HHS COMMITTEE #2
October 20, 2011

MEMORANDUM

October 18, 2011

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: **Update: Efforts to Establish a Montgomery County Food Council**

At this session, the Committee will receive an update from Caroline Taylor of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance and Jessica Weiss of Growing SOUL on the efforts to establish a Montgomery County Food Council. Also in attendance will be Bruce Adams, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships, Mike Reilly, John Hench, and David Vismera of the Montgomery County Department of Parks (M-NCPPC), and Jeremy Criss of the Department of Economic Development.

As a part of the FY12 Operating Budget, the County Council approved a community grant that provides the Community Foundation with $25,000 to create a Food Council and move toward building a more sustainable community food system for Montgomery County. A foundation has also provided $10,000 to the Community Foundation and the Community Foundation is directing some resources to this effort. The Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for the county community grant. An advisory board has been meeting to work on an implementation plan and to hire a staff person to help with this effort. Last spring's grant information included 3 goals for FY12:

1. Building organizational capacity and filing for 501C(3) status;
2. Impacting nutrition of school food; and,
3. Planning to grow more farmers to grow more food through support of the proposed Small Farm Incubator and workforce training.

Council staff has asked that as a part of this update the Committee be informed about:

- How the idea for a Montgomery County Food Council was started.

- What other jurisdictions the Advisory Board is using as models for the development of a Montgomery County Food Council.
- What issues/problems Montgomery County faces with regards to its food system and the assets it has to address them.
- The current status of the Advisory Board and the Food Council.

With regards to the starting point for the Food Council, attached at © 3-8 is a summary of the December 2010 stakeholder meeting that was convened by the Office of Community Partnerships.

The 2010 report from the Green Economy Task Force recommended that the county establish a small farm incubator that would be modeled after the Intervale Center in Vermont. Attached at © 1-2 is a letter from Director of Parks Mary Bradford on Park and Planning's efforts to identify potential locations for such an incubator (the attachment referred to in the letter is at © 36-61). The preferred site is the Darby Hub which is located in the Agricultural Reserve. It is important to note that much of the land in this hub is already leased for agricultural use for commodity crops.

As background for this discussion, information is included in this packet on two very active food policy councils, the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council and the Detroit Food Policy Council. Council staff understands that the Montgomery County Food Council Advisory Board has been using the vision and mission of Portland Multnomah as a model for its work.

Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council

The Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council is made up of 15 business and community members with expertise in the local food system. The membership is shown on © 9. The following are the vision, mission, and goals.

Vision
All City of Portland and Multnomah County residents have access to a wide variety of nutritious, affordable food, grown locally and sustainably.

Mission
Bring together a diverse array of stakeholders to integrate the aspects of the food system (production, distribution, access, consumption, processing and recycling) in order to enhance the environmental, economic, social, and nutritional health of the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

Goals
1. Educate and compile information about the local food system.
2. Develop strategies to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of the City of Portland and Multnomah County.
3. Affect and develop food policy.
4. Advocate and advise on policy implementation.

The 2009 Annual Report is attached at © 9-12. It describes the range of activities and committees undertaken by the Food Policy Council in 2009. The Food Policy Council also has completed special studies. Attached at © 13-19 is the Executive Summary from "The Spork Report" which looks at food in the public schools and at © 20-22 is the Executive Summary from a report that looked at barriers and opportunities for increasing the use of local food in institutional food service programs.

Detroit Food Policy Council

The Detroit Food Policy Council has 21 members that include 12 members from the food sector, 6 at-large representatives, a representative from the Mayor's Office, the City Council, and the Department of Health and Wellness Promotion.

Vision

We envision a city of Detroit with a healthy, vibrant, hunger-free populace that has easy access to fresh produce and other healthy food choices; a city in which the residents are educated about healthy food choices, and understand their relationship to the food system; a city in which urban agriculture, composting and other sustainable practices contribute to its economic vitality; and a city in which all of its residents, workers, guests, and visitors are treated with respect, justice and dignity by those from whom they obtain food.

Mission

The Detroit Food Policy Council is committed to nurturing the development and maintenance of a sustainable, localized food system and food-secure City of Detroit in which all of its residents are hunger-free, healthy, and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives.

Goals

1. Advocate for urban agriculture and composting being included as part of the strategic development of the City of Detroit;
2. Work with various City departments to streamline the processes and approvals required to expand and improve urban agriculture in the city of Detroit including acquisition of land and access to water;
3. Review the City of Detroit Food Security Policy and develop an implementation and monitoring plan that identifies priorities, timelines, benchmarks, and human, financial, and material resources.
4. Produce and disseminate an annual City of Detroit Food System Report that assesses the state of the city's food system, including activities in production, distribution, consumption, waste generation and composting, nutrition and food assistance program participation, and innovative food system programs;
5. Recommend new food related policy as the need arises;
6. Initiate and coordinate programs that address the food related needs of Detroiters;
7. Convene an annual "Powering Up the Local Food System" Conference.

The Executive Summary from the 2009-2010 Detroit Food System Report is at © 23-35.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

October 18, 2011

Honorable George Leventhal, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Montgomery County Council
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leventhal:

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Montgomery Parks remains interested in the ongoing efforts to establish a Food Council for Montgomery County. We are not in the lead role, but are pleased to be able to participate in the discussion. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the related HHS Committee session on October 20, but Deputy Director Gene Giddens and Chiefs David Vismara and Dr. John Hench will be present on behalf of the Department of Parks.

As you may know, the Montgomery County Green Economy Task Force Report, released on March 25, 2010, included a recommendation to develop a small farm incubator in Montgomery County modeled after the successful Intervale Center in Burlington, Vermont. The proposed farm incubator would provide new farmers willing to produce local, organic table-food with office space, training, mentoring, technical and legal assistance, help with advocacy and marketing, land for farming, and equipment. In addition to creating new jobs in the agricultural sector and stimulating the local economy, the proposed incubator would facilitate efforts to build a local, sustainable table-food system in Montgomery County, centered in the County's Agricultural Reserve.

Through the report, the M-NCPPC was asked to identify potential parkland that would be suitable for the proposed agricultural incubator. The Executive Branch's Office of Economic Development was asked to provide the financial, technical, and business assistance to farmers participating in this new and exciting program. The report was silent on the issue of future funding.

After meeting with table-food farmers and staff in key agricultural agencies, Park staff developed a preliminary program of requirements for a small farm incubator on M-NCPPC parkland. Three hubs were identified as suitable: the Darby Hub in the Agricultural Reserve (Boyds area); the Holland Hub near Sandy Spring; and the Watkins Hub near Clarksburg. The Montgomery County Planning Board adopted the Darby Hub as the preferred site for the future farm incubator on May 27, 2010. The Planning Board memo prepared by staff is attached for your reference.

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks currently administers 13 leases with farmers who grow commodity crops such as hay, corn, soybeans, and wheat on approximately 935 acres of parkland. Many of these sites are located in the Agricultural Reserve. In some cases, the lease is a temporary use of parkland until the implementation or construction of a master-planned facility.

We have also developed a highly successful Community Gardens program outside the Agricultural Reserve that now includes 10 sites countywide supporting more than 600 gardeners. On December 20, 2010, Montgomery County's first "food summit" was hosted at our Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood. In addition, David Vismara, our Chief of Horticulture, Forestry, and Environmental Education, is an active member of the newly created Food Advisory Board for Montgomery County.

Given our current budget constraints, we are unable to subsidize the incubator initiative, but we would welcome the opportunity to support it through making the identified site available. We would also be willing to consider viable proposals to rent currently underutilized indoor greenhouse space at our Pope Farm Plant Nursery. We agree with the Task Force Report that an agricultural incubator needs to be a community-led effort and, in fact, have already fielded several requests to lease parkland for this type of use. We have asked those interested to submit formal proposals that include a clear goal statement, proposed development impacts, and a detailed operational plan with financial projections. We would need to review this information before any lease or agreement for the use of park property will be considered. We hope the County Council will be able to find a suitable funding source for those wishing to participate in the incubator project.

As stated by Bruce Adams, Director of the Executive's Office of Community Partnerships, Montgomery County "has the Agricultural Reserve...has the full range of agricultural, entrepreneurial, environmental, and marketing talents in abundance...has an immigrant workforce as yet untapped for agriculture...and has a huge market crying out for healthy, locally produced food." According to him, "all we need to do is start working together toward a shared and larger vision."

So far, the M-NCPPC Department of Parks has fulfilled its promise to find suitable sites for the incubator and to develop momentum with other agencies and project proponents. We look forward to working in partnership with our colleagues to bring this worthwhile vision to reality.

Sincerely,

Mary R. Bradford
Director of Parks

MRB:JH
Attachment

cc: Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Councilmember Craig Rice
Council Analyst Linda McMillan

Montgomery County Sustainable Community Food System Initiative
Summary of Stakeholder Meeting on December 20, 2010

On December 20, 2010, eighty-six stakeholders held a three hour community conversation at Montgomery County's Agricultural History Farm Park. The focus of the conversation was on a visionary report and recommendations prepared by Andy Lowy, a summer intern working in the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships with the support of Princeton Internships in Civic Service.

It was an extraordinarily diverse gathering of stakeholders who sat down together and discussed the outline of a bold vision for a Sustainable Community Food System Initiative for Montgomery County.

The event was organized by Bruce Adams, Director of the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships, and by sustainable food systems consultant, Rana Koll-Mandel. The discussion was led by facilitators Michael Randel of Michael Randel Consulting and Diane Harris Cline of Over The Horizon Consulting. The stakeholders included experienced and new farmers, county government officials, nonprofit leaders, community activists, and business entrepreneurs from companies large and small.

After a brief welcome by Bruce Adams, Director of the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships, and Director of Parks, Mary Bradford, intern Andy Lowy summarized the key elements of his research paper (attached). In the first round of discussions, the stakeholders were seated with people who shared their interests. The first task was to name their stakeholder group. The names chosen were: The Producers, The Governeurs, Entrpreneurs, Partnerships & Nonprofits, Farm For A Living, Helping Hands Partners, Land For Nutrition, and Park & Planning Partners. Some of the key points reported from the first round of conversations were:

1. "Organic" is not the only path to sustainable and healthy farming. The vision needs to recognize that there are best management practices that aren't organic. Organic does not guarantee sustainability.

2. The vision for MC has to be market based in reality. Fair wages should be paid to all involved in the system: farmers-distributors-consumers. There is an opportunity to create green jobs through the creation of a local distribution network.

3. This policy area involves many difficult issues: Give tax breaks for the land. Where will the needed water come from for Farm to Table products? Processing food is a problem. Documented vs. undocumented workers can be an issue.

4. Greenhouses are an answer. Rooftop farming is possible but not mentioned in the report.

After each stakeholder group reported to the full assembly, facilitator Michael Randel polled the group and found broad consensus for the key elements of the vision with the caveats noted above.

Halfway through the afternoon, there was a break for video interviews, conversation, and refreshments provided by Honest Tea, Butlers Orchard, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, and Lewis Orchard.

Next on the agenda were three briefings relevant to the day's discussions:

- Status report on the *Small Farm Incubator* from John Hench, Chief, Park, Planning & Stewardship, Montgomery Parks;
- Background information on *Food Policy Councils* by Anne Palmer, from Johns Hopkins University-Center for Livable Future; and
- The legal perspective on the new *Maryland Benefit Corporations* along with legislative background on *Farm to School issues* in the General Assembly by Alice Wilkerson, Chief of Staff, State Senator Jamie Raskin.

Then, the attendees switched to their second group, which was designed to put diverse stakeholders together. Each group was asked to agree upon what they believe should be the next steps coming out of this meeting. Some of the highlights of the conversations from the second round were:

1. Vision paper has to be refined and solidified, so that everyone agrees.
2. Form a steering committee with subcommittees. Get all the community/stakeholders together on a regular basis, so they have continued ownership over the ideas/projects. The next meeting should discuss and work out details. Asset inventory/mapping should be done first.
3. Increase communication across stakeholder groups and prioritize what needs to be done. Create a web forum where people can exchange ideas, comment on topics, and coordinate with each other.
4. Build public support. Raise awareness of Ag Reserve. Get more people interested in growing their own food. Create partnerships between farms and schools.
5. The Food Policy Council model sounds good. Need a task force and coordinator. Make room for new and existing farms.
6. Define terminology used such as "sustainable." What exactly is a small farm incubator? Create web-based LAND LINK Clearinghouse for MC; Look to Pennsylvania and Vermont as examples of this.

As the meeting came to a close, Bruce Adams thanked everyone for their participation and asked participants to fill out a Feedback Form which asked three questions: (1) How would you rank your **support for the draft vision** for a sustainable community food system in Montgomery County? (2) How would you rank how committed you or your organization are to **support the next step(s)** identified in this community conversation? And, (3) What **specific next step(s)** are you or your organization willing to take to advance this vision?

Results from the forms ranked on a scale from 1 to 10, were: (1) nearly 75% of participants supported the vision outlined in Andy Lowy's report ranking it as 8 or better; and (2) slightly more than 75% ranked their commitment to the next steps as 8 or better.

Some of the next steps suggested were:

- Focus on one thing -- narrow down the choices
- Get consensus across the agriculture community
- Identify resources and move forward on low cost ideas quickly
- Take Vision & Key Elements document and refine it
- Do asset mapping inventory and create a clearinghouse
- Develop Land/Link system for idle land
- Define terms used
- Increase communication with stakeholders
- Move forward on farm incubator first
- Look to neighbor programs in the District and Prince Georges County
- Keep dreaming! Then worry about the money.

And, finally, the group recommended these six ways of working together to create a sustainable food system that can be a model for the nation:

- Create a Food Policy Council
- Create a Steering Committee to refine the vision statement
- Don't forget about existing farmers as Mentors/Resource!!
- Start a for-profit umbrella organization
- Need "agency" to lead Initiative
- Hold more stakeholder meetings like this.

Attachment: "Vision and Key Elements" paper.

Summary notes prepared by Rana Koll-Mandel.

Sustainable Community Food System Initiative:

Vision and Key Elements

Montgomery County is perfectly positioned to create the nation's model sustainable community food system where more healthy food is locally produced, distributed, consumed, and composted in an efficient and environmentally sustainable way that promotes public health through improved eating habits and unites the rural, suburban, and urban communities around food. We have a 93,000 acre agricultural reserve. We have the necessary agricultural, entrepreneurial, environmental, and marketing talents in abundance. We have an immigrant workforce as yet largely untapped for agriculture. We have a huge market crying out for healthy, locally produced food. Our school system is nationally recognized as a trend setter. We are moving forward on progressive policies like the creation of a small farm incubator.

By working together toward a shared and larger vision, Montgomery County can become the nation's model sustainable community food system. Fast forward six years and imagine... Imagine that the small farm incubator recommended by the Green Economy Task Force is operating and with the start-up of a Farm School the Agricultural Reserve is blossoming as a community of farmers is dedicated to providing fresh produce to the residents of Montgomery County. Imagine a healthy local food education campaign has increased public awareness about the value of "Buying Montgomery and Eating Healthy" and built a critical mass of consumers.

Imagine using the growing market for local food to fuel economic development, promote entrepreneurship, and increase workforce training opportunities. Imagine a Food Innovation Center that includes a commercial kitchen incubator and a food processing facility to support local catering and other businesses. Imagine tapping the talents of hundreds of immigrant workers recruited from day labor sites to increase dramatically the production of local food. Imagine expanding Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, increasing tourism at County farms, bringing mobile markets to neighborhoods previously deprived of access to locally grown fruits and vegetables. Imagine shoppers at major grocery chains and ethnic supermarkets expanding their selections of local foods.

Imagine MCPS partnering with a Healthy Food Hub to enhance meals with more local produce and to encourage good eating habits by students and their families. Imagine hundreds of home, school, and community gardens across the County. Imagine a surge in green food related jobs, a dramatic decrease in childhood obesity and poverty, and a substantial drop in greenhouse gas emissions.

But why just imagine? Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work building a diverse coalition of stakeholders to turn this vision into reality. What would it take? What are we missing? What are you willing to do?

Here are the mission critical program areas needed to build a Sustainable Community Food System according to the paper written by Andy Lowy:

1. **Training and Development of Sustainable Agriculture Workforce** through a **Small Farm Incubator** that leases land and provides equipment and assistance to entrepreneurs who want to launch and grow organic farms and a **Sustainable Farm Network** that includes business planning assistance, education, and support programs for sustainable table food growers. This will include a **Farm School** that trains aspiring farmers and prepares them to succeed in commercial organic farming in Montgomery County and mentors them based upon the Intervale model which has successfully operated near Burlington, VT.

2. **Creation of a Food Innovation Center** that includes a **Commercial Kitchen Incubator** that rents out commercial kitchen space, provides equipment, business support, and advice to culinary entrepreneurs and chefs who want to launch and grow healthy food businesses, a **Healthy Food Processing Center** that rents food-processing equipment to farmers and cooks, and produces healthy processed/packaged foods using local ingredients, and a **Healthy Catering Company** that produces healthy meals for County institutions, private parties, and others.

3. **Design and Implementation of a Healthy Food Hub** that assists sustainable farms with marketing and provides storage space, that collects, distributes, and sells local produce to restaurants, schools, Food Innovation Center, as well as other, large bulk purchasers,

including the Manna Food Center and others who provide food to our neighbors most in need.

4. **Expand and grow CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Network** that is currently in its infancy but continues to mobilize community groups and connect them with local producers.

5. **Community Food Education Program** that works with schools and community centers to educate the public about producing and consuming healthy local food sustainability while growing food in suburban/urban down county areas. By working together with MCPS and MC Park and Planning to focus on creating school gardens and developing a curriculum to teach kids (while in school and out-of-school) about where their food comes from, about gardening and composting, and about eating and cooking seasonally grown foods.

6. **Launch a "Buying Montgomery and Eating Healthy" Marketing Campaign** that uses advertising and product labeling to educate consumers about the value of Buying Montgomery and Eating Healthy.

Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council

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503-823-7222 · www.portlandonline.com/bps
Sam Adams, Mayor · Jeff Cogen, Judy Shiprack, County Commissioners

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

2009 Report

The Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council is a citizen-based advisory council that provides guidance to the City Council and County Commission on food policy with a vision that all residents have access to a wide variety of nutritious, affordable food, grown locally and sustainably.

The Council is currently composed of 15 business and community leaders with expertise in the community's food system, including farmers and food distributors, public health and hunger advocates, community educators, and land use planners. The Food Policy Council brings in additional expertise from community members interested in improving the local food system through policy initiatives and advocacy.

Mission: Bring together a diverse array of stakeholders to integrate the aspects of the food system (production, distribution, access, consumption, processing and recycling) in order to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

Vision: All City of Portland and Multnomah County residents have access to a wide variety of nutritious, affordable food, grown locally and sustainably.

Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council Members:

Chair - Weston Miller, Oregon State University Extension
Vice-Chair - Jean Fike, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
Members
Mary Bedard, Friends of Portland Community Gardens
David Beller, Mercy Corps NW
Eecole Copen, Oregon Health & Sciences University
Gregory Lee, Portland State University
Allison Hensey, Oregon Environmental Council
Mellie Pullman, Portland State University
Robin Scholetzky, Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Cory Schreiber, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Tammy VanderWoude, Oregon Food Bank
Josh Volk, Slow Hand Farm
Sharon Whalen, Duck Delivery Produce, Inc.
Tera Couchman Wick, Janus Youth Programs
Ryan Wist, Scenic Fruit

*Affiliations are for identification purposes only

2009 FOOD POLICY COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2009, the Food Policy Council explored a broad range of policy recommendations in pursuit of its main goals to:

- Educate and compile information about the local food system
- Develop strategies to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of the City of Portland and Multnomah County
- Affect and develop food policy
- Advocate and advice on policy implementation

Climate Action Plan

The Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council provided valuable input and review for the Food and Agriculture section of the 2009 Climate Action Plan. The Council looks forward to helping the City and County achieve the following goals by 2012 as part of this plan:

1. Include food choice as a component of the public engagement campaign that inspires the community to live a climate friendly lifestyle.
2. Create City and County partnerships with healthcare, schools and other organizations to promote healthy, low-carbon diets.

Better Together Garden & Hope Garden

At the beginning of 2009, members of the Food Policy Council urged city and county leaders to establish food gardens at Portland City Hall and at the Multnomah County Headquarters. With unanimous support from city and county commissioners and overwhelming community support, the **CITY HALL BETTER TOGETHER GARDEN** and the **MULTNOMAH COUNTY HOPE GARDEN** were established. The harvests from these gardens were donated to Elm Court Loaves & Fishes, a senior meal site in downtown Portland.

The gardens reinforced the notion that food gardens are attractive, can be done in small spaces, and that replacing lawns with edible plants is a sustainable approach to environmental stewardship. Through these food gardens, the Food Policy Council asked the city and county to lead by example, encouraging residents to grow food at home for personal use and to donate home-grown produce to hunger-relief agencies helping neighbors in need.

Multnomah Food Initiative

At the request of Multnomah County, a work group formed to provide advice on how the county could best promote health, urban agriculture and the local economy. The Food Policy Council recommended that the county launch the **MULTNOMAH FOOD INITIATIVE** as a framework, a comprehensive strategy, and a planning tool for the government and the greater community on food system issues.

Moving forward, the Council recommends that the county work to create partnerships between local governments and the community, develop a community food vision and goals, and develop a community food strategy and action plan that prioritizes three key issues:

(1) Food Equity, Access and Community Health; (2) Urban Agriculture; and (3) Food-related Economic Development.

A public process will convene in early 2010 with a Food Summit and the development of a community food action plan with objectives, goals, and metrics under a distributed ownership model that the community will help implement. As requested by Multnomah County, the food policy council will continue to provide support and participation in developing the Multnomah Food Initiative.

Urban Agriculture

The Urban Agriculture work group goals were to increase land access, lower costs of food production and increase knowledge for food production. In 2009, the Food Policy Council passed **COMMUNITY GARDENS** recommendations to the City of Portland to increase funding for capital improvements and staffing within the City of Portland Bureau of Parks & Recreation and to reduce water service fees for the creation of new community gardens build by the city and nonprofit organizations. The Food Policy Council passed **FRUIT TREE RECOMMENDATIONS** to the City of Portland to encourage fruit tree planting and increase fruit production within the city. The Urban Agriculture work group also provided input on to Multnomah County on steps to improve the **COUNTY DIGS PROGRAM.** The Council offered testimony and a letter of support for agricultural land preservation in the Metro urban and rural reserves update process.

The Urban Agriculture work group is actively pursuing additional opportunities to increase food production and land access. In 2010, the Food Policy Council will continue to work with the City of Portland in the implementation of the community gardens and fruit tree recommendations, and as the reviews zoning restrictions for urban agriculture. Opportunities to support urban agriculture within Multnomah County exists through review and comment on administrative rules for the County Digs Program and county contribution to cooperative extension as a part of the Multnomah Food Initiative.

Public Health & Nutrition Policy

The Public Health & Nutrition Policy work group focused on policy issues that would promote the health of the community, equity and would coordinate with existing efforts underway within the City of Portland and Multnomah County. The Food Policy Council recognizes the importance of considering equity and access in all of its policy recommendations.

The work group recognizes the work of previous years' Food Policy Councils in advising the City of Portland to include food systems and human health within the Portland Plan, the 25-year strategic plan for the city. In 2009, the Food Policy Council urged city leaders and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to produce a robust **PORTLAND PLAN** that includes goals, strategies and indicators for food systems and human health to better address hunger and community health, economic development and environmental sustainability. The City of Portland initiated the **SE 122ND AVENUE PILOT PROJECT,** a project of the Portland Plan studying the relationship between planning and health. Various work group members also participated in this pilot project exploring opportunities to increase food access and food security.

In support of the health and nutrition of children, the Food Policy Council asked the City of Portland and Multnomah County to endorse support of the federal **CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION** to increase funding for the federal school lunch program and to improve the connection between schools and local agriculture.

The work group explored additional policies to improve the community's health and nutrition, including transportation policy, food safety, and opportunities to promote healthy retail environments.

Looking To The Future...

The Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council is among the growing body of more than 100 food policy councils across the North American. Never before has food held the focus of government and the community as it does today. According to the recent VisionPDX survey, the community strongly believes that all residents should have access to multiple sources of fresh, local food, including both foods purchased and grown. Government agencies are looking towards food systems as an important piece of urban planning, sustainability and economic development.

The Food Policy Council has the opportunity to confront serious trends. Hunger and food insecurity are escalating at dangerous rates with 6.6 percent of Oregon households reporting they were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money for food. Paradoxically, obesity and diet-related disease are increasing at unprecedented rates. In Multnomah County, half of adults are overweight or obesity, putting themselves at risk for chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

Collectively, we can take action to find lasting solutions to support a local food system that is economically viable and environmentally and socially sustainable.

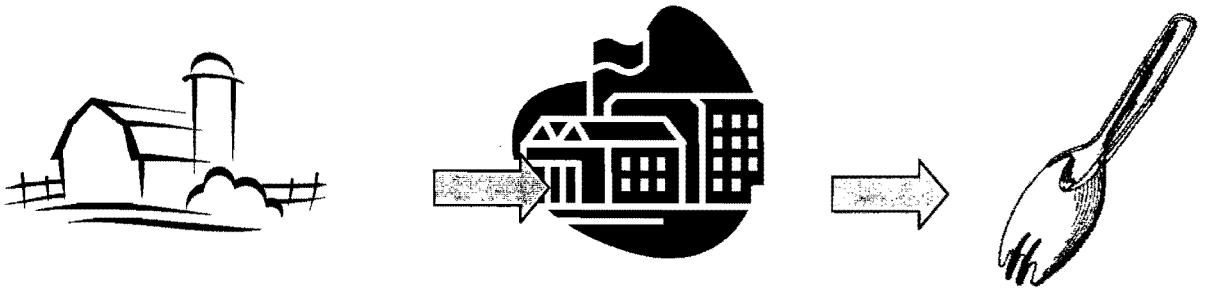
- Support the viability of regional farms by ensuring the stability of the agriculture land base and strengthening economic and social linkages between urban consumers and rural producers.
- Ensure the right of an adequate supply of nutritional, affordable and culturally appropriate food.
- Use food as a means to build community and celebrate diversity.
- Elevate food system planning as integral in our region's planning efforts.

For more information on the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council, contact:

Steve Cohen, Food Policy Program for City of Portland
503-823-4225, scohen@ci.portland.or.us;
http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=42290

Kat West, Sustainability Manager, Multnomah County
503-988-4092, kathleen.s.west@co.multnomah.or.us
http://www.multco.us/sustainability

THE SPORK REPORT



INCREASING THE SUPPLY AND CONSUMPTION OF LOCAL FOODS IN PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A report prepared for the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council

THE RESEARCH TEAM:

Tonya Adair, April Burris, Lacey Kleespie, Dan moore, Mike Moran, Vena Rainwater, Anna Rossinoff, and Ethan Young

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support and contributions in the preparation of this report:

Kristy Obbink, Shannon Stember, Linda Colwell, Nancy Becker, Paul Sonderland, Matt Emlen, Amy Joslin, Jean Baecher-Brown, Healthy Kids Learn Better, Community Food Matters, Prof. Richard White, Tim Macdonald, Sam Curry, Eileen Brady, Wysteria Loeffler.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the result of a research project conducted in support of the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council (FPC) by a team of PSU students. The initial research goal was to look at the feasibility and strategies for Portland Public Schools (PPS) to increase the level of local food purchasing by the nutrition services program, and making recommendations to the Food Policy Council.

The desire to increase local purchasing in schools is built on 3 principles

- Economic stimulus – purchasing locally is a fundamental element of improving and maintaining the health of a regional food system. Public institutions play a vital role in communicating this principle and providing leadership.
- Increasing consumption – in order for the local food economy to be sustainable there has to be a strong local market for its products. It is also believed that a focus on local products improves the nutritional value of the foods both for the consumer and the environment.
- Teaching children – providing education combined with improved access to local and nutritionally dense fresh foods contributes to the formation of better life choices and habits for future generations.

The research conducted therefore examined both the logistics involved in increasing purchasing of locally produced foods, and an examination of existing program literature directed at increasing demand among students of locally produced and nutritionally dense foods.

METHODOLOGY

The methods used to answer the central questions relied upon a combination of literature review and comparison, direct interviews, site visits, and data analysis.

To address increases in local purchasing the research team –

- Conducted interviews with key PPS nutrition services staff,
- Examined current purchasing criteria and practices,
- Reviewed the most recent purchasing invoices and RFPs

- Conducted secondary interviews with staff
- Interviewed local distributors
- Compiled information on locally available foods
- Reviewed federal, state, and local regulations

To address the increase of consumption of local and fresh produce the research team conducted a comprehensive review of existing literature on –

- Local purchasing strategies
- Farm to school curriculum
- Evaluation methods and tools
- School food policy language
- Seasonally responsive menus

This research was then compiled and analyzed to determine relevance to PPS. This report details those findings and the recommendations for future strategies.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Policy – Expressing Community Values

Federal and state legislation will require the implementation of a district wellness policy by the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. This is an opportunity for the FPC to play an integral role in the development of standards that not only increase local purchasing and the consumption of fresh nutritionally dense foods, but clearly communicate the values and guiding principles of a sustainable food system. It is essential that FPC provide the support and guidance necessary to ensure that this policy provides clear and meaningful guidance for decisions and actions that affect children and their understanding of their food and the impact of their choices.

Increasing Supply – Putting Food on the Table

The first step in increasing the amount of locally produced food that is consumed in our schools is to ensure that there is a consistent and available supply. Currently:

- There is not a reliable method in place for conclusively determining the food's origin.
- Because of the budgetary situation, the central kitchen is ceasing all scratch production.
- The purchasing policies do not include any expressed priority for local or sustainable foods.

However the administration at nutrition services is eager to work with FPC and the community toward a common goal.

- Abernathy school is implementing a pilot program will full integration from farm to cafeteria
- The language for the purchasing RFP is being examined for improving purchasing

In order for PPS to continue this progress, it will be necessary for nutrition services to

- Require distributors of produce to identify product origin and provide this information to PPS
- Develop benchmarks with reasonable and achievable increases in local purchasing to be met over several years.
- Craft new local and sustainable purchasing language for future purchasing RFPs.

The Food Policy Council can play a crucial role ensuring that the necessary community partnerships are identified and maintained. FPC can also provide ongoing guidance with the evolving district/city partnership and working with suppliers to identify and remove the barriers to local foods. Additionally, FPC should ensure that as part of the evaluation process proposed by commissioner Eric Sten's office, a financial analysis of the costs of expanding a decentralized production, based on the program developed for Abernathy school, is included, and that the City's role in planning for possible partnerships is consistent with the food policy created as part of the federally required wellness policy legislation.

Increasing Demand – Preparation and Presentation

In order to increase the consumption of locally grown foods by school children, the children have to *want* to eat it. You can bring a child to the table but you can't make them eat. If you teach them about the food and present it well, the decision will be theirs. Central to this strategy are 3 main points.

- **Marketing** – Develop an effective program to price, place, and promote local products to students and the broader community that focus on increasing awareness of the availability and value of these products. Make the desired choices the most attractive ones.
- **Curriculum** – Implementing an integrated food based curriculum that incorporates nutrition education and hands on experiences in a variety of subject areas increases student understanding of why healthy locally produced foods are an important part of their diet – both for their body and their community.
- **Providing Acceptable Choices** – This is achieved by removing unhealthy foods of minimal nutritional value, and replacing them with tasty and healthful alternatives. Combined with a good marketing program it is important the choices that children are offered are the ones that are consistent with a value on health and good nutrition. Providing prominent placement of low nutritional value foods, and using them for fundraising and rewards sends a confusing mixed message about their value.

Food Policy Council has the ability to coordinate the efforts of the district and other community organizations to make sure that a consistent and effective message is communicated to children about food and food choices, in and out of the schools. This again is a central facilitative role for the FPC, and can ensure that the efforts in the schools are supported and mirrored throughout the community.

Evaluation –Knowing What Success Is

There is very little in the way of models for effective evaluation of programs for increasing the supply and consumption of local and fresh foods in schools. Measuring supply is simple, but measuring consumption, and evaluating the impact on children's perception and attitudes is not. With the district's adoption of the Abernathy program, and the city's support of the 60th Ave farm project, it is essential that an effective and comprehensive method of evaluation is in place, to capture the lessons learned and develop improvements for future programs or expansions on existing programs. This is an immediate and important role for the FPC. Working with the people implementing these programs, FPC can help –

- Identify and clarify program goals
- Identify key indicators
- Develop tools and methods for measuring and monitoring indicators
- Ensure consistent use of evaluation tools

Developing and particularly documenting an effective program evaluation will be valuable not only to PPS but to any district that is hoping to develop a successful program in the future.

Executive Summary

Overview

Community Food Matters and the Portland/Multnomah Food Policy Council jointly undertook this study of barriers and opportunities to the use of regional and sustainable food products in local institutional food service programs. Sustainable practices in institutional purchasing were defined as including:

- ⇨ Purchasing regionally produced products to promote economic vitality.
- ⇨ Considering environmental stewardship in production, processing, distribution, and disposal.
- ⇨ Promoting social justice through living wages and fair trade, and access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food; enhancing community understanding of the impact of food choices.

The research included interviews with key industry leaders as well as examination of related programs in neighboring Washington State.

Description of Study

Twenty-seven telephone interviews were completed between January and April, 2003. Interviews were conducted with representatives of four "sectors" and included 16 institutional purchasers, six growers, three processors, and two produce distributors. The sample size was limited by resources available for the research. Thus, this research is exploratory in nature; results cannot be generalized to the larger population. At the same time, the research is useful for identifying preliminary themes pertinent to institutional purchases of regional and sustainable food products and directions for further research.

Findings

Institutional purchasers interviewed estimate that, of the food they are currently purchasing, an average of about 25% is grown or processed in the Oregon-Washington region. The regional products purchased by a majority of the interviewees are milk, produce, meat, eggs, bread, and beer.

A high degree of interest in increasing purchases of regional product was expressed by interviewees. On a scale of 0 to 5, with 0 representing "no interest" and 5 representing "very interested," the average was 4.5 for institutional purchasers, 4.8 for growers, 5.0 for processors, and 3.75 for produce distributors.

As the various interviewees discussed barriers and opportunities to increasing the purchase of regional and sustainable food products by institutional purchasers, six common themes emerged:

1. Demand

Demand emerged in the interviews as a powerful factor for change. Interviewees from all four sectors reflect that if customers ask for regional and/or sustainable foods--and follow through by buying those products--the industry will be able to respond. The "customer" may be the end consumer, the contracting institution, or the distributor. Some interviewees share the perspective that if a company is not seeing demand there is no incentive to provide regional and sustainable products; however it is clear that movement also can occur when an individual within an organization has a strong interest in and commitment to making this change.

2. Connections through Distributors

Institutions rely heavily on produce and grocery distributors for accessing product: by their nature, institutions operate on a large scale and consolidation in the food service industry has restructured their capacity to receive, process, and store foods. Both purchasers and producers cited efficiency of the distributor model. Thus, working with distributors emerged as a key factor for increasing sales of regional products to institutions. Issues associated with this strategy were mentioned as well including distributors potentially paying lower prices to producers and not carrying a range of regional products.

3. Connections with Producers

Interviewees from all four sectors discussed direct connections between producers and buyers as an opportunity to increase institutional purchases of regional and sustainable products. The Food Alliance was identified as a valuable resource for successfully making such connections. Other identified strategies for enhancing connections between producers and institutional purchasers included support for producers

in meeting institutional purchasers' requirements and dissemination of information regarding producers and their available product.

4. Contracts, Bidding Specifications, and Prime Vendor Agreements

Contracts, bidding specifications, and prime vendor agreements often provide guidelines, requirements, or restrictions on purchasing decisions. In some cases this presents a barrier to the purchase of regionally or sustainably produced foods. For example, a distributor may stipulate that a minimum amount of product (e.g., 85%) be sourced from the distributor. On the other hand, there are also opportunities to use bidding specifications and contracts to encourage or require the purchase of regional and/or sustainable food. For example, an institution may require that its food service contractor source a certain amount or type of product.

5. Lack of Information about Sustainability

Sustainability issues, including environmental stewardship and labor and fair trade concerns, were a factor in some purchasing decisions for about half of the purchasers surveyed. Distributors attend to some sustainability issues in their purchasing, and they state that they are able respond to additional concerns at the request of their customers. Interviewees from both groups (producers were not asked to address these issues) expressed a desire for more information to help them assess producers' sustainability practices. They also discussed time constraints in obtaining information and difficulty in validating information. Some participants are using third-party certification programs as a source of information, including the Food Alliance, organic certifiers, and fair trade certifiers of coffee products. None of the interviewees mentioned a tracking system for their purchases of regional or sustainable products. At the community level, more exploration and definition is needed regarding terms and goals related to sustainable food systems.

6. Price

Price was listed as one of the most important factors in purchasing decisions by most institutions and distributors. However, few interviewees mentioned it as a barrier or opportunity to purchasing regional or sustainable products. Among the purchasers, producers, and distributors who did mention price, perspectives were split as to whether regional products were more expensive or less expensive than other products. Additional research is needed to clarify the role of price as a barrier or opportunity to the purchase of regional and sustainable foods by institutions.

Recommendations

Preliminary recommendations addressing themes that emerged consistently in the interviews are offered below. However, as this research is exploratory in nature, the first recommended action is to confirm and enhance these findings. Further, an important next step would be to prioritize the recommended objectives and action steps and identify lead and partner organizations responsible for implementing each.

Goal: Increase institutional purchases of regional and sustainable food products.

Objective: Confirm and enhance these findings.
- Action Step: Host panel or round-table discussions with industry leaders.

Objective: Create models of success for the purchase of regional and sustainable foods by institutions.
- Action Step: Create team of stakeholders to collaborate in addressing the particular barriers and opportunities facing one or more individual institutions. Interpret and disseminate these "case study" findings.

Objective: Model regional and sustainable purchases in city and county food service programs, including programs operated by contractors.
- Action Step 1: Develop list of options for purchasers in all current programs to purchase regional and sustainable foods.
- Action Step 2: Develop and implement language for new and renewed contracts and bid requests

to address regional and sustainable food purchases.

Objective: Promote regional and sustainable food purchases by local institutions.

- Action Step 1: Pass city and county resolutions encouraging the purchase of regional food products.
- Action Step 2: Make template materials available in the community (e.g., list of options, contract and bid language).

Objective: Facilitate connections between regional producers and local institutional purchasers.

- Action Step 1: Include institutional purchasers and their potential suppliers in existing and emerging resources for facilitating connections between regional producers and buyers (web-based and non-web resources).
- Action Step 2: Incorporate institutional purchasing into Farmer-Chef Connection program activities.
- Action Step 3: Increase participation of regional producers in trade shows attended by institutional purchasers.
- Action Step 4: Facilitate regional processors' commodity processing without negating other sustainability goals.
- Action Step 5: Utilize the resources developed by the Washington Department of Agriculture and partner as appropriate.

Objective: Assist producers in meeting institutional purchasers' requirements.

- Action Step: Offer consultation and training on food safety and quality, delivery and packaging, contracts/bidding, and value-added production to regional growers and processors

Objective: Build demand by educating students and the general public about the value of regional and sustainable food.

- Action Step: Work with CFM, Portland/Multnomah Food Policy Council, and other organizations in identifying effective action step(s).

Objective: Increase understanding of and support for sustainable food practices among food service staff.

- Action Step 1: Recognize the efforts of food service workers who contribute to sustainability projects (composting, donating leftover food, recycling, consulting on culturally specific menu items, etc.).
- Action Step 2: Provide education and training on sustainability to food service staff.

Objective: Clarify food system sustainability goals

- Action Step: Define sustainability terms and goals, including "regional," "nutritious," and "culturally appropriate."

Objective: Build demand by educating students and the general public about the value of regional and sustainable food.

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Objective: Clarify food system sustainability goals

- Action Step: Define sustainability terms and goals, including "regional," "nutritious," and "culturally appropriate."

Detroit Food Policy Council

History

Community Food Security can be defined as the condition which exists when all of the members of a community have access, in close proximity, to adequate amounts of nutritious, culturally appropriate food at all times, from sources that are environmentally sound and just. Because this condition does not exist in Detroit, a group of concerned citizens, working in cooperation with the Detroit City Council, have formed the Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC) to shape food policy and work for a more localized, more just and environmentally friendly food system.

The DFPC has been developed to affirm the City of Detroit's commitment to nurturing the development of a food secure city in which all of its citizens are hunger-free, healthy and benefit from the food systems that impact their lives. This policy also affirms the City of Detroit's commitment to supporting sustainable food systems that provide people with high quality food, employment, and that also contribute to the long-term well-being of the environment.

The initial meeting of the Detroit Food Policy Council was held on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the offices of the Eastern Market Corporation. All DFPC meetings are open to the public.

Vision
We envision a city of Detroit with a healthy, vibrant, hunger-free populace that has easy access to fresh produce and other healthy food choices; a city in which the residents are educated about healthy food choices, and understand their relationship to the food system; a city in which urban agriculture, composting and other sustainable practices contribute to its economic vitality; and a city in which all of its residents, workers, guests and visitors are treated with respect, justice and dignity by those from whom they obtain food.

Mission
The Detroit Food Policy Council is committed to nurturing the development and maintenance of a sustainable, localized food system and a food-secure city of Detroit in which all of its residents are hunger-free, healthy and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives.

Goals

1) advocate for urban agriculture and composting being included as part of the strategic development of the City of Detroit;

2) work with various City departments to streamline the processes and approvals required to expand and improve urban agriculture in the city of Detroit including acquisition of land and access to water;

3) review the City of Detroit Food Security Policy and develop an implementation and monitoring plan that identifies, priorities, timelines, benchmarks, and human, financial and material resources;

4) produce and disseminate an annual City of Detroit Food System Report that assesses the state of the city's food system, including activities in production, distribution, consumption, waste generation and composting, nutrition and food assistance program participation and innovative food system programs;

5) recommend new food related policy as the need arises;

6) initiate and coordinate programs that address the food related needs of Detroiters;

7) convene an annual "Powering Up the Local Food System" Conference.

In the long-range, the DFPC will engage in other activities including but not limited to: producing brief research reports with policy positions on significant relevant and emerging issues such as land for urban agriculture; convening listening sessions to hear from community members on relevant issues; assisting community-based organizations develop programs to meet needs and fill gaps in the food system; developing collaborative, city-wide programs and raising funds for implementing them.

Executive Summary

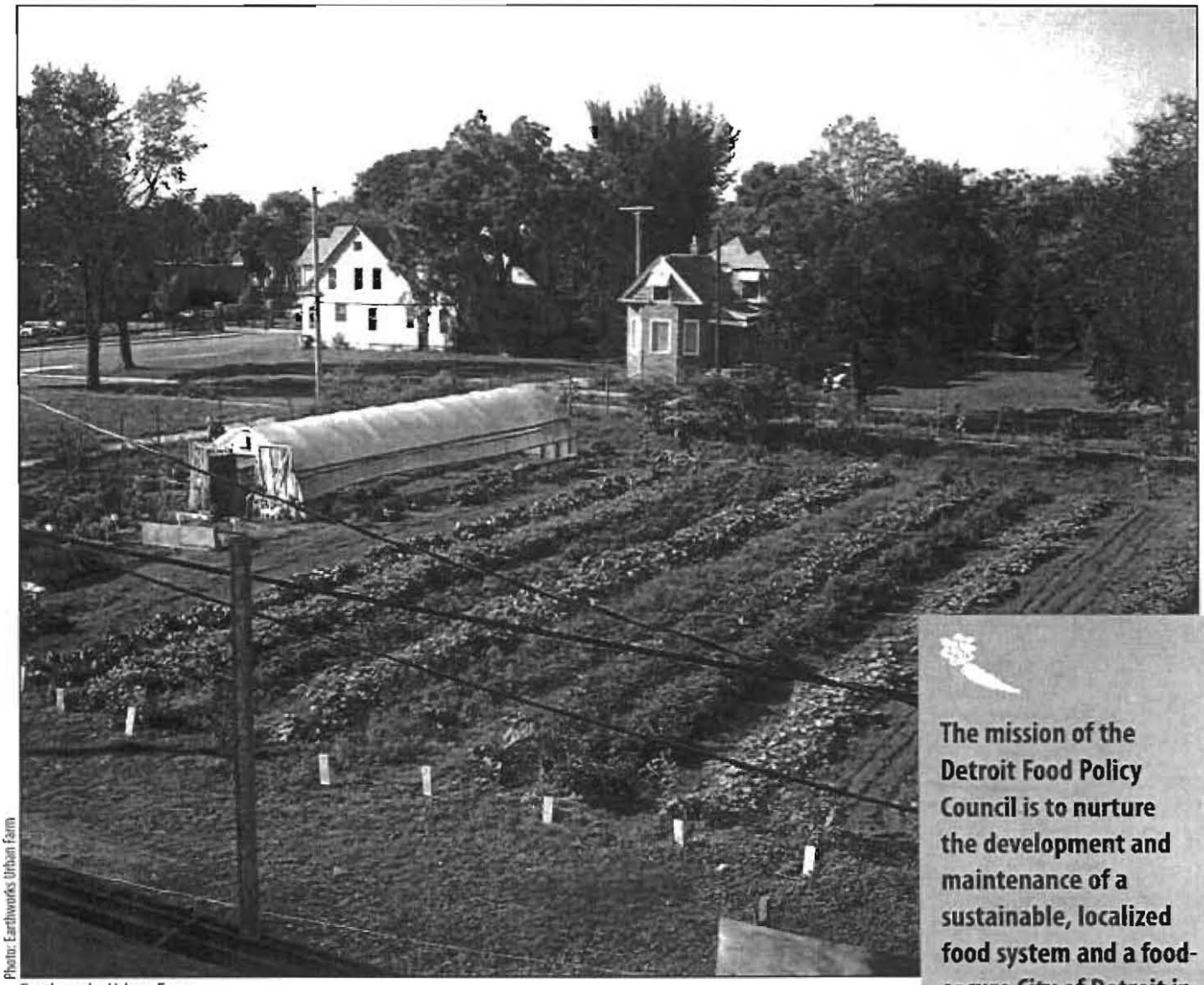

Photo: Earthworks Urban Farm

Earthworks Urban Farm.

The mission of the Detroit Food Policy Council is to nurture the development and maintenance of a sustainable, localized food system and a food-secure City of Detroit in which all of its residents are hunger-free, healthy and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives.

The Detroit Food Policy Council—A Background

The Detroit Food Policy Council came into being in November 2009 following a City Council resolution in 2008 supporting its creation and another resolution earlier that year to adopt a City Food Policy. These landmark events are the product of policy organizing and community consultation by the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network.

The mission of the Detroit Food Policy Council is to nurture the development and maintenance of a sustainable, localized food system and a food-secure City of Detroit in which all of its residents are hunger-free, healthy, and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives.

The DFPC's Goals are to:

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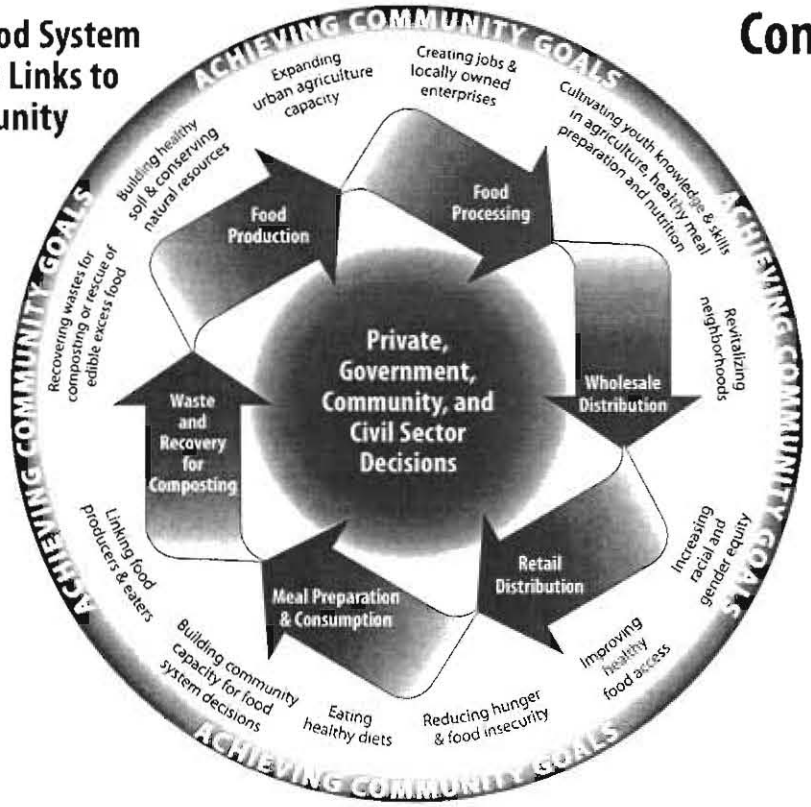
6) Initiate and coordinate programs that address the food-related needs of Detroiters;

7) Convene an annual "Powering Up the Local Food System" conference.

The DFPC has 21 members selected for their expertise on a variety of community and food system sectors. Four work groups are organized to advance DFPC goals; they address issues related to healthy food access, schools and institutions, urban agriculture, and community food justice. Since its first convening, the DFPC has taken steps to become incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, developed procedures for financial and other operations, set up an office, hired a coordinator, and educated itself on numerous local, state, and federal policy issues. DFPC members also contributed about 40 articles and opinion pieces to *The Michigan Citizen*, a community newspaper.

The Food System and Its Links to Community Goals



Community Food Security

The Detroit Food Security Policy defines community food security as a "condition which exists when all of the members of a community have access, in close proximity, to adequate amounts of nutritious, culturally appropriate food at all times, from sources that are environmentally sound and just."

Community food security requires a focus on the linkages between the food sector and the community in a systemic way, with a long-term view of correcting the sources of hunger and food insecurity; supporting the development of closer links between producers and eaters; building greater food system capacity and ownership among all community members; and encouraging practices across the food system that help sustain the natural resource base upon which agriculture, indeed all life, depends.

Detroit Community and Food System Indicators

Detroit neighborhoods lost people and wealth between 2000 and 2010

According to the 2010 US Census, Detroit's population is 713,777, showing a loss of a quarter of its 2000 population. As this report goes to press, detailed Census data are unavailable. The American Community Survey (ACS) estimated the city's 2009 population to be 910,848, showing a decline of only 4 percent since 2000. Thus, Detroit's population figures will continue to be a matter of debate and contention for some time to come.

According to the 2009 ACS, the number of households with children under age 18 shrank by almost 14 percent, while single-person households grew by a similar rate, thanks in large part to the many young, single people who are flocking into the city. School enrollment dropped nearly 11 percent overall between 2000 and 2009; at the same time, enrollment in colleges or graduate school grew by 47 percent.

Photo: Growtown.org

The Penrose Children's Art House Garden in Northwest Detroit.

Despite a 10 percent loss of Black population between 2000 and 2009, Detroit remains a majority African-American city, and experiences poverty and other indicators of community distress at rates much higher than national averages. Consider the following for 2009:

- The city's official unemployment rate was 28 percent, double that in 2000, and three times the national average.
- Median household income of $26,000 was two-thirds that in 2000, after adjusting for inflation.
- 36 percent of individuals lived below the poverty line, a 40 percent decadal increase.
- 31 percent of families with children had incomes below the poverty level—a rate of increase since 2000 of nearly 50 percent.
- More than four out of ten single-parent families had incomes below the poverty level.

...this report estimates that food insecurity in Detroit is more than double the national rate.

Detroiters face high rates of food insecurity and obesity

In 2009, nationally, 14.7 percent of households (or 17.4 million) were food insecure, meaning that at some time during the year they had difficulty providing enough food for all members due to insufficient resources. Because food insecurity is higher in urban areas, in communities of color, and among those who live in poverty, this report estimates that food insecurity in Detroit is more than double the national rate.

According to a study by the US Conference of Mayors, requests for food assistance in Detroit went up 30 percent in 2009 relative to the previous year. About 75 percent of people requesting assistance were also part of a family.

Nationally, food insecurity goes hand in hand with obesity as healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grain products tend to be more expensive than highly processed foods containing added fats, sugar, and salt. Outlets selling fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods at affordable rates are also scarce in urban, predominantly African-American neighborhoods where the density of fast food outlets tends to be higher. In such neighborhoods, obesity rates are higher.

Only one Black-owned grocery supermarket exists in Detroit, a city in which four out of five residents are African-American.

Fewer than a quarter of residents of Wayne County—the county that includes Detroit—consume fruits and vegetables at recommended rates. Nearly three out of 10 residents report not having participated in any physical activities in the last month. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 36 percent of Michigan residents are considered overweight and another 30 percent obese. Obesity rates are higher in communities of color such as Detroit: 37 percent for African Americans and 31 percent for Hispanics relative to 26 percent for whites. Rising obesity among youth is especially troubling: one in five high school students (21 percent) in Detroit is obese; the statewide rate is 12 percent.

Food expenditures in metro Detroit are higher than in other cities

At 13 percent, metro Detroit had the third highest average annual household expenditures for food of 18 metropolitan areas studied in 2008-09, below only Boston and Los Angeles. Perhaps unsurprisingly, metro Detroiters pay the most for transportation when compared with residents of the other cities—19.2 percent of their household income after taxes—compared to 16.3 percent for the country as a whole.

Source: Social Compact, 2010; Block data from 2000 US Census

Two out of five dollars spent by households on food in metro Detroit ($6,412 average annual total) were spent on food purchased to be eaten away from home, that is, at a restaurant or fast food outlet. Only 17 percent of the budget allocated for food at home was spent on fruits and vegetables, while another 14 percent was spent on cereals and bakery products.

Detroit is underserved by about $200 million annually for retail grocery

Many Detroit neighborhoods are underserved by full-service grocery supermarkets that offer a range of healthy and affordable food choices. Although approximately 80 full-service stores were shown to exist in the city by a study sponsored by the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC), still, an estimated $200 million in unmet demand exists in the city. Existing grocers in Detroit provide an average of only 1.59 square feet of grocery retail space per capita, compared to an industry standard of 3.0 square feet per capita.

Only one Black-owned grocery supermarket exists in Detroit, a city in which four out of five residents are African-American.

Photo: Kami Pothukuchi, SEED Wayne, Wayne State University

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Despite recent declines, food remains an important part of the local economy

Food manufacturing, wholesale and retail activities in Detroit have generally declined between 1997 and 2007. Despite this decline, they are important to their respective sectors in Detroit. For example, food wholesale trade accounts for more than 35 percent of all wholesale sales and more than a quarter of wholesale-related jobs in Detroit. Food retail accounts for nearly 30 percent of all retail sales and nearly 35 percent of all employment in the sector. These statistics point to the enduring value of the food sector to the local economy.

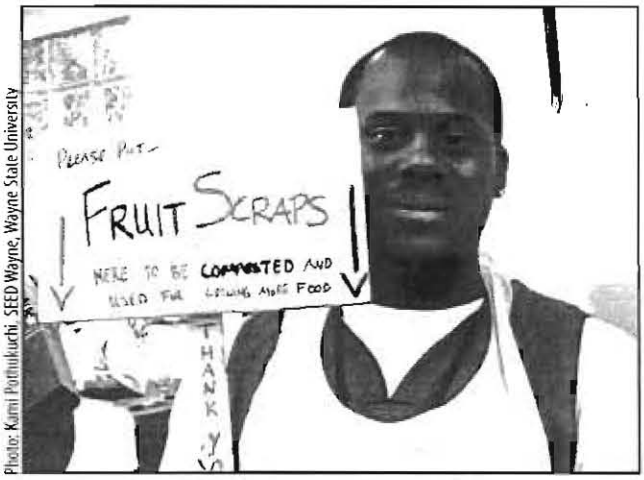

Photo: Kami Pothukuchi, SEED Wayne, Wayne State University

Significant amounts of food system wastes in Detroit can be rescued or composted

Based on nationally derived averages, this report estimates that between 80,000 and 100,000 tons of food scraps were created in Detroit in 2010. Additionally, a similar amount of yard waste was generated in the city. We also estimate that more than 42,000 tons of wastes are created annually by fast food and other eating places in Detroit, with more than half consisting of food that could be rescued.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), nearly nine percent of the waste that each person generates each day could be recovered for composting. This works out to 140 pounds per person per year, and a total of more than 50,000 tons for the City of Detroit. Diverting this waste from the incinerator could save the city $1.25 million annually.

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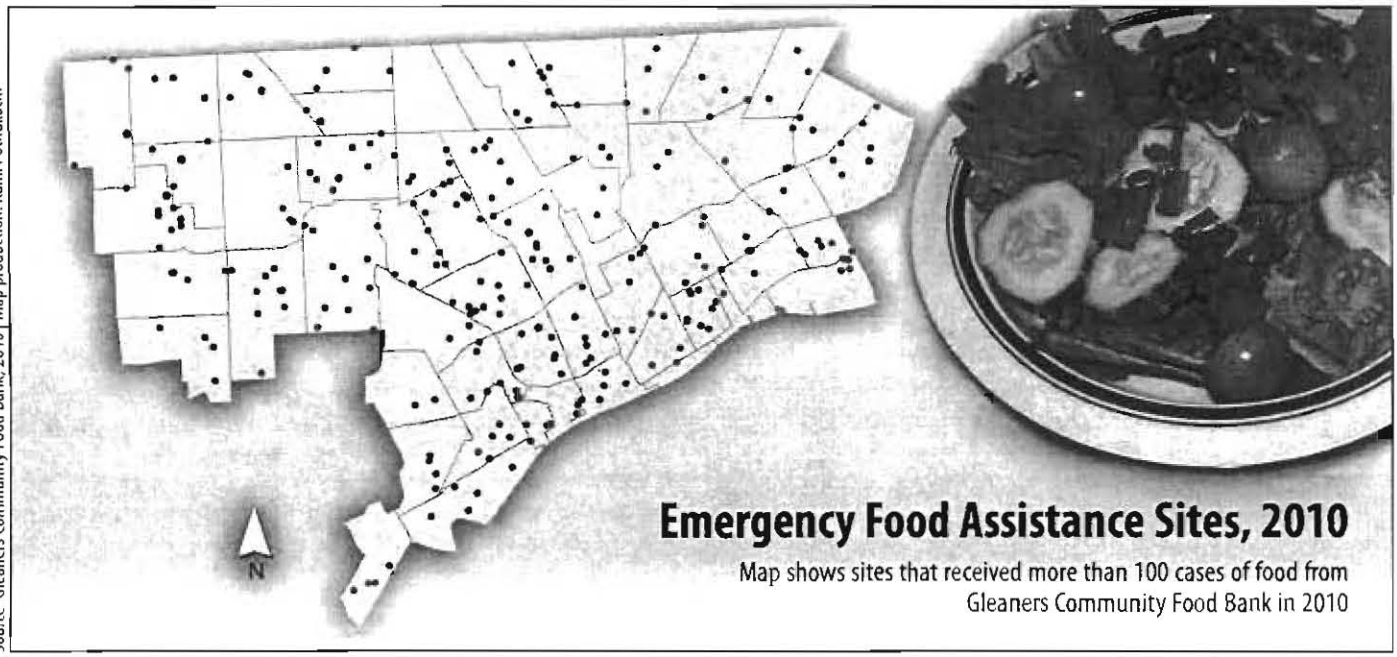
Government nutrition programs are vital to Detroit's food security; more eligible non-participants, however, need to gain benefits

SNAP participation rose sharply over the last few years

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamp) benefits which arrive electronically to participants through the Bridge Card in Michigan, are important to many households' ability to put food on the table. More than three out of 10 households in Wayne County and a slightly higher proportion of Detroit households depend on SNAP. In 2010 Wayne County's monthly SNAP rolls had more than half a million participants whose benefits were approximately $69 million or about $138 per participant. In



Emergency Food Assistance Sites, 2010

Map shows sites that received more than 100 cases of food from Gleaners Community Food Bank in 2010

Source: Gleaners Community Food Bank, 2010 | Map production: Kami Pothukuchi

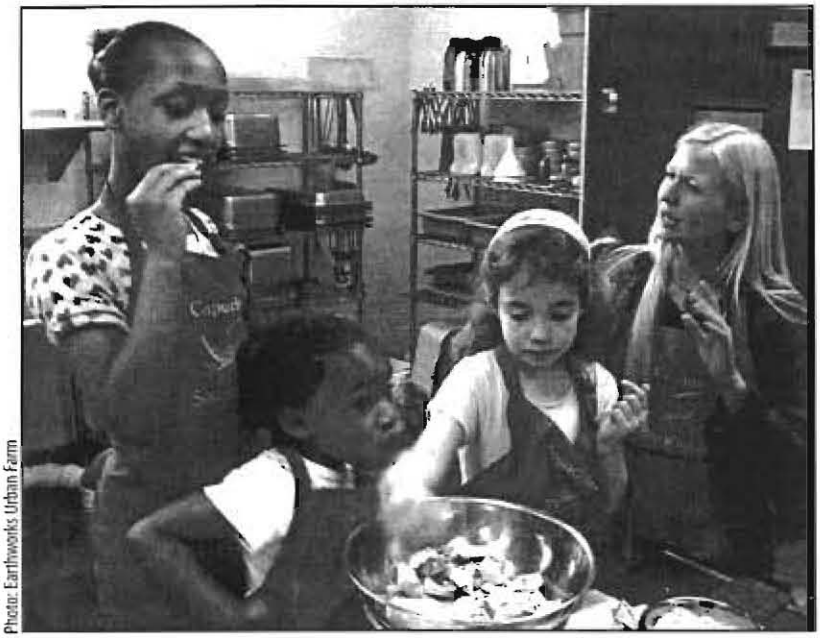


Photo: Earthworks Urban Farm

Children learn to cook in the Growing Healthy Kids program at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

2010, there were 67 percent more SNAP participants in Wayne County than in 2004.

SNAP allocations increased in 2009 due to the Federal Stimulus; some concerns remain

Approximately 88 percent of Wayne County residents eligible to participate in SNAP actually did so in 2009. This difference from full participation represented lost benefits of about $10 million in 2009, a loss that the community can ill afford given the ongoing recession. Monthly benefit levels are higher than they were in 2008 thanks to additional funding provided by the Stimulus Bill. Nonetheless, they are also typically inadequate to consistently maintain healthy diets with sufficient quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables. Plus, the increment from the Stimulus is slated to end in 2013, which is sure to create hardships for families given rising food and gas prices and the ongoing economic malaise.

Nine out of ten meals served by the Detroit Public Schools are free and reduced-price

School nutrition programs are critical to children's ability to learn, and free and reduced-price school meals are therefore an important tool in a community's food security toolbox. More than three out of four of the 86,000 students in Detroit Public Schools (DPS) in 2009-10 were on the rolls to receive free or reduced-price school lunches and breakfasts. In October 2009 on an average day, 47,686 total lunches and 42,622 total breakfasts were served.

Over the past few years, the DPS Office of Food Services has made many improvements in the nutritional quality of school meals, established school gardens and farm-to-school programs, and integrated food and agriculture issues in the curriculum.

Participation rates in school meals and other child nutrition programs, however, need to improve

Despite the high rates of enrollment in free and reduced-price meals in DPS, only one out of two enrollees asks for and gets a free or reduced-price lunch on any given day, and only 42 percent of enrollees do the same for breakfast. High school students participate at much lower levels than other students. More needs to be done so that children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals choose to eat such a meal at school, and are comfortable asking for the meal while being with their friends.

Participation rates are dismally low for other child nutrition programs such as the Summer Food Service Program. For example, only five percent of Detroit children eligible to receive these benefits actually participate due to lack of awareness or difficulties with transportation to sites.

According to the City of Detroit's Department of Health and Wellness Promotion (DHWP), approximately 35,000 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, infants, and children below the age of five participated monthly in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. We do not know the participation rates of WIC-eligible individuals.

More people are requesting emergency food assistance

Food assistance programs reported a 30 percent increase in requests for assistance in 2009 over the previous year. Emergency food assistance is yet another food security mainstay in our community; a significant portion of the food distributed is paid for by taxpayer dollars. The Gleaners Community Food Bank is the principal distributor to food assistance programs offered by neighborhood and social service organizations. In 2010 Gleaners distributed nearly 18 million pounds of groceries to 300 outlets in Detroit, including food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, halfway houses, and school and community sites hosting children.

Photo: JimWestPhoto.com

Children from the Indian Village Child Care Center harvest basil and learn about gardening in the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's organic garden. Produce from the garden goes to low-income residents and is used in the soup kitchen's programs.

The Alternative Food System: Innovative Community Food Programs

Urban agriculture activities have grown over the last few years

Several citywide urban agriculture programs in Detroit have helped establish and support hundreds of backyard, community, school, and market gardens; engage and train thousands of adults and youth in related activities; and conduct related outreach and networking. These gardens collectively produced several hundred tons of food last year. Programs that support urban agriculture by providing resources, training, organizing, and demonstration sites in the city include the Garden Resource Program Collaborative, Earthworks Urban Farm, D-Town Farm, and Urban Farming, Inc.

For example, in 2010 the Garden Resource Program Collaborative engaged more than 5,000 adults and 10,000 youth in more than 1,200 vegetable gardens, including 300 community gardens, 60 school gardens, 800 family gardens, and nearly 40 market gardens. They collectively produced more than 160 tons of food. Earthworks Urban Farm, Detroit's first and, as yet, only certified organic farm consisting of more than two acres over seven sites, involved more than 6,000 volunteers to produce 7,000 pounds of food, produced transplants for gardeners in the Garden Resource Program Collaborative, and offered numerous training workshops—from basic skills to entrepreneurial agriculture—to hundreds of youth and adults across the city. They also composted more than 300,000 pounds of food system wastes, thereby diverting wastes from landfills or the incinerator and enriching soils for agriculture. D-Town Farm is putting into place plans to expand from two acres of production at Rouge Park to seven acres.

Detroit has enough publicly owned vacant land to grow a significant portion of the fresh produce needed by the city.

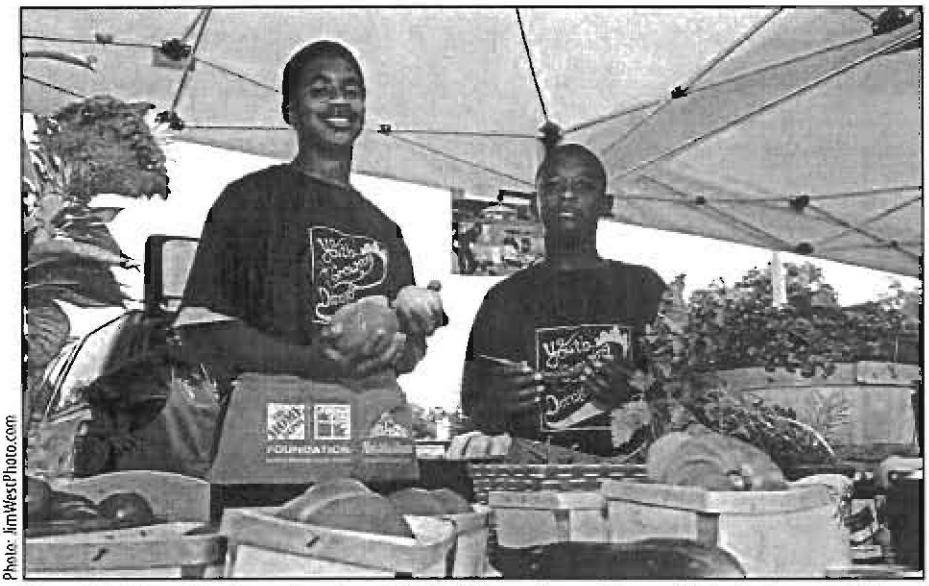


Photo: JimWestPhoto.com

Young Detroiters sell heirloom tomatoes at the East Warren Avenue Farmers' Market, where everything on sale is locally grown. They grow their produce on vacant city lots.

Photo: JimWestPhoto.com

Volunteers grow vegetables that are distributed to food assistance sites by Gleaners Community Food Bank.

Significant potential exists to expand urban agriculture to meet Detroit's needs

Detroit has enough publicly owned vacant land to grow a significant portion of the fresh produce needed by the city. A study by Kathryn Colasanti of Michigan State University showed over 4,800 acres of vacant, publicly owned parcels, the majority of which were residential and owned by the City.[2] The same study arrived at the acreage that would be needed to meet current consumption levels of fruits and vegetables that could be grown locally. At a minimum, using only field production and moderately intensive methods, Detroit growers could produce enough fruits and vegetables on 894 acres to supply 31 percent of vegetables and 17 percent of fruits consumed by the city. At the high end, nearly 76 percent of vegetables and 42 percent of fruits consumed in the city could be supplied by 2,086 acres using intensive production methods that also include season extension and storage.

Many initiatives increase retail access to fresh foods within neighborhoods

Many initiatives in Detroit help bring affordable, fresh and healthy food into neighborhoods. Selected examples include the following:

- Eight neighborhood farmers' markets brought fresh, local and seasonal foods to Detroit residents and workers in 2010; additionally, two mobile markets served specific neighborhoods. These markets also created significant revenues for participating farmers and other local food vendors.
- Eastern Market sponsored farm stands in 2010 at 40 locations in metro Detroit to increase access to fresh, affordable and local produce at various neighborhood and employment locations.
- The Green Grocer Project provides technical assistance, financing, and fast-track permitting assistance to existing Detroit grocery stores to improve operations and increase access to fresh and healthy foods, or new stores that open in underserved neighborhoods. By December 2010, $90,000 in grants were awarded to three stores.
- Detroit Fresh—SEED Wayne's (Sustainable Food System Education and Engagement in Detroit and Wayne State University) healthy corner store project—had 18 corner stores in 2010 that carried (or carried more) fresh produce following store-based assistance, linkages with produce distributors and neighborhood outreach.

[2] Colasanti, K., & Hamm, M. W. (2010). "The Local Food Supply Capacity of Detroit, MI." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*, 1(2), 1-18.

- The Fresh Food Share program, led by Gleaners Community Food Bank, dropped off 998 boxes containing 28,111 pounds of fruits, vegetables, and other selected healthy foods at sites around the city for pick up by participants. Subsidized boxes cost $10 and $17 for small and large boxes, respectively, non-subsidized ones were $14 and $24 for the small and large boxes respectively.

Photo: Kami Pothukuchi, SEED Wayne, Wayne State University

Wayne State Wednesday Farmers' Market.

Double Up Food Bucks support fresh food purchases and local farmers

The Double Up Food Bucks Program (DUFB), offered by the Fair Food Network, matches Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamp) spending at farmers' markets in Detroit and other select locations, dollar for dollar (up to $20 per card per day). Michigan farmers benefit as well from the additional spending on fruits and vegetables. In 2010, for all markets, $111,585 of SNAP spending was matched by $91,866 in DUFB tokens for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Food system entrepreneurial and workforce development initiatives hold promise

Several initiatives have recently started to build entrepreneurship and job skills among youth and adults in agriculture, culinary arts, and food service. Consider these examples:

- COLORS Hospitality Opportunities for Workers Institute by Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan (ROC-Michigan) seeks to help restaurants be profitable while promoting opportunities for workers to advance in the restaurant industry. The COLORS Restaurant, a worker-owned restaurant, will open in Summer 2011.
- 10-13 youth participate each year in D-Town Farm's summer employment program in which youth ages 15-23 plant, irrigate, weed, harvest, and sell at Wayne State University Farmers' Market.
- Earthworks Agriculture Training (EAT) offered by Earthworks Urban Farm trains interns in agricultural entrepreneurship, with eight graduates in 2010.

Food justice conversations address race in the food system

Undoing Racism in the Food System is an informal group of people whose goal is to help create food justice and food security in Detroit as part of a larger struggle for social justice. More than 200 people have participated to date in small and large discussion groups to analyze racism in Detroit's food system and identify approaches to dismantling it, including a two-day anti-racism training held in March 2010.

Detroit-based food organizations and networks have capacity and need support

Organizations collaborate in varying combinations to achieve the above gains. Detroit food groups have developed both individual organizational capacity as well as network capacity to collaboratively develop and implement needed initiatives to deliver real benefits to neighborhoods. These collaborations should be supported preferentially by foundations, government programs, and other donors to enable sustainable growth. We urge donors to seek and support existing, locally organized initiatives before attempting to bring in leaders from outside Detroit to develop initiatives from scratch. Support is needed, in particular, to systematically assess existing initiatives so as to develop a set of baseline measures of the system from which future growth can be traced. Lessons also need to be drawn from their successes and challenges to inform future efforts.

Photo: JimWestPhoto.com

High school students shovel compost in a community garden. They are volunteers working in the Summer in the City program, which puts students to work on community improvement projects.

Federal, state and local policies affect Detroit's food system

Recent laws such as the Farm Bill (Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008), the Stimulus Bill (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009), and the Child Nutrition Reauthorization (Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010) collectively helped realize more funding for nutrition and food security needs; increased funding for fruit and vegetable production; made nutrition program participation easier; instituted nutritional improvements in the meals offered at school and other settings; and enabled the sourcing of school cafeterias from local farms. These changes also benefited local food businesses and farms.

However, they also contained elements that are worrisome to proponents of sustainable agriculture and food justice. For example, money from the SNAP funding increment enabled by the Stimulus Bill was taken to fund child nutrition activities. This and other cuts to the SNAP increment mean that the SNAP benefits increase will terminate earlier, in November 2013, raising concerns about the ability of participants to put food on the table, even as food and energy prices are rising and the economic recession continues.

Nationwide, grassroots groups are organizing to prepare for the Farm Bill reauthorization in 2012. Given budgetary and other pressures, it is important to ensure that the gains for nutrition and food assistance programs, nutritious school foods, and farm-to-school programs are maintained; an agriculture is promoted that supports healthy diets, small farm viability, and healthy ecosystems; and more community-based initiatives to create a just food system are fostered.

At the state level, different laws facilitate or hinder actions in Detroit to improve the local food economy and promote urban agriculture. The Right to Farm Act, for example, ties the City's hands in creating urban agriculture policies that are appropriate for Detroit and balance the concerns of both growers and their neighbors. On the other hand, the Cottage Food Law allows small-scale producers to bring select products to market that are prepared and stored in their home kitchens, eliminating expensive licensing and certification requirements.

At the local level, it is critical that urban agriculture and composting, healthy food access, and other Detroit Food Policy Council goals are integrated into current policy frameworks such as Detroit Works and other decisions affecting the lives of Detroit residents.

Recommended Actions

The DFPC should:

- Track and analyze, on an ongoing basis, Detroit's food system and its impact on households and neighborhoods and important community goals such as public health, economic and ecological vitality, and social justice. Research is needed that specifically assesses, from the perspective of DFPC's mission, Detroit's needs and assets in food, and activities to build a more sustainable, just and self-reliant food economy.
- Support policies and programs that increase access to healthy and affordable foods in Detroit's neighborhoods through grocery stores; non-traditional channels such as farm stands, food cooperatives, corner stores, mobile markets, good food boxes; and increased participation in urban agriculture. Advocate additional ways to leverage existing food-related programs such as SNAP, and explore non-food-related mechanisms such as liquor and lottery licenses, to increase access to healthy foods in underserved neighborhoods.
- Track government nutrition program participation by Detroit residents, and support efforts to increase participation rates of eligible individuals and households.
- Track the effects of recently adopted or upcoming legislation for their impact on Detroit's food security and activities to build a sustainable and just food system in the city.

Photo: Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market

Northwest Detroit Farmers' Market in the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhood.

Join us in building a more sustainable and just food system in Detroit!

The Detroit Food Policy Council welcomes the participation of community members in our activities. To start, we suggest involvement of individuals in one or more of the following ways:

- Learn more about Detroit's food system and the status of community food goals related to nutrition, urban agriculture, healthy food access, and others.
- Participate in one of the four work groups of the DFPC: Healthy Food Access, Urban Agriculture, Community Food Justice, Schools and Institutions.
- Volunteer in activities sponsored by the DFPC, such as neighborhood forums or the annual "Powering Up the Local Food System" summit.
- Bring to DFPC members' attention important policies currently in place or being proposed that impact Detroit's food system.
- Participate in other actions that advance DFPC's goals.

To volunteer, obtain copies of this report, or for more information, contact the DFPC Coordinator: Cheryl Simon, 313-833-0396 or detroitfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com

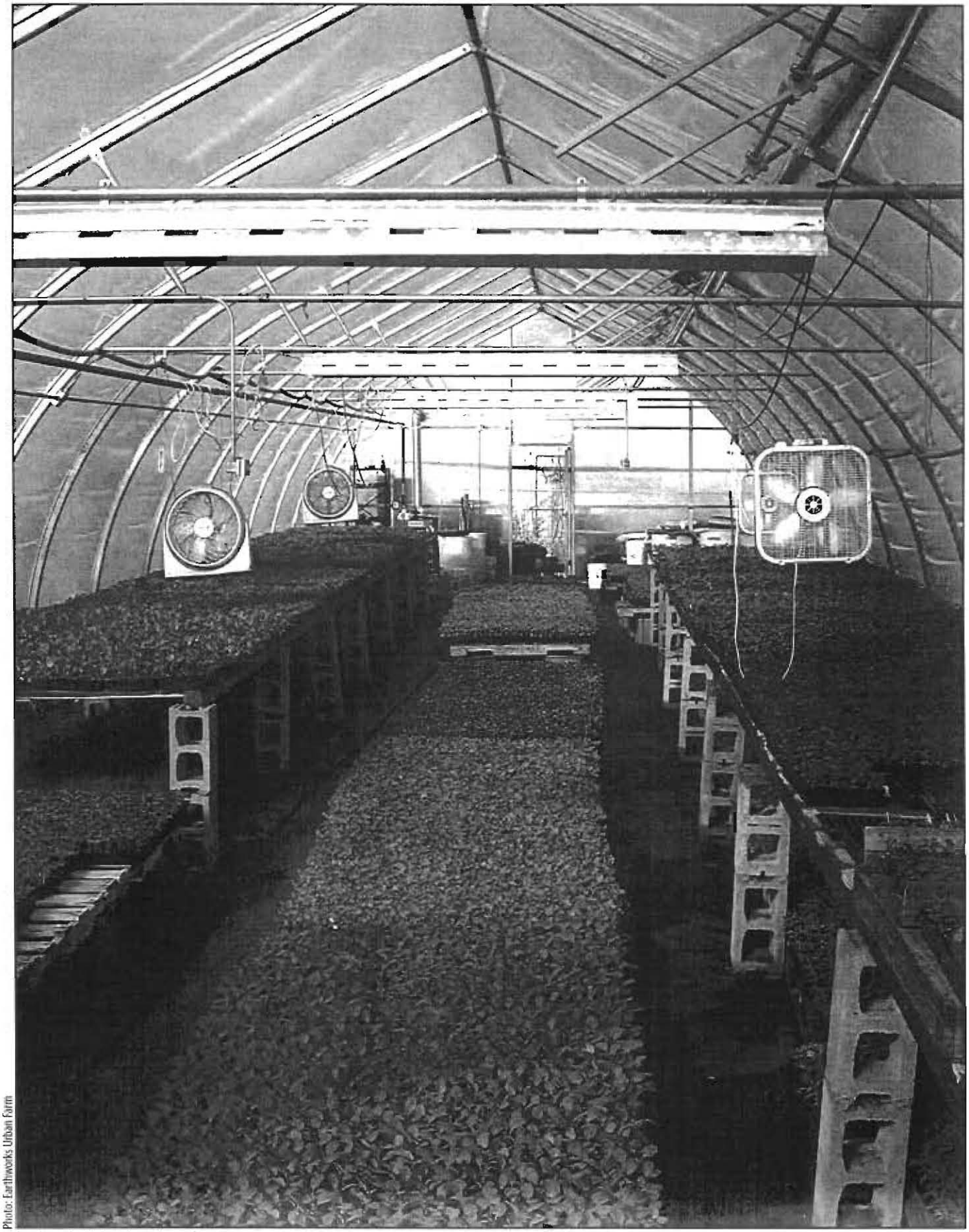


Photo: Earthworks Urban Farm

Earthworks Urban Farm hoop house.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND - NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB Item #____9___
Date: May 27, 2010

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2010

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Mary Bradford, Director of Parks
Gene Giddens, Acting Deputy Director for Park Operations
John E. Hench, Ph.D., Chief, Park Planning and Stewardship Division

FROM: Charles Kines, Planner/Coordinator, Park Planning and Stewardship Division
Brooke Farquhar, Park and Trail Planning Section Supervisor, Park Planning and Stewardship Division

RE: **Potential Agricultural Incubator on Parkland**

Parks staff asks the Planning Board to review and comment on:

- Small farm/agricultural incubator concept on parkland
- Preliminary program of requirements
- Site Selection Criteria
- Ranking of "hubs"
- Guidance on next steps

Summary Overview

Montgomery County's Green Economy Task Force Report – publicly released on March 25, 2010 – includes a recommendation for a small farm incubator in the County to support the growth of local organic farms. Exhibit A includes the pages from the report that discuss this new program.
The small farm/agricultural incubator could be generally modeled after the Intervale Center, a farm incubator in Burlington, Vermont, that has been in operation for more than 20 years. The County Executive is asking the Planning Board and Montgomery Parks to identify potential parkland that could be suitable for a pilot agricultural incubator. The Task Force report recommends that the Department of Economic Development provide other financial, technical and business assistance to new farmers who would participate in this incubator program. The report is silent on funding sources for this proposed program.

According to the report, the County and region have a huge unmet demand for locally grown, organic produce and the County's agricultural economic potential will not be fully realized until entrepreneurial farmers are given affordable access to land, equipment, training and marketing assistance. Not only would an agricultural incubator provide a boost to local farmers and the local economy while supporting the Agricultural Reserve, it would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, dependence on fossil fuels and harmful effects of pesticides in the County.

Over the past several months, Parks staff attended meetings with local farmers interested in this new program. After establishing a preliminary program of requirements and site selection criteria, staff analyzed and ranked groupings of suitable sites for locating a pilot agricultural incubator on parkland. These groupings, or "hubs" would be located to take advantage of available housing and office space for the program. During the roundtable discussion, Staff will present the analysis and ranked options for the Board's review and guidance.

Park staff also has consulted with several stakeholder groups, including the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS), Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) and West Montgomery County Citizens Association (WMCCA). Specifically, staff would like to thank Dolores Milmoe (ANS), Caroline Taylor (MCA) and Ginny Barnes (WMCCA) for sharing their views and expertise during our study.

Background

On March 25, 2010, the County Executive released the final report from the Green Economy Task Force. The Green Economy Task Force was established in 2009 to provide expert guidance and input as the County develops a comprehensive "green economic development strategy." The Task Force consisted of representatives from a wide array of public and private interests. The report includes recommendations for many new programs as well as ideas to modify existing programs in order to promote a more sustainable future for the County while also greening its economy.

Among the recommendations is a small farm or agricultural incubator to encourage new farmers to produce local, organic "table food" closer to the County's population centers and markets. The cost of land is considered by many to be the largest barrier to new farmers developing new, locally-focused enterprises in Montgomery County. The County Executive, therefore, is asking M-NCPPC to provide free or subsidized land for this new incubator.

The Department of Parks currently leases 935 acres of its parkland to farmers growing commodity crops such as corn and hay. Under Commission Practice 6-51, *Leasing Commission-Owned/Controlled Parkland for Agriculture,* originally adopted in 1978 and amended in 1983, the agricultural use of parkland is considered an interim use, rather than a core mission of the Department. See Exhibit B.

Lease agreements are primarily with large-scale, federally-subsidized commodity farmers who use heavy modern machinery. These farmers, although "local" (they own large tracts of farmland elsewhere in the County), are not growing table food. The notable exception is Butler's Orchard – a large pick-your-own farm that leases 70 acres of Goshen Recreational Park. Additionally, the Red Wiggler Farm at Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park is a local CSA (community supported agriculture) that grows organic table food while providing jobs and training to developmentally disabled adults. Lease agreements are not currently with small, organic farmers using smaller-sized parcels of land.

What is an incubator?

An incubator is a government-sponsored program designed to provide new entrepreneurs with some or all of the elements below, with the goal of creating jobs and stimulating the economy:

- Free or subsidized office space
- Information and Education
- Technical and Legal Assistance
- Advocacy and Marketing Assistance
- Financial start-up costs for new companies

Montgomery County currently has an incubator (aka "business innovation") program for start-up companies specializing in life sciences and advanced technology.

A small farm or agricultural incubator would likely include all the standard or typical services above as well as some additional specialized services for new farmers:

- Free or subsidized land, and associated buildings and infrastructure
- Free or subsidized farming equipment and machinery
- Technical assistance on specialized farming techniques

As previously noted, the Green Economy Task Force Report is silent on funding sources for this proposed program.

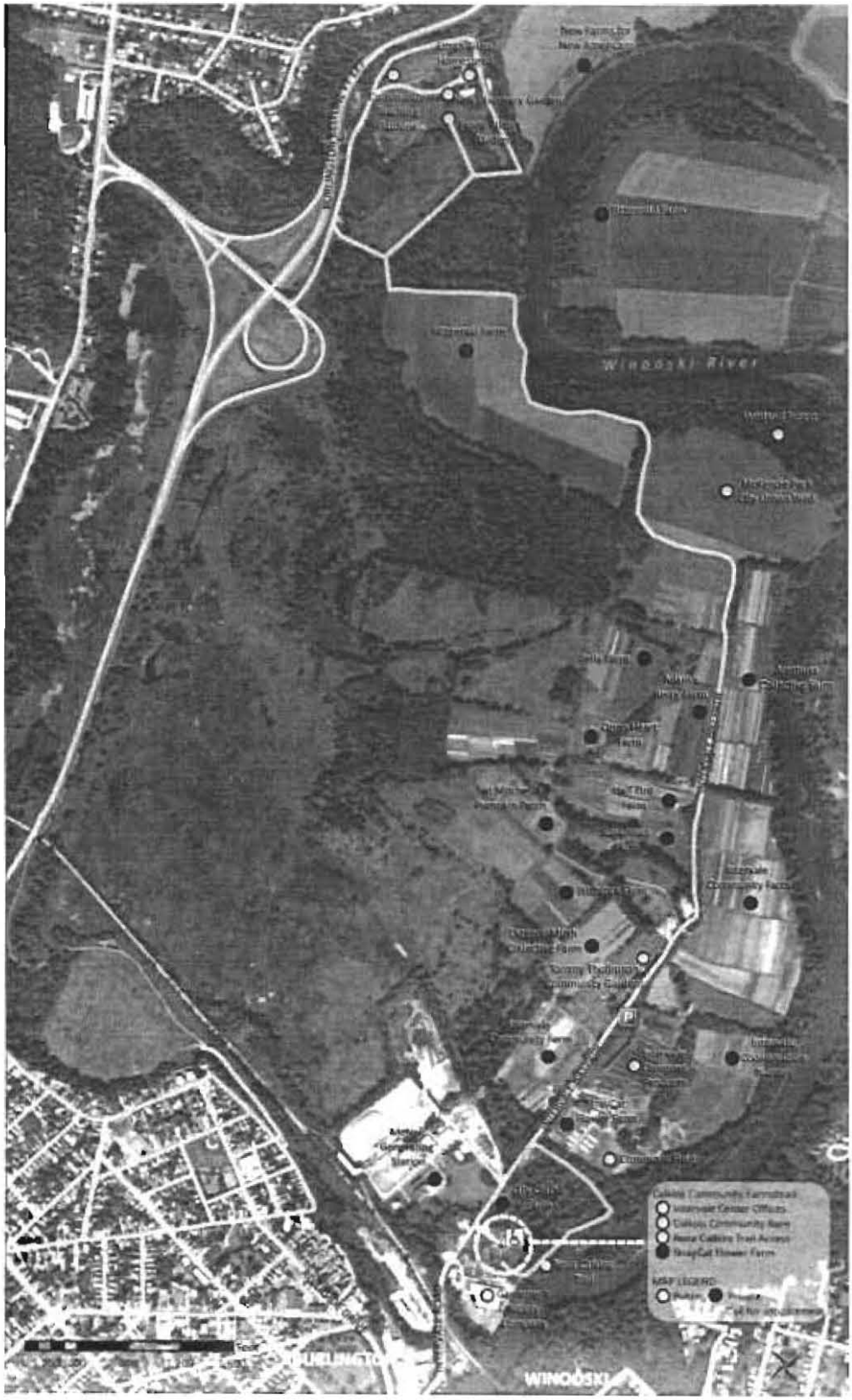
Similar to Intervale, new farmers would "incubate" for a predetermined number of years to learn local organic farming practices, establish their enterprise and brand, build market-share, earn and save income and establish credit. After incubating, these farmers then would set off on their own, purchase or lease private farmland, ideally in Montgomery County, with a particular focus on local, organic table food. Local restaurants and grocers would purchase their foods and related products, thus creating a sustainable cycle of local investment in organic farming in the County. An additional benefit of the incubator might be the creation of "green jobs", related industries (e.g., canneries), and the reduction of pesticide use, of carbon emissions resulting from shorter shipping distances for produce, and the re-establishment of larger-scale produce and dairy farming in the County, while contributing to the protection of the County's Agricultural Reserve.

Intervale Center

The Green Economy Task Force envisions that Montgomery County would consider the Intervale Center in Vermont as a model for its new small farm incubator. The Intervale Center is a 350-acre farm located along the Winooski River just outside the municipal boundaries of Burlington, Vermont. Since 1988, this non-profit farming enterprise has been supporting viable farms, increasing access to local and organic food, improving soil fertility, protecting water quality through stream bank restoration, and educating young people about agriculture and healthy food. Of the 350 acres, 120 acres are tillable farmland while the remaining 220 acres include forest, wetlands, a compost facility, a tree nursery and an at-risk youth farm. Approximately 30 of the 120 acres of tillable land are leased from the City of Burlington Department of Parks and Recreation, 60 acres from a local farmer, and the remainder is owned by the Center.

The Center nurtures and strengthens community food systems, and serves as a farming incubator for up to 12 farms as well as up to 150 community garden plots. It provides local, organic produce for 500 households and numerous local restaurants. The Center also provides low-income households with

Figure 1 - The Intervale Center, located outside Burlington, Vermont.



access to sustainably grown food, supports new farms for recent immigrants, and annually recycles 30,000 tons of waste which is used to create and sell compost.

The Center's "Farms Program" removes start-up barriers that typically challenge new farmers. Key components of this program include:

- Providing access to training, land and capital
- Mentoring (sharing farmers' experience and expertise)
- Fostering a farming community (to reduce social isolation)
- Helping farmers establish a unique identity (branding)
- Producing and selling food to local markets

Each year, between one and three new farm businesses join the program as incubators, receiving subsidized rental rates, business planning support and mentorship from established growers. Farms range in size from 1 acre to 50 acres, with 8.7 acres the average size. Since the Center's inception, 32 farmers have incubated. Sixteen moved on successfully to independent operations nearby, and 16 have failed (but all were on-site when they failed, not after they left). Farmers do not live on-site, but Burlington is less than one mile away. Farmers share all equipment.

Intervale's annual budget is approximately $1 Million. Fifty percent of income/revenue is derived from earned income (farmer leases, produce sales via CSAs, conservation nursery sales, etc), while the other 50 percent comes from grants, divided equally between foundations and individual donors.

Potential Agricultural Incubator on Montgomery County Parkland

The Green Economy Task Force recommends that the County Executive create a small, organic farming incubator in Montgomery County similar to Intervale. To minimize program costs, the County is asking the Department of Parks to identify and dedicate suitable parkland to use as the incubator site. Since the Department currently administers 13 leases with farmers who grow commodity crops such as high quality hay, corn and soybeans, the replacement of some of that land with an agricultural incubator would be consistent with current practices. 935 acres of parkland are currently under some sort of agricultural lease. Sites range in size from a few acres to over 100 acres. See Exhibit C, a map showing all agricultural leases on parkland.

When the Commission acquires land, it often does not have resources to develop planned facilities for several years. Agricultural leases allow the land to remain undeveloped while generating modest income for M-NCPPC. Leases are negotiated at market rates and customarily are comprised of a five year lease with our option to renew for 3 additional five year terms (total of 20 years). Among other provisions, lessees are required to respect stream buffers, limit pesticide use, and meet other environmental standards. Leases are managed by the Property Management office.

Many of these sites are located in the Agricultural Reserve. In some cases an agricultural lease is a temporary use of parkland until such time the Department is ready to implement or construct a master planned facility. In other cases, an agricultural lease may be a long-term venture (such as Butler's Orchard). Most of the lease agreements include clauses that allow the Department to terminate the lease with reasonable advanced notice.

Preliminary Program of Requirements

After meeting with farmers and key agency staff, Park Planning staff developed a preliminary program of requirements (PPOR) for a small farm incubator on parkland. The requirements can be divided into two categories: 1) land or site issues; and 2) infrastructure and facility improvements.

Site requirements. The land should be tillable, unforested, and environmentally unconstrained. Although in some cases tillable land may not be needed, for example produce grown in greenhouses, raising free range chickens, and growing produce hydroponically, generally it is highly desirable. The land should ideally have prime agricultural soils, although soil can be reconditioned (3-5 years). The land should be unprogrammed with no conflicts with existing master plans. Finally, the existing zoning for the site should allow farming and the surrounding land uses should not conflict with active farming.

Infrastructure requirements. The site should have adequate access to water (surface or ground) and electricity, with approvable septic. Ideally, it should also have paved access to a public road, or at least the ability to accommodate a future paved road. The agricultural incubator will need a pole barn, an additional shed or barn (lockable) for equipment storage, and ideally a building for administrative offices with a meeting room and housing for the administrator and a few farmers. Farmers stressed that this last requirement is highly desirable not only to reduce commute times for farmers traveling to the site (and minimized the carbon impacts resulting from emissions), but also to nurture the social community of farmers and to increase site security. Additionally, the tillable acres will require deer fencing to protect the crops.

Site Selection Criteria

Using the preliminary program of requirements, the Department conducted a GIS-based land assessment to identify suitable parkland for the agricultural incubator. We initially attempted to pinpoint a large 300 acre site similar to Intervale, or a series of smaller sites that could be grouped into farming clusters. Our analysis did not reveal any large sites similar to Intervale, however, we identified many smaller to medium size sites between 18 and 127 acres that could be grouped into clusters or hubs.

Our analysis started by highlighting parkland with a current agricultural lease. As mentioned previously, 935 acres of parkland are under some sort of agricultural lease. We then filtered those parks to isolate those that are located in the Agricultural Reserve. The Agricultural Reserve was established to protect the rural character of the County as well as preserve local farming. The Agricultural Reserve contains most of the best farmland in the County in terms of overall acreage as well as prime soils. It also is where most of the existing agricultural economy and farming infrastructure are located.

We then filtered all sites to evaluate parkland that is tillable (prime soils), unforested, and environmentally unconstrained. Sites with existing infrastructure were then identified including any existing underutilized cultural or historic buildings that might serve as offices or housing. We also wanted to dwindle down the list to find sites with access to public water.

Finally, we evaluated potential agricultural incubator sites to determine if it would eliminate a programmed or needed facility, is compatible with surrounding land uses, conforms to existing park master plan and area master plan and whether an incubator could be implemented relatively quickly based on condition of cultural or historic buildings.

Hub Concept

The draft program of requirements and site selection criteria identified a number of sites, which were grouped into a series of 3 hubs. Each hub features an underutilized cultural or historic buildings owned by the Department that could serve as administrative offices and/or housing for farmers with a five mile radius drawn around it. The five mile radius represents the maximum distance farmers would feel comfortable sharing farming equipment and driving the equipment along roads. See Exhibit D, the site selection and decision making matrix for potential agricultural incubators on parkland, Exhibit E, a map showing the geographic distribution of potential sites roughly grouped into clusters or hubs, and Exhibits F, G and H that show detailed maps of the proposed hubs. Although each hub features hundreds of acres of potential agricultural lease sites, the Department recommends a measured approach to implementation, by starting with a few dozen acres and seeing how things go before broadening the program to include more acres.

The following hubs are in priority order for potential quick implementation.

1. ***Darby Hub***

   This hub is the only one in the Agricultural Reserve. It would utilize approximately 127 acres of existing parkland with agricultural leases in the western-most portion of Woodstock Special Park near Wasche Road. It would also use the historic Darby House and Store at the corner of MD 109 and MD 28 in the locally designated Beallsville Historic District for the administrative offices and/or housing.

   The Woodstock Special Park Master Plan (1998) does not recommend any specific improvements for this area of the park. Figure I depicts the general land use recommendations for the park in relation to the potential location for an agricultural incubator. This area of park is proposed to remain agricultural, with natural surface equestrian trails going around the farmland.

   The County recently unofficially agreed to use septic for no more than three bedrooms in the Darby House and a toilet and sink in the Darby Store. Stabilization drawings for the store are complete. Legacy Open Space (LOS) funding is earmarked to stabilize the structures and move the store out of the intersection right-of-way, which has been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission and also could be funded with LOS funding. In order to be habitable, the house needs heat, electricity, plaster repair and plumbing. There is currently no money earmarked for any improvements to the house.

   The Darby Hub ranks first among the three hubs because it is located in the Agricultural Reserve, has numerous large parcels available with prime soils, could be implemented relatively quickly and conforms to zoning and the park master plan. The Owens Park Activity Building – recently closed for budget reasons – could be used as an interim location for the administrative offices while work on the Darby House and Store are completed.

2. ***Holland Hub***

   This hub is located in the eastern part of the County near Sandy Spring. It would utilize an existing 63-acre agricultural lease site in Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park and the historic Holland/Red Door Store at the intersection of Layhill Road and Ednor Road. There is no master plan for this section of Northwest Branch Park, except the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail and historic Underground Railroad Experience Trail pass nearby. A potential agricultural incubator in this park would not conflict with existing master plans though.

The Holland/Red Door Store is an individual site in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. It needs major repairs and complete restoration in order to be habitable and it also requires septic perc testing. If septic is not viable, the site would require a water/sewer category change and related construction that will cost in the ballpark of $150,000. The small amount of money that was spent on the structure was removed in the current revenue reductions.

The Holland Hub ranks second among the three hubs. It is not located in the Agricultural Reserve, which is a primary goal of this program. However, it has good soils and could be implemented relatively quickly.

3. *Watkins Hub*

This hub is located in Clarksburg, utilizing the 86 acres currently leased in the eastern most part of Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park adjacent to and including Red Wiggler Farm. The Oliver Watkins House, located adjacent to Red Wiggler, could serve as housing and/or administrative offices. The 86 acres currently leased are identified for park development (upcounty arboretum, carousel site, and other facilities) under the 1996 Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park Master Plan. A master plan amendment, therefore, would be required to make an agricultural incubator work here.

The Oliver Watkins House is designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. During planning for a previous tenant, the house was completely gutted several years ago. It therefore requires major restoration and rehabilitation work to make it habitable. There is insufficient CIP funding to work on this structure, although it may be painted out of the FY 11 Major Maintenance operations. Septic for the house is limited and requires more work. It has a well, but may no longer be usable. Public water is nearby. Additionally, the Red Wiggler Farm has a new administrative building/residence planned nearby that will be located outside the Oliver Watkins House's historic "environmental setting."

The Watkins Hub ranks third of three hubs because it requires a park master plan amendment and it is located (albeit just barely) outside the Agricultural Reserve. It also does not feature prime soils.

Program Administration

The business side of the potential incubator program has not yet been worked out. However, the Green Economy Task Force recommends that the Department of Economic Development designate a business development specialist to develop and work on the program and provide technical assistance to farmers. It also recommends that a non-profit organization (not specified) manage the day-to-day operations once it is up and running.

If the incubator is located on parkland, the Department of Parks might be in the best position to administer it since the Department already manages the land. The Department of Economic Development could provide business/technical support. There are many ways to look at this issue and we look forward to the Planning Board's comments and guidance.

Funding

Neither the County Executive nor the M-NCPPC has earmarked any CIP or operating budget money for an agricultural incubator program. On the other hand, grant funding could be pursued. See Exhibit J for a list of potential sources, compiled by Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Public funding sources include:

- USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program
- USDA Community Foods Program
- Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education (SARE)

Potential private funding sources include:

- Wallace Genetic Foundation
- Abell Foundation
- The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

According to Andrea Tursini, Director of Consulting and Land Stewardship, in 2009 the Intervale Center was funded in the following way:

- 46% Grants
- 41% Program Product and Service Sales
- 12% Community Support (individual donors)
- 1% Other

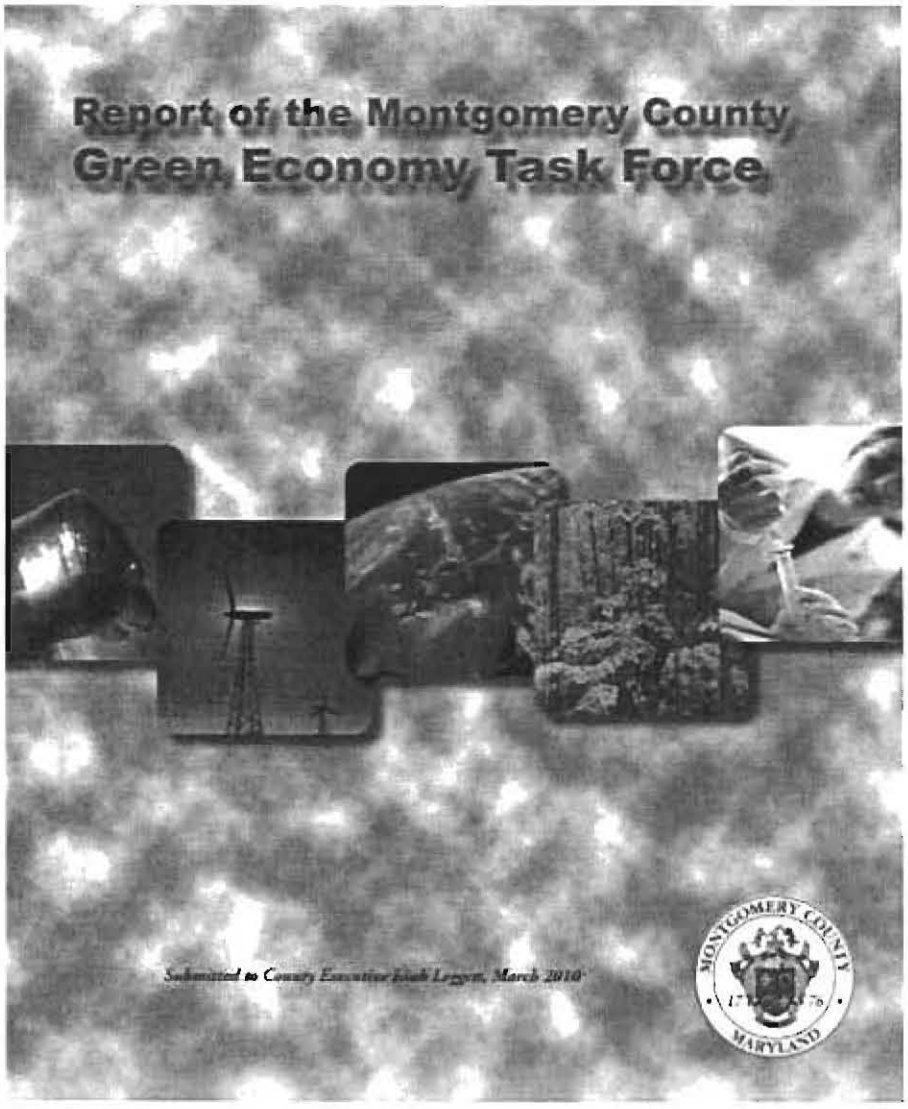
Some grants are government, some private foundations. Community support includes large and small donors. Sales income is significant, which includes rent and payment for services that Intervale offers to farmers. See their 2009 Annual Report

CC: John Nissel, Facilities Management
Mitra Pedoeem, Park Development
David Vismara, Horticultural Services
Christine Brett, Enterprise
Mike Horrigan, Northern Region
Brian Woodward, Southern Region
Terry Brooks, Special Programs
Mary Ellen Venzke, Management Services
Kate Stookey, Public Information and Customer Service
Darien Manley, Park Police
Al Astorga, Central Maintenance
Dolores Milmoe, Audubon Naturalist Society
Ginny Barnes, Western Montgomery County Citizens Association
Caroline Taylor, Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Jeremy Criss, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, Agricultural Services

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A- *Excerpt from Montgomery County's Green Economy Tosk Force Report regarding this new progrom*
Exhibit B *- Commission Practice 6-51, Leasing Commission-Owned / Controlled Porkland for Agriculture*
Exhibit C *- Distribution of Parkland with current Agricultural Leases*
Exhibit D *- Site Selection and Decision Making Matrix*
Exhibit E *- Proposed Agricultural Lease Hubs*
Exhibit F *- Vicinity Map of the Darby Hub*
Exhibit G *- Vicinity Map of the Holland Hub*
Exhibit H *- Vicinity Map of the Watkins Hub*
Exhibit I *- Woodstock Equestrian Park Master Plan Map*
Exhibit J *- Possible Funding Sources for the Montgomery County Small Farm Incubator Project*

Exhibit A - *Excerpt from Montgomery County's Green Economy Task Force Report regarding this new program*



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A-5) Create a small farm incubator

Supporting the growth of local organic farms is the cornerstone of a vibrant local economy and a healthy environment. Locally grown organic products satisfy two important goals: 1) reducing the harmful effects of pesticides; and 2) reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the dependence on fossil fuels.[18] According to a University of Michigan study, 40 percent of the climate-changing fossil fuels used in industrial food production are attributed to the production of fertilizers and pesticides.[19] This is before the 1,200-1,500 miles the average piece of packaged produce travels to a consumer.

In addition to the environmental benefits of growing local organic produce, the positive economic impacts are even more significant. On-farm sales let farmers "recapture ninety-two cents of a consumer's food dollar that now typically winds up in the pockets of processors, middlemen, and retailers."[20]

The D.C. metropolitan region has a huge unmet demand for locally grown produce and products.[21] This includes Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, native plants, Victory Garden plants, food for restaurants, "truck farms" supplying the existing network of farmers markets, plants for community gardens, and the ability for growers to create value-added products. A recent Baltimore Sun article confirmed that the demand for local products outweighs the supply, and that buying local products is even more important to some consumers than buying organic products.[22]

Montgomery County's agricultural economic potential will not be realized unless entrepreneurial farmers are given access to land, equipment, training and marketing. This scenario is nearly identical to the development of other industries in the region, including the County's early days of biotechnology.

One solution to growing the County's agricultural cluster to meet the current demand is to use what has worked so successfully already—the County's award-winning business incubator network.[23] At present, the County manages five business incubators to assist local entrepreneurs. The incubator network can evolve to meet the needs of the green economy by going outside of traditional labs and office space, and onto the farm.

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[18] Montgomery County's Climate Protection Plan recommends expanding the production of locally grown produce and products as a way to reduce green house gas emissions.

[19] Heller, Martin C., and Gregory A. Keoleian. "Life Cycle-Based Sustainability Indicators for Assessment of the U.S. Food System." Ann Arbor, MI: Center for Sustainable Systems, University of Michigan, 2000: 42.

[20] Pollan, Michael. "The Omnivore's Dilemma." Penguin Press: NYC, 2006: p. 242.

[21] 2007 Policy Choices Survey by the University of Baltimore http://sspp.ubalt.edu/pdfs/SCPP_Fall_07_12607.pdf

[22] http://www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/dining/bal-te.ly.local09jul09,0,4752289.story

[23] An incubator is a facility or program designed to help entrepreneurs succeed by providing targeted support, networking, services/equipment and other relevant programs (payroll, government contracting, intellectual property, etc.).

Model Programs:

The Intervale Center – Burlington, VT
www.intervale.org

Intervale is a 350-acre, not-for-profit farm incubator that provides organic produce for 800 households in Burlington, VT. There are 12 small farms operating at the Intervale, as well as 150 community garden plots. Intervale also provides low-income households with access to food, and recycles 30,000 tons of waste each year to make compost.

There are three levels of farms at Intervale:

- Incubator Farms are the newest farms, and receive business planning support, mentoring and reduced prices for land and equipment;
- Enterprise Farms have operated for at least three years; and
- Mentor Farms are mature farms who have been operating in the Intervale for at least five years and take on the role of mentoring incubator farms.

Montgomery County's Strategic Advantage:

Montgomery County's farm incubator will have a high percentage of success, because it is the only county in the region that has both dense urban areas with high, unmet demand for local produce and enough agricultural land to satisfy that demand—made possible through the nationally recognized Agricultural Reserve.[2] The incubator farms will build on the existing local Farmers Market infrastructure, and benefit from educational opportunities associated with the University of Maryland—a land grant university.

Initially, the incubator will also benefit from a strong market from local organizations, like food banks, which are presently in search of local growers with the capacity to produce tens of thousands of dollars worth of vegetables each year.[3] In order for the incubator to be as successful as possible, the County will need to be proactive in connecting this existing demand with the incubator's new supply.

Implementation:

The farm incubator would start as a three party partnership between the County government, Park & Planning and an existing non-profit. Park & Planning would provide the land. The County would provide a staff person, who would coordinate grant applications (USDA, philanthropic grants, etc.), provide grant administration services to ensure compliance, assist farmers with licensing requirements for organic certification, added-value production permits and other regulatory issues, and manage any capital projects on the property. The non-profit component would run the day-to-day operations of the incubator, assisting farmers with marketing and sales opportunities and outreach/community activities.

[2] Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve is made up of 93,000 acres, half of which is preserved through transfer of development rights and easement purchase initiatives.
[3] According to Red Wiggler Farm's data.

In addition, the non profit would ensure that the incubator is run according to triple-bottom line business practices.

- Economic – farms are run in a way that maximize profits while minimizing risk
- Environmental – all participants must work towards USDA Organic Certification, and sell the majority of their products to local consumers
- Social – all participants will provide social value to the community. This could be accomplished by providing a percentage of their yield to low income residents, hosting interpretive tours to transfer knowledge, or working to meet other needs in the community (education, nutrition, etc.)

In the long term, Montgomery County Public Schools could provide a substantial market for the incubator farmers. The Department of Economic Development should work with the school district, the Maryland Department of Education and the incubator to develop policies and procedures that promote using local food in local schools.[26]

Resources & Financial Impacts:

The County should contribute at least one Business Development Specialist dedicated to assisting with funding and other technical issues described above. If Park & Planning dedicates the land, the non-profit management group will need to work with the County to raise operational and capital funds. Several philanthropic organizations and federal funding programs can be tapped including the USDA's Community Food Project grants and the Kellogg Foundation. In some cases, the land can be used to meet certain matching requirements.

[26] According to Red Wiggler Farm's data.

Exhibit B *– Commission Practice 6-51, Leasing Commission-Owned/Controlled Parkland for Agriculture*

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

PRACTICE

approved by The Commission NO. 6-51

subject

Rev. 4 May 1983
effective date

LEASING COMMISSION-OWNED/ CONTROLLED PARKLANDS FOR AGRICULTURE

AUTHORITY

This practice was originally approved by the Commission at its meeting September 20, 1978. It has been updated, after appropriate coordination with the Montgomery County Department of Parks and the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, to permit leasing parklands for agriculture on the basis of bidding rather than formal appraisal; to give authority to the respective County Parks Directors to select lessees; and to clarify earlier language.

This revised practice was approved by the Commission May 4, 1983.

Thomas H. Countee, Jr.
T. H. Countee, Jr.
Executive Director

PURPOSE

To assure compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations and equitable treatment for lessees in the management and leasing of Commission-owned and controlled parklands for agricultural purposes.

POLICY

1. Lands acquired by the Commission designated for park development and preservation of open space and stream valley protection may be leased for crop production and livestock grazing prior to planned development.

2. The respective Planning Boards may establish advisory committees to make recommendations to the staff on proper utilization of Commission-owned parklands for agriculture.

3. Leases shall be set at rates reflecting fair market value.

SELECTION OF LESSEES

1. Interested parties may contact either the Montgomery County or Prince George's County Park Property Manager for information regarding location and availability of parkland for leasing for agriculture, and will be required to submit a brief application detailing farming experience, financial stability, and other pertinent information.

NOTE: Although the Commission leases its parklands for other uses deemed appropriate, this practice deals solely with leases for agricultural purposes.

Practice 6-51
LEASING COMMISSION-OWNED/
CONTROLLED PARKLANDS FOR AGRICULTURE
Effective 4 May 1983
App. The Commission

SELECTION OF LESSEES (Continued)

2. a. Incumbent lessees shall have the right of first refusal to continue leasing of parklands for agriculture. In the event the option is not exercised by an incumbent, then either the Montgomery County or Prince George's County Property Manager will advertise the availability of parkland for lease with a general statement of terms and conditions of the lease, and may accept bids.

   b. Commission employees are eligible to participate in the competitive bidding process.

3. Residents of the Metropolitan District have priority over non-residents except where other specific requirements must be set for a particular parcel.

4. Selection of lessees will be made after due consideration by the respective county Parks Directors.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Montgomery County Parks Director and the Prince George's County Director of Parks and Recreation are responsible for implementation of leasing of Commission-owned and controlled parklands for agricultural purposes.

2. The Executive Director is responsible for executing leases.

3. Lessees are responsible for maintenance of improvements on the land to standards contained in the terms of the lease.

PROCEDURES

1. Leases will be processed in the same manner as contracts. (See Practice 4-14, Preparing and Processing Contracts.)

2. Leasing of Commission-owned and controlled parklands for agriculture shall include consideration of the following:

   a. Rental rates may be established by advertising land for rental and accepting the highest bid submitted by responsible qualified bidders.

   b. Available parkland may be rented for agricultural purposes for periods of one or more years provided that the parklands are adequately maintained. An annual on-site inspection shall be conducted by appropriate staff to assure proper maintenance. Inadequate maintenance is grounds for discontinuance of any agricultural lease regardless of the original terms of the lease.

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PROCEDURES
(Continued)

c. Leases shall be specific as to buildings, acreage, and other improvements included in the rental, and an aerial photo or facsimile shall be attached to each lease clearly delineating boundaries and the location of improvements.

d. No residential trailers or other temporary housing shall be moved onto leased properties; no additional buildings, sheds or other improvements are to be constructed by the lessee, nor any existing improvements removed, without prior written approval of either the Montgomery County or Prince George's County Park Property Manager, as appropriate. The Commission reserves the right to demolish or remove any building or other improvements deemed to be a health or safety hazard, after notice to the tenant.

e. Structures deemed to be of historic value or importance are to be protected and remain unaltered, and are to be specifically noted in the lease.

f. Lessees will be required to engage in good farming and conservation practices, will cut no standing timber or permit woodland grazing, except with written permission of either the Montgomery County or Prince George's County Park Property Manager, as appropriate, and must comply with all regulations with respect to health, sanitation, and use of pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides.

g. Where the U.S. Soil Conservation Service has developed a specific plan for a particular property, the lessee will be bound by the plan.

h. Subleasing of improvements or acreage of parklands is prohibited unless approved in writing by either the Montgomery County or Prince George's County Park Property Manager, as appropriate.

i. As provided by law, the Commission reserves the right of entry to all leased properties for inspection after reasonable notice to the lessee.

j. To protect the public interest, the lessee will be required to carry proper insurance as specified by the Commission and agreed to in the lease.

- 3 -

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Practice 6-51
LEASING COMMISSION-OWNED/ CONTROLLED PARKLANDS FOR AGRICULTURE
Effective 4 May 1983
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PROCEDURES (Continued)

k. Leases shall permit grazing and cropping for food production, but shall not permit horseback riding or other recreational activities by non-lessees on public parkland. The Commission reserves the right to establish easements on leased parkland for approved riding trails.

l. Before termination of a lease for agriculture, the lessees will be required to seed all open crop land with a pasture mixture specified by the Commission, unless otherwise notified by either the Montgomery County or Prince George's County Park Property Manager.

m. The lease may provide that parklands under lease for agriculture will be available for limited use visitation and guided interpretive programs, managed hunting in season, and other proper uses of parkland that do not interfere with the agricultural operations of the lessee.

n. In those instances where it is deemed to be in the Commission's best interest, the Montgomery County Director of Parks and the Prince George's County Director of Parks and Recreation may provide that in lieu of a fee per-acre charge for lands, the Commission will receive a share of the crops.

Exhibit C *- Distribution of Parkland with current Agricultural Leases*

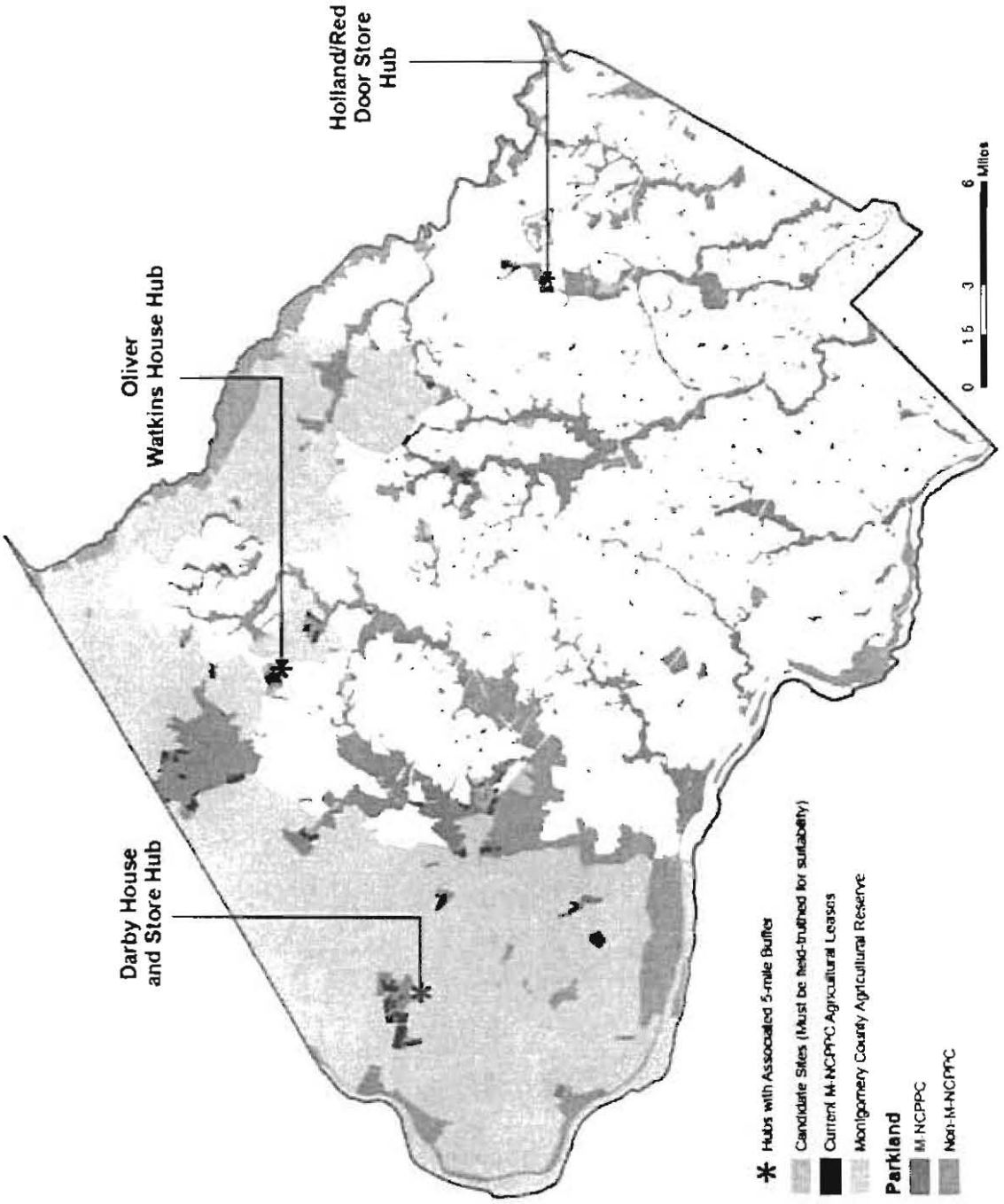

Exhibit D - Site Selection and Decision Making Matrix - April 30, 2010 (Park Planning and Stewardship Division)

Agricultural Incubator Decision Making Matrix	Located in the Agricultural Reserve	Conforms with Park Master Plan	Acres of land currently leased for agricultural use (approx)	Suitable Soils for farming (presence of prime soils)	Access to public water source	Proximity to potential market (jobs and housing density)	Quick Implementation based on renovating cultural/historic properties	Pros/Cons and Raking Explanation	Comments
1. DARBY HUB								This hub ranks #1 out of 3 because it is located in the Ag Reserve, has numerous large parcels available with prime soils. It could be implemented relatively quickly and conforms with the park master plan for Woodstock Special Park	The County recently unofficially agreed to allow septic at Darby House, which could accommodate the administrative office OR a 3-bedroom residence. The house could be upgraded to a 4-bedroom residence if no plumbing will be required in the store. Until Darby House is operational, the recently closed Owens Park Activity Building could serve as the administrative offices.
Darby House and Store			2						
Woodstock Special Park/ Equestrian Park (N-BH)	YES	YES	127	YES	NO				
Sugarland Special Park (N-BH)	YES		73	YES	NO				
Thompson Farm (aka Ten Mile Creek Conservation Park) (N-BH)	YES		50	YES	NO				
Little Seneca SVU #1 (N-BH)	YES		32	YES	NO				
Rickman Farm (N-BH)	YES		50	YES	NO				
Boyds LP (N-BH)	YES		30	YES	NO				
Dry Seneca SVU (N-BH)	YES		24	YES	NO				
Hub Summary	ALL YES	YES	388	ALL YES	ALL NO	LOW	HIGH		
2. HOLLAND HUB								This hub ranks #2 of 3 primarily because it is not located in the Ag. Reserve. It could also be implemented quickly, has good soils and many acres of land	
Holland/Red Door Store			20						
Sandy Spring - Northwest Branch SVU#7 (N-OM)	NO		63	YES	YES				
Ag. History Farm Park (N-RC)	NO	YES	89	YES	YES				
Muncaster Recreational Park (N-RC)	NO		18	YES	YES				
Hub Summary	ALL NO	YES	190	ALL YES	ALL YES	MODERATE TO HIGH	HIGH		
3. WATKINS HUB								This hub ranks #3 of 3 because only half the sites are in the Ag Reserve and the largest site requires a master plan amendment. It also does not have good soils.	
Oliver Watkins House & Ned Watkins House									
Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park/Red Wiggler Farm (N-LB)	NO	NO	86	NO	YES				
Goshen Recreational Park (Butlers Orchard) (N-LB)	YES		70	NO	NO				
Huynh Property (N-LB)	YES		30	NO	NO				
Lois Y. Green Conservation Park (N-SG)	NO		29	YES	YES				
Hub Summary	HALF IN, HALF OUT	ALL NO	215	MOSTLY NO	HALF/HALF	MODERATE TO HIGH	MODERATE		

***Exhibit E** - Proposed Agriculturol Lease Hubs*

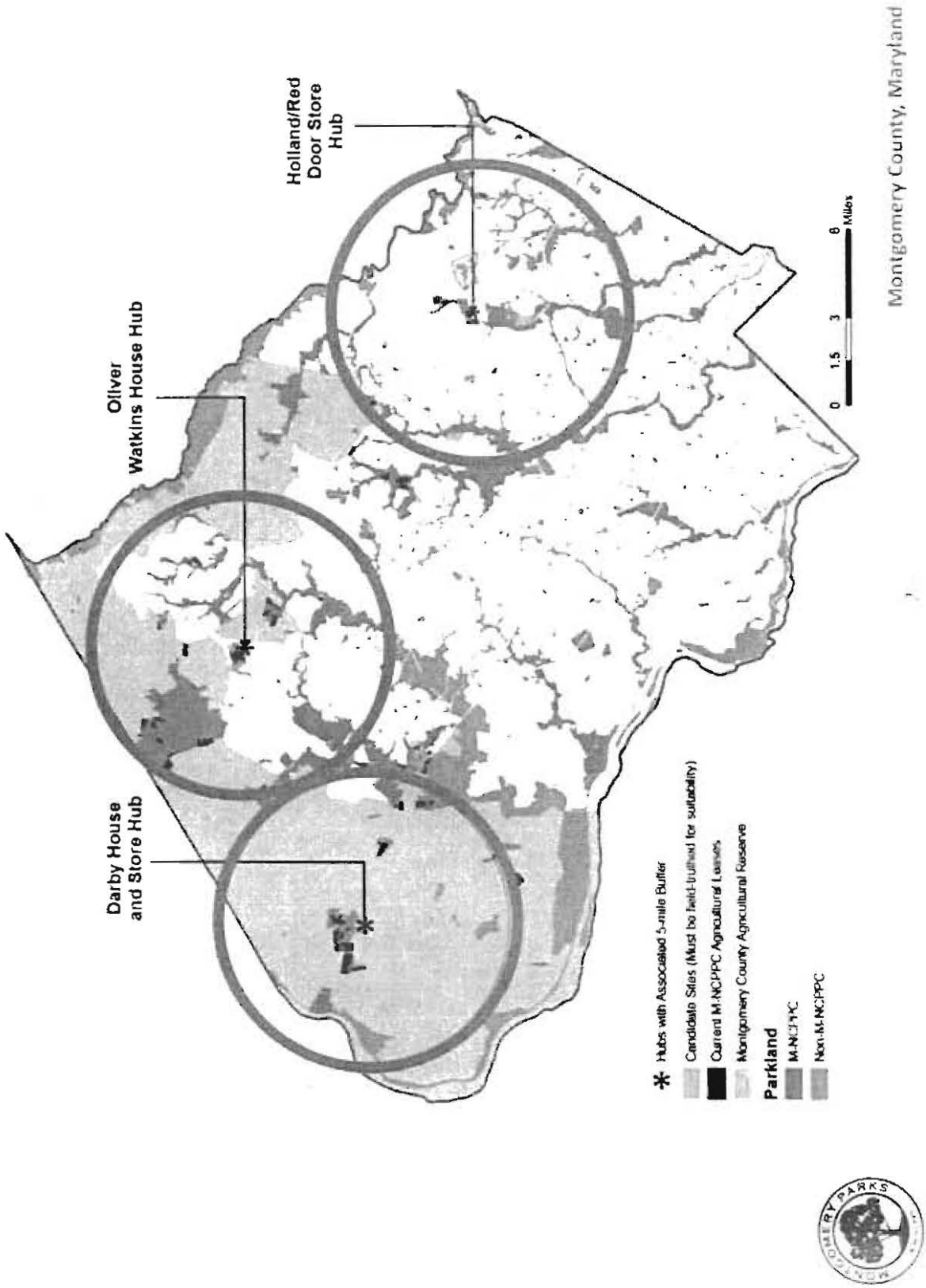

***Exhibit F** - Vicinity Map of the Darby Hub*

- **Darby House and Store** = 2 acres
- **Woodstock Equestrian Park**= 127 acres
- **Sugarland Special Park** = 73 acres
- **Ten Mile Creek Conservation Park** = 50 acres
- **Little Seneca SVU#1** = 32 acres
- **Rickman Farm** = 50 acres
- **Boyds Local Park** = 30 acres
- **Dry Seneca SVU** = 24 acres

Total potential acreage = 388

Service area hub and 5 mile radius

56

***Exhibit G** - Vicinity Map of the Holland Hub*

- **Holland/Red Door Store**
- **Northwest Branch SVU #7** = 63 acres
- **Ag. History Farm Park** = 89 acres
- **Muncaster Mill Rec. Park** = 18 acres

Total potential acreage = 170

Service area hub and 5 mile radius

51

***Exhibit H** - Vicinity Map of the Watkins Hub*

- **Ovid Hazen Recreational Park** = 86 acres
- **Goshen Recreational Park** (Butler's Orchard) = 70 acres
- **Huyhn Property** = 30 acres
- **Lois Green Conservation Park** = 29 acres

Total potential acreage = 215

Service area hub and 5 mile radius

Exhibit I *- Woodstock Equestrian Park Master Plan Map*

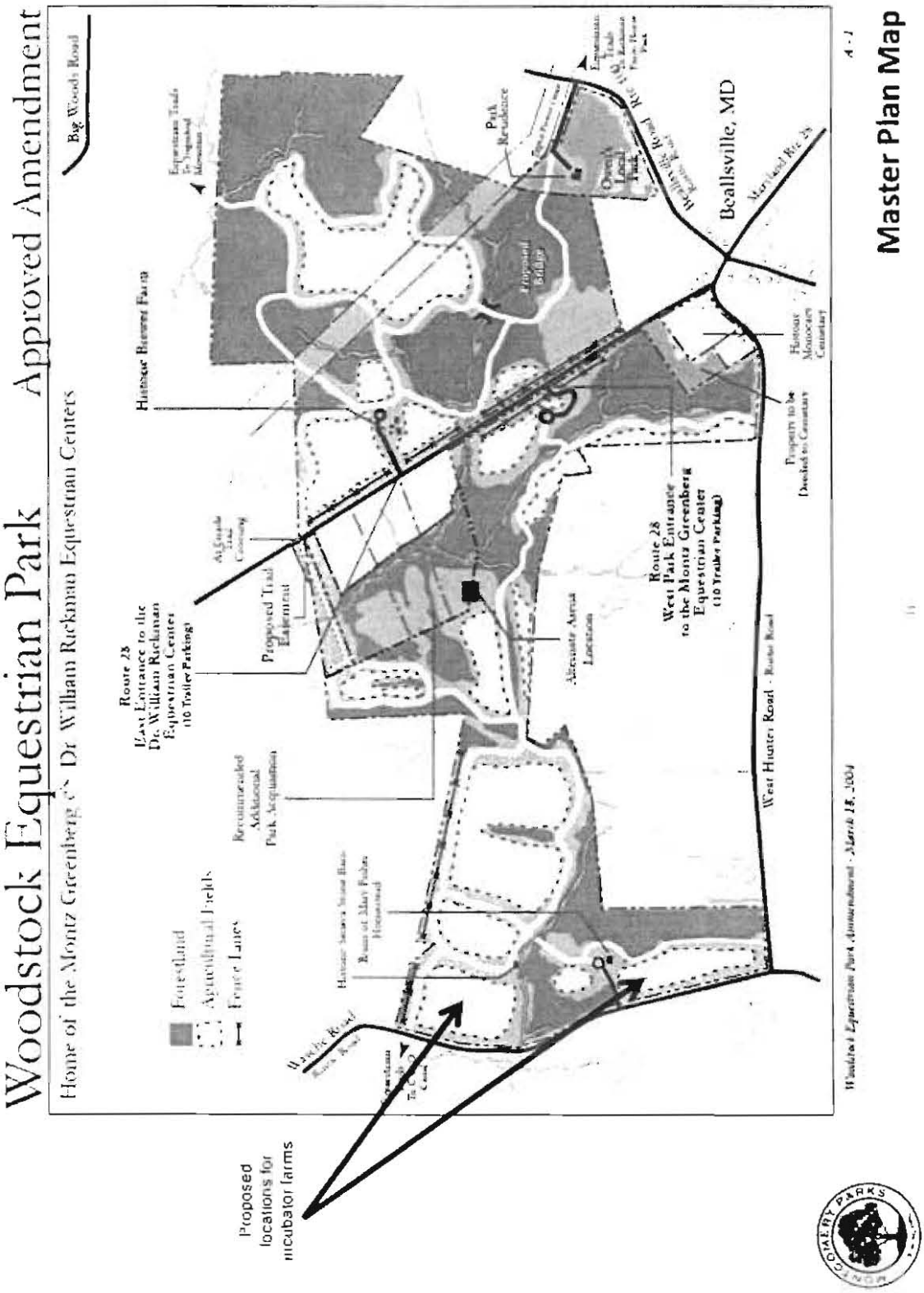

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***Exhibit J** - Possible Funding Sources for the Montgomery County Small Farm Incubator Project*

Prepared by Montgomery Countryside Alliance 5/5/2010

Public Funding

USDA- Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program - National

- **Relevant Focus:** A grant funding cooperative development to improve the economic conditions in rural areas.
- **Similar Recent Grants:** Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund used this grant to establish a vegetable processing and marketing cooperative, a regional goat processing and marketing cooperative, a timber cooperative, and for updating business plans and training for community development credit unions.
- **Grant Levels:** $200,000 max

USDA- Community Food Projects - National

- **Relevant Focus:** Funding proactive approaches to maintaining food systems while addressing food, nutrition and farm issues. Multipurpose community food projects.
- **Similar Recent Grants:** Red Wiggler Community Farm, Garden Harvest, a nonprofit in Glydon, MD that establishes community gardens to feed the hungry. A plethora of local food incubator projects across the country.
- **Grant Levels:** 10,000-300,000 from 1-3 years. Requires a dollar-for-dollar match.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education - Sustainable Community Grant (SARE)

- **Relevant Focus:** An emphasis on model projects that others can emulate that address community development and sustainable agriculture. Projects should bring about systematic change on more than one farm.
- Similar Recent Grants: Microfinance for new farmers, restaurant-farmer partnerships, and beginning farmer round tables.
- Grant Levels: capped at $15,000 for 2010
- Notes: SARE staff has told MCA that they would like to fund more projects in Maryland.

Private Funding

Wallace Genetic Foundation - Washington DC

- **Relevant Focus:** Sustainable agriculture, preserving farmland near cities
- **Similar Past Grants:** American Farmland Trust, Takoma Park Farmers Market, Farm to School, Audubon Naturalist Society, The Growing Farmers program of the Stone Barn Center in New York
- **Grant Levels:** $25,000-$40,000

Abell Foundation, Baltimore MD

- **Relevant Focus:** Conservation, protection of farmland, watershed protection, job training, economic development.
- **Similar Past Grants:** Harry Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology in Queenstown, MD, The Patuxent 20/20 program to stem unchecked growth, a virtual farmers market website at the University of

MD, an open space campaign with 1000 Friends of Maryland, a grant to the Chester River Association to aid in collaboration between environmental groups and farmers.

- **Grant Levels:** Not specifically stated, $5,000-$75,000 in past grants.
- **Notes:** Funding priorities include seed money for projects that address recalcitrant problems and planning grants for large programs. Operation expenses will not be funded. Some past multi-year grants.

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation - Metro Area (PG, MC, DC, NOVA)

- **Relevant Focus:** Environmental Conservation as a subset of Community Services
- **Similar Past Grants:** Red Wiggler Community Farm, Earth Conservation Corps
- **Grant Levels:** Past grants seem to fall between $10,000-$60,000

W.K Kellogg Foundation – National

- Relevant Focus: Healthy Kids, Civic Engagement
- Similar Recent Grants: Center for Rural Affairs in Lyons, NE, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Ag (PASA), Appalachian Sustainable Ag Project, many projects funded to increase the supply and value of locally grown food
- Grant Levels: hundreds of thousands for similar projects
- Notes: current focus on the role local food can play in combating childhood obesity.