



A Menu for Food Justice

Strategies for Improving Access to Healthy Foods
in Allegheny County



Zachary Murray
Emerson Hunger Fellow

Table of Contents

The Soup- A Light Intro to Food Deserts	4
The Salad- A Food Justice Mix	6
Fishes and Loaves	11
The Main Course: A Taste of the Region	13
Methods	14
Clairton, PA	16
Millvale, PA	19
McKees Rocks and Stowe Township, PA	21
Pittsburgh East End (East Hills, Homewood, Larimer, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar)	24
Pittsburgh Northside (Fineview, Manchester, Northview Heights, Perry South, Spring Hill, Spring Garden, Troy Hill)	27
Pittsburgh Southside Hilltop (Allentown, Arlington, Arlington Heights, Knoxville, Mt Oliver, St Clair)	33
City of Pittsburgh Sub-Analysis	36
Dessert not Deserts: Opportunities for Healthy Food in Your Community	41
Policy Recommendations	43

Acknowledgements

Just Harvest extends its profound thanks to the Congressional Hunger Center for placing Emerson Hunger Fellow Zachary Murray with Just Harvest for this project during the fall and winter of 2012-2013. Though a short-term visitor to the Pittsburgh area for this project, Zachary ably led the assessment of food desert issues facing our community and is the chief author of this report. The Center's assistance to Just Harvest over several years is deeply appreciated.

We extend our thanks to the numerous individuals and organizations quoted in this report for their time, interest, and expertise. In addition, we appreciate the generosity of time and spirit showed by many store owners, managers, and employees who welcomed Zach and his team of volunteers as they assessed resources, product mix, and prices at their stores.

We are especially thankful to several volunteers, particularly from the Chatham University Food Studies Program and the Pittsburgh Jewish Social Justice Roundtable, for their able assistance in these neighborhood field assessments and for their wise counsel during the preparation of this report.

Kenneth C. Regal, Executive Director
Just Harvest
June 2013

About Just Harvest

Founded in 1986, Just Harvest educates, empowers and mobilizes people to eliminate hunger, poverty, and economic injustice in our communities by influencing public policy, engaging in advocacy, and connecting people to public benefits. We are guided by the understanding that hunger is a symptom of poverty and that poverty is a product of social and economic injustice. Rather than charity, public policies which respond to these conditions and to the needs of poor people are the best approaches to the elimination of hunger and poverty.

About the Congressional Hunger Center

The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that works to make issues of domestic and international hunger a priority to policymakers in the U.S. government, and to raise a new generation of leaders to fight against hunger and poverty. Its mission is to train and inspire leaders who work to end hunger, and to advocate public policies that create a food secure world. Its Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program is a social justice program that trains, inspires, and sustains leaders. Fellows gain field experience fighting hunger and poverty through placements in community based organizations across the country, and policy experience through placements in Washington, D.C. The program bridges community-based efforts and national public policy, and fellows develop as effective leaders in the movement to end hunger and poverty. Learn more at www.hungercenter.org.

The Soup- A Light Intro to Food Deserts

Food Insecurity and Hunger

Food insecurity was intensified during the Great Recession of 2008 as high levels of unemployment and wage stagnation led to a rise in national household hunger. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as Food Stamps is one of the United States' largest social safety net programs. SNAP, a critical tool in the alleviation of poverty, provides low-income families with additional income for the purchase of food. In Allegheny County 161,787 individuals received SNAP benefits in April 2013, representing a 43.6 percent increase in participation in six years. Yet despite increased enrollment, many more families still face tough decisions between paying for food and paying for other necessities such as housing, heat, or health care.

Hunger is estimated to cost the economy \$167.5 billion yearly due to lost economic productivity, as well as the cost associated with ensuing sub-par education outcomes, health care spending, and charity.¹ Part of the problem is that many communities lack adequate access to food altogether. The cost and magnitude of hunger and the economic benefits of potential solutions provide an opportunity for businesses, policymakers, and communities alike to support improved local food resources. As complex forces from globalization to climate change to biotechnology affect our entire food supply, policymakers must be proactively engaged in solutions that result in the more effective delivery of services and food to communities. And as hunger and food insecurity increase, it is critical that communities pursue initiatives to bolster the local food system and maximize self-reliance.

Focus on Allegheny County

In Allegheny County, a number of existing initiatives are improving access to and the availability of healthy foods. Local residents are responding to the need for better more sustainable food by planting backyard and community gardens and developing community-wide efforts to support urban farms and farmers markets that provide locally sourced food. Yet in far too many Allegheny County communities, access to affordable healthy food remains elusive.

According to a 2012 report prepared for the US Department of the Treasury CDFI Fund Capacity Building Initiative, among cities with populations of 250,000-500,000, Pittsburgh has the largest percentage of people residing in communities with "low-supermarket access" (LSA). Approximately 47% or 145,245 Pittsburgh residents experience low access and 71% of city LSA residents are low-income. Greater Pittsburgh has a composite ranking of second for the number impacted by low access. In the metro area, including all of Allegheny County, 18% of residents or 422,513 people reside in LSA communities. Of the metro's LSA area residents, 57% are low income. The high percentage of low-supermarket access areas in the Pittsburgh metro corresponds with the forth-highest rate of obesity (29.3%) among US metro areas.² The statistics provided depict a region in which access to

¹ Center for American Progress Report

² CDFI report

healthy food appears to be more of a privilege than a right of all citizens.

Communities with low supermarket access are also known as “food deserts”. Residents of these communities often travel well over a mile to access healthy foods most commonly available at grocery stores and supermarkets. Food deserts are most commonly populated by vulnerable low-income and communities of color who experience food insecurity at higher than normal rates. The prevalence of small corner stores, convenience stores, and fast food as well as the absence of sources of fresh healthy food constitute a poor food environment. The scarcity of healthy options is intensified by risk factors such as low-incomes, absence of reliable transportation, and lack of cooking time or knowledge. Physical distance to healthy food adds pressure to vulnerable populations and is frequently linked to the poor diet and to disease.



M.A. Lucas Meats and Groceries, Perry South

How this Report Addresses Food Deserts

Concern for this dynamic form of injustice is on the rise. A number of investigations and reports seek to determine which communities lack healthy food access and how residents contend with difficulties with the additional burden. Reports like this one are used to inform a number of policy responses and community food security efforts being undertaken around the country. Therefore this report assesses the local food justice landscape and provides a comprehensive assessment of the food desert status of a number of the region’s most vulnerable communities. These assessments arm communities and policymakers with knowledge about how factors such as food access, food availability, and transportation have an impact on area residents. With this knowledge of the dimensions of local food deserts, the report draws on local and national programs to lay a framework of policy recommendations for city and county officials, businesses, foundations, non-profits, and community leaders to pursue while improving food access throughout Allegheny County.

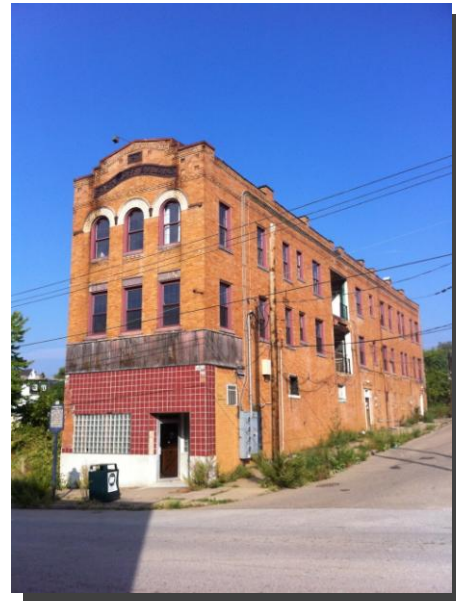
This report recognizes that in changing a food desert to a food oasis “one size doesn’t fit all.” Some communities might benefit from stronger corner stores with a better selection of healthy foods; others might be good locations for farmers’ markets. In others a new supermarket might be economically viable. To move forward toward a range of possible long-term solutions in human services, public policy, and community economic development; more community level information is needed. This report captures common determinants of food preferences and choice; local food and agriculture systems; and food access and food justice. Applied research tools including the Pitt Food Abundance Index aided our efforts in this regard.

The Salad- A Food Justice Mix

The Hill District is the logical starting place for a narrative on food justice in Pittsburgh, PA. This historic hub of local African American culture has lacked a grocery store for over 30 years. Over that period, residents of the Hill District “relied on local mom and pop stores, dollar stores, or bus rides and jitneys to stores outside of the community,” says Terri Baltimore, Vice President of Neighborhood Development for The Hill House Association. However, due to the sustained struggle of voices within the community, residents will soon have access to a new grocery store without leaving the Hill.

Centre Heldman Plaza, the soon to be home of Shop ‘n Save market, is the result of successful efforts by the Hill House Economic Development Corporation to leverage diverse funding resources including the Urban Redevelopment Authority, a Community Benefits Agreement with the newly constructed CONSOL Arena, and state and local grants and incentives. The new grocery store development fits perfectly into Hill House’s broader endeavors including the revitalization of the Centre Avenue corridor and will provide the community with a new anchor for local commerce and employment. The hope is that a new grocery store will retain dollars in the community, trigger additional redevelopment, and help to lift the image of the Hill District.

Although the Hill does not meet the formal USDA definition³ of a food desert, the high traction of poverty, geographic isolation, and the lack of healthy retail options in the community clearly confirms the food desert dynamic. The situation is so compelling that the Hill along with Homewood are subjects of one of the nation’s most ambitious studies of food deserts to date. The RAND Corp’s 5-year NIH funded “PHRESH” study focuses on measuring the impact of changes in local food retail on residents in two low-income urban locations. Although data from the first year of the study which records the shopping, eating, and health habits of hundreds of Hill and Homewood residents “does not yet tell the impact of neighborhood changes, it does provide a rigorous snapshot of what’s going on in the neighborhood” says Tamara Dubowitz, Social Epidemiologist and head researcher for PHRESH at the RAND Corp.



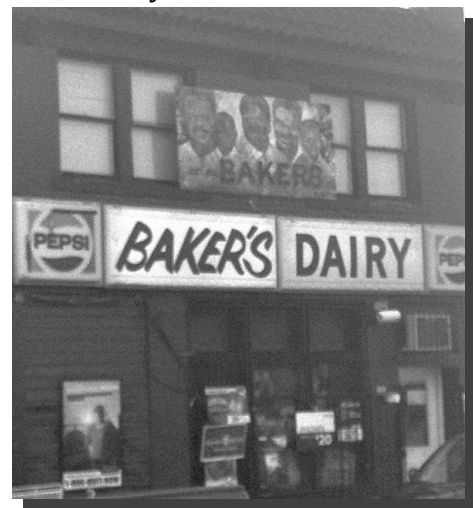
The Old Crawford Grill, The Hill

Among the important early findings from the study, 50 percent of Hill residents experience food insecurity, a rate 3.5 times the national rate. Also Hill residents travel on average 3.7 miles for major grocery shopping. In Homewood, where “two-thirds of surveyed

³ see www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas.aspx

residents have a household income less than \$20,000 per year” food insecurity and distance traveled for major grocery shopping are comparably high; however, unlike the Hill, Homewood is not slated to open a new major grocery store. “Bridging the Busway,” a plan for community revitalization along transit hubs, lists a new anchor grocery store at Homewood and Hamilton Avenues as an important priority in the equitable redevelopment of Homewood, but the plan also finds that a new “grocery store is unlikely to open at this location until the surrounding neighborhood stabilizes.” In Homewood, surmounting concerns about concentrated abandonment, crime, and poverty remains a barrier to development.

Therefore, a number of existing initiatives are developing collective and indigenous solutions to the Homewood food desert. Kayla Watkins, Health and Wellness coordinator for the Homewood Children’s Village (HCV) says that the RAND study provides much useful information however, “the study is also a bit limited. Most surveyed residents were elderly and lived without children in the home. This doesn’t fully reflect all realities in Homewood. Our work at HCV focuses on Homewood’s children and families, and from our experience many families have not made healthier fresh options a priority yet.” According to Watkins, organizations in the area like HCV, Bible Center Church, and the YMCA are focused on “providing healthier options in Homewood while stressing community based ownership of the experience. It’s really about the whole community.” This approach recognizes the importance of the community’s voice and participation in the development of any new program or initiative in Homewood.



Bakers Dairy, Homewood.

Dr. Stephanie Boddie and Dr. John Wallace are engaged in research and development to overcome barriers to new food retail development in Homewood. As faculty members at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, their involvement in Homewood is lending additional academic credibility to the fight for healthy food. To overcome the lingering challenges of crime and poverty, Boddie and Wallace are proposing ideas such as community currency, time banking, and a cashless market. The Homewood “food hub” concept would provide the community with a new centrally located healthy food interface, featuring a storefront pantry, community café, commercial kitchen, culinary training center, farm, and food business incubation center. This type of bold and visionary thinking about community food systems often involves collaborations with organizations including Grow Pittsburgh and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Grow Pittsburgh is at the forefront of the city’s efforts to use urban agriculture as a tool for neighborhood revitalization and self-sufficiency. According to Executive Director Julie Pezzino, Grow Pittsburgh is “aware of what activist Karen Washington calls ‘food apartheid.’ We want to empower people who don’t have access to buy food, to grow it for themselves.” Although most discussion of food deserts focuses on supermarkets as the solution, Grow Pittsburgh is confident that community gardens can affect food deserts just as

well. “Our City Growers program focuses on empowerment and our 12 gardens—each located in food deserts and high poverty communities throughout the city and county—are well received by the community,” says Pezzino.

Since its founding in 2005, Grow Pittsburgh has worked to build a base of support for urban agriculture in each community it engages. Recognizing that some challenges are unique to place and that gardens are rarely successful without existing capacity from within the community, Grow Pittsburgh seeks to be “strategic in determining what communities can benefit most from a relationship with the organization.” The focus is on building upon existing capacity to ensure the long-term sustainability of the community garden. Von Singletary, Director of Landslide Community Farm in the Hill says that if “we are to get to a point of intentionally sustainable communities, it will be because the residents on the block are part of the team, so Landslide promotes access to sustainable living for all.” Recently Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl’s office announced grants to support expanded remediation and urban gardening on vacant lots throughout the city. Knowledge about community engagement is a particularly useful resource that could help ensure the success of the city’s Green Up Edible Gardens in over a dozen of the city’s low-income food desert communities.



Braddock Farms, Grow Pittsburgh

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is one of the region's strongest assets in the local fight against hunger. The Food Bank runs several programs through which it distributes 27 million pounds of food per year. Although most food is distributed through the Food Bank's extensive network of Food Pantries, the Food Bank also runs unique neighborhood distribution programs. Now in its twentieth year, the Farm Stand Project makes fresh produce available in a number of food desert communities including the Hill District and Homewood. Project Director Vicki Lish describes the farm stand as "a partnership between the Food Bank and local nonprofit community organizations." The Food Bank buys top quality produce from local farms and provides support for community organizations to sell the produce at stands outside of community centers, senior centers, and churches. Each stand is equipped to accept EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer for Food Stamps), as well as Farmers' Market Nutrition Program benefits to WIC participants and low-income seniors. Farm Stand staff complement the produce with recipes, nutrition education, and cooking demonstrations.

Additionally, the Food Bank's *Produce to People* (P2P) program provides fresh produce and grocery items to families below 150% of poverty in eight Allegheny County communities. According to program staff two trucks distribute 20,000 pounds of food to 500-700 families in just two hours at each site. Through P2P the Food Bank is gathering knowledge about where food insecure families live, shop, and how far they travel for food. The Food Bank regularly complements its initiatives with research such as the Allegheny County Gap Study which measures countywide food insecurity and offering enhancements to local policy.

Collaboration between the Food Bank through P2P and the Pittsburgh Hilltop Alliance has resulted in successful spinoff research into the food access concerns of Southside Hilltop residents. "We have 5-6 pantries that are over capacity, they can't accept new people. So folks must travel an additional 20 minutes to a pantry outside their community" says Pat Murphy, former Director of the Hilltop Alliance. The Alliance is currently conducting research to assess the availability of food in the communities on the Southside. The conclusion according to Murphy: "many people go without fresh produce in our community. We must work with every tool in the toolbox to get fresh produce into the 12 communities we've assessed here." To that end, the Hilltop Alliance is considering models including a storefront for Food Bank produce distribution.

Pittsburgh Sustainability Coordinator Aftyn Giles offers a similar assessment of area needs. According to Giles those interested in a solution to food deserts should "find out from the people what the barriers to fresh produce are and find ways to make sense of their needs, like targeting culturally appropriate foods." Giles cites the city government's recent support for urban gardening as one example of a shift in focus toward more community outreach and engagement on sustainability. In February 2011, Grow Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council (PFPC), and other allies advocated with Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning to secure passage of the city's first Urban Agriculture Zoning Code. The new code provides city growers with added protections though Grow Pittsburgh and PFPC remain involved in advocacy and education about the code.

Building upon its relationship with city government and with support from the Food Policy Council, Just Harvest secured permission to pilot implementation of EBT /Food Stamp acceptance at Pittsburgh's CitiParks Farmers Markets. Launched in May 2013 at the Northside and East Liberty markets, this program enables food stamp users to shop at the markets and enables local farmers to sell fresh affordable produce to low-income shoppers. However, to achieve long-term success, PFPC members urge the need for deeper community engagement: "we need to clarify the role of the city going forward and identify strategies for community involvement, participation, and ownership in the markets" says PFPC chair Heather Mikulas. In order to do so, PFPC is currently leading a community marketing campaign to expand the visibility and popularity of the Citiparks markets.

The importance of community is a shared value across sectors in the food system. Justin Pizzella, general manager of the East End Food Coop, says that food deserts represent a "supply chain challenge" affected by national, state, and local policy. Therefore, the Coop has developed an approach that "plugs into the community through our social mission and financial targets." According to Pizzella, the coop operates on a "triple bottom line model, taking profits and reinvesting them into the community." The Coop sees its role as *part* of the solution, "we can't be the whole solution but we can facilitate changes in community food systems." However, Pizzella stresses that with food access there are "a number of overlapping issues like childcare and transportation. We have to find the people in the community who work on those issues and bring them to the table." To that end, the Coop can work on "immediate steps" like expanding the Coop in a way that is good for business and community, building support for good food within communities, and connecting with organizations and urban agriculture groups to develop new markets for produce. One such effort that Pizzella credits for "its support within the community, commitment, and sweat equity" is the Fishes and Loaves Buying club (F&L) in Hazelwood. F&L is the brainchild of Rev. Les Boone and a number of volunteers who assist in the biweekly delivery of groceries to the elderly and others unable to access fresh food in Hazelwood.

Hazelwood is also the site of the largest remaining waterfront site in the city of Pittsburgh. The former Almona brownfield site is slated for nearly a billion dollars of development investment. "There is change happening here, so we must develop new sustainable models to meet the needs of the people already here and those to come" says Boone. One such model that Boone and a small team of investors are proposing is the adaptive reuse of a former church building into an indoor market and community center. "We can create a new destination on Second Avenue," says Diane Schenk, an F&L volunteer who has developed a business plan for the market. The plan calls for the creation of a new social space that would include a market with fresh produce and meat and stalls for local entrepreneurs as well as a community resource center with an Internet café, job training, and an incubator for microenterprises.

For more on Fishes and Loaves see the article on the next page.

Fishes and Loaves

On a bright Saturday morning in the basement of Hazelwood Christian Church shop is set up. Inside the well-built but humble brick church on a quiet corner, a steady stream of volunteers and members busy themselves checking out the display of produce neatly arranged throughout. Bags and more bags of fresh produce ranging from apples, bananas, and oranges to peppers, kale, and collard greens line the tables. This fresh food oasis is one determined community's response.

"Progress is slow, but it's coming," says Bill Kulina property manager at Hazelwood Towers, a large apartment complex for senior citizens located next door to the church. We've got some people with physical limitations they can't go too many places." But on Saturdays twice monthly, residents at Hazelwood Towers have a new destination: Fishes and Loaves buying club.

Hazelwood is a food desert. The USDA lists it among the areas in Allegheny County where residents—many with low-incomes—must travel well over a mile to reach the nearest

over a mile to reach the nearest grocery or supermarket. According to Fishes & Loaves volunteer Diane Schenk, "Hazelwood is isolated within the city, transportation is an acute problem compared to other places in Pittsburgh." It is hard to leave the community or get to a grocery store, without pounding the pavement uphill for at least 30 minutes.

Fishes and Loaves is an effort born right in Hazelwood to meet the needs of area residents, especially the most vulnerable in the community.



"We won't wait 20 years or more for food in Hazelwood"
-Reverend Les Boone

The buying club started because determined community members and friends decided "we won't wait 20 years or more for food in Hazelwood" says Reverend Les Boone, one of F&L's founders and club managers. From that point, Rev. Boone and a number of others from churches and organizations working in Hazelwood drew up a plan to "do something out of the box."

According to Rev. Boone, the number of young families, single moms, dads, and elderly residents in the community creates serious hunger challenges. "We had a number of services like two food pantries, Food Bank food boxes, and Meals on Wheels, but many seniors complained about the foods available to them, much of it—canned goods—that have preservatives and lack nutritional value. So we decided to get into people's food business, to see what they eat and

how it affects their health."

Joann and Shirley neighbors in the Towers and club members discussing their experiences with food shopping as residents of Hazelwood characterize it as "rough". "We thought we were going to get a store, but we've got no place to go to the here," says Joann, 71. "I can take Access (public transportation shuttle for the elderly and



Rev. Leslie Boone (seated) with F&L Volunteers
Photo: Diane Shenk

disabled), but I have to call a day ahead. I didn't even have a ride to get X-rays, I can't afford a cab, and the jitneys are worse than the cabs" says Joann.

Shirley, 79 has children in the area that can provide her with a ride to a Giant Eagle or Wal-Mart when needed. But in addition to lists of her own, she often takes along Joann's lists. Joann who lost her \$40 monthly food stamp allocation when she was in the hospital says that, "if it weren't for Shirley, I wouldn't have groceries or my medicine." Joann and Shirley's story is common in the towers. Most residents depend little on government assistance, and have created their own strategies for dealing with life in a food desert.

"We've got the fruit stand in the summer" recalls Carol, towers resident and club member, but when that Farm Stand run by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank closes up for the season, residents must take the bus or find rides to distant grocery stores.

"I used to go the Strip all the time, but this brings the Strip right to us," said one resident. That's because Fishes and Loaves has enlisted two staples of the famous Strip District, fish and produce from Wholey's and loaves from Mancini's Breads.

Fishes and Loaves members get food from an order form and pick up their order either at the church or at a lunchtime gathering in the Towers.

In the Towers social lounge, residents enjoy delicious meals using many of the vegetables and items available on the order form. On this particular January day, residents enjoyed a Stuffed green pepper soup to warm the soul and chocolate chip cookies to sweeten the palette. "Soup and desert, brings together the residents, we get people who are very social and people who are less social to come together and break bread" say Kulina.

For residents who are not members or who did not order food, volunteers buy extra produce to sell during the meal in the towers. Often residents are treated to free produce. They can familiarize themselves with new vegetable options like artichoke and spend the week trying new recipes available to them. Reverend Boone can regularly be heard discussing health and nutrition with residents offering a kind ear and words of encouragement. Fishes and Loaves is added value in a community slated for major change, but still heavily affected by the loss of jobs and decline in the real estate market.

Vacant Storefronts dot the landscape on Miller Avenue in Clairton, PA



The Main Course: A Taste of the Region

Community Food Environment Profiles

Methods

The USDA defines food deserts as low-income communities with a poverty rate of 20 percent or more that are located one mile from a supermarket or grocery store (or ten miles in a rural setting). However, much debate over this definition continues. The USDA definition misses out on several important factors that help to define food access. The USDA does not account for the unique geographic elements of place. In Allegheny County there are many communities that are located within a mile from a grocery store but separated by steep hills that severely impede walkability. What can be under a mile as the crow flies, is often much more distant because residents must take routes that account for the unique hilly topography of the region.

Moreover, the USDA does not take into account the significance of transportation access. In some communities overall poverty levels are low but the number of residents without access to a vehicle is high and public transportation access is low. There is no fully definitive meaning for food deserts and scholars are still debating an acceptable standard. However, one thing is clear; those interested in food deserts should consider the full range of elements and in what way those factors affect resident access.

Therefore, this research project brings together several important demographic factors to assess the food desert status of communities in Allegheny County. Using Census data from the 2010 Census and American Communities Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Survey, we selected communities based on important demographic data including the percentage of residents below poverty, median household income percentage of households without a vehicle, and the percentage of children and elderly residents. In addition Geographic Information System (GIS) tools were used to determine the location of food retailers and to determine the distance between the center of communities and the nearest retailer. Our report does not attempt to profile all impacted neighborhoods, but explores a variety of communities to reflect the diversity of localized issues and resources that are part of the food access challenge.

Finally the Food Abundance Index (FAI) a tool developed by Audrey Murrell and researchers affiliated with the Business School at the University of Pittsburgh was used to measure the local food environment. The FAI is an accessible and comprehensive tool available to aid communities in assessing the food environment. The Index takes into account five dynamics of food availability including access, diversity, quality and density, and

accessibility. These factors are measured on a score card that enables communities to determine whether they are “food deserts,” “food gap communities,” “food clusters,” or – the highest level – “a food bounty community.” Leakage (the food dollars spent by residents in other communities) and retail demand were calculated using data from The Reinvestment Fund.

The community profiles feature demographic profiles, the assessment results, and recommendations for immediate community level action where possible. Community food environment maps provided in this section were developed using Community Commons, a free online GIS tool. These maps show community poverty rates, the location of all farmers markets and local retailers who accept SNAP. This section also includes further analysis of food access across the City of Pittsburgh, examining walkability, average distance to supermarkets, and store locations for all neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh.

In the Retailer Listings that follow as part of our assessment, individual stores are categorized as follows: 1) “Assessed” indicates whether or not we conducted in-person visits to the store to view the mix of available food products. 2) “Store Type” indicates whether the location is best described as a Convenience Store/Corner Store (CS); a Limited Assortment Store (LAS) – typically larger drugstores or dollar stores with some food aisles but a limited selection of food; a small to medium-sized Grocery Store (GS); a Supermarket (SM); or a Farm Stand. 3) “Fresh Produce” indicates whether or not fresh produce was available for purchase when we visited. 4) “Three Food Groups Available” indicates whether or not at least three of these food categories were available for purchase: Fruits and Vegetables (fresh, canned, or frozen); Breads/Cereals/Grains; Dairy Products; Meats or Beans.

Clairton, PA

A community of just under 7,000 residents located in southeastern Allegheny County along the West banks of the Monongahela River. According to the American Communities Survey, a fourth of Clairton residents live below poverty, 1 in 5 does not own a vehicle, and the USDA recognizes much of Clairton as a food desert.

Vacant storefronts along Miller Ave and St Clair Ave are a glaring reminder of the rapid decline experienced in Clairton over the last 35 years. Some residents still proudly recall the glory of days now passed when businesses lined the blocks of the main commercial corridors and the steel mill provided employment to thousands. Today, the nearest grocery store is located 1.5 miles as the bird flies from the center of Clairton.

However because Clairton is separated from the Elizabeth Giant Eagle by the Monongahela River, the store is actually located 3.5 miles away and those who take the bus must walk an additional .8 miles to the store. To get to the Wal-Mart Supercenter in West Mifflin, riders must cross dangerous roads to transfer to a second bus.

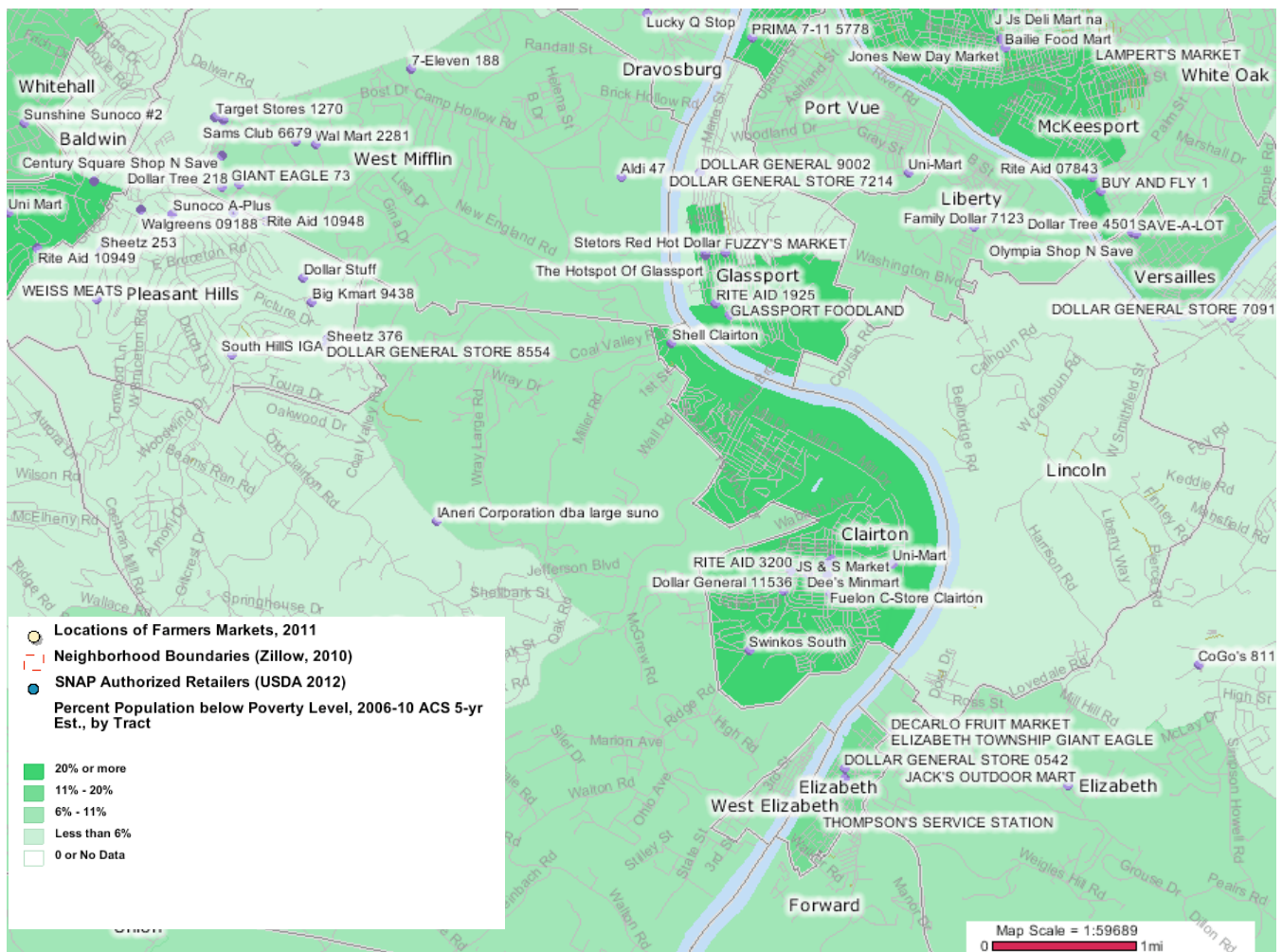
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	CLAIRTON
Population	6,796
Race	58% white; 37.6% black
Median household income	\$29,237
% of children under 15	17.10%
% of people over 60	24%
%s single parent households	14.7%
% below poverty	24%
% employed	59.5%
% no vehicle	24%
Leakage (TRF)	99%
Grocery Retail Demand (TRF)	\$10,100,000
Nearest Supermarket	Giant Eagle Elizabeth
Distance to Supermarket	1.5 mi
FAI Assessment Status	Food Desert

One group working to stem the tide of decline in Clairton is the Clairton Economic Development Council (CEDC). According Jeanette Meacham of the CEDC, because Clairton has not had a grocery store for many years, “most people without cars take busses and jitneys to Elizabeth and Glassport.” Although none of the 10 convenience stores and gas stations we surveyed in Clairton sold fresh produce, some did include healthier options. What is more important, the community is taking strides to provide fresh produce. “The Unity Community Garden just started and many people in town have plots for veggies and the Farm Stand is here once a week,” recalls Meacham.

Recommendations:

Clairton features a limited number of retail options compared to neighboring communities. Port Authority Transit lines should be improved to provide Clairton residents with service to grocery and retail amenities. Although a large number of residents rely on public transportation, no bus line directly connects Clairton residents to the nearest grocery store and more distant but preferred retailers.

Clairton Area Food Environment



Retailer Listing – Clairton

Name	Address	Zip Code	Assessed	Store Type	Fresh Produce	Three Food Groups Available
Family Dollar 4774	533 Miller Ave	15025	Y	LAS	N	Y
Dollar General 11536	620 7th St	15025	Y	LAS	N	Y
Clairton Farm Stand Lifespan	530 Miller Ave	15025	N	Farm Stand	Y	N
Fuelon C-store Clairton	672 Miller Ave	15025	Y	CS	N	N
Swinkos South	1168 Woodland Ave	15025	Y	CS	N	Y
RITE AID 3200	623 Saint Clair Ave	15025	Y	LAS	N	Y
Uni-Mart	551 N State St	15025	Y	CS	N	N
Dee's Minimart	540 Saint Clair Ave	15025	Y	CS	N	N
JS & S Market	404 Saint Clair Ave	15025	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sunoco	344 Pennsylvania Rt51	15025	Y	CS	N	N
Nas Convenience	1168 Desiderio	15025	Y	CS	N	N
11 Stores			9 Assessed		1 with Fresh Produce	4 with Three Food Groups

Millvale, PA

A borough of nearly 4,000 residents located on the North shore of the Allegheny River opposite Pittsburgh. Although the poverty rate in Millvale is comparatively low, the ACS estimates the 1 in 4 households are without a vehicle. Except for the seasonal, once-weekly Food Bank Farm Stand, Millvale residents lack access to fresh produce in the community. None of the assessed convenience stores, gas stations or pharmacies offers substantial fresh produce. From the center of Millvale the nearest grocer by bus, North side Giant Eagle is 3.5 miles and 20 minutes, or residents can travel nearly 1.6 miles to the Shaler Township Shop 'n Save, but by bus they must walk half of the trip.

Millvale residents have fairly rapid and direct bus service. However, the nearest grocery store is not serviced by bus. For vulnerable residents such as single parents (14.4%) or the elderly (also 14.4%), the lack of access to healthy foods in the community poses major challenges. Families and individuals who are bus dependent must sacrifice more time, money, and effort to shop for groceries.

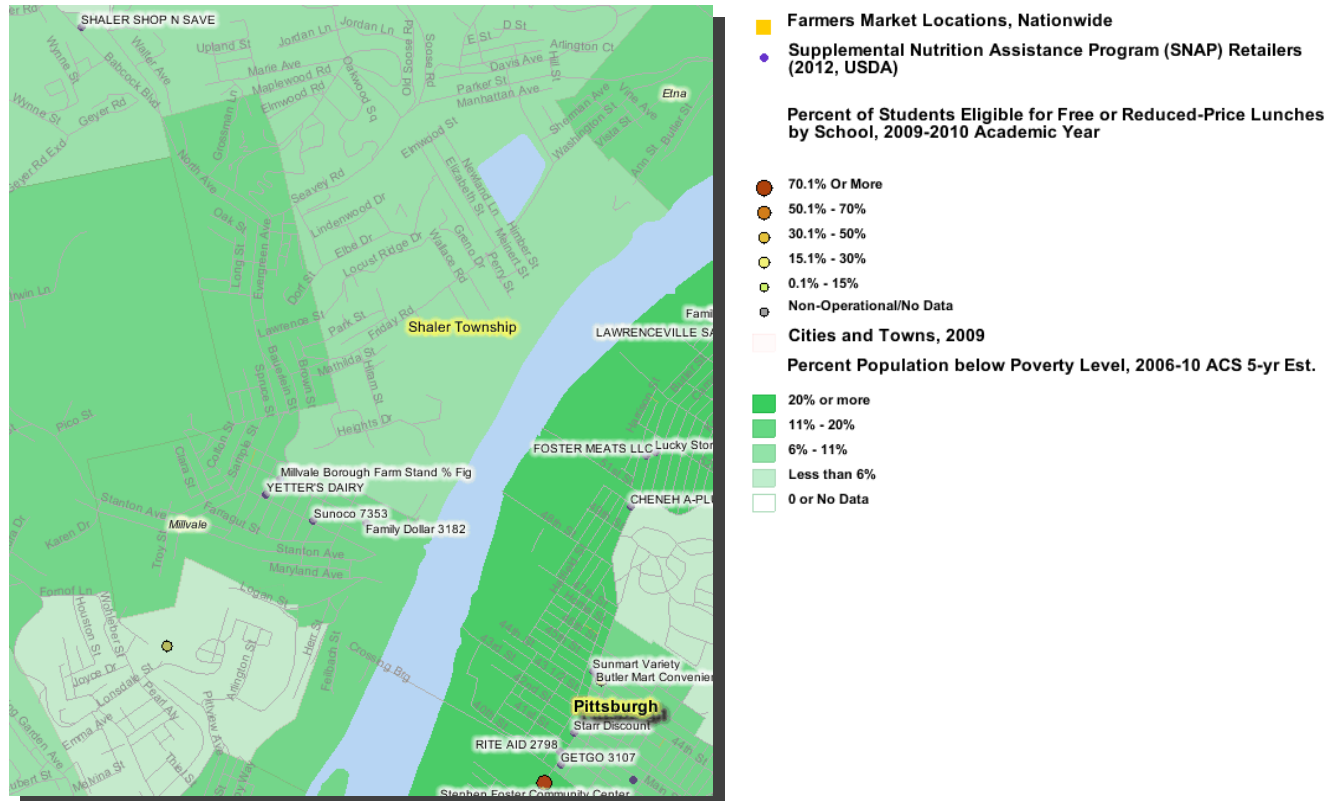
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	MILLVALE
Population	3,744
Race	93.1% white; 6.9% other
Median Household Income	\$36,864
% children under 15	17.3%
% people over 60	18.6%
% single parent households	12%
% below poverty	17.2%
% employed	72%
% no vehicle	23%
Leakage (TRF)	98%
Grocery Retail Demand (TRF)	\$5,800,000
Nearest Supermarket	Shop 'n Save Shaler
Distance	1.6 mi
FAI Assessment Status	Food Desert

Recommendations:

Millvale is an example of an inner-ring suburb and its small size makes it easy to overlook the presence of poverty and the compelling needs of some residents. There are several low density and low population boroughs and towns like Millvale throughout Allegheny County. Although Millvale has a lower population and less retail demand, TRF estimates that 98% of all grocery dollars are leaked into other communities. Local economic development officials and community groups should consider new models to boost the ar-

ea's Main Streets and retain even some portion of the \$6 million dollars that estimates suggest is spent by Millvale residents in places other than Millvale.

Millvale Food Environment



Retailer Listing - Millvale

Name	Address	Zip Code	Assessed	Store Type	Fresh Produce	Three Food Groups Available
Sunoco 7353	300 Grant Ave	15209	Y	CS	N	N
Yetter's Dairy/Candies	504 Grant Ave	15209	N	CS	N/A	N/A
Millvale Borough Farm Stand	501 Lincoln Ave	15209	N	Farm Stand	Y	N
Family Dollar 3182	123 Lincoln Ave	15209	Y	LAS	N	Y
4 Stores			2 Assessed		1 Fresh Produce	1 Three Food Groups

McKees Rocks and Stowe Township, PA

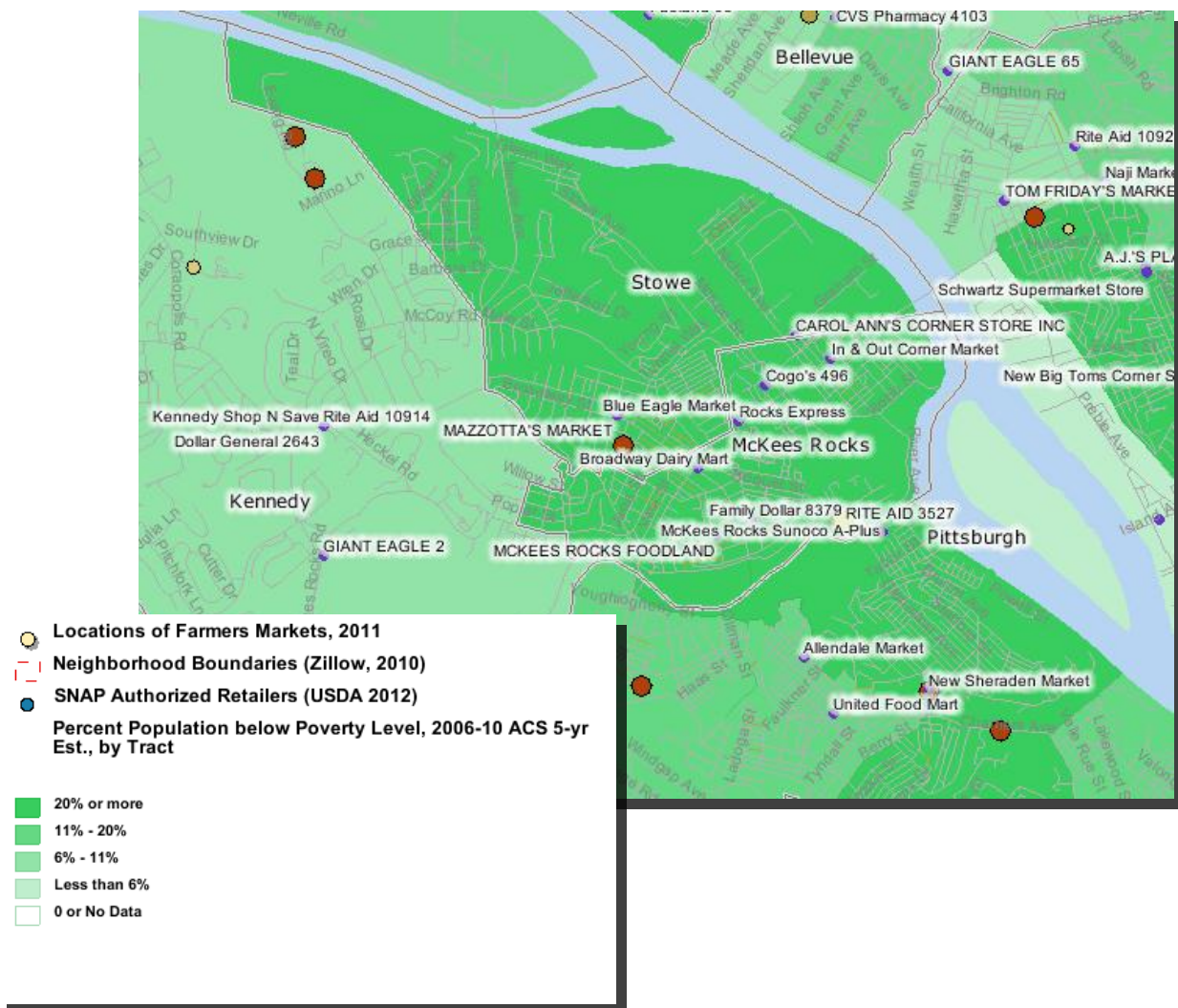
Twin predominately residential communities located just outside of Pittsburgh on the West End along the Ohio River. Between 2000 and 2010, both communities experienced slight declines in population. McKees Rocks is home to a number of food retailers including an Aldi and Bottom Dollar Food, as well as a Food Bank farm stand. Unlike McKees Rocks, Stowe Township has no core business districts and almost entirely lacks food retail. The next closest full service supermarkets are located in suburban Kennedy Township. The location of these supermarkets – in a community with less population density – encourages vehicle use. However, both communities have a large percentage of residents who do not own a vehicle. As such nearly 1 in 2 McKees Rocks residents and 1 in 4 residents of Stowe are dependent on public transportation.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	MCKEES ROCKS	STOWE TOWNSHIP
Population	6,104	6,362
Race	63.8% white; 30.8% black	77.9% white; 17.5% black
Median Household Income	\$22,417	\$33,867
% children under 15	19.30%	19%
% people over 60	19.80%	22.80%
% single parent households	18.10%	14.70%
% below poverty	44.84%	20.04%
% employed	58.40%	62.20%
% no vehicle	45%	21.50%
Leakage (TRF)	42%	78%
Grocery Retail Demand (TRF)	\$4,400,000	\$10,200,000
Nearest Supermarket	Bottom Dollar Food McKees Rocks	Bottom Dollar Food McKees Rocks
Distance	<.5miles	2 miles
FAI Assessment Status	Food Gap	Food Desert

Recommendations:

Much like Millvale, McKees Rocks and Stowe are inner ring suburban communities. Both communities are predominantly residential and could benefit from walk-friendly accessible retail. Local leaders should focus on improving livability in these communities through improvements to the business corridors in McKees Rocks, improving the Main Streets as a destination for residents of both communities. Between the two communities there is a substantial amount of retail demand. These communities are prime for Healthy Corner Stores and a mobile market that targets families, youth, and the elderly.

McKees Rocks and Stowe Township Food Environment



Retailer Listing – McKees Rocks and Stowe Township

Name	Address	Zip Code	Assessed	Store Type	Fresh Produce
Focus on Renewal Farm Stand	420 Chartiers Ave	15136	N	Farm Stand	Y
McKees Rocks Bottom Dollar	1100 Chartiers Ave	15136	N	GS	Y
Carol Ann's Corner Store Inc	2 George St	15136	N	CS	N/A
Family Dollar 8379	821 Chartiers Ave	15136	Y	LAS	N
Rocks Express	700 Frederick St	15136	N	CS	N/A
In & Out Corner Market	300 Helen St	15136	Y	CS	N
Mazzotta's Market	730 Broadway Ave	15136	Y	CS	Some
Rite Aid 3527	155 Chartiers Ave	15136	Y	LAS	N
Blue Eagle Market	726 Broadway Ave	15136	Y	CS	N
Cogo's 496	721 Island Ave	15136	Y	CS	N
Broadway Dairy Mart	412 Broadway Ave	15136	Y	CS	N
11 Stores			8 Assessed		3 with Fresh Produce

Pittsburgh East End

East Hills, Homewood, Larimer, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar

These East End communities are home to high residential segregation, concentrated poverty, and located very long distances from supermarkets. However, the density and tight-knit nature of East Hills, Homewood, Larimer, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar; these factors suggest that the area is primed for a full strategy using existing organizations and capacity to promote healthy food initiatives.

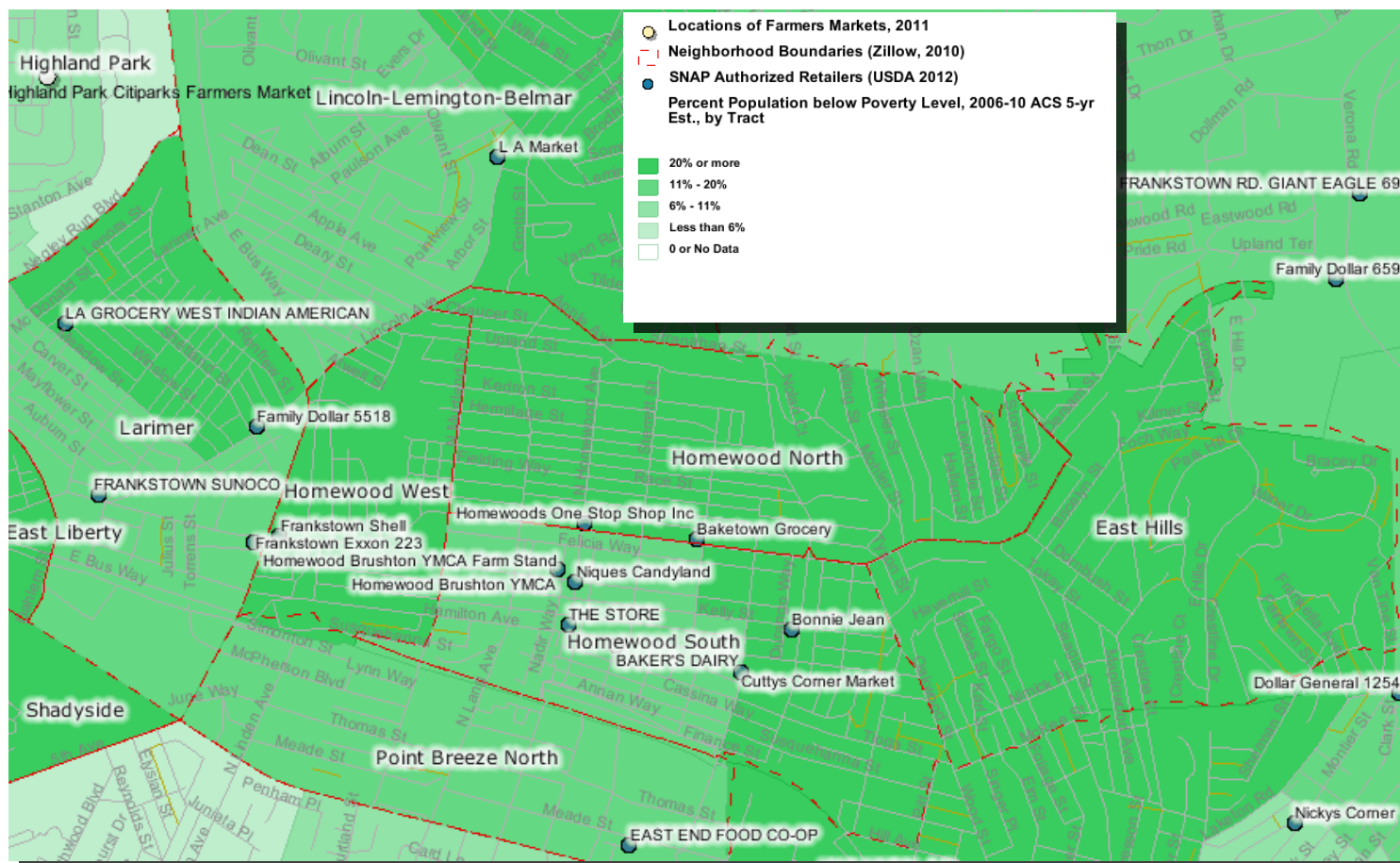
Recommendations:

Local partners need more resources to help infuse the community with healthy food and build demand for fresh produce through direct outreach and engagement. The schools in this community serve a very high proportion of low-income students; therefore, building thoughtful connections with school communities should be a very important priority. Several plans have been produced to transition vacant lots into agricultural use; the full inclusion and engagement of local residents will be critical to success in this arena.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	EAST HILLS	HOMEWOOD	LARIMER	LINCOLN LEMINGTON BELMAR
Population	3169	6,442	1728	4343
Race	93%black; 2% white	94% black; 2% white	85.8% black; 9% white	88.8% black; 8.4% white
Median Household Income	\$22,679	\$22,363.65	26,429	\$33,158.75
% children under 15	34.1	27%	24.61%	26.30%
% people over 60	14.8%	16%	19.75%	19.60%
% single parent households	44.5%	32%	45.50%	25%
% below poverty	44%	33.5%	21.14%	29.17%
% no vehicle	42.6%	41.2%	45%	28%
Leakage (TRF)	97%	100%	94%	100%

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	EAST HILLS	HOMEWOOD	LARIMER	LINCOLN LEMINGTON BELMAR
Grocery Retail Demand (TRF)	\$4,500,000	\$7,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$5,900,000
Nearest Supermarket	Giant Eagle Frankstown	Giant Eagle Shadyside	Giant Eagle Shadyside	Giant Eagle Shadyside
Distance	.9 mile	1.7 miles	.9 mi	1.24 miles
FAI Assessment Status	Food Desert	Food Desert	Food Gap	Food Desert

East End Communities Food Environment



Retailer Listing - East Hills, Homewood, Larimer, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar

Name	Address	Zip Code	Assessed	Store Type	Fresh Produce	Three Food Groups available
Family Dollar 5518	607 Lincoln Ave	15206	Y	LAS	N	Y
Frankstown Shell	6701 Frankstown Ave	15208	Y	CS	N	Y
Bonnie Jean	623 Brushton Ave	15208	N	CS	N/A	N/a
The Store	606 1/2 N Homewood Ave	15208	Y	CS	N	N
Baker's Dairy	7300 Hamilton Ave	15208	Y	CS	Some	Y
East End Food Co-Op	7516 Meade St	15208	N	SM	Y	Y
La Grocery West Indian American	511 Larimer Ave	15206	Y	GS	Some	Y
Cuttys Corner Market	558 N Braddock Ave	15208	Y	CS	N	N
Baketown Grocery	7355 Frankstown Ave	15208	N	N/A	N/A	N/a
Homewood's One Stop Shop Inc	7201 Frankstown Ave	15208	Y	CS	N	Y
Homewood Brushton YMCA Farm Stand	7140 Bennett St	15208	N	Farm Stand	Y	N
LA Market	1407 Lincoln Ave	15206	Y	CS	N	Y
Frankstown Marathon Gas	6680 Frankstown Ave	15206	Y	CS	N	N
Frankstown Sunoco	6481 Frankstown Ave	15206	Y	CS	N	N
Sunoco A-Plus Mini Market	7701 Penn Ave	15221	Y	CS	N	N
Family Dollar 3675	7627 Penn Ave	15221	N	LAS	N	Y
Niques Candyland	712 N Homewood Ave	15208	Y	CS	N	N
Uptown Market	7926 Frankstown Ave	15208	Y	CS	N	Y
Betts Market	815 Brushton Avenue	15208	Y	CS	N	N
19 Stores			14 Assessed		4 with Fresh Produce	9 with Three Food Groups

Pittsburgh Northside: Fineview, Perry South, Manchester

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	FINEVIEW	PERRY SOUTH	MANCHESTER
Population	1285	4,145	2130
Race	51.75% black; 44.28% white	68.7% black; 26.5% white	80.1% black; 16% white
Median Household Income	\$28,913	\$30,322	\$31,103
% children under 15	25.4%	27%	22.4%
% people over 60	11%	15%	13.8%
% single parent households	29.9%	52.9%	33.1%
% below poverty	25.9%	37%	24.6%
% no vehicle	61.8%	50.4%	44.3%
Leakage (TRF)	92%	96%	95.4%
Grocery Retail Demand (TRF)	\$2,300,000	\$5,000,000	\$4,200,000
Nearest Supermarket	Giant Eagle North Side	Kuhn's Market High-wood	Kuhn's Market High-wood
Distance	1.5mi	1.2 mi	1.4mi
FAI Assessment Status	Food Desert	Food Desert	Food Desert

Fineview and Perry Hilltop

Perry Hilltop and Fineview are neighboring Northside communities overlooking downtown Pittsburgh. Home to 4,145 and 1,285 residents respectively, Perry Hilltop and Fineview are economically diverse neighborhoods. Approximately one-third of the residents live below poverty level. The location atop a steep hill separates the area from the nearest grocery stores. Perry South in particular has experienced abandonment; particularly in the interior of the community. Abandoned storefronts such as the Perry Market at 2548 Perrysville Rd are typical in this area.

Although there is some abandonment, the presence of corner stores on Perrysville Rd and nearby Federal St is a clear reminder that these communities live on. The owners of the three area corner stores, Mercy St. Express, Swinkos Perrysville, and Mo's Convenience Store were enthusiastic to speak with the assessment team about their businesses.

The owner and operator of Mercy St. Express suggested that he was willing to sell fresh produce and even had a few small options available; however he indicated some concerns: "I have no connection to local farmers to help expand my selection. I would consider purchasing from a farmer." At Swinkos Perrysville, the owner described lack of space and previous knowledge of produce as barriers for him. Mo of Mo's Convenience Store, said that marketing experience and funding for store improvements are active challenges. All the owners are recent immigrants to Pittsburgh. Greater outreach and support for these groups and other local owners can help to build the strength of these retailers and support improved options in the community.

The Pittsburgh Project is a vital community resource located in Perry South. In addition to afterschool programming and housing rehabilitation work, the Project runs the local Farm Stand in collaboration with the Food Bank and has converted a large lot into a full scale farm. Despite recent funding difficulties, the work of the Pittsburgh Project to support the local food environment is recognized by many across the region.

Manchester

Manchester is an historic neighborhood located immediately north of the North Shore stadium complex. As a result of the redevelopment around the ballparks, Manchester is experiencing a rebound in housing restoration and is conveniently located in close proximity to a thriving business district along Western Avenue. Manchester is also located nearby what can only be described as "fast food row," one of Pittsburgh's largest collections of drive-thru restaurants located on Allegheny Avenue near the stadiums.

WN's Grocery Store is located in the southern part of the neighborhood on North Avenue. Although WN's has a wide selection of well-priced items in a very clean and comforting environment, the store does not carry fresh produce. The nearest sources for fresh produce are Kuhn's Market located 1.4 miles uphill and 10 minutes away from central Manchester by bus; Giant Eagle Northside located 2 miles and 21 minutes by bus from the center of the community; as well as the Northside CitiParks Farmers Market located in Allegheny Park adjacent to Giant Eagle.

Recommendations:

In 2010 there were 2130 residents of Manchester representing a decline of nearly 400 people in the past decade. Although Manchester is not listed among the USDA food deserts, as is nearby the Chateau neighborhood, residents who do not own a vehicle certainly face some barriers to healthy food access. Manchester is a prime community for an initiative to help support a modest expansion of existing grocery retail. Improvements to food retail are a natural step to improve livability and build upon Manchester's assets. This area should be targeted for healthy food retail initiatives.

Retailer Listing - Fineview, Perry South, Manchester

Name	Address	Zip Code	Assessed	Store Type	Fresh Produce	Three Food Groups Available
Family Dollar 6322	1516 Brighton Rd	15212	Y	LAS	N	Y
Doug's Market	1327 Arch St	15212	Y	GS	Y	Y
Charles St Farm Stand - The Pittsburgh Project	2801 N Charles St	15214	Y	Farm stand	Y	N
Circle K 4200	2903 Brighton Rd	15212	Y	CS	N	N
Rite Aid 3459	802 Pennsylvania Ave	15233	Y	LAS	N	Y
Kuhn's Market	1130 Highwood St	15212	Y	GS	Y	Y
Aden Market	1318 Federal St	15212	Y	CS	N	Y
New Big Toms Corner Store	1300 Woodland Ave	15212	Y	CS	N	Y
W-N Grocery	1018 W North Ave	15233	Y	CS	N	Y
Swinkos Market	2535 Perrysville Ave	15214	Y	CS	N	Y
Mercy St Express	6 Mercy St	15214	Y	CS	some	N
Uncle Mikes	11 Carrie St	15212	N	N/A	N/A	N
Mo's Convenience Store	2101 Perrysville Rd	15214	Y	CS	N	Y
13 Stores			12 Assessed		3 with Fresh Produce	9 with Three Food Groups

Pittsburgh Northside:

Northview Heights, Spring Hill, Spring Garden, Troy Hill

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS	SPRING HILL	SPRING GARDEN	TROY HILL
Population	1214	2648	884	2714
Race	90.53% black; 4.7% white	67.94% white; 28.47% black	79.52% white; 15.16% black	81.21% white; 12.2% black
Median Household Income	\$12,933	\$21,875	\$38,418	\$37,057
% children under 15	44.06%	25.34%	20.14%	18.65%
% people over 60	13.01%	16.88%	14.03%	12.20%
% single parent households	76.36%	28.53%	23.47%	13.12%
% below poverty	57.75%	26%	10%	19.72%
% no vehicle	71.50%	42.80%	28.20%	22.40%
Leakage (TRF)	100%	92%	82%	87%
Grocery Retail Demand (TRF)	\$1,900,000	\$3,700,000	\$700,000	\$4,700,000
Nearest Supermarket	Giant Eagle North Side	Giant Eagle Northside	Giant Eagle Northside	Giant Eagle Northside
Distance	3mi	1.5 mi	2.4mi	1.4mi
FAI Assessment Status	Food Desert	Food Desert	Food Desert	Food Desert

Northview Heights

Northview Heights is a public housing community of 1214 residents in one of the northern most parts of the city. Half the residents of this community have moved away since 2000. However, for those who remain, food access is a major challenge. Edna's Market is a small convenience store run by a resident of the community. The store features items that are frequent to any convenience store and has foods available from all food groups; however, there is no fresh produce. One resident described the food shopping process to us as "tough" she mentioned that because "I don't grocery shop here [in Northview

Heights] I have to take a \$15 dollar jitney to and from, it takes 2-3 hours.” The 3 mile 20 minute bus ride is tough on anyone shopping for a sizable family.

Recommendations:

The City and County Housing Authorities should be engaged as natural partners in efforts to improve food access and availability for residents in all units.

Retailer Listing - Northview Heights, Spring Hill, Spring Garden, Troy Hill

Name	Address	Zip Code	Assessed	Store Type	Fresh Produce	Three Food Groups Available
Family Dollar 7104	2020 Spring Garden Ave	15212	Y	LAS	N	Y
Victoria's Dairy	1716 Lowrie St	15212	Y	CS	N	Y
Rite Aid 10928	623 E Ohio St	15212	Y	LAS	N	Y
Isaly's #7020	537 E Ohio St	15212	Y	CS	N	N
Uni Mart	1601 Lowrie St	15212	Y	CS	N	N
Deuschtown Market	1017 Chestnut St	15212	Y	LAS	N	Y
Edna's Market Northview	529 Mt. Pleasant Rd	15212	Y	CS	N	Y
Waltmire's Pharmacy			Y	LAS	N	N
8 Stores			8 Assessed		0 with Fresh Produce	5 with Three Food Groups

Pittsburgh Northside Food Environment



Pittsburgh Southside Hilltop: Arlington, Arlington Heights, South Side Slopes, St Clair, Mt. Oliver, Knoxville, Allentown

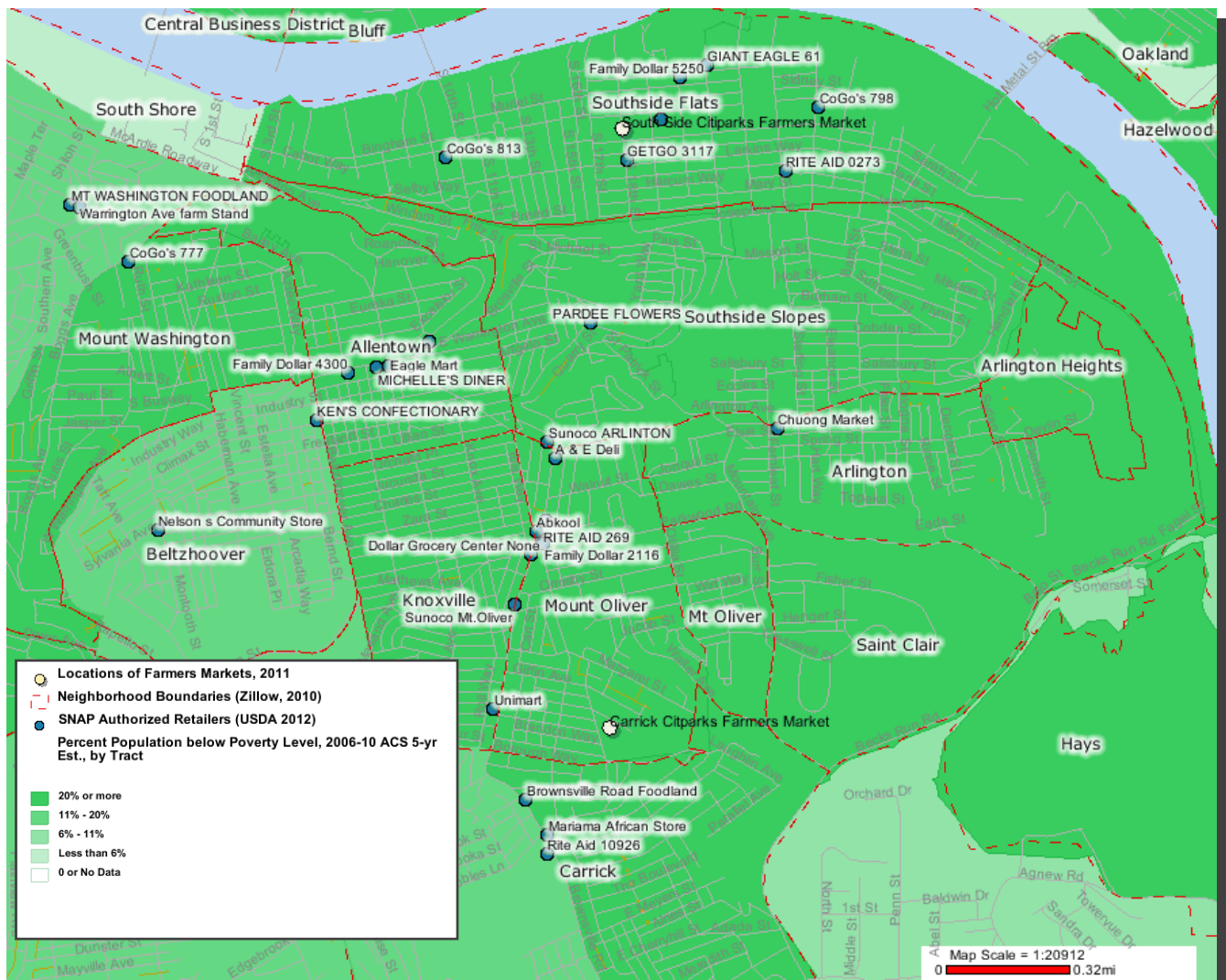
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE	ARLINGTON	SOUTHSIDE SLOPES	ST CLAIR MT OLIVER	KNOXVILLE	ALLENTOWN
Population	2113	4,423	718	3747	2500
Race	68.72% white; 27.26% black	88.24% white; 7.82% black	56.55% white; 40.39% black	51.51% black; 42.78% white	59.4% white; 35.12% black
Median Household Income	\$18,201	\$33,599.95	\$27,727	\$25,693	\$28,000
% children under 15	25.08%	13%	27.44%	31.09%	28.28%
% people over 60	11.36%	12%	11.56%	10.25%	9.76%
% single parent households	37.28%	21.26%	51.06%	35.43%	24.20%
% below poverty	35.98%	31.17%	26.51	33.06%	26.71%
% no vehicle	33.20%	19.54%	38%	42.16%	36.80%
Leakage (TRF)	91%	98%	99%	85%	63%
Grocery Retail Demand (TRF)	\$2,800,000	\$7,200,000	\$700,000	\$3,900,000	\$3,800,000
Nearest Supermarket	Giant Eagle Southside	Giant Eagle Southside	Foodland Brownsville	Foodland Brownsville	Giant Eagle Southside
Distance	1.7 mi	1.6 mi	1.8 mi	1 mile	1.7 mi
FAI Assessment Status	Food Desert	Food Gap	Food Desert	Food Desert	Food Desert

The Hilltop communities are dense residential neighborhoods located atop the steep hillside that separates the area from the Southside Flats and downtown. Although more than 10,000 people inhabit the assessed communities, none of the neighborhoods features a grocery store and most retail does not offer fresh produce.

Recommendations:

Hilltop residents are extremely limited in their options and must depend on the bus and distant stores for food. Efforts should be undertaken to improve retail on Brownsville Rd. located at the center of the area. Mobile markets, healthy corner store efforts, and community garden initiatives all may be part of a comprehensive, long-term, approach to addressing food access on the Hilltop.

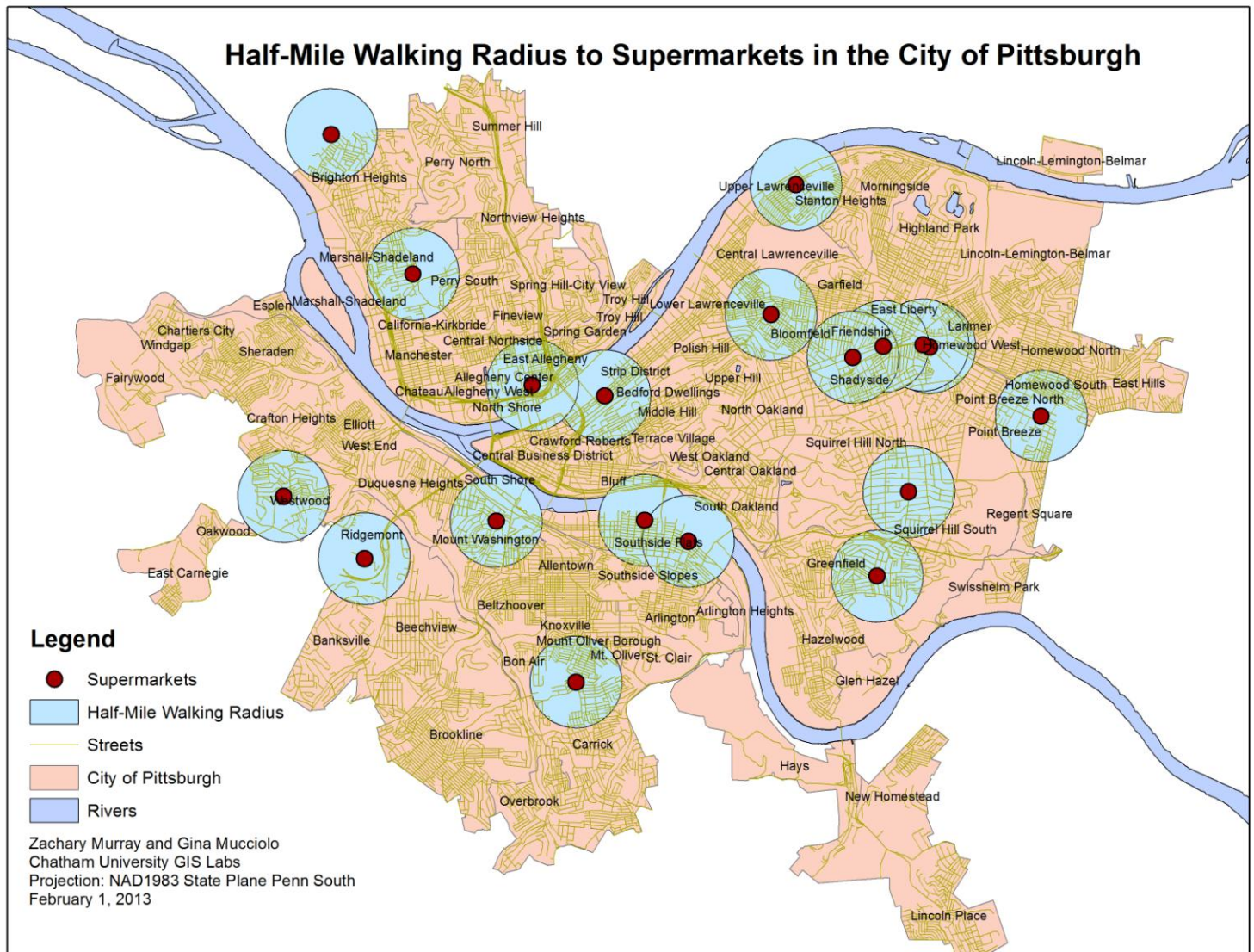
Southside Hilltop Food Environment



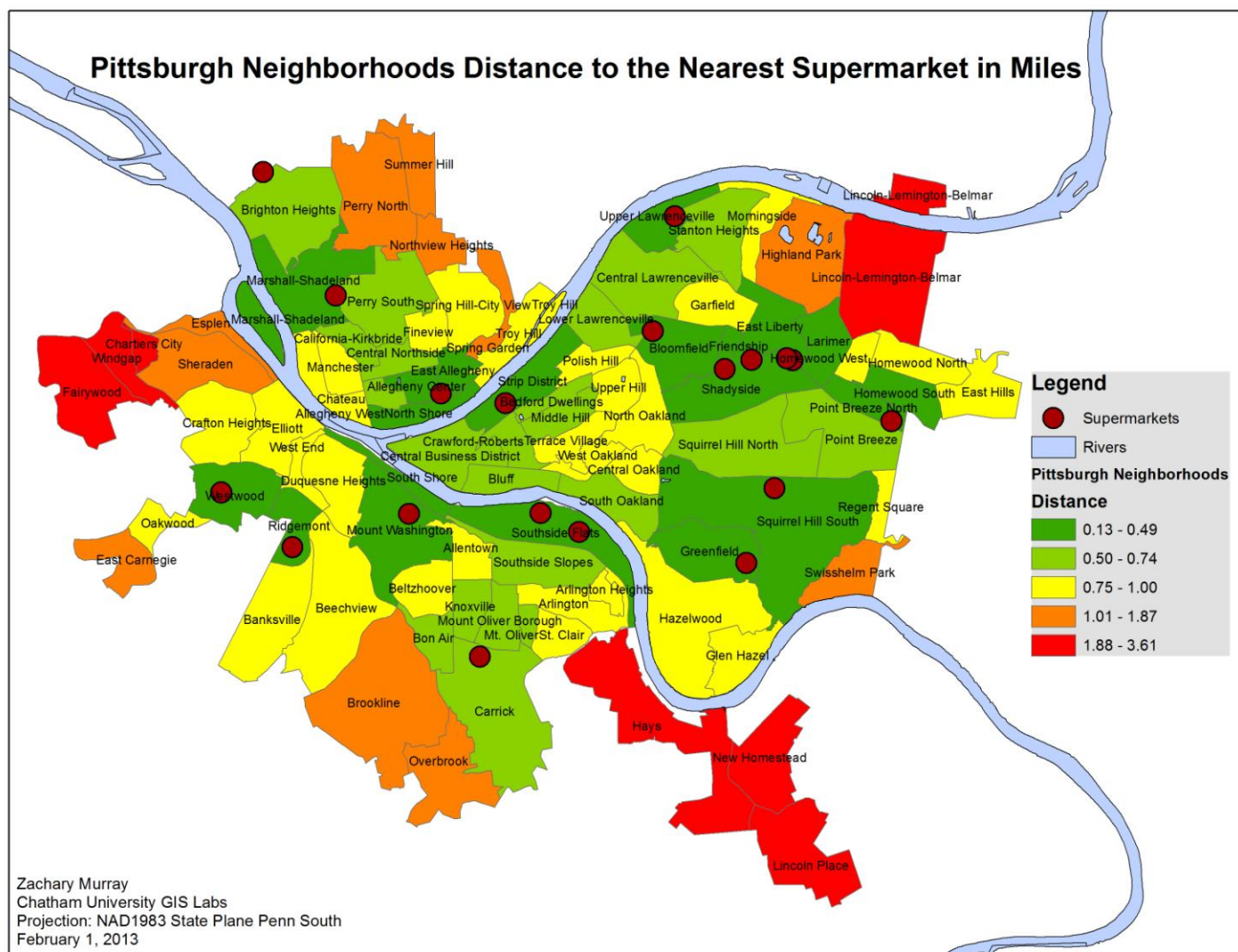
Retailer Listing – Southside Hilltop

Name	Address	Zip Code	Assessed	Store Type	Fresh Produce	Three Food Groups Available
Sunoco Mt.Oliver	427 Brownsville Rd	15210	Y	CS	N	N
Cogo's 813	925 E Carson St	15203	Y	CS	N	N
Brownsville Road Foodland	1119 Brownsville Rd	15210	Y	GS	Y	Y
Michelle's Diner	740 E Warrington Ave	15210	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ken's Confectionary	216 Beltzhoover Ave	15210	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eagle Mart	800 E Warrington Ave	15210	Y	CS	N	Y
Daily Mart	1125 Arlington Ave	15203	N	CS	N	Y
Mariama African Store	1209 Brownsville Rd	15210	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rite Aid 10921	1915 E Carson St	15203	Y	LAS	N	Y
Sunoco ARLINGTON	1643 Arlington Ave	15210	Y	CS	N	N
Rite Aid 10926	1222 Brownsville Rd	15210	Y	CS	N	Y
Rite Aid 0273	2300 Jane St	15203	Y	CS	N	Y
Kullman's Bakery	225 Brownsville Rd	15210	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rite Aid 269	230 Hays Ave	15210	Y	LAS	N	Y
Abkool	242 Brownsville Rd	15210	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Getgo 3117	117 S 18th St	15203	Y	CS	N	N
Unimart	748 Brownsville Rd	15210	Y	CS	N	Y
Chuong Market	2208 Arlington Ave	15210	Y	CS	N	Y
Family Dollar 4300	700 E Warrington Ave	15210	Y	LAS	N	Y
Family Dollar 2116	240 Hays Ave	15210	N	LAS	N	Y
A & E Deli	105 Brownsville Rd	15210	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sub Place Special	309 Brownsville Rd	15210	Y	CS	N	N
22 Stores			14 Assessed		1 with Fresh Produce	11 with Three Food Groups

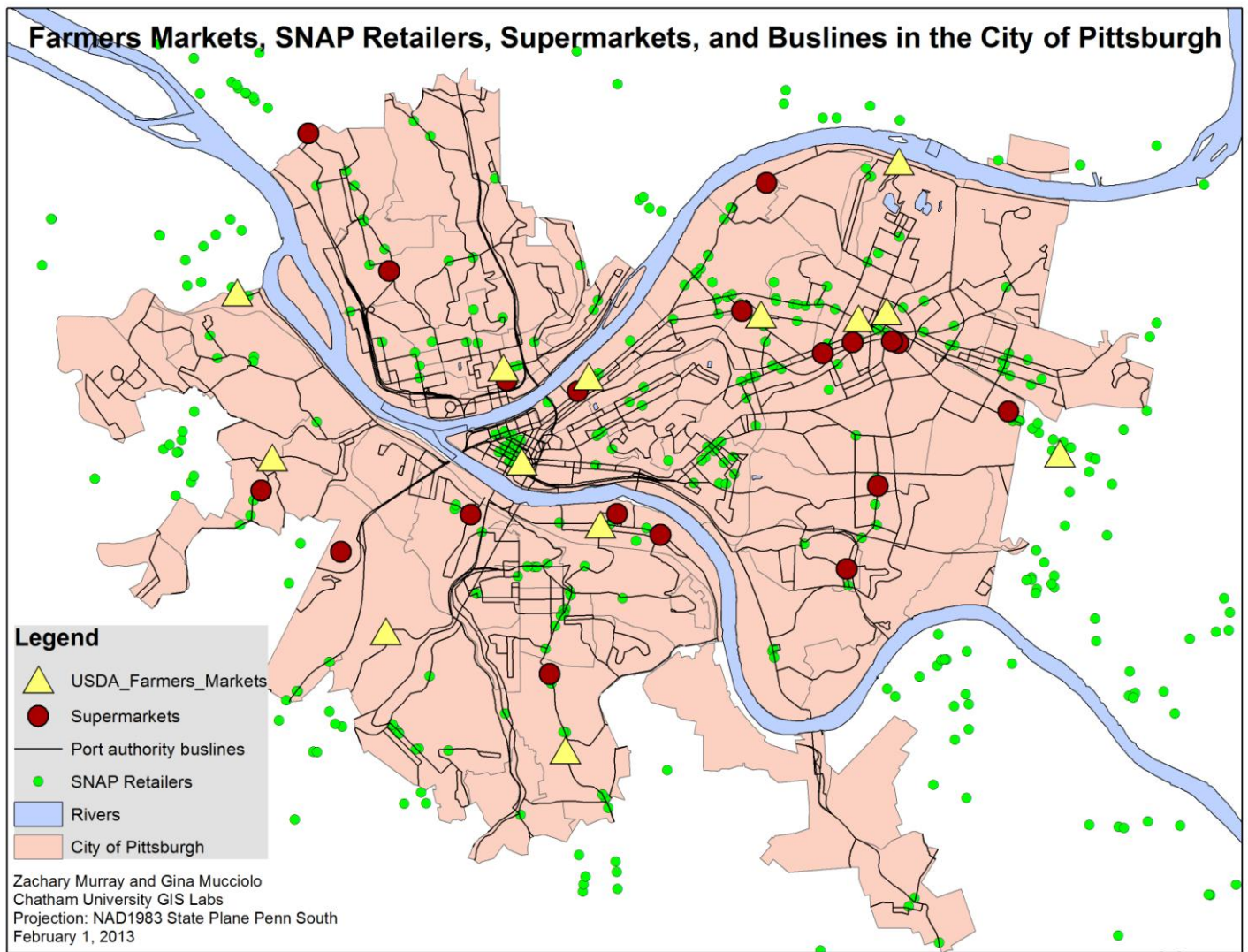
City of Pittsburgh Sub-Analysis



This map depicts walkability to Supermarkets in the City of Pittsburgh using LEED for Neighborhood development standards which suggests that neighborhoods should be designed to provide major amenities like grocery stores within a half-mile. This map shows that there are a number of gaps in food access. With this information, City officials should do more to promote healthy city neighborhoods that match density with community livability, transportation efficiency, and walkability. To achieve this map, the location of all supermarkets was determined and geocoded and a buffer of a half-mile was created to show the areas of the city that meet ideal walkability standards. Pittsburgh's grocery stores tend to cluster together in areas primed for retail development; however, this practice underserves significant portions of the city. In the City of Pittsburgh there is approximately 1 Supermarket per 15,000 residents.



Measuring from the central geographical location of each neighborhood in the City of Pittsburgh, this figure provides information on the distance to the nearest supermarket. Distances in the City range from .13 to 3.61 miles to the nearest supermarket. Although this measure is imperfect it does provide a useful baseline for officials and residents to determine neighborhoods that should be targeted for food access initiatives. This information can be combined with information provided about population, poverty, vehicle ownership rates, and transportation accessibility to measure the disproportionate burden that access has on the city's low-income communities.



This map depicts the location of Port Authority Bus lines, Farmers Markets, Retailers that accept SNAP and Supermarkets in the City of Pittsburgh. Like the city's supermarkets, SNAP retailers tend to cluster in prominent business districts; however they are much more evenly distributed across the city. Targeting retailers who accept SNAP to provide more healthy produce to consumers is a strategy that could have the most widespread impact. Future research by City, County, and Port Authority officials should determine whether every community has the most efficient bus access to supermarkets.

FAI Assessment Categories

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY	EVALUATING LEVEL	POINTS SCORING RANGE
Food Desert	Grey Level	-5 to 15 points
Food Gap	Yellow Level	16 to 21 points
Food Cluster	Green Level	22 to 27 points
Food Bounty	Gold Level	28 to 30 points

FAI Community Results

NEIGHBORHOOD	FAI SCORE	ASSESSMENT CATEGORY
Clairton, PA	13	Food Desert
McKees Rocks, PA	17	Food Gap
Millvale, PA	6	Food Desert
Mt Oliver Boro, PA	7	Food Desert
Stowe Township, PA	-1	Food Desert
East Hills and Homewood, Pittsburgh	8	Food Desert
Fineview, Manchester, Perry South, Pittsburgh	9	Food Desert
Larimer, Pittsburgh	17	Food Gap
Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar, Pittsburgh	-5	Food Desert
Northview Spring/Troy Hill	6	Food Desert
Southside Hilltop, Pittsburgh	6	Food Desert



Volunteer Assists at Fishes and Loaves (Photo: Diane Shenk)

Dessert not Deserts:

Opportunities and Recommendations for Access Healthy Food in Our Communities

Right now, there are people in government, business, and community organizations building the necessary connections to support an equitable and healthy food system for residents of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. However, more work is needed to build a comprehensive system that connects underserved communities to affordable local sources of healthy food.

Many positive steps are already underway: the Hill District supermarket development; exciting grassroots planning in Hazelwood; initiatives by entrepreneurs, lenders and financial institutions; the launch of EBT at CitiParks Farmers Markets; expanding community gardening and urban farming activities, among others. The collective lesson of these examples is that *one size does not fit all*: solutions must include and engage neighborhood residents and businesses together with more influential stakeholders and must reflect actual conditions in each community.

Although it will likely take years to fully realize a vision of access to healthy food for all, these are some of the key approaches that point towards success:

1. Access and Investigate

To fully respond to the dynamic and complex features of the food access problem, a deep understanding of the situation is required. Ongoing work at the community level is needed to assess demand, barriers, and market potential. Community assessments using a variety of tools should include conversations with local stakeholders including residents, business owners, and workers.

3. Build Cross-Sector Cooperation

Increasing awareness of the importance of a sustainable food system is leading to unprecedented cooperation among sectors of the food world. Anti-hunger and nutrition advocates, farmers, retailers, wholesalers, financial institutions, labor, government, academic and research institutions, and economic development officials must work side-by-side with neighborhood residents to develop mutually beneficial solutions.

2. Build Upon the Policy Framework

An initial policy infrastructure now exists at the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, highlighted by its work on agricultural zoning and farmers' market enhancement. Cooperation among the PFPC, local government, and community partners in Food Desert neighborhoods can develop and implement policies that target economic development resources, build demand, and ensure that responding to food access problems is a key development priority for policymakers.

4. Build Leadership from Within

Many initiatives such as those in Hazelwood and the Hill District recognize that success depends on empowerment and engagement in the affected community. Authentic community voices must be cultivated and developed in order to participate fully in the planning and implementation of new food access efforts. "Success" without community buy-in will be fleeting at best and counterproductive at worst.

Policy Recommendations

This report is yet another confirmation that many residents of Allegheny County live in Food Desert communities. As a result, Just Harvest has targeted four policy recommendations for City and County officials to consider. Each solution targets the physical, financial, and commercial market failures in food deserts. Rev. Les Boone said it best, “we need new sustainable models.” Our proposals draw on successful initiatives from around the country that are transforming the way food is distributed across regions.

1. Healthy Corner Stores (HCS)

Overview: Healthy Corner Store initiatives are being undertaken in many cities including New York City, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. The initiatives tend to function as collaborations between city governments, non-profits, foundations, and small busi-

Recommendation: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County should actively devote economic development resources to enabling existing small stores to expand their product mix to become Healthy Corner Stores. Investment in Healthy Corner Stores should be incorporated into broader neighborhood planning and commercial revitalization strategies. Local government and nonprofits should partner in aggressively pursuing federal funding and private capital for a comprehensive Healthy Corner Store initiative. Technical assistance should be made available to assist stores with links to local farmers or other suppliers of high-quality produce.

nesses to increase the availability and sale of healthy, affordable foods in small-scale stores in underserved communities. Such a program in Pittsburgh would enable organizations to target a handful of retailers across a number of communities.

Analysis: The Food Trust in Philadelphia is a major leader in this effort, now working with more than 600 stores in its Healthy Corner Store Initiative. According to the food Trust’s Briana Sandoval, the program’s focus is on “changing the perception of what the corner store is through small upgrades that include a fresh produce section at affordable rates.” Such programs build consumer demand by focusing on the whole community. “We introduce healthy products and make them identifiable through in-store education for adults, and marketing to introduce healthy products. Local community organizations are critical and they share corner stores as a resource,” says Sandoval.

2. Mobile Markets

Overview: Literally a supermarket on wheels, mobile markets are being used in communities across the country. Converted busses and trucks make weekly stops at designated locations and provide access to fresh produce at affordable prices in food desert communities. A notable example of this is Fresh Moves in Chicago, which purchased a decommissioned bus from the City for a dollar and converted it to provide a mobile food shopping alternative at schools, senior homes, and community centers.

Analysis: Mobile Markets can bridge the gap between farmers and communities. Like HCS programs, they require extensive community outreach and engagement. Mobile Markets are viable because they can operate full year service while farmers markets and farm stands can only operate in warm seasons. Another advantage of the program is the relatively low-cost of operation, modest start-up capital needs, and the ability for one mobile vendor to tackle several food deserts.

Recommendation: Public and private capital should be “mobilized” to invest in creative start-ups with business plans to provide these services especially in isolated City and County communities. Regulatory agencies should assist such start-ups in meeting compliance requirements to prevent sound rules from becoming insurmountable barriers to success. Linkages to farmers and other suppliers are also a critical ingredient.

3. Seasonal Solutions – Farmers’ Markets and Farm Stands

Overview: At farmers markets across the country, revenues from federal benefit programs are rapidly increasing. Although only operating seasonally, local fresh food farmers’ markets and farm stands are a powerful resource for improving food access. By selling local produce at the peak of freshness, such markets provide high quality at affordable cost, while encouraging better nutritional choices for affluent and low-income consumers alike. EBT access expands these benefits to a broader population of low-income people. And these markets are often located along main mass transit and traffic thoroughfares. These benefits can be expanded substantially by launching so-called “EBT Bonus Value Coupons” in which private funds provide bonus payments to food stamp users purchasing fresh produce at farmers markets. In Massachusetts, New York, Michigan, and a growing number

of locations around the country EBT dollars are now being stretched to increase the buying

Recommendation: Local farmers' markets should adopt EBT accessible payment systems as rapidly as possible and our community should launch a fundraising campaign to finance an EBT Bonus Value service at local markets.

power and nutritional well-being of low-income families and individuals.

Analysis: Wholesome Wave is the national leader of the EBT Bonus Value effort. Their network of participating markets now assists nearly 39,000 food stamp consumers, 86% of whom report increased consumption of fresh foods. This program provides major benefits to both farmers and consumers.

4. Full-scale Grocery Store Development

Overview: While new supermarket developments from the ground-up such as the Hill District Shop 'N' Save are complex, capital-intensive, long-term undertakings, the "One-Size Doesn't Fit All" message is literally true in this arena. Communities, government and entrepreneurs should be open to exploring a variety of business models for small and medium-size stores. Such developments can combine features of supermarkets, limited assortment stores, convenience stores, and corner stores. Significant investments are being made by the private sector in such business models with stores such as Bottom Dollar and Good Cents. However, the industry does not appear to be focusing on food deserts as the sites for such developments.

Recommendation: Public economic development agencies and food retailers should cooperate to develop viable business plans that can better serve communities with low access to food. More experimental initiatives such as the nonprofit grocery in Hazelwood led by community groups and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank should be actively supported by the public and private sectors.

Analysis: Food stores of all shapes, sizes, and ownership structures can be part of the Menu for Food Justice: Food buying clubs, Consumer- or Worker-owned Food cooperatives, smaller supermarkets for smaller neighborhoods, Healthy Corner Stores slowly growing into larger stores, Mobile Markets putting down roots into storefronts, Community Gardens growing into Urban Farms selling direct to consumers, and Full-scale Supermarkets in neighborhoods with the market demand and transportation links to sustain them. Few communities have all these alternatives, but no community should be without any.

[illegible]



16 Terminal Way Pittsburgh, PA 15219 • telephone: 412.431.8960 • fax: 412.231.8966 • www.justharvest.org