From 2004 to 2005, the City of Chicago sponsored a working group to study relationships within the entire food system. In this booklet, we’re offering the results of our work so far — a strategy to provide food that can help all Chicagoans Eat Local & Live Healthy.

Local and fresh food would be most beneficial to our health, environment and economy. But much of the produce we buy comes from places like California, Chile or New Zealand. There are global environmental costs of shipping produce so far. And, the farther it is shipped, the less fresh it can be. Today, soy and corn bolster the economy of Chicago and Illinois. Encouraging Illinois farmers to also raise table-food would benefit Illinois urban and rural communities alike. Local food would keep food dollars within the borders of our state. By satisfying growing consumer demand with Illinois grown food, we would enhance public health, generate jobs, expand economic opportunity, and revitalize Illinois’ declining rural communities, while increasing the security of Illinois’ 12,000,000 food consumers.

A northern climate city like Chicago can’t expect to supply all of its food from the surrounding region. Though we can get apples, blueberries, peaches and strawberries from the region, we can’t get oranges and bananas. We want and should import some foods.

But importing some food is different from importing most of it. For Chicago, the food issues are about access to healthy food and a healthy local and regional economy.

We need to refocus our food system to provide healthy, local food and local jobs related to the growing and processing of that food. It is a regional, state and national issue. There are a number of steps the City of Chicago could take immediately to help set the process of refocusing the food system in motion. The City is ready and willing to take these steps, and more, to assume a leadership role in this critical initiative.
Chicago: Eat Local & Live Healthy is a City of Chicago strategy to coordinate aspects of the local and regional food industry in ways that enhance public health and create food-related business opportunities.

The strategy identifies food issues that, if restructured locally, could improve food quality, lower its cost and increase its availability for consumers. It also presents examples of public- and private-sector cooperation that could provide new employment and sustainable development opportunities.

A Plan emerges

Eat Local & Live Healthy evolved from several environmental and health initiatives involving area food growers, advocates, providers, processors, distributors and retailers. These initiatives coalesced in 2004 with the formation of a City of Chicago-sponsored working group that studied relationships within the entire food system.

To address the initiatives, the City first established the following six categories for study based on recommendations from Advocates for Urban Agriculture,1 a new coalition promoting urban agriculture in the Chicago area.

- land use
- training, education, schools
- government food procurement policies
- soil, water, compost
- marketing and distribution
- entrepreneurial opportunities

The group determined that all categories are interdependent and resolved to formulate a strategy that examines issues on a regional and local basis. The strategy has the City as its focus and collaboration as its cornerstone. The group developed a vision for building a healthier and more sustainable food system and made recommendations to achieve tangible benefits.
Before *Eat Local●Live Healthy* was formed, many public and private agencies studied food supply and demand. Some agencies focused on “food security,” the availability of nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable food for consumers. The availability issue reflects incongruities in the area’s food industry. For example, Illinois is the country’s number two state in agricultural exports, but one in 10 Illinois households has trouble finding food from day to day. Furthermore, almost no Illinois farmland produces crops sold directly for human consumption.² In 1998, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, a national foundation focused on food systems, funded what was perhaps the first food security workshop in the Chicago area.³ This was followed by the Illinois Food Security Summits in 2001 and 2002, sponsored by the Chicago Community Trust. These events increased participants’ interest in relationships between food sources, production, economic development and public health. After the summits, local philanthropic organizations and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched a formal dialogue to foster collaboration among food growers and community projects.⁴

Meanwhile, Sustain, a Chicago-based public advocacy group specializing in sustainable development, proposed that government agencies, philanthropists, and civic and community groups focus on a variety of improvements, from farmer training and land protection to organic farmers markets and links to food pantries.⁵

In early 2003, philanthropic organizations and the City of Chicago formed the Illinois Funders Group. Members agreed on goals of “increasing the demand for healthy food among all populations in Chicago and Illinois and promoting its local or regional production and widespread accessibility and affordability.”
**Root Issues**

The initial categories established for study by the *Eat Local  Live Healthy* group did not adequately capture the issues of food access in inner city neighborhoods or regional farming. These issues, when combined with the ones gleaned from Advocates for Urban Agriculture were consolidated into four food issues for the City. These are: retailing, farming, processing, and urban growing. Each has a unique impact on the type, quality and availability of the food Chicago-area residents eat.

Following is a brief overview of the group’s discoveries.

**Retailing**

Stores are an essential part of the food supply system, however not all Chicago-area residents enjoy convenient access to quality, affordable products.

A survey of 178 stores in five city neighborhoods underscores the problem. More than half carried neither fruits nor vegetables. Many families have to travel over half a mile to find fresh produce. This presents a challenge for the 21% to 38% of these families without vehicles.

After the survey, stakeholders in three of the five communities made recommendations for addressing the availability of healthy food products. Their ideas include community-owned supermarkets, public cooking demonstrations, and vegetable gardens on city lots.

Neighborhood groceries were cited as one of 10 top challenges to neighborhood planning by the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), which had funded 10 neighborhood plans in Chicago.
The Chicago City Council held hearings in late 2005 to examine restrictive covenants that prevent new groceries from opening where others have gone out of business. Used by major chain stores to discourage competition, the covenants deprive residents of convenient access to food. A task force continues to explore the issue.

To encourage the establishment of more groceries in under-served neighborhoods, the Chicago Department of Planning and Development held a Grocery Expo in February 2006. The Expo introduced grocers from across the country to urban sites and city incentives for new store development.

At the 2006 Grocery Expo, a presentation highlighted the business benefits of opening a grocery store in Chicago’s inner city.

Presentation excerpt courtesy of Chicago Department of Planning and Development.

**Austin Neighborhood**

In this neighborhood, most people must walk or take public transportation. Supermarkets are few and far between. This means they depend on corner groceries, which often have an inadequate selection of healthy foods.
Farming

In Illinois, farming is currently dominated by “two extremes with a disappearing middle.” A report prepared for local funders\(^9\) identified Illinois food consumption trends through interviews with farmers, academic institutions, funding sources, food industry activists and government staff. The report determined that the state’s agricultural producers exist in a bipolar environment. On one end are small, innovative, diversified farms that market directly to consumers, often through farmers markets or community-supported agriculture (CSA). At the other end are mega-farms that produce commodities for export markets, manufacturing, and livestock. Neither extreme could feed the state, since small farms cannot produce enough food for everyone, and the mega-farms produce mainly corn and soybeans not meant for direct human consumption.

Since smaller farms are responsible for most locally grown and consumed produce, their presence around metropolitan Chicago is essential to the viability of a restructured food system, and vice versa. But small farms are being squeezed by sprawl, which has caused Illinois to lose farmland at an alarming rate. According to a 2002 report from the American Farmland Trust, Illinois lost 160,900 acres of prime farmland between 1992 and 1997—a 137% increase in loss over the previous five years.\(^10\)

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**Illinois Agriculture Facts**\(^8\)

- Portion of Illinois agricultural receipts from corn and soy (2002): 71.6%
- Portion of Illinois agricultural receipts from vegetable crops: 0.8%
- Portion of Illinois farm sales from agricultural products sold directly for human consumption (1997): 0.14%
- Location of Illinois farmers markets: 108 Downstate, 29 in Chicago
- Number of Illinois farms (2002): 73,027
- Portion of Illinois land used for farming: 76.8%
- Portion of Illinois farms with gross annual sales over $500,000 (2002): 3.9%
- Portion of total Illinois farm sales from farms in the above category: 37.6%
- Number of Illinois farms with **more** than 1,000 acres – 1997: 6,775 | 2002: 7,665
- Number of Illinois farms with **fewer** than 1,000 acres – 1997: 72,337 | 2002: 65,372
Farm preservation efforts vary widely across the region. In 2006, Boone and McHenry counties joined the northeastern Illinois counties of Kane and Kendall in passing farmland protection ordinances.

Land is an essential component in a local food system – farmers are another. Farmers generally come from four groups: young people who want to farm, adults making a mid-career change, conventional farmers, and immigrants. To succeed, new farmers require access to land. Steadily shrinking resources make start-up operations increasingly difficult.
Processing

Food processing has been a primary component of Chicago’s manufacturing industry since the 1840s, when local growing became secondary to the production, distribution and marketing of value-added agricultural products. Meat processing in particular became synonymous with Chicago’s role in continental trade, primarily at the Union Stockyards, which dominated the country’s meatpacking industry for decades.

As the country’s rail center, Chicago also evolved as a hub for the distribution, processing and sale of agricultural products. Food processing remains the largest segment of Chicago’s manufacturing base, employing 22,865 workers in 2002.

Today, high-growth products within the processing industry include natural and organic foods and meats, and products made with soy.

With that in mind, the Eat Local Live Healthy group and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development engaged a consulting firm to explore opportunities for small and mid-size natural and organic food-related businesses (revenues from $1 to $20 million) to help create jobs in Chicago. The consultant prepared studies of:

- The soy market in Illinois and the United States
- Economic engines around organic
- Traditional and organic farming in Illinois, the five state region (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa) and the United States
- Processing plants in Chicago and the United States

Summaries of those studies follow.

Though still a relatively small market, the $50 million U.S. organic meat market is expected to grow at more than 30% through 2008. Growth is being driven by a number of factors, including increased consumer demand for high-protein foods; concern over meat-borne diseases, and interest in meat...
sources. The $547 million “all-natural” meat market, which involves products that are not certified as organic, is expected to increase due to similar factors.

The United States is the world leader in soy-based foods. Illinois ranks as the second state in terms of soy production, and the three largest soy processing companies in the U.S., representing 70% of the market, are based in Illinois.

As a “functional food”, soy is today an essential value-added component in numerous food categories. In 2002 alone, 800 new soyfood products such as energy bars, cereals and meat alternatives were launched, a 40% increase over the previous year.

While the majority of U.S. soy crops are used for cattle feed, the 9% of soy crops intended for human consumption represents a nearly $4 billion market, up from $300 million in 1992.

The growth in these markets means increased, profitable opportunities for regional and local producers, processors and distributors. As businesses in the food system take advantage of these opportunities, this translates into greater availability of healthy meats and soy-enhanced foods for Chicago-area consumers.
Like other urban areas, Chicago’s association with gardening for personal consumption has existed since its settlement. The activity remains viable for many residents in yards, community plots, and other public and privately owned areas across the city.

Urban agriculture provides healthy food, aesthetic improvements, and increased interactions among neighbors in cities across the country. Recently, Chicago organizations have begun to use urban agriculture for training the hard-to-employ and as opportunities for small businesses. For all these reasons, urban agriculture should continue. But urban agriculture will not feed large numbers of people or produce significant employment benefits.

Chicago-based organizations that train urban growers to produce food for household tables are seeing more groups interested in preserving land for
food growing. In 2006, the Chicago City Council approved the transfer of land for two youth farms to Neighborspace, a city-wide land trust. Operated by local community service organizations, the sites will provide food to area residents, promote healthy eating habits and offer horticulture training to local high school students.

Suitable soil is essential for growers’ success. Soil resources could be made available through improved composting in Chicago neighborhoods. Two programs sponsored by local organizations are working to expand the activity, including the Chicago Master Composter, which provides instruction about composting, and the Chicago Home Composting Program, which is specifically for homeowners. Composting offers an economic development opportunity that, at the appropriate scale, could support viable businesses.

“I believe the city should own tracts of land for the growing of vegetables and fruits, where the citizens can see and understand that their real existence comes out of Mother Earth, and that the merchant or peddler is only a means of delivery.”

— Jens Jensen, A Greater West Park System
The Vision

Top: Farm near the border of Wisconsin in Winnebago County, Illinois
Courtesy of Chicago Department of Planning.

Right: Vivian C., a Growing Home graduate and staff member picking spinach in a hoophouse at Su Casa, Chicago, Illinois, April 2004.
Courtesy of Growing Home.
**The Vision.** Create a climate where the production, distribution, and marketing of locally grown, healthy food and value-added products are available, accessible, and affordable year-round to all city residents and are produced in an environmentally sound manner.

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**Early on, the Eat Local & Live Healthy group** agreed upon a vision for Chicago’s food system that generated five ambitious goals. Achieving these goals would establish the foundation for making its vision a reality.

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“(It) is hard to believe that more than half the food produced in this country – including three quarters of the fruits, vegetables and dairy products – comes from farms near cities”\(^{19}\)

Edward Thompson, Jr.
*Saving the Farms in Our Own Backyards*
1. **Increase the supply of locally grown produce and value-added products.**

Improved supplies and distribution of healthy foods are critical for meeting the increasing needs of local middle-market suppliers and consumers.

*Preserve farmland in northeastern Illinois.* Area governments and officials must assess their commitment to farmland preservation. This includes Cook County, the five collar counties of Lake, Kane, DuPage, McHenry and Will, as well as Grundy and Kendall, counties which are still largely rural but are starting to experience population and development pressures. The assessment should include the potential for farmers to replace a portion of corn and soybean production with fruits, vegetables, livestock and poultry.

*Leverage Chicago’s demand to stimulate regional supply.* Chicago and its suburbs represent a growing market for local and regional food that is healthy, natural, organic and/or transitional (the move from conventional to organically grown). This demand has the potential to increase the local supply. The demand needs to be understood and articulated to growers and used to leverage federal and state agricultural dollars and programs for the region.
Develop training and support programs for existing and new farmers. Expand farmer training programs across the region based on agricultural incubator models in Minnesota, Vermont, and elsewhere. The incubator-type initiative provides subsidized access to land and equipment, and technical support. Lake County’s incubator, “Growing Organic Farmers,” already exists. Future locations are planned in central Illinois and Chicago.

Connect local farmers to local markets. Farmers need connections with city markets. Knowing they have sales outlets for healthy meats and produce, and a way to get it to market will encourage farmers to cater to consumers’ needs. A city-sponsored “forager,” such as the one piloted by the City and Chicago’s Green City Market, is one model. Foragers visit farms and network with farmers, providing information and building confidence in Chicago’s farmers markets.

“Northeastern Illinois has some of the best farming soil in the world. While much of the Chicago metropolitan area is highly urbanized, three counties still have significant percentages of their land in agricultural production: Kane County (62%), McHenry County (61%), and Will County (54%). In 1997, the market value of farm products from these three counties was $339 million.”
2. **Increase food production and composting in Chicago neighborhoods.**

Vacant lots and other city properties will help support small-scale growing operations while providing economic opportunities and job training.

**Increase the number of city residents who know how to grow food in an urban setting.** With encouragement from government and private funders, organizations that provide technical assistance in growing food can build upon 20 years of progress.

Transitional job programs provide training in urban agriculture, landscaping, food and nutrition, sales and marketing, and general job readiness skills. These programs work well for low-income groups, homeless people, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

**Increase the number of city residents who know how to compost.** Composting is critical both for the production of good soil and the reduction of

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**Illinois Hunger Facts**

- Portion of Chicago public school children between ages 3 and 7 who are overweight: 23%.
- Portion of Illinois households that don’t always know where their next meal will come from: 8.2%.
- Illinois’ rank among states with schools that offer school lunch and breakfast programs: 45th.
municipal waste. Efforts are planned to expand this activity on suitable land citywide. Composting proponents will need to work with local governments on regulatory issues and community acceptance.

**Help children grow their gardening skills.** With more than 100 “campus parks” surrounding Chicago Public Schools, there are ample opportunities to connect students with the soil. In addition, various agencies are looking at ways to include gardening in school curricula to teach students about growing food and eating healthy.

**Growing Home Wood Street Farm**

Growing Home is a not-for-profit organization that serves homeless and low-income persons through a transitional employment program in the organic farming business. The City of Chicago and Growing Home are entering into a redevelopment agreement to convert a vacant lot into an urban farm with hoophouses, a greenhouse and a training facility with a green roof and rainwater collection cisterns.
3. Make Chicago the Hub

Chicago can become the hub of a local and regional healthy food system that includes production, processing, and distribution. A 300% growth in the organic and all-natural sector of the food economy in the last 10 years alone offers numerous new opportunities for the city’s existing processing and distribution infrastructure. Expanding upon and bringing new businesses of this type to Chicago can generate significant benefits in terms of jobs and taxes.

Grow the Food Business. The City of Chicago and the State of Illinois can help existing food businesses grow and attract new food businesses by marketing interest in local and organic food and providing subsidies for job creation. In July, 2006, the organic distributor Goodness Greeness received
a $45,000 AgriFIRST grant through the Illinois Department of Agriculture to fund a feasibility study to substantially expand their operation. The Chicago Department of Planning and Development has provided potential site locations within tax increment financing districts that may fit the company’s expansion plans.

**Convert existing facilities to all-natural and organic processing.** Current facilities in Chicago could be used for all-natural and organic processing if separated in time and methods from traditional processing in the same facility. Surveys of existing processors would determine interest in such processing.

**Heart Disease:** The American Heart Association recommends soy protein, which is naturally low in fat and cholesterol, to help reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

**Menopause:** Women are turning to soy isoflavones to reduce hot flashes and other menopausal symptoms as a growing number of studies link hormone-replacement therapy to an increased risk for breast cancer, heart attacks and strokes.

**Osteoporosis:** Scientists at Purdue University are using a $1.5 million grant to research the role of soy in preventing osteoporosis.

**Breast and Prostate Cancer:** The National Institutes of Health has provided $4 million in research grants to study soy consumption and its impact on the prevention of breast cancer and prostate cancer as well as osteoporosis. Data suggest that eating soy reduces the risk of prostate cancer and that eating soy as a child or teen can reduce the risk of breast cancer.

**Kidney Problems:** Digesting protein from soy seems to be easier on the kidneys than animal protein, a finding of interest for diabetics and others who are susceptible to kidney problems.

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**EAT LOCAL • LIVE HEALTHY**

**Chicago:**

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**THE VERSATILE AND EXTREMELY HEALTHY SOY BEAN**
4. Improve access to locally grown, healthy food and value-added products.

Identifying barriers to the distribution and sale of healthy food will help find ways to tear them down before they become an issue.

*Increase the delivery of local and/or healthy food to Chicago’s oldest residents.* Meals provided to elderly Chicago residents offer opportunities for local and regional food producers. For example, the Chicago Department of Aging (DOA) serves 850,000 meals a year through congregate dining at 75 sites and 2.8 million “Meals on Wheels” a year. Locally grown, healthy meat and vegetables should definitely be on the menu. These and other urban programs that supply food to the needy are major markets for regional producers.

*Place healthy, locally grown food in schools.* Chicago Public Schools’ (CPS) effort to improve the nutritional content of beverages and snacks at school vending machines already includes the creation of a CPS taskforce to Promote Healthy Eating and Smart Choices. Taskforce principles acknowledge that good nutrition is important to academic achievement and to overall health. With similar goals, *Eat Local ● Live Healthy* and the CPS taskforce are natural partners in the effort to increase the consumption of healthy food by the city’s 425,000 public school students.
Improve the City of Chicago’s Farmers Market System. The City of Chicago Departments of Planning and Development and Special Events are completing their analysis of the existing locations and structure of city farmers markets and the feasibility of an indoor, permanent market. The emerging concept is a “City of Markets” that would include a prominent downtown location to highlight the local food movement and Chicago’s system of neighborhood markets stocked with local food for residents and managed by community and business associations.

Continue to attract new grocers. Recently the Department of Planning and Development provided financial assistance (TIF) and public land (former Chicago Transit Authority property) for the development of a 63,000 square-foot Food 4 Less grocery store in Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood. The department continues to work with interested grocers to open food stores in the city through various programs including a grocery store expo.

As part of a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) initiative, foods offered in more than 1,000 vending machines are being replaced with healthier alternatives. Rather than chips and donuts, students are finding fruits and healthy snacks. And instead of sugary drinks, students are being offered more fruit juices, sports drinks and water.

Meanwhile, the CPS taskforce to “Promote Healthy Eating and Smart Choices” is aiming for additional nutritional changes. Working with the Chicago-based Healthy Schools Campaign, the taskforce recognizes the following principles:

- Good nutrition is important to learning and academic achievement.
- Learning healthy eating habits is important to a student’s quality of life and disease prevention.
- Schools and the school community play an important role in teaching healthy eating habits.
- Healthy eating is influenced by family, community and culture.

In addition, the taskforce is promoting “Coordinated School Health” as an important strategy for addressing a range of other issues, including increased physical and health education.
5. Increase Public Awareness

Public awareness of the availability and value of locally grown, healthy food is a critical ingredient for the success of Eat Local Live Healthy’s vision. Public school students are learning healthy eating habits, but the greater city population needs more education. Only if large numbers of residents change their eating and buying habits can the Chicago area sustain a viable, for-profit food-growing community.

_Coordinate messaging from the City of Chicago that encourages healthy eating through the consumption of fresh, local products._

The Chicago Department of Public Health is one agency that can improve the reach and effectiveness of marketing on behalf of local growers of healthy foods. Such efforts can deliver excellent results.

In 2005, Sustain created the FamilyFarmed.org website and label to encourage consumers to buy food produced by local family farmers and processors. Two thousand people also attended a Sustain exposition where 45 farmers exhibited products. As a result, 12 Chicago area supermarket chains and retailers announced their commitment to stock and sell food with the FamilyFarmed.org label.

Conclusion

Eat Local Live Healthy has concluded its planning and recommendation phase. The seeds for change have been sown. The group is ready to move toward implementation, with collaboration still its cornerstone. The City of Chicago will be one among many organizations that will take this effort forward. There are several models for collaborative work on regional issues in northeastern Illinois. Chicago Wilderness and Clean Air Counts are two examples. Growing healthy food and delivering it to consumers is another challenge for all of us to work on – for the health of each individual and for the health of the region.
ENDNOTES


2 Red Tomato Report to the Illinois Food and Community Funders Group – July 15, 2004. The report was commissioned by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Lumpkin Family Foundation, Liberty Prairie Foundation, the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, the Kraft Foods Foundation, and the Chicago Community Trust.


8 Red Tomato Report to the Illinois Food and Community Funders Group – July 15, 2004. The report was commissioned by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Lumpkin Family Foundation, Liberty Prairie Foundation, the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, the Kraft Foods Foundation, and the Chicago Community Trust.

9 Ibid


12 The Soy Overview for the City of Chicago. Social Venture Consulting, LLC, Prepared for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. 2005

13 In Search of Economic Engines: The Stage I Report. Social Venture Consulting, LLC, Prepared for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. 2005

14 The Overview Report – Organic Economic Engine Opportunities for the City of Chicago. Social Venture Consulting, LLC, Prepared for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. 2005

15 Organic Supply Report. Social Venture Consulting, LLC, Prepared for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. 2004

16 Meaty Opportunities: The Processing Report. Social Venture Consulting, LLC, Prepared for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. 2005


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19 A Greater West Side Park System. Published by the West Chicago Park Commissioners, After the Plans of Jens Jensen. Chicago, 1920


22 Red Tomato Report to the Illinois Food and Community Funders Group – July 15, 2004. The report was commissioned by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Lumpkin Family Foundation, Liberty Prairie Foundation, the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, the Kraft Foods Foundation, and the Chicago Community Trust.

23 The Soy Overview for the City of Chicago. Social Venture Consulting, LLC, Prepared for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. 2005

**Chicago Botanic Garden.** A public horticulture, education and science organization operated under the Forest Preserve District of Cook County that sponsors youth apprenticeship and school and community gardening projects.  

**Delta Institute.** A Chicago-based organization working in the Great Lakes Region to promote a healthy environment and sustainable community and economic development.  

**Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT).** A consumer advocacy group promoting humane and sustainable on-farm management practices and broader economic opportunities for family farmers.  

**The Land Connection.** Cultivates healthy farms, food and communities by saving farmland, transitioning to organic production, training new farmers, and facilitating rural-urban links.  

**Greencorps.** A Chicago Department of Environment program that provides horticultural instruction, training, materials and employment.  
[http://www.cityofchicago.org/environment](http://www.cityofchicago.org/environment)

**Growing Power.** A Milwaukee-based organization that provides hands-on training for urban agriculture and related services such as food distribution networks for small farmers.  

**Growing Home.** Provides job training and creates employment opportunities for homeless and low-income Chicagoans within the context of its organic agriculture business.  
[http://www.growinghomeinc.org/](http://www.growinghomeinc.org/)

**Healthy Schools Campaign.** Launched in 2002, the organization advocates for policies and model programs that allow students and staff to learn and work in a healthy school environment.  
[http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/](http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/)

**Openlands.** A regional, Chicago-based open space organization that provides urban food growing assistance including testing soil for lead and analysis of regional farmland policy as it relates to farmland preservation.  

**Sustain.** Encourages environmentally sound economic development that creates jobs and revitalizes communities. A leader in efforts to build a regional food growing and distribution system in the Midwest.  
[http://www.sustainusa.org](http://www.sustainusa.org)

**University of Illinois Cooperative Extension.** Supports urban farming through consultation with specialists in the fields of agriculture, community development, business management and marketing.  
[http://www.extension.uiuc.edu](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu)
The City of Chicago wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations who donated their time to participate in Eat Local & Live Healthy.

Erika Allen
Growing Power IL

Sydney Barton
Rael Bassan
Amelia Baxter
CSA Learning Center,
Angelics Organics
Patsy Benveniste
Chicago Botanic Garden
Tim Brown
Delta Institute
Linda Caruso
Demeter Alliance
Rodger Cooley
Heifer International
Mariana Coyne
Farm Forager
Glenda Daniel
Openlands
Mary Beth Lemay
Enlaces America,
Chicago Committee
on Fair Trade
Chris D'Arpa
Donna Ducharme
Delta Institute
Carl Grimm
Garfield Park
Conservatory Alliance
Marjie Isaacson
Chicago Recycling
Coalition
Maged Hanafi
Chicago Public Schools,
Food Services
Rhonda Hardy
University of Illinois
Extension
Harvey Hoffman
U.S. Department of
Agriculture
Velma Johnson
North Lawndale
Greening Committee
Bobbie Jordan
Master Gardener
Warren King
Wellspring Management
Ni Mackevicuus
Chicago Public Schools
Math and Science
Initiative
Abby Mandel
Green City Market
Todd McMeen
Green Street Project
Ruth Melulis
Master Gardener
Sarah Moloney
Heifer International
Elena Navas-Nacher
CLOCC
Gwen O’Connor Griffin,
Garfield Park Conserva-
tory Alliance
Lynn Peemoeller
Sustain
Ben Perkins
Goodness Greeness
Camille Reid
Healthy Schools
Campaign
Harry Rhodes
Growing Home
Julie Samuels
Openlands
Mike Sands
Liberty Prairie
Foundation
Bob Scaran
Goodness Greeness
Mary Jo Schnell
NeighborSpace
Kathleen Seus
Food Animal
Concerns Trust
Bill Shores
Jim Slama
Sustain
Greg Stack
University of Illinois
Extension
Judith Stockdale
Gaylord and Dorothy
Donnelley Foundation
Jim Stoyhoff
SCORE, Chicago Fresh
Michael Thompson
Delta Institute
Matt Van Slyke
Chicago Committee
on Fair Trade
Sundance Wislow
Chicago Recycling
Coalition
Jeanne Zasadil
Master Gardener

Consultants and staff contributing to Eat Local & Live Healthy.

Graphic Design
Studio V Design, Inc.
Pooja Vukosavich
Kevin McGroarty

Facilitation
Parks Consulting Group
Judy Bennett
Susan Parks

Research
Social Ventures Consulting, LLC
Daniel Helfman
Dahna Goldstein

Writing and Editing
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Department of Planning
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Sandi Morris
Jill Riddell
Peter Strazzabosco
Department of Planning
and Development

Map Notes and Sources

Page 4 - Map completed March 2005, by Jennifer Hampton, under the direction of Daniel Block, Associate Professor of Geography, Fred Blum Neighborhood Assistance Center, Department of Geography, Sociology, Economics and Anthropology, Chicago State University, for the Northeastern Illinois Food Security Assessment, funded by Searle Funds of the Chicago Community Trust.
Source: NIPC, Info USA & Company Websites, fall 2004

Page 5 - Version of a map prepared for the report, The Challenge to an Apple a Day: The Availability of Fresh Produce in Chicago Communities, prepared by the Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Food Systems Collaborative, Northeastern Illinois Community Food Security Assessment, Daniel Block, Associate Professor of Geography, Fred Blum Neighborhood Assistance Center, Department of Geography, Sociology, Economics and Anthropology, Chicago State University.


Page 15 - Figure 1: Regional Vision for 2040: This illustration shows how major centers, corridors, and green areas generally fit into the regional context.

Page 18 - Chicago Department of Planning and Development