via box ads in the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead. Meeting announcements were given to city officials, members of social service organizations, and other food system related interested persons and stakeholders.

As part of notifications for the first public input meeting, Metro COG made available a public information packet documenting certain existing conditions within the local food systems and outlining the purpose and intent of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan. Metro COG also developed a geographic profile to show current elements of the local food system. All materials developed by Metro COG were posted on its web page.

The public input meeting was an open house format, with a brief presentation. Metro COG made available food access maps, detailing the existing conditions and accessibility of local food, allowing attendees to provide input and ideas regarding the existing and future conditions of the Metropolitan Food System. The first public meeting was attended by roughly twenty (20) members of the public. There were residents and interested persons from throughout the F-M Metropolitan area.

A summary of the comments received both in person and in writing as part of the first public meeting are outlined in the following section. A detailed compilation of public comments is included in Appendix 1.

Summary of Public Comments

In general, public comment regarding the Metropolitan Food System Plan shared one common theme, and that was that efforts should be made to promote the consumption of local food by the public. It was generally recognized that additional community gardens, farmers markets, and neighborhood markets would benefit emerging food desert neighborhoods and the entire F-M Metropolitan area. Public support appeared for policies to expand urban agricultural opportunities where there is underutilized land that could be used to grow and/ or sell local food. Overall, there was support for efforts to support the local food systems. Comments are summarized to fall under the five (5) major focus areas.

Economic Development

Based on input from producers and institutions, it is apparent that in many cases, local food sales are currently less profitable for growers and buyers. For this reason, many local farmers sell their products outside of the F-M Metropolitan area. Restaurants and institutions also find that purchasing non-local products is easier and less expensive. There appeared to be clear support for methods that would make local food production and sales beneficial for both growers and buyers.

Food Access

There was a strong sentiment suggesting the need to increase local access to healthy food, especially in areas with minority, low-income, elderly, and other at-risk populations. Residents, city officials, and other stakeholders felt that the addition of healthy food sources such as community gardens, farmers markets, and neighborhood markets would have a positive social and economic impact on neighborhoods within the F-M Metropolitan area.

Food Infrastructure

Public input indicated the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan should improve the local food infrastructure, which is less evolved than the infrastructure of larger urban areas. To do this would involve addressing barriers between producers and institutions, such as volume and regulations, which were brought to light during input meetings. It was suggested at several meetings that a distributor would facilitate a relationship between growers, consumers, and institutions, alleviating some issues created by the local food infrastructure. Growers and buyers agreed that due to current barriers, restaurants and smaller institutions may be more feasible buyers for the time being.

Outreach and Education

There is an interest in improving outreach and education regarding local foods. Residents feel that the outreach and education regarding local foods should increase public awareness of local food options, as well as teach consumers how to prepare and preserve local food. Strong support appeared by school officials, as well as members of the public, for using school kitchens to bring local food into the lives of students, their families, and the surrounding community. Incorporating local food into schools, institutions, libraries, and community events, is seen as one way to increase public awareness. It is thought that improving public awareness of local food will increase interest, consumption, and involvement. Educating the public and decision makers will improve the possibility of progress.

Urban Agriculture

There is strong support for zoning and policy changes that would expand the potential of urban agriculture to improve access to healthy, affordable food options. It was felt that underutilized land in the F-M Metropolitan area should be used for the production and sale of local foods. Residents are in favor of community gardens, farmers markets, and other forms of urban agriculture but have concerns over their maintenance, supervision, and safety. It was suggested that outreach and education would help remedy these concerns.

The public input gathered at these meetings was used to evaluate the issues and create strategic goals and outcomes beginning on page 30.

FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

Assessing the local food system within the F-M Metropolitan area was done by looking at four specific issues regarding food in general. Food access and infrastructure was measured based on the availability of healthy and affordable foods. Health outcomes and community health indicators used statistics on obesity, diabetes, nutrition, and physical activity. Data like individuals served by food shelves, WIC, SNAP, and Free and Reduced School Lunch programs guided the analysis on food security. Urban Agriculture and Land Use evaluated the existing markets and zoning codes to gauge codified support for local food systems. The four areas are roughly constructed around the original task force structure of CCFSI

Food Access/ Food Infrastructure

Food access is a term that refers to the ability to obtain healthy, affordable food. Access to food can be compromised for many reasons. There may be no grocery stores in particular areas or stores are difficult to get to without a vehicle. Food that is available may not be affordable, or even healthy, if concentrations of stores and restaurants offer predominately convenience foods. Limited knowledge is another challenge to food access, when consumers may not know how to prepare, store, and preserve available healthy foods.

Food access is important because some residents and areas, especially those with low-income, face greater barriers in accessing healthy and affordable foods. These barriers may negatively

affect diet and food security. The Metropolitan Food Systems Plan aims to improve access to healthy and affordable food options, especially in neighborhoods that Metro COG has identified as emerging food deserts.

The Food Access task force researched other food systems' reports and then compiled a list of key indicators. Once compiled, the list of indicators was incorporated into an online survey and sent to the overall CCFSI group. Each CCFSI member was asked to identify the indicators they thought were the most important to their specific group (i.e. Food Access, Outreach and Education, Economic Development, Urban Agriculture, and Food Infrastructure). A Clay County Public Health intern then collected data, using a variety of sources that were pertinent to the key indicators.

Information presented in Tables 1 through 3 is the result of the CCFSI data collection process that was conducted in 2012. The data are categorized into Outreach and Education, Economic Development and Food Infrastructure, Food Access, and Urban Agriculture.

Table 1. Outreach and education in Cass and Clay Counties: 2012

Item	Number
Number of school gardens	5 (3 gardens, 2 orchards)
Growth in number of school gardens since 2010	4
Number of individual schools (of 54) that utilize local food*	32
Number of school districts (of 15) that utilize local food*	6
Number of childcare facilities that utilize local food (18% of facilities contacted)*	10

*Of those institutions reporting any use of local food, the percent of food budget spend on local food averaged ≤8% for schools and ≤5% childcare facilities and was often one or two products i.e. Saladmakers or Breadsmith

Table 2. Economic development and food infrastructure in Cass and Clay Counties: 2012

Item	Number
Number of distributors/processors that utilize local food	16
Number of food distributors and food processors (locally/ regionally)	66
Number of restaurants that serve local food (seasonally adjusted) 25% of restaurants contacted	18
Number/location of local food processing facilities and community kitchens available for use by the public	1
Number/location of local food processing facilities and community kitchens available for non-profit educational use	2
Item	**Percent**
Percent of institutional food purchases from local sources	41% of long-term care facilities
Percent of convenience stores carrying fresh vegetables (Fargo-2009)	9.5%
Percent of convenience stores carrying fresh fruit (Fargo-2009)	19%

Table 3. Food Access in Cass and Clay Counties by year

Item	Area	Number	Year
Number of farmers' markets that accept **Senior** Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons	Cass-Clay	0	2012
Number of farmers' markets that accept WIC fruit and vegetable vouchers	Cass-Clay	0	2012
WIC use of fruit and vegetable farmers' market vouchers	Cass	0	2012
	Clay	0	2012
Number of farmers' market vendors that accept SNAP	Cass-Clay	2	2013
Individuals served by a charitable feeding network	Cass-Clay	23,283	2011
Grocery store/1000 people	Cass	0.11	2008
Grocery store/1000 people	Clay	0.13	2008
Fast food restaurants/1000 people	Cass	0.67	2008
Fast food restaurants/1000 people	Clay	0.39	2008
Restaurant expenditures per capita (dollars)	ND	564.00	2007
Restaurant expenditures per capita (dollars)	MN	646.00	2007
Fast food expenditures per capita (dollars)	ND	492.00	2007
Fast food expenditures per capita (dollars)	MN	579.00	2007
Item	County	Percent	Year
Percentage of low-income households that are > 1 mile to the grocery store	Cass	4.8%	2006
Percentage of low-income households that are > 1 mile to the grocery store	Clay	11.5%	2006
Percentage of households with no car and >1 mile to grocery store	Cass	1.0%	2006
Percentage of households with no car and >1 mile to grocery store	Clay	2.3%	2006
Percentage of population with incomes at or below the federal poverty level	Cass	12.8%	2006-2010
Percentage of population with incomes at or below the federal poverty level	Clay	12.0%	2006-2010
Percent low-income receiving SNAP	Cass	24.2%	2007
Percent low-income receiving SNAP	Clay	27.9%	2007
Children receiving SNAP (% of population ages 0-18)	Cass	21.5%	2010
Children receiving SNAP (% of population ages 0-18)	Clay	20.8%	2011
Children receiving free and reduced-priced lunch (% of school enrollment)	Cass	26.1%	2010
Children receiving free and reduced-priced lunch (% of school enrollment)	Clay	32.5%	2011
Percent of people below 185% of poverty level	Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area	25.6%	2006-2010

Geographic Profile – Food Access & Food Infrastructure

Metro COG has prepared two (2) maps which demonstrate various aspects of the local food system. A description of the data used to create each map and a brief overview follows.

Bicycle Facilities – Represent either on road bicycle facilities (striped or signed roadways) and separated bicycle/ pedestrian facilities (shared use paths) as identified by Metro COG. These facilities are identified to indicate geographic areas considered to be served by bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities are shown in both Maps 1 and 2 in relation to other food system attributes.

Community Gardens – Represent organized community gardens that provide plots of land for the production of produce. A community garden is a plot of land gardened by area residents. The land can be publically or privately owned and can be gardened by either the owners of the land or members of the public that join the garden, or both. True community gardens are open to the general public and provide an area to grow fruits and vegetables. The garden is divided into plots which can be owned by individuals or groups. Whether or not there is a cost associated with claiming a plot is up to the owner(s) of the land. In some cases they are public gardens, and in other cases they are privately operated and not open to the general public. Of the thirteen (13) existing community gardens in the F-M Metropolitan area, only half are available to the general public. Others are available through religious, housing, and other local service organizations. As is shown in Map 2, a total of 7,536 households currently reside within one-half mile of a community garden.

Convenience Store – Represent neighborhood scale convenience stores (often times gas stations, dollar stores, drug stores, etc.). While food products are offered at most convenience stores, the options are not generally considered to be as healthful as would be offered at a traditional grocery store. Map 1 shows existing convenience stores in the F-M Metropolitan area in relation to other food system attributes.

Emerging Food Deserts – *Food deserts* have been defined by the USDA as an area with limited access to affordable and nutritious food, particularly if the areas are composed of predominately low income communities. Based on a geographic alignment of existing grocery stores in the F-M Metropolitan area, Metro COG has established a preliminary list of *emerging food deserts. Emerging food deserts* are areas where there is currently no grocery store within one-half mile of a residential neighborhood. For the benefits of this analysis, Metro COG has focused closely on areas where there appears to be a relative concentration of low-income or minority populations, as defined by Metro COG. Another variable in emerging food deserts are areas with a higher density of households without access to a vehicle. In two cases, an emerging food desert covers portions of residential areas served by existing elementary schools where more than fifty (50) percent of the student population is receiving free or reduced lunch (Madison and Jefferson). Both Maps 1 and 2 identify the emerging food deserts in the F- M Metropolitan area.

Environmental Justice Areas – Pursuant to Executive Order 12898, Metro COG is required to implement Environmental Justice as part of its planning program, specifically regarding the development of area-wide or sub-area planning and programming activities. In November, 2011 the Metro COG Policy Board approved an updated Environmental Justice database identifying concentrations of low-income and minority populations in the F-M Metropolitan area. Metro

COG defines an area as having a concentration of low-income individuals if the median household income of a block group (based on 2005-2009 American Community Survey [ACS]) is less than 125% of poverty (as defined by Health and Human Services [HHS]). Metro COG defines an area as having a concentration of minority populations if the population of a block group is greater than twenty-five (25) percent non-white (based on the 2010 Census). Environmental justice areas are shown on both Maps 1 and 2.

Ethnic Grocery Store – Represent smaller locally operated stores with a fairly narrow food selection targeted to specific ethnic group(s). Some of these stores have evolved to offer a limited selection of fresh meats and produce. Ethnic grocery stores are considered a potential transaction point for *direct to consumer* or *direct to retail/ service* of local food due to their central locations and proximity to environmental justice areas and minority households. Map 1 illustrates the existing ethnic grocery stores in relation to other attributes associated with the F-M Metropolitan food system.

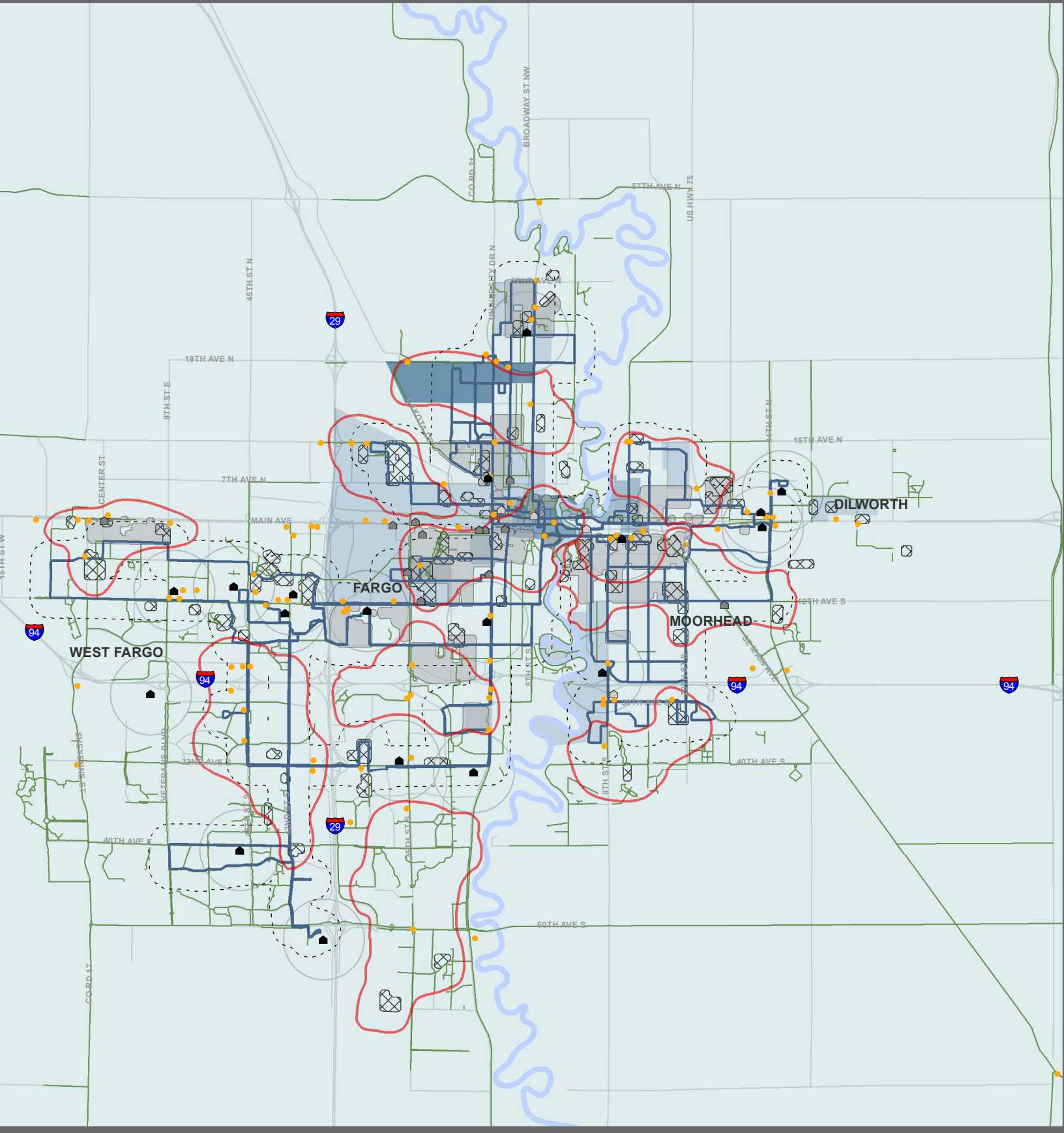
Farmers Markets – Represent organized markets where sellers of locally produced food and food-related products are sold to the consumer. Farmers markets are considered to be a primary transaction point for the *direct to consumer* exchange of local food and provide a direct connection between the farmer and consumer. Farmers markets tend to be seasonal and their hours of operation vary widely. Map 2 shows the location of existing farmers markets in the F-M Metropolitan area.

Grocery Stores - Represent traditional grocery stores (Hornbacher's, Cash Wise, Sun Mart, etc.) or supercenters (Target, Wal-Mart, Costco, etc.). Map 1 demonstrates the location of existing grocery stores in the F-M Metropolitan area. For the purposes of demonstrating accessibility, a one-half mile buffer was applied to each grocery store depicting, what is considered, a reasonable walking distance. There are a total of eighteen (18) grocery stores/ supercenters within the F-M Metropolitan area. The new Costco at I-94 and Veterans Boulevard is the only grocery store/ supercenter that is not currently along a MATBUS route, or within the one-quarter mile transit buffer identified on Map 1.

Health Food Store – Represent smaller, locally run stores which sell varied local, natural, or organic food products. Map 1 depicts existing health food stores in the F-M Metropolitan area. Health food stores are considered a potential transaction point for *direct to consumer* or *direct to retail/ service* exchange of local food.

MATBUS Routes – Represent the fixed route system of MATBUS. MATBUS routes typically run on 15, 30, or 60 minute headways, and run from 6:45 am to as late as 11:15 pm. The existing MATBUS system is shown on Map 1 in relation to other food system attributes. Metro COG has applied a one-quarter mile buffer of the existing MATBUS system to demonstrate areas considered to be adequately served by public transit.

Vehicle Access – Map 1 demonstrates vehicle access constraints within the F-M Metropolitan area by showing the geographic density of households which lack access to an automobile in the F-M Metropolitan area. Areas with a higher density of households without access to an automobile also align closely with minority and low-income areas (e.g. Madison Neighborhood) and/ or are college campus areas (e.g. NDSU).



Food Access Map

Map 1

Accessibility

No Vehicle Households

- 0 - 5%
- 6 - 10%
- 11 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%

Food Sources

- Grocery Store
- Ethnic Grocery Store
- Health Food Store
- Convenience Store
- Grocery Store Radius - 1/2 Mile

Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities

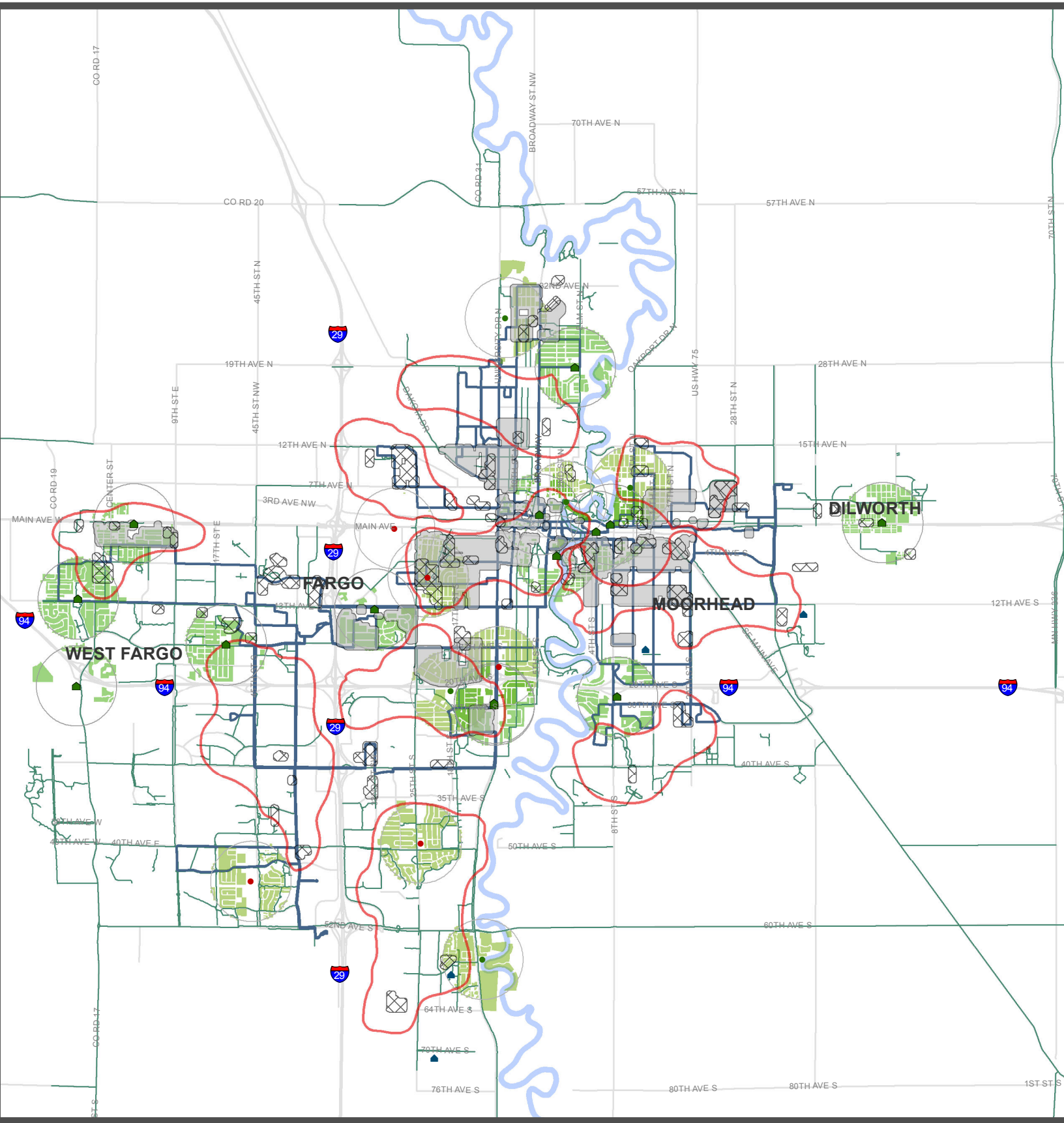
- Bicycle Facilities
- Transit Facilities
- Transit Buffer - 1/4 Mile

Environmental Justice Areas

- Minority Areas
- Low Income Areas
- Emerging Food Deserts

N

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Existing Gardens and Farmers Markets

Map 2

Local Food Sources

Community Gardens
- Private
- Public

School Gardens

Farmers Markets

Local Food Areas

Households within 1/2 mile of a Community Garden

Households within 1/2 mile of a Farmers Market

Radius - 1/2 Mile

Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities

Bicycle Facilities

Transit Facilities

Environmental Justice Areas

Minority Areas

Low Income Areas

Emerging Food Deserts

N

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Health Outcomes & Community Health Indicators

There are many economic, social, and health benefits to increasing the accessibility of healthy and locally grown food. Studies of other food systems have shown that residents in areas with limited access to healthy foods experience high obesity rates and higher rates of residents dying prematurely from diabetes, cancer, and heart disease. Obesity and diabetes are two serious health conditions related to quality of diet that are on the rise among residents of the F-M Metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Food Systems Plan aims to better integrate healthy food into the local food system for local consumption. Locating healthy and local food access points in areas defined as emerging food deserts will improve the health of communities, especially those with more vulnerable populations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared obesity a national epidemic. Nationwide, more than 72 million adults and about 12.4 million children, ages 2 to 19, are obese. Obesity contributes to many health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes. Consequences of obesity include lower quality of life and higher medical costs. This places a significant financial burden on the nation's medical care system. Recent estimates suggest that $147 billion is spent annually for medical care costs associated with obesity.

Obesity happens when an individual consumes more calories than are used with daily activities and exercise. The abundance of fast-food restaurants, convenience stores, and vending machines make it much easier to eat unhealthy food that is higher in calories and fat than food prepared at home. In addition, many people have limited or no access to healthy, affordable food such as fresh fruits and vegetables, something particularly challenging for people who are minority, low-income, or rural.

There are many reasons why low-income and food insecure (i.e. food deprived) people are vulnerable to being overweight or obese. One reason is that limited resources can make healthy foods, which are usually more expensive, cost prohibitive. In addition, due to lack of transportation, residents may have to shop at small, local convenience and corner stores which often lack a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products that are typically found at large-scale grocery stores and farmers markets. Also, lower income neighborhoods typically have fewer opportunities for physical activity (i.e. parks, green spaces, bike paths, and recreational facilities) than higher income neighborhoods. Low-income children are less likely to participate in organized sports because of cost and transportation barriers, limiting opportunities for engaging in physical activity.

Obesity and lack of physical activity are risk factors for diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure and a major cause of heart disease and stroke; it is the seventh leading cause of death in the nation. In 2010, 26.9 percent of U.S. residents, or 10.9 million people, aged 65 and older had diabetes. The CDC also estimates that one in three or 79 million Americans aged twenty or older had prediabetes. Among people younger than twenty years of age, about 215,000 had diabetes.

The following links to the Center for Disease Control and the Food Research Action Center provide more information about adult and childhood obesity and diabetes.

http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/
http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/ndfs_2011.pdf
http://frac.org/initiatives/hunger-and-obesity/are-low-income-people-at-greater-risk-for-overweight-or-obesity/

Health Indicators in the F-M Metropolitan Region

This section focuses on characteristics of the F-M Metropolitan area; specifically overweight, obesity, and diabetes, healthy eating, nutrition, and physical activity, food (in) security, and a demographic profile detailing an age, ethnicity, and poverty.

The following information is helpful to understanding the data which support the need to improve the food choices and healthy food availability within the F-M Metropolitan area. It provides a baseline set of data which demonstrate the relative health of the residents within the F-M Metropolitan area. This data can be used to track progress towards benefits in community health brought about by improvements in the local food system.

Overweight, Obese, and Diabetic

Within the Fargo-Moorhead area, proportions of adults who are overweight, obese, or diabetic reflect proportions nationwide (Table 4).

- In 2011, more than one in three adults were overweight (36.8 percent); one in four were obese (25.4 percent).
- Nearly one in ten adults in 2010 had diabetes (8.5 percent).
- In 2010, more than one in four adults (26.6 percent) indicated they had no leisure time exercise or physical activity in the past thirty days.

Table 4. Percentage of adults reporting overweight, obese, or diabetes by geography: 2010-2011

Health risks	Percentage of adults*			
	Fargo/Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area	North Dakota	Minnesota	Nationwide
Overweight (2011) (BMI 25.0-29.9)	36.8	36.0	36.8	35.7
Obese (2011) (BMI 30.0-99.8)	25.4	27.8	25.7	27.8
Diabetes (2010)	8.5	7.4	6.7	8.7
Exercise (2010)**	26.6	24.8	19.1	23.9

*Source: Centers for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS); 2010 and 2011
**No leisure time exercise or physical activity in the past 30 days.

- In 2011, 13.2 percent of youth, grades nine through twelve, in the Region V-Fargo area were overweight; 10.0 percent were obese (Table 2).

Table 5. Percentage of youth grades (9-12) in North Dakota overweight or obese: 2011

Health risks	Percentage of youth		
	Region V Fargo Area*	North Dakota	Nationwide
Overweight (BMI 25.0-29.9)	13.2	14.5	15.2
Obese (BMI 30.0-99.8)	10.0	11.0	13.0

Source: Centers for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); 2011
*Region V Fargo Area includes the following counties: Cass, Steele, Traill, Ransom, Sargent, Richland

- In 2010, 14.0 percent of Clay County 9th graders were overweight; 9.0 percent were obese (Table 6).

- In 2010, 14.0 percent of Clay County 12th graders were overweight; 12.0 percent were obese.

Table 6. Percentage of youth (grades 9 and 12) in Minnesota overweight or obese: 2010

Grade	Percentage of youth			
	Clay County		Minnesota	
	Overweight	Obese	Overweight	Obese
9th grade	14.0	9.0	13.0	9.0
12th grade	14.0	12.0	12.0	9.0

Source: Minnesota Department of Health; Minnesota Student Survey 2010

- In 2010, more than one in four children ages two through five were either overweight or obese (27.9 percent); 11.6 percent were obese (Table 7).

- In 2010, one in three children ages 6 through 18 were either overweight or obese; one in five were obese.

Table 7. Percentage of overweight and obese children in clinic service area by age group

Age in years	Percentage of children*		
	Overweight (>85th percentile and <95th percentile BMI)	Obese (≥ 95th percentile of BMI)	Total Overweight and Obese
2-5 years	16.3	11.6	27.9
6-8 years	14.1	18.4	32.5
9-12 years	15.0	20.3	35.3
13-18 years	14.2	19.0	33.2

Source: Minnesota Department of Health; Minnesota Student Survey 2010

Healthy Eating, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

Poor diet is a risk factor associated with development of chronic disease, obesity, and other health problems. Many dietary components are involved in the relationship between nutrition and health. Primary concerns include consuming too much sugar and saturated fat, and too few fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products that are high in vitamins, minerals, fiber, and other substances important to good health.

Fruits and vegetables, as part of a healthy diet, are important for optimal child growth, weight management, and chronic disease prevention. Also important for optimal health, is participating in at least thirty (30) minutes of physical activity for at least five (5) days a week.

- In 2010, 18.0 percent of sixth grade students in Clay County ate five (5) or more servings of fruits, fruit juices, or vegetables, compared with 14.0 percent of students in twelfth grade (Table 8).

- In 2010, 56.0 percent of sixth grade students in Clay County were physically active compared to 47.0 percent of twelfth graders.

Table 8. Percentage of youth, grades 6, 9, and 12, in Minnesota by health behaviors: 2010

Health behavior	Percentage of youth		
	6th grade	9th grade	12th grade
Clay County			
Ate 5 or more servings of fruits, fruit juices, or vegetables yesterday	18.0	17.0	14.0
Were physically active for at least 30 minutes on at least 5 of the last 7 days	56.0	58.0	47.0
State of Minnesota			
Ate 5 or more servings of fruits, fruit juices, or vegetables yesterday	21.0	18.0	17.0
Were physically active for at least 30 minutes on at least 5 of the last 7 days	48.0	56.0	44.0

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Student Survey: 2010

- In 2011, less than one in five Fargo students in grades nine through twelve, ate fruits and vegetables five or more times a day (17.9 percent) (Table 6).

Table 9. Percent of students grades 9-12 who ate fruits and vegetables five or more times per day, during the last seven days by location and year

Geography	Percentage of students by year		
	2007	2009	2011
Fargo*	18.3	17.2	17.9
Region 5**	17.7	15.6	16.1
North Dakota	16.6	13.7	17.4
United States	21.4	22.3	NA

Source: Snap Shot (CDC YRBSS - Fargo Public Schools, ND DPI)
**Raw data is not weighted by age or gender for Fargo*
**Region 5 includes the following North Dakota counties: Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele and Trail.

In 2009, 26.1 percent of adults in the F-M Metropolitan area consumed fruits and vegetables five or more times per day. http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSS-SMART/MMSARiskChart.asp?yr=2009&MMSA=31&cat=FV&qkey=4415&grp=0

Food Security

The World Health Organization (WHO) describes food security as being built on three pillars: food availability, food access, and food use. The WHO also indicates that matters pertaining to whether households get enough food, how the food is distributed, and whether that food fulfills the dietary needs of everyone in the household show that food security is clearly linked to health.

Food security is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to healthful food. Households with low food security have disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake due to lack of money or other resources for food. Improving the local food options within the F-M Metropolitan area could not only improve the area's overall health, but its food security as well.

The Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB) is a charitable feeding network within the state of North Dakota and western Minnesota. In 2012, data gathered by the organization revealed that increasing numbers of individuals in the Cass-Clay area are relying on food shelves to meet their food needs (Table 10).

- One in nine people in the Cass-Clay area were using the GPFB network; 37 percent were children.
- Nearly 24,000 unduplicated individuals were served through the GPFB in 2012.
- The average monthly number served was 15,210; 12,178 were served at emergency feeding programs.
- There are 60 partner agency sites participating, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other non-profit agencies that serve meals to low-income individuals. Those partner agencies:
    - Provided 132,342 food baskets
    - Served 928,448 meals

Table 10. Duplicated number of individuals served by shelter and non-shelter food shelves in Fargo and the F-M Metropolitan area: 2003-2010

Year	Food Shelves			
	Individuals Served Fargo	Percent Change	Individuals Served Metro*	Percent Change
2003	29,152	n/a	49,474	n/a
2004	30,886	+5.9%	52,437	+6.0%
2005	32,132	+4.0%	54,001	+3.0%
2006	30,897	+3.8%	55,706	+3.2%
2007	31,873	+3.2%	58,404	+4.8%
2008	41,653	+23.0%	66,322	+12.0%
2009	47,446	+12.0%	79,434	+17.0%
2010	51,213	+7.8%	90,299	+12.0%
2011	56,196	+9.7%	100,131	+10.9%
2012	61,314	+9.1%	109,715	+9.6%

Source: Great Plains Food Bank
*Metro includes Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead

The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition states: "the rates of obesity and type 2 diabetes in the United States follow a socioeconomic gradient, such that the burden of disease falls disproportionately on people with limited resources, racial-ethnic minorities, and the poor. Among women, higher obesity rates tend to be associated with low incomes and low education levels." http://ajcn.nutrition.org/content/79/1/6.full

WIC

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is a nutrition program that helps eligible pregnant women, new mothers, babies, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy. WIC provides nutrition education and counseling, nutritious foods, and referrals to health and other social services. To qualify, participants must meet income guidelines and have a medical or nutritional need.

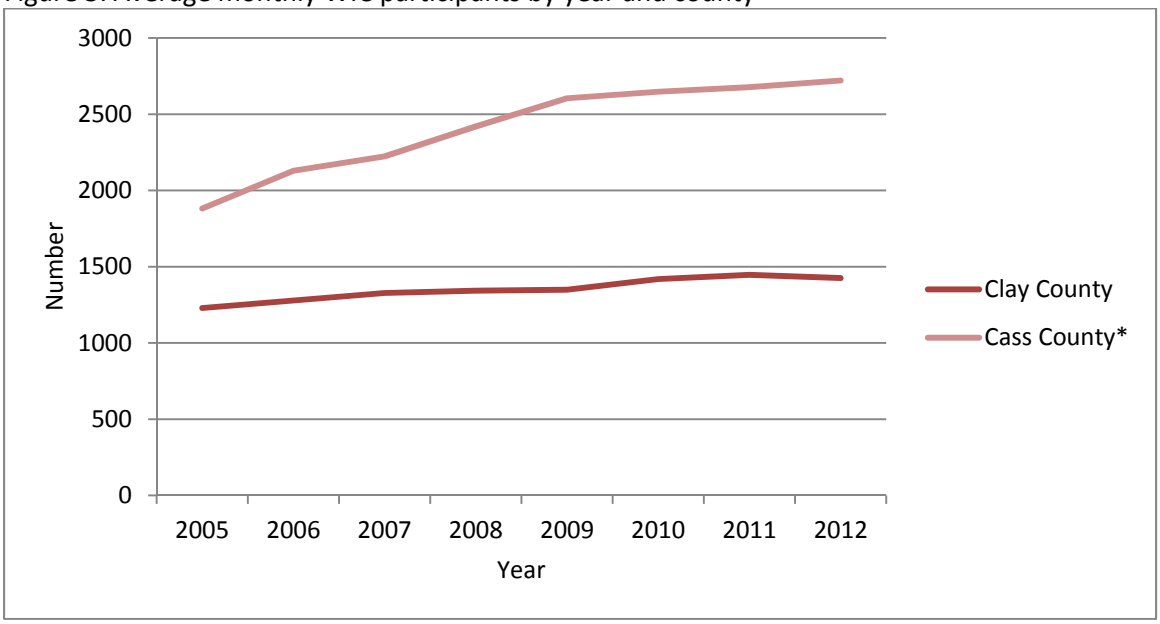
The number of WIC participants in Clay and Cass Counties has steadily increased since 2005, with a slight dip in 2012 (Table 11 and Figure 3).

Table 11. Total number of WIC participants by year and county

County	Total number of participants by year							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Clay	16,103	15,336	15,927	16,103	16,175	17,024	17,357	17,099
Cass	22,584	25,548*	30,000	32,472	35,184	36,156	36,444	37,584

Source: Clay County Public Health WIC Department and Fargo Cass Public Health WIC Department
*Computer software conversion – incomplete data.

Figure 3. Average monthly WIC participants by year and county



Source: Clay County Public Health WIC Department and Cass County WIC Department
*Cass County data are average enrollments per month.

SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families nationwide and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) works with state agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. FNS also works with state partners and the retail community to improve program administration and ensure program integrity.

- The number of individuals in Cass and Clay Counties served with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has steadily increased over the last several years (Table 12 a and b and Figure 4).

Table 12a. Cass County SNAP Participation by year

Month/year	Number of households	Number of individuals	Issuance for January
January 2007	3,290	6,860	$650,805
January 2008	3,704	7,893	$804,001
January 2009	4,193	9,067	$1,042,895
January 2010	5,191	11,277	$1,513,751
January 2011	5,615	12,198	$1,605,635
January 2012	5,694	12,350	$1,603,913

January 2013	5,885	12,759	$1,603,288

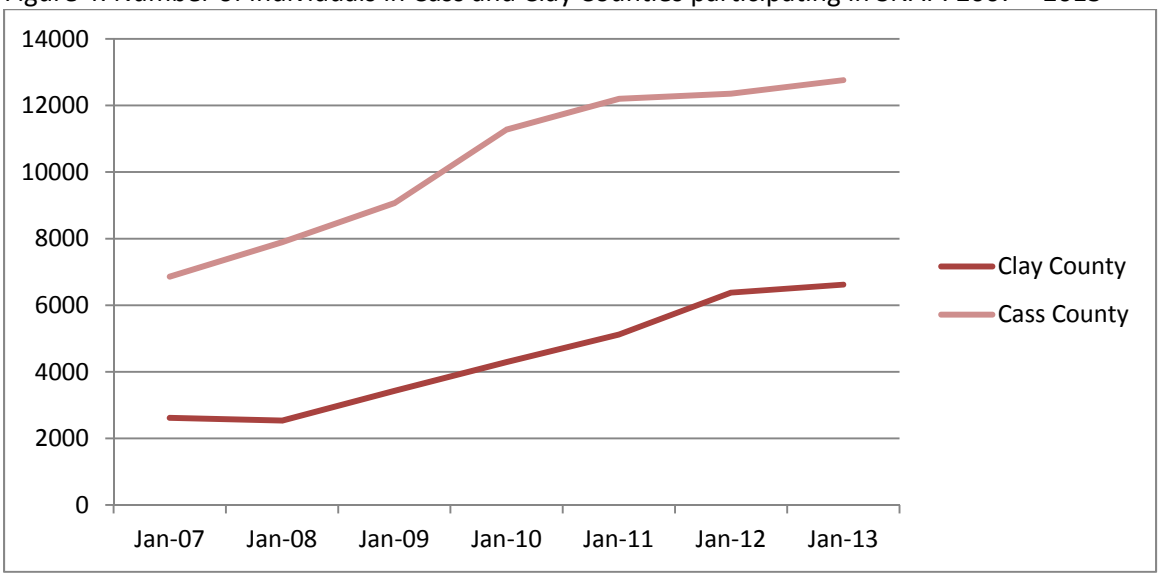
Source: Cass County Social Services

Table 12b. Clay County individual SNAP participation by month of January and year

Time frame	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Month of January	2,614	2,536	3,426	4,293	5,121	6,379	6,621
Yearly	31,745	34,877	46,579	55,130	64,587	76,272	NA

Source: Clay County Social Services

Figure 4. Number of individuals in Cass and Clay Counties participating in SNAP: 2007 – 2013

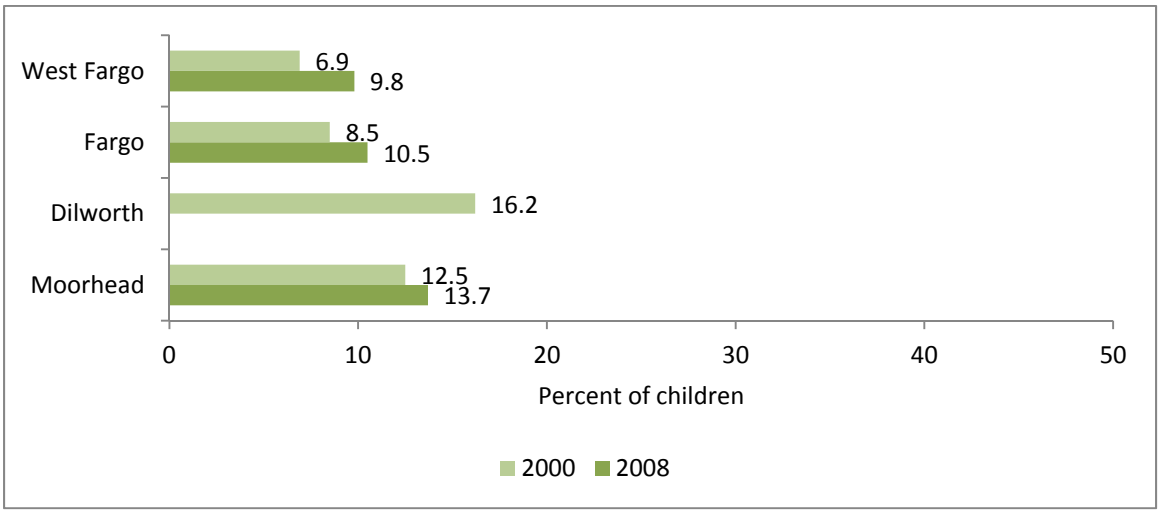


Source: Cass County Social Services; Clay County Social Services

School Nutrition Programs and Poverty

- The proportions of children living in poverty increased from 2000 to 2008 in West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead school districts (Figure 5)

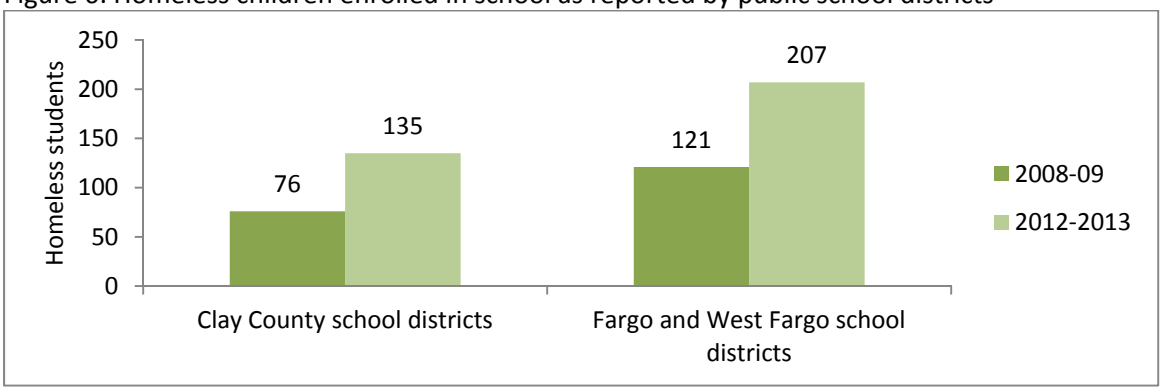
Figure 5. Children ages 5 to 17 – percent living in poverty by public school district: 2000 and 2008



Source: 2008 data – U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates

- Figure 6 shows the number of homeless children enrolled in school by school year and district

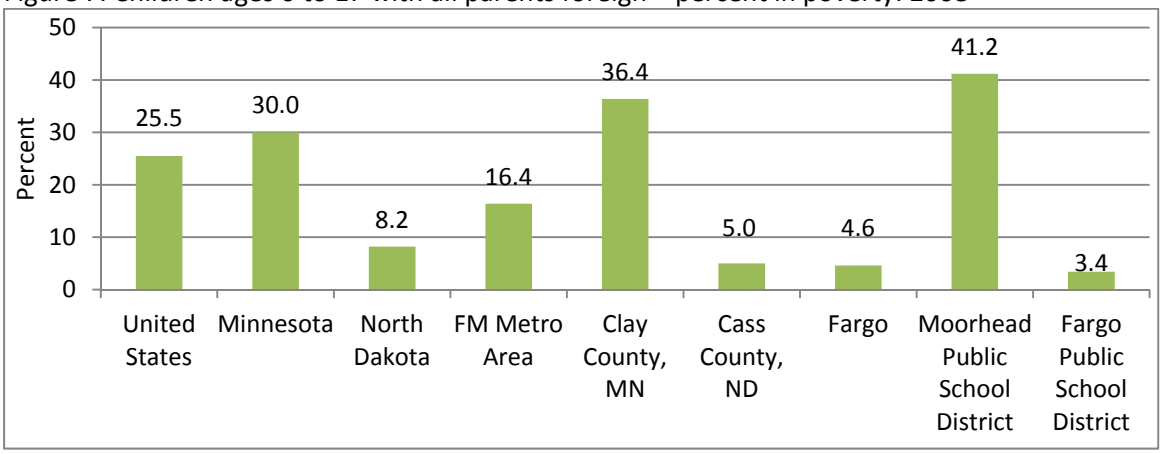
Figure 6. Homeless children enrolled in school as reported by public school districts



Source: 2008 data – U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates

Figure 7 shows the proportions of children, zero to seventeen with all parents foreign, who were living in poverty in 2008.

Figure 7. Children ages 0 to 17 with all parents foreign – percent in poverty: 2008



Sources: Minnesota – Minnesota Department of Education, No Child Left Behind Programs, McKinney Vento-Act data. North Dakota – North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, special request.

- Schools with fifty percent or more free and reduced lunches are (Table 13):
  - Madison Elementary (79.3 percent)
  - Jefferson Elementary (69.7 percent)
  - McKinley Elementary (54.7 percent)
  - L E Berger Elementary (51.32 percent)
  - Ellen Hopkins Elementary (50.9 percent)

Table 13. Percent free and reduced lunch by school

School	Percent Free and Reduced
Moorhead Public Schools (for school year 2011-2012)	
Ellen Hopkins Elementary	50.9
Robert Asp Elementary	47.0
Horizon Middle School	37.5
S.G. Reinertsen Elementary	34.3
Moorhead High School	28.4
Fargo Public Schools (as of October 2012)	
Madison Elementary	79.3
Jefferson Elementary	69.7
McKinley Elementary	54.7
Carl Ben Eielson Middle	46.3
Lincoln Elementary	44.4
Lewis and Clark Elementary	39.3
Bennett Elementary	37.0
Agassiz	34.9
South High School	34.9
Horace Mann Elementary	33.3
Kennedy Elementary	33.3
Roosevelt Elementary	29.3
Hawthorne Elementary	29.1
Clara Barton Elementary	28.3
Ben Franklin Junior High	25.8
North High School	20.4
Washington Elementary	20.3
Discovery Middle School	19.1
Centennial Elementary	18.7
Fargo Davies High School	15.6
Longfellow Elementary	6.8
West Fargo Public Schools (May 2013)	
L E Berger Elementary	51.32
Eastwood Elementary	48.20
Clayton A Lodoen Kindergarten Center	46.58
Cheney Middle School	33.68
South Elementary	32.88
West Fargo High	29.59
Sheyenne 9th Grade Center	31.27
Westside Elementary	31.50
Freedom Elementary	27.02
Osgood Kindergarten Center	23.50
Aurora Elementary	17.82
Stem Center	18.07
Horace Elementary	9.25
Harwood Elementary	5.50

Source: Minnesota Department of Education and North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Urban Agriculture and Land Use

There is no shared common definition for urban agriculture. However, in short, urban agriculture is the growing, processing, and distributing of food and food products through intensive plant cultivation and animal husbandry in and around cities. In the context of the F-M Metropolitan area, urban agriculture can be described either broadly incorporating the vibrant regional farm economy that contributes to the area's food security and economic health, or it can be described more narrowly, referring to activities occurring primarily within the urban area boundaries of Fargo and Moorhead.

Urban agriculture impacts communities in a variety of ways, from providing food security and improving access to healthy food, to benefitting the environment in ways such as reducing water runoff. Urban agriculture includes community, school, and household gardens, urban commercial farms, CSAs, and farmers markets. To foster the development and growth of urban agriculture, a city may have to consider implementation tools that include changes to zoning ordinances, comprehensive plans, and state laws.

Table 14. Urban Agriculture in Cass and Clay Counties by year

Item	Area	Number	Year
Number of farmers' markets	Cass-Clay	8 farmers' markets, 2 produce stands	2012
Number of CSA subscribers	Cass-Clay region	2,320	2012
Number of CSA farms delivering to the area	Fargo-Moorhead	7	2012
Vegetables harvested (# of farms and acres)	Cass	3 farms; acres not available	2007
	Clay	14 farms; 1,752 acres	2007
Number of overall community garden plots	Cass-Clay	13 total gardens	2012
Number/percentage of farms with direct sales	Cass	3 farms; 0.3%	2007
	Clay	28 farms; 3%	2007
Value of agricultural products sold directly to individuals for human consumption	Cass	3 farms; $ not available	2007
	Clay	28 farms; $112,000	2007
Vegetables harvested for fresh market (# of farms and acres)	Cass	1 farm; acres not available	2007
	Clay	13 farms; acres not available	2007
Cropland harvested for vegetables vs. other agricultural products	Cass	3 farms harvested for veg; acres not available	2007
	Clay	14 farms harvested for veg; 1,752 acres	2007

Farmers' markets per 1,000 people	Metropolitan statistical area	0.038	2012
Number of organic growers and acres	North Dakota	152 operations; 216,569 total acres	2008
	Minnesota	543 operations; 154,136 total acres	2008
Percent organic acreage (total acreage of organic farming/total acreage of farms)	Cass	1 organic farm; organic acres not available	2007
	Clay	0.75%	2007
Number of producers participating in "Buy Local"	Cass-Clay	0	2012
Direct farm sales per capita	Cass	Null	2007
	Clay	$2.05	2007
Item	Area	Percent	Year
Percent vacant land that could be used for agriculture	Fargo	33.2%	2008
	Moorhead	3.7%	2008

Land Use and Ordinances

The land use systems in North Dakota and Minnesota prioritize development in urban areas, and the preservation of farm and forest land beyond urban areas. When this system of urban growth boundaries was first adopted, little consideration was given to the importance of open space and natural areas within urban boundaries. In recent years, the importance of natural areas and open spaces within cities has become more pronounced. Agriculture in particular is gaining traction; especially as carbon emissions, high fuel costs, and a down economy take center stage in the national dialogue.

Though there is growing public interest in urban agriculture, it is rarely supported by current zoning and land use policies throughout the F-M Metropolitan area. Table 15 summarizes where selected components of urban agriculture are permitted or prohibited based on local zoning codes. For a complete description of where agriculture is allowed outright, allowed as a conditional use, prohibited or not addressed, see Appendix 2.

- Only two of five jurisdictions permit chicken and animal keeping.
- Rainwater harvesting is permitted with conditions in all five jurisdictions
- Community gardens are addressed in Fargo and West Fargo where they are permitted by right.
- Green and hoop houses are permitted, with various restrictions in all five jurisdictions.

Table 15. Summary of jurisdictions and the approval of urban agriculture components

	Moorhead	Dilworth	Clay County	Fargo	West Fargo
Community Gardens	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Permitted	Permitted in select zones
Farmers Markets	Not addressed	Permitted in select zones	Permitted accessory use	Permitted in select zones	Not addressed
Green or Hoop Houses	Permitted accessory use	Permitted in select zones	Permitted in select zones	Permitted as accessory use	Permitted in select zones
Chicken Keeping	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted as accessory use	Permitted with conditions	Prohibited
Animal Keeping	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted as accessory use	Permitted in select zones	Prohibited
Composting	Permitted	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed
Rainwater Harvesting	Permitted with conditions	Permitted with conditions	Permitted with conditions	Permitted with conditions	Permitted with conditions
Home Occupation	Permitted provisional use	Permitted in select zones	Permitted with conditions	Permitted as accessory use	Permitted in select zones

ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, & OUTCOMES

Issues

A set of key issues were identified by Metro COG to generally describe the condition of the local food system in the F-M Metropolitan area. The following issues are representative of information collected through the work of CCFSI, the public participation efforts of Metro COG, and through a review of existing local and national trends surrounding local food systems.

- Growing interest in local food. There is a huge local food movement occurring across the nation in which the F-M Metropolitan area is at the very early stages.

- Market analysis and research. There is a need for research regarding the local food system within the F-M Metropolitan area. This information of trends and demands will drive future private and public investment into the system.

- Barriers for Institutions using local food. Local growers and producers are not able to provide the quantity or volume necessary to supply institutional consumers.

- Lack of local cooperation and distribution network. Local foods lack an efficient and connected market for distribution. This leads to too much competition between growers, when the market would benefit from cooperation.

- Lack of recognition of the local food system. Local governments lack a recognition or understanding of the local food system as evident by the omission of land use and zoning regulations, and community planning that support access to healthy and local food

- Food Insecurity. The number of residents accessing local food shelves and participating in SNAP has increased over the past few years indicating there are many opportunities to increase local food consumption.

- Food access. Emerging food deserts within the F-M Metropolitan area shows some neighborhoods are isolated from grocery stores, community gardens, and market places which sell and distribute healthy food alternatives.

Strategic Objectives and Desired Outcomes

Using the issues above, a detailed list of *Strategic Objectives* and *Desired Outcomes* related to the food system within the F-M Metropolitan area has been developed. *Strategic Objectives* and *Desired Outcomes* have been defined, for the purposes of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan, as follows.

Strategic Objectives outline the principle objectives, issues, and value statements of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan.

Desired Outcomes provide an understanding of strategies and action steps to support the improvement of the local food system. These actions and strategies will affect food systems stakeholders, local units of governments, and various elements of the local food system.

Strategic Objective #1: Support the Development of Local Food

There is a desire to place an increased emphasis on locally grown and produced foods to increase the economic vitality of small-scale food production. Consensus among key stakeholder groups points to the need to increase support for the local food system to establish a well-rounded economy for food production and sales. These actions will improve *direct to consumer* and *direct to retail/service* exchanges for local food, remove barriers for institutional use of local food, and promote a connected distribution network.

- *Desired Outcome:* An environment that is accessible to independent and entrepreneurial businesses that grow and distribute local food to supplement the current markets in the F-M Metropolitan area.

- *Desired Outcome:* Public policies to support an environment that encourages local food entrepreneurship.

- *Desired Outcome:* Partnerships between traditional food distributors and sellers and growers and producers of local food to expand the available market place for locally grown/ produced food.

- *Desired Outcome:* Coordination among public, private, and non-profit partnering agencies within the F-M Metropolitan area to ensure ongoing and continued support for the local food system.

- *Desired Outcome:* Develop incentives and strategies that assist public and private institutions in purchasing local food.

Strategic Objective #2: Address Issues of Food Access and Environmental Justice

Promoting the development of a strong local food system will make healthy food alternatives easier to reach, thereby improving the health of area residents. Support existing communities and neighborhoods by bringing local food and healthier choices closer to residential areas to increase accessibility by all modes of transportation. By bringing local foods to neighborhoods there is an opportunity to free up resources currently spent on transportation and reduce travel time and energy consumption used to buy and produce food.

Environmental justice target groups (low-income and minority populations) are most likely to have problems regarding food access. Data analysis shows the existence of emerging food deserts within the F-M Metropolitan area where low-income and minority populations are isolated from existing food markets and retail outlets. There is a need to develop initiatives which aim to address emerging food deserts by increasing food access and food security.

- *Desired Outcome:* Increase access to locally grown/ produced food and food products for those with limited incomes who are currently facing mobility limitations (i.e. low income, minority, and senior populations).

- *Desired Outcome:* Develop strategies to bring healthy and local food closer to those who currently do not have the opportunity to buy and eat it, specifically neighborhoods with higher concentrations of low-income and/ or minority populations.

- *Desired Outcome:* Increase access to local foods within neighborhoods by increasing the volume of healthy food options at local convenience stores and smaller markets and support the development of new local markets.

- *Desired Outcome:* Identify opportunities to locate community gardens, farmers markets, and other key components of the food infrastructure in established, walkable neighborhoods.

- *Desired Outcome:* Support the development of a food system in the F-M Metropolitan area that is naturally entwined with the existing transportation network and increase the likelihood of residents making food related trips by public transit, walking, and biking.

Strategic Objective #3: Ensure Public Policy Recognizes and Supports the Local Food System

Improvements to the local food system depend upon changes in public policy related to city ordinances, land use plans, and zoning regulations. Given the multi-jurisdictional nature of the F-M Metropolitan area, commonality and uniformity are critical to ensuring a meaningful expansion of the local food system. Addressing the food system will require agreed-to themes and strategies which can be supported by all local units of government.

- *Desired Outcome:* Develop a regional/ metropolitan food council which consists of local elected leaders and key policy makers. Encourage input and guidance from the private sector including producers, growers, and distributors.

- *Desired Outcome:* Develop a policy and land use framework to guide local decision-makers to ensure implementation of the local food system with a regional impact on the health and wellness of the F-M Metropolitan area.

- *Desired Outcome:* Improve the utilization of available urban land, transportation systems, and other public infrastructure in the F-M Metropolitan area to support the development and distribution of local food.

- *Desired Outcome:* Leverage State and Federal policies that allow flexibility in the use of food assistance programs (e.g. SNAP, WIC) at farmers markets and CSAs.

- Assure policies, zoning, and food related ordinances support easy access to healthy and local food.

Strategic Objective #4: Increase Public Awareness Regarding Benefits of the Local Food System

Local food systems have traditionally gone unrecognized in local or regional planning efforts, specifically regarding economic development, land use, neighborhood, and transportation planning. Efforts to grow the local food system depend on greater understanding among the larger community regarding what local food systems are, and how they operate should include the general public, consumers, and the private and public sector.

- *Desired Outcome:* Integrate food systems as a consideration into land use, transportation, economic development, and neighborhood planning processes developed by local units of government.

- *Desired Outcome:* Support the development of expanded and detailed market research regarding local consumer preferences and perceptions of local food; conduct assessments regarding awareness and understanding of the local food system.

- *Desired Outcome:* Identify marketing strategies to improve the understanding of local food options.

- *Desired Outcome:* Expand and improve existing online resource outlining available local food opportunities (markets, CSAs, gardens, etc.).

- *Desired Outcome:* Develop educational and training programs and initiatives which expand the capacity of existing local food producers while at the same time increase the number of local food producers.

Strategic Objectives #5: Improve Community Health Outcomes

A local food system would improve the general community health by providing more access to healthy, affordable foods. Based on the data collected surrounding existing key health indicators, there are many opportunities to impact the health in the F-M Metropolitan area with improved access to healthy food options and local foods.

- *Desired Outcome:* Remove barriers to consuming healthy local foods by providing more access points throughout the F-M Metropolitan area.

- *Desired Outcome:* Increase the consumption of local foods by demonstrating proper handling, preparation, and preservation of fresh foods and developing programs that incentivize fresh food purchases.

- *Desired Outcome:* Develop incentives that support healthy and local food donations for the food bank and shelters.

- *Desired Outcome:* Provide nutrition education and training on healthy food choices, cooking and preparing meals, and the impact of food choices on health.

IMPLEMENTATION

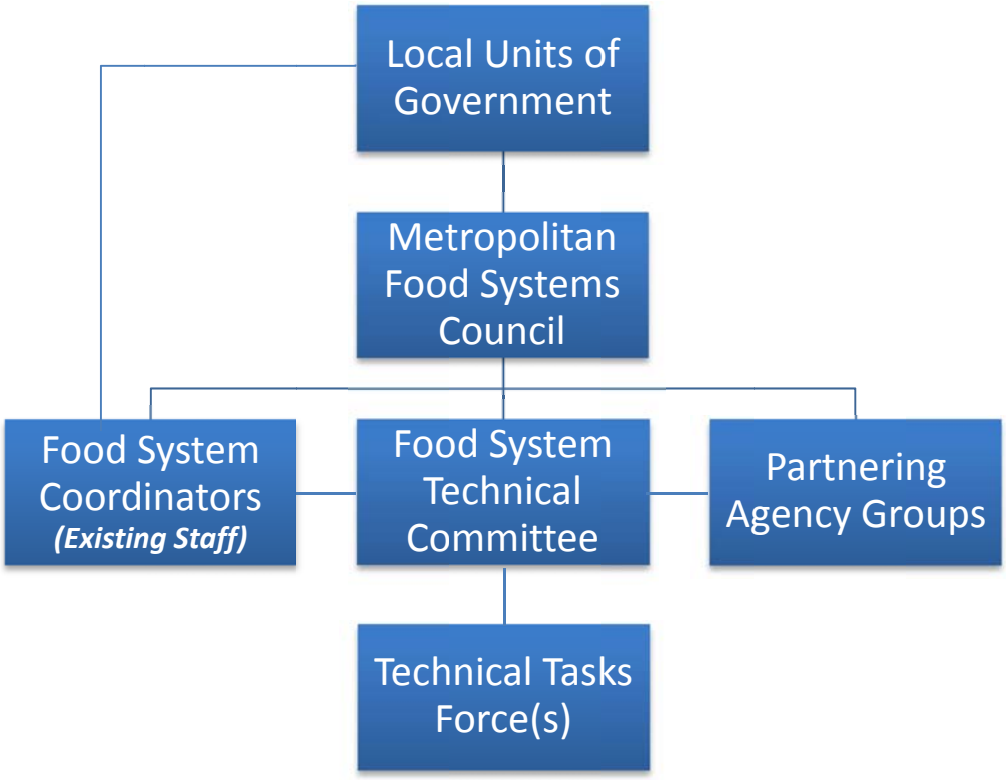
The *Strategic Objectives* and *Desired Outcomes* listed above present an opportunity to develop an inter-connected set of action items that will lead to the growth and development of a local foods system. Identified as the most important implementation step, is the creation of a Metropolitan Food Policy Council. Additional recommendations are varied in scope and have been broken down into the six (6) main focus areas.

<u>#1 Development of a Metropolitan Food Systems Council</u>

The Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative has operated since its inception with little political and legislative authority to bring about meaningful change to the development and expansion of the local food system within the FM Metropolitan area. In fact, most work of the CCFSI has to date been accomplished through smaller Task Forces, without any overarching political or policy direction framework from any local unit of government. In order to ensure real and meaningful progress towards the initiatives outlined in the Metropolitan Food System Plan, a more recognizable framework is needed.

To ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan and its many interrelated initiatives, it is recommended that local units of government and affiliated

interest groups explore the creation of a Metropolitan Food Systems Council. The Metropolitan Food Systems Council would be formed through an intergovernmental agreement between the cities of Fargo, Cass County, and Clay County. The broader framework for a Metropolitan Food Systems Council is outlined below.



The Metropolitan Food Systems Council would serve to coordinate and catalyze local efforts regarding improvements to the local food system. Similar to other inter-governmental boards in the FM Metropolitan area, the Metropolitan Food Systems Council could consist of a mix of both elected and possibly higher ranking administrative staff from affected local units of government. It is likely the Food Systems Council would be driven by a work program developed annually to ensure implementation of the Food System Plan and related initiatives.

The Food Systems Council would be initially staffed by Food System Coordinators, who would be existing city or county staff who have traditionally worked on local food systems issues since the inception of CCFSI. Food Systems Coordinators would be staffs from city and/or county public health departments, who are already engaged in Food Systems planning and implementation. Food Systems Coordinators would provide necessary logistical support for the Food Council and assist with outreach, development, and management. Overtime, as the Food System Council matures, the potential could exist to develop a metropolitan wide Food System Coordinator would work for the Food Systems Council.

The Food System Council would be driven by a Food System Technical Committee which would drive the day to day efforts regarding implementation of the Food Systems Plan. The Food

System Technical Committee would serve a similar function to the Food Systems Tasks Forces which have been in existence since inception of CCFSI, and would consist of staff level public health and planning staff from local units of government and Partnering Groups. Partnering Groups are envisioned to be those public and private sector entities who have shown an interested in food systems planning in the FM Metropolitan area (E.g. School, Colleges, Growers, Buyers, Distributors, Parks Departments/Districts, Extension Service, etc.). Partnering groups could provide expertise, resources, financial support, research, or any other useful support for specific food system projects and initiatives.

#2 Economic Development

- Create and support a "Corner Store Initiative" that connects small farmers to corner stores, providing opportunities to buy and sell healthy and local food in neighborhood scale stores.

- Support the creation of a local food hub. A food hub would provide a centralized location for institutions to purchase local foods in large quantities.

- Establish cooperatives for local foods. These organizations could be organized in various ways to perform various functions like specialization of products, processing, or distribution.

#3 Food Access

- Support and promote charitable food programs which encourage donations of healthy foods and excess fresh and local food products. There are many local and national projects to help facilitate this already in existence.
    - Hunger Free ND
    - www.ampleharvest.com
    - www.feedingamerica.org

- Remove barriers to accepting SNAP at farmers markets through paper scrip, token, or receipts. Increase the impact by soliciting funds to provide "bonuses" to SNAP users.

- Develop incentives for farmers to sell in low-income markets.

- Implement healthy and sustainable food service guidelines that are aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in Public Institutions.

#4 Food Infrastructure

- Evaluate permanent locations for a farmers market. Permanency will increase visibility, stability, and provide an opportunity to include cultural events, infill, and redevelopment.

- Increase food-processing capacity in the region.

- Improve aggregation of local food to increase distribution efficiency and access to volume consumers.

- Establish a Metro Food Systems Profile that is updated annually.

#5 Outreach and Education

- Develop a comprehensive marketing campaign utilizing all forms of media to increase knowledge about local food benefits and availability.

- Create an expansive educational program that would offer gardening, handling, preparation, and preservation classes. Build upon the existing assets in the community: Minnesota and North Dakota extension services, university faculty, master gardeners and culinary experts.

- Integrate Farm to School Programs into the curriculum. Federal grants are available for educational greenhouses, school gardens, etc.

- Provide education on food safety regulations to increase consumer safety.

- Establish community kitchens that utilize existing licensed kitchen facilities. These kitchens would function to support small groups to prepare food products, teach cooking classes, and educate on safe food handling.

#6 Urban Agriculture

- Inventory underutilized public land that is available for community gardens.

- Incorporate urban agriculture into the zoning code and ordinances to permit urban agriculture activities by creating "best practices." Provide model ordinances to facilitate the process of adoption.

- Ensure local and State government regulations and policies support local food goals.

- Provide incentives to strengthen food entrepreneurship.

- Create a community garden association.

The Metropolitan Food Systems Plan evaluates the trends, barriers, and existing conditions of the local food system. It provides a detailed list of issues, objectives and next steps. With effort from CCFSI, Metro COG, and the public these steps will change the F-M Metropolitan food system by increasing food access and food security through information, infrastructure, and efficiencies.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF METROPOLITAN FOOD SYSTEMS MEETINGS – 19, 20 MARCH 2013

During a two day public input process, Metro COG held eight focus groups and a public meeting to gather feedback from a range of interested persons and stakeholders from various sectors of the community. The comments gathered have been grouped into five focus areas: Economic Development, Food Infrastructure, Food Access, Outreach and Education, and Urban Agriculture.

Economic Development

Written Comments:

Despite the region's agricultural heritage, stakeholders mentioned that the local food systems of North Dakota and Minnesota are not as evolved as those of coastal regions. Regarding the development of the Metropolitan Food System Plan, it was recognized that it is important to consider the Triple Bottom Line: people, planet, and profit. It is necessary to find a balance which benefits residents, businesses, and the environment. Business stakeholders are concerned about the profitability of local food sales. Many local farmers currently sell their products at markets in Grand Forks and other areas because it is more profitable. In past seasons, some farmers have donated or thrown out more produce than they have sold. Local consumption by residents and institutions is not as high as it needs to be. Diversification, improved marketing, cooperation among farmers, and digital upgrades were suggested to increase sales.

Oral Comments:

- Consider the triple bottom line - people, planet, and profit.
- The farmers market systems in North Dakota and Minnesota are not as evolved compared to those in California, New York and the coasts.
- Some local farmers will drive to Grand Forks to sell at farmers market because it is more profitable.
- Farmers should work with each other.
- An organized group or cooperative of farmers is easier for consumers so buy from than going to each farmer individually.
- Sysco Minnesota is an example of a large wholesale distributor of local foods.
- Salad Makers buy and prepare lettuce. That is a middle man that reduces risk but increases cost.

Food Access

Written Comments:

There was a strong consensus to increase local consumption by the public, especially by those with limited access to healthy food. Though during past seasons, many producers have grown more than they can sell, food pantries have little, if any, fresh produce. There was an interest in locating community gardens, farmers markets, and groceries to at risk neighborhoods and emerging food deserts within walking distance of minority, low income, and elderly populations. Placing local food sources in communities could improve the accessibility of fresh produce. The addition of food sources in communities could decrease automobile use and increasing pedestrian and bike travel. School officials proposed that school kitchens be used in summer to process and preserve local foods.

Oral Comments:

- Not needing a car for grocery shopping helps people pay for housing, because they are not paying for a car, gas, or other vehicle expenses. This builds stronger communities of varied socio-economic statuses.

- Meetings should be held in the neighborhoods of emerging food deserts. Many of those residents have advocated for gardens.

- Community gardens would increase food security and resilience. They should be accessible by foot, bike, and bus.

- A mobile rentable kitchen could be certified for canning and freezing. It could be used to teach preservation skills to the community.

- Consider the wheelchair accessibility of gardens, especially near areas with a number of elderly residents. Seniors are a group whose access to local food should be considered.

- Daycares require purchase of sealed products.

- School kitchens could be used in summer for food processing and preservation.

- Consider different ways of marketing local foods to different demographics.

- Though food pantries receive donations from the public, farmers markets, and food banks like the Great Plains, they have little fresh produce.

- A mobile grocery or produce truck that accepts WIC and SNAP could help to get fresh, healthy food alternatives to emerging food deserts.

Food Infrastructure

Written Comments:

It was generally recognized that local food infrastructure needs to improve. North Dakota's food infrastructure is set up to support cash crops like sugar beets. Institutions find that local farmers who grow produce are more geared for farmers markets, not larger institutional settings. Local farmers have not dedicated land for commercial users on a large scale. Volume and food safety are issues for institutions.

Officials from institutions like hospitals and schools mentioned the importance of tracing food back to its origin. Traceback mechanisms are necessary to identify contaminated sources, but these ways are lacking in our local food system. It was suggested that institutions use local distributors to allocate the necessary amount of food demanded; to reduce the amount of paperwork; and to possibly process food. A distributor could facilitate a relationship between growers, consumers, and institutions. An example of this cooperation is Sysco Minnesota, a large wholesale distributor of local foods. Growers and buyers agreed that due to current barriers, restaurants and smaller institutions may be more feasible buyers for the time being.

Oral Comments:

- Growers are geared for farmers market, not packing. They haven't dedicated land for commercial users on large scale. There are few year round growers who have off season processing.

- Producers cannot meet the demand for schools and colleges because these institutions are not open during the growing season.

- Inconsistent sizing of local produce is an issue for institutions.

- College could find large producers, possibly alumni, to set aside some land for them.

- Local food is at odds with Medicare. There are concerns over food safety. It is important to be able to identify contaminated lots and increase food safety. Germs are different now.

- A distributor, who can locate available local and non-local foods, would make local food a feasible option for schools by reducing the amount of work the school has to do.

- Institutional consumption of local food may be a goal for further down the road, not an immediate concern. Restaurants are easier to sell to.

Outreach/Education

Written Comments:

There needs to be improved outreach and education regarding local foods. There is an interest in incorporating local foods into the cafeterias of schools so as to teach students healthier eating habits and to educate them as to how food is grown. By introducing local foods to children, they are also introduced to their families.

Community outreach efforts such as library seed handouts and the Streets Alive farmers market could increase public awareness of local food. Another outreach opportunity is in school kitchens. Kitchens are unused during the summer and could host classes to teach consumers food preparation and preservation skills.

Improving public awareness of local foods could increase public interest, consumption, and involvements. Decision makers lack knowledge and certainty regarding local foods. Educating the public and decision makers will improve the possibility of progress.

Oral Comments:

- It is important to focus on getting local foods to children at schools due to declining health rates. There needs to be a cultural change for children, college students, and adults to eat more vegetables.

- ELL students in West Fargo schools take more vegetables and fruits than other students.

- Kids are interested in how food is grown.

- Incorporating youth into school gardens will give them sense of ownership and keep them from vandalizing them. Fences have also been used to safeguard gardens.

- Libraries should hand out seeds to get families thinking about gardening and where foods come from.
- Institutions could have signage and labels informing consumers which foods are local.

- Streets Alive will feature a garden box and farmers market to reach out and educate the public about local foods.

- Decision makers have insufficient knowledge, limited political will, and uncertainty regarding local foods. Uncertainty for policy makers stops progress.

Urban Agriculture

Written Comments:

There is an abundance of unutilized land for the production of local foods. Current policies support traditional rather than urban agriculture. Many residents and school officials are in favor of gardens, greenhouses, and chickens. Supporting these forms of urban agriculture would help to improve access to healthy, affordable food options.

There are concerns regarding the maintenance, supervision, and safety of forms of urban agriculture. There are strong zoning regulations against chickens, poultry, and other livestock due to health and noise concerns.

School gardens would require maintenance in the summer. If unmaintained, school officials have said gardens would have to be removed for appearances. If community gardens were unmaintained, they would face a similar fate. Gardens face issues of vandalism and theft. Involving youth and neighbors could protect gardens and improve supervision. Fences could also reduce the risk of vandalism, as well as the risk of unwanted wildlife.

Oral Comments:

- There is a strong agriculture heritage in this area that should be preserved.
- The USDA has grants for school gardens.
- Schools are concerned about the appearance of gardens on the grounds, especially if unattended during the summer.
- Planting school gardens next to school buildings or asking neighbors to keep an eye on them may offer more supervision and reduce chances of vandalism and theft. Volunteers or staff would have to tend gardens during the summer. Greenhouses could provide year round production.
- Food can be sustainably produced on rooftops, empty lots, and on any available land with safe soil and water.
- Tax payers are paying for infrastructure that supports traditional agriculture and cash crop farming.
- There are strong zoning regulation against chickens, poultry, and other livestock.
- Community gardens and farmers markets could be incorporated into the Moorhead River Corridor Plan.
- Community gardens are limited because people are busy and growing food takes time.

APPENDIX 2: JURISDICTIONAL LAND USE ANALYSIS

City of Moorhead Land Use Analysis

Community Gardens or Residential Gardens	Farmers Markets	Greenhouses or Hoop Houses	Chicken Keeping	Animal Keeping	Composting	Rainwater Harvesting	Home Occupation
Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted, provisional or conditional use. * §3.3.3 of the City Code states that 30% or more of the land cannot be "weeds" exceeding the height of 8 inches or an area of 250 contiguous square feet.	Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted, provisional or conditional use. Permits for greenhouses, farmers markets or similar uses in commercial districts are handled by the City as "temporary" 180 day permits pursuant to the building code. *	Non-commercial Greenhouses or hoop houses are permitted accessory uses in all residential districts. All accessory uses would be subject to setback and lot coverage requirements.	Section 3.7.10 expressly prohibits chicken keeping within city limits.	Pursuant to §3.7.10(A) livestock is prohibited within city limits, which includes: chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, domestic fowl, cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats or other domestic livestock. Certain pigeons (fancy or homing) and exotic animals bred in captivity and which have never "known the wild" shall be exempt.	Section 3.4.10 states composting is permitted within all residentially zoned districts. Enclosed containers cannot exceed 250 cubic feet and 4 feet in height, must be placed in the rear yard with a 20 foot setback to any habitable building. * Public nuisance regulations per §3.3.2(B)(6) would apply which specifically restrict "any use of property, substance or things….emitting or causing foul, offensive, noisome, nauseous or disagreeable odors".	The State of Minnesota does not have much information available on the legality of rainwater harvesting in Minnesota; and there does not appear to be any notable legislation, guidelines, laws or programs in place within the State or within the City of Moorhead. Minnesota functions under a 'state' plumbing code (does not conform to Uniform Plumbing Code or International Plumbing Code) and it appears rainwater harvesting would only need to meet minimum plumbing code standards.	Home occupations are identified as a *provisional* use within each residential zoning district. Section 10.18.2 (B) establishes the specific requirements, which to note include: a. Exterior storage is not permitted; b. All permitted occupations must be conducted within a building; c. Seasonal sales shall be conducted no more than 4 days per 180 days.

* For unlisted uses, the zoning administrator has the authority to make a determination of compatibility with the zone district based on the City's Comprehensive Plan and specific criteria established in the code [§10.18.1 (1) & 2(2)]

City of Dilworth Land Use Analysis

Community Gardens or Residential Gardens	Farmers Markets	Greenhouses or Hoop Houses	Chicken Keeping	Animal Keeping	Composting	Rainwater Harvesting	Home Occupation
Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use. Based on unlisted use regulations per §2.030 the city would likely facilitate any community or garden request in a commercial or industrial zoning districts through the conditional use permit process. Non-commercial gardening uses in residential districts are allowed. To note, within the Transitional Zone (TZ) "farming" and "agricultural" uses are permitted. This includes hobby farms, tree farms, agricultural crops, etc; but not livestock operations. See full definitions below for further details.	A farmers market, commercial greenhouse or nursery operation (retail and wholesale) would be considered a permitted use in the TZ district, C-1, C-2, C-3, I-1 and I-2 districts.	Greenhouses are a permitted use within the TZ district, including commercial application if approved as a conditional use. Non-commercial greenhouses are defined as accessory uses within the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and R-5 districts; which are all residentially classified zoning districts. Accessory structures within residential areas are required to meet standards as set forth in Chapter 31 of the Zoning Ordinance, including setback provisions specific to each zoning district.	Dilworth Ordinance No. X (1963) (Section 101) states that no person shall keep any horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, or poultry within the "platted area" of the city or "within 300 feet" of any platted area. Ordinance 97-6 prohibits chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys or other domestic fowl, cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats or other domestic livestock within city limits. The ordinance also prohibits any "wild or exotic" animals.	Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use. General public nuisance regulations as set forth in Minnesota Statutes §609.74 (or 561.01) could be applicable.	The State of Minnesota does not have much information available on the legality of rainwater harvesting in Minnesota; and there does not appear to be any notable legislation, guidelines, laws or programs in place within the State or within the City of Dilworth. Minnesota functions under a 'state' plumbing code (does not conform to Uniform Plumbing Code or International Plumbing Code) and it appears rainwater harvesting would only need to meet minimum plumbing code standards.	Home occupations are a permitted use in TZ district and are defined as accessory uses within the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and R-5 districts; which are all residentially classified zoning districts. Chapter 32 of the Zoning Ordinance sets forth general provisions on home occupations relating to impacts on neighboring properties, equipment, signage, parking, employees, etc.	Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use. Based on unlisted use regulations per §2.030 the city would likely facilitate any community or garden request in a commercial or industrial zoning districts through the conditional use permit process. Non-commercial gardening uses in residential districts are allowed. To note, within the Transitional Zone (TZ) "farming" and "agricultural" uses are permitted. This includes hobby farms, tree farms, agricultural crops, etc; but not livestock operations. See full definitions below for further details.

* For unlisted uses per §2.030, the city administrator can review the use for compatibility and compliance with the applicable zoning district or for compatibility with conditional use regulations as cited in Chapter 6 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Clay County (MN) Land Use Analysis

Community Gardens or Residential Gardens	Farmers Markets	Greenhouses or Hoop Houses	Chicken Keeping	Animal Keeping	Composting	Rainwater Harvesting	Home Occupation
Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use.	*Farm stands* and/or seasonal agricultural sales are a permitted accessory uses sin the RP-WHP, RP-BIO, RP-AGG and AG zoning districts. Stands are limited to one (1) structure not exceeding 600 square feet. Roadside stands for the sale of agricultural product (grown on site) is a permitted accessory use within the SP-LD, SP, RP-WHP, RP-BIO, RP-AGG, AG and ASC zoning districts.	As noted in §8.5.5, farm buildings not used as dwellings are permitted in the SP, SP-LD, RD, RP-WHP, RP-BIO and AG zoning districts. Commercial greenhouses, nurseries or similar uses would be subject to provision for *farm stands* or *roadside stands*.	*Commercial agriculture* including the accessory use of raising less than fifty (50) "animal units of livestock or poultry" is a permitted use within each County zoning district, excluding the RP-AGG Resource Protection Overlay District. Farm buildings not used as dwellings are permitted in the SP, SP-LD, RD, RP-WHP, RP-BIO and AG zoning districts.	Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use. Public nuisance regulations as set forth in §5.1.2 of the County Code would apply which specifically restrict "the escape of ….fumes….in such quantities as to endanger the health of persons of ordinary sensibilities…." Other generalized public nuisance standards or regulations may also apply.	The State of Minnesota does not have much information available on the legality of rainwater harvesting in Minnesota; and there does not appear to be any notable legislation, guidelines, laws or programs in place within the State or within Clay County. Minnesota functions under a 'state' plumbing code (does not conform to Uniform Plumbing Code or International Plumbing Code) and it appears rainwater harvesting would only need to meet minimum plumbing code standards.	Home occupations "within dwellings in subdivisions" are permitted uses in each County zoning district excluding the HC, LHC and GFP districts. The use must locate entirely within the dwelling unit and cannot exceed more than 25% of the main level floor area (not including basement or garage). For home occupations on a rural parcel (non-subdivision) the use may be located in the dwelling or in a separate non-residential building. A separate non-residential structure cannot exceed 1200 square feet.	Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use.

* For unlisted uses per §8.5.5(D) of the County Development Code, any use not listed is prohibited; unless otherwise amended into a district through a text amendment as described in §8.4.5.

City of Fargo Land Use Analysis

Community Gardens or Residential Gardens	Farmers Markets	Greenhouses or Hoop Houses	Chicken Keeping	Animal Keeping	Composting	Rainwater Harvesting	Home Occupation
Community gardens and residential gardens (both commercial and non-commercial) are permitted uses within city limits. §11.0807 of the City Municipal Code states that "noxious or other weeds" exceeding the height of 8 inches are deemed a public nuisance.	This type of use is not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use. The City of Fargo would classify this use as "retail sales and service", which is a permitted use in the UMU, NC, LC, DMU, GC and LI zoning districts. Temporary permits are also an option for permitting, depending on duration of the operation.	Based on language within §20.1203 non-commercial greenhouses or similar hobbies would be considered an accessory use per the City Development Code. The code states that accessory uses are associated with "household living".	As noted in §12.0301 "domestic fowl" such as chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys, pigeons.." or other domestic fowl are permitted within city limits under the condition they are kept within an enclosure and that the enclosure is kept at least 75 feet from and dwelling unit; as an accessory use in the Agricultural district only. Additional "nuisance" provisions are established in §12.0303 which are intended to mitigate possible odor and/or noise issues for any enclosure within 200 feet from a dwelling unit.	Pursuant to §12.0203 of the City Municipal Code and §20.0401 of the Land Development Code, farm animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, swine and goats are not permitted within city limits; excluding the AG, SRO and GI zoning districts. *Animal Confinements* are a conditional use in the AG and SRO districts. *Farming/Crop Production* is a permitted use in the AG and GI districts and a conditional use in the SRO district. Within the SRO district, "the keeping of one or more animals other than horses is considered a conditional use". §12.0218 prohibits "exotic animals" within city limits.	Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use. Public nuisance regulations do not appear applicable to this use, although public health may.	The State of North Dakota does not have much information available on the legality of rainwater harvesting; and there does not appear to be any notable legislation, guidelines, laws or programs in place within the State or within the City of Fargo. North Dakota functions under a 'state' plumbing code and as a home rule municipality the City of Fargo has the ability to adopt amendments to meet local needs. It appears rainwater harvesting would only need to meet minimum plumbing code standards.	Home occupations are considered an *accessory use* as defined in §20.1203 and are must be clearly incidental, subordinate in size/area and located within the same zoning district as the associated principal use. §20.0403 requires that all outdoor activities and storage areas associated with the home occupation be conducted in completely enclosed structures.

* For unlisted uses per §20.0401(F) of the City Development Code, the zoning administrator shall make a "similar use" interpretation based on specific criteria set forth in §20.1203

City of West Fargo Land Use Analysis

Community Gardens or Residential Gardens	Farmers Markets	Greenhouses or Hoop Houses	Chicken Keeping	Animal Keeping	Composting	Rainwater Harvesting	Home Occupation
Residential non-commercial gardening is a permitted use in the A district. This use is not addressed in any of the other zoning districts. §15.0305A of the City Code states that no grasses or non-noxious weeds shall exceed 8 inches or cover an area in excess of 30%, or it shall be deemed a public nuisance.	This type of use is not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts.	As a commercial use, greenhouses, nurseries and similar uses are a permitted use in C, CM and CO-M districts. In addition, the Agricultural district identifies greenhouses as a permitted use.	Section 11.0106 of the West Fargo City Code prohibits the keeping of any "fowl or non-domestic animals" (except for horses) within city limits, within any zoning district; which includes chickens. Title XI of the City Code also prohibits "dangerous and/or vicious" animals from city limits. As noted in the City Zoning Ordinance §4.421, within the Agricultural (A) zoning district *commercial agriculture* is a permitted use and agricultural services is a conditional use. In the R-R and R-1E districts, *farm animals* would be a conditional use provided the lot is at least 2 acres (one animal for the first 2 acres and one additional animal per each additional acre).	Not specifically addressed in any of the zoning districts as a permitted or conditional use. Public nuisance regulations per §15.0317 would apply which restrict the "discharge of any objectionable odorous air contaminant" outside the subject property boundary.	The State of North Dakota does not have much information available on the legality of rainwater harvesting; and there does not appear to be any notable legislation, guidelines, laws or programs in place within the State or within the City of West Fargo. North Dakota functions under a 'state' plumbing code and as a home rule municipality the City of West Fargo has the ability to adopt amendments to meet local needs. It appears rainwater harvesting would only need to meet minimum plumbing code standards.	According to the City Zoning Ordinance, home occupations are permitted uses within the A, R1-E, R-L1A, R-1A, R-1B and R-5 districts. §4.448 states that the home occupation shall not be more than 25% of the main floor area and sets other standards for signage, appearance, equipment storage and parking. An employee may be added through a conditional use application.	Residential non-commercial gardening is a permitted use in the A district. This use is not addressed in any of the other zoning districts. §15.0305A of the City Code states that no grasses or non-noxious weeds shall exceed 8 inches or cover an area in excess of 30%, or it shall be deemed a public nuisance.