



To: Cass Clay Food Commission

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

Date: September 3, 2021

RE: Cass Clay Food Commission Agenda and Correspondence

35th Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission

September 8, 2021 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85670378574?pwd=YXJBQnZUejUvK2VrS21sVmtvTk15Zz09>

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:30 am | 1. Welcome |
| | a. Approve Order & Contents of the Overall Agenda |
| | b. Review & Action on Minutes from May 12, 2021 (Attachment 1) |
| 10:35 am | 2. Commission Check-In – Chair Mongeau |
| 10:40 am | 3. Incorporating Food Systems Language into Planning Documents Issue Brief and Snapshot – Kim Lipetzky (Attachment 2a & 2b) |
| 10:45 am | 4. Celebrating Our Regional Food System – Noelle Harden |
| | a. Red River Market – Lesley Buegel |
| | b. Heart-n-Soul Community Café – Leola Dahl |
| | c. Red River Harvest Cooperative – Bjorn Solberg, Candace Anderson & Quinn Renfandt |
| | d. Moorhead Farmers Market – Trevor Magnuson |
| 11:30 am | 5. Continued Discussion on Selling Local Food in Our Region – Noelle Harden |
| 11:40 am | 6. Public Comment Opportunity – Chair Mongeau |
| 11:50 am | 7. Commission & Steering Committee Roundtable – Chair Mongeau |
| 11:55 am | 8. Commission Action Steps |
| | a. Next First Fridays – September 10, 2021 |
| | i. New Location – 701 Eateries in Fargo |
| | b. Next Commission Meeting – November 10, 2021 |
| 12:00 pm | 9. Adjournment |

Cass Clay Food Commission meetings are taped and rebroadcast on cable channel TV Fargo 56 each Friday at 11:00 am. People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and need special accommodations should contact Savanna Leach at Metro COG at 701.532.5100. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements. Meeting minutes are available on the Cass Clay Food Partners website at www.cassclayfoodpartners.org and Metro COG's website at www.fmmetrocog.org.

A PLANNING ORGANIZATION SERVING

FARGO, WEST FARGO, HORACE, CASS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND MOORHEAD, DILWORTH, CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Attachment 1

34th Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission May 12, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission, Chair
Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council
Arlette Preston, Fargo City Commission
Deb White, City of Moorhead
Duane Breitling, Cass County Commission
Mandy George, West Fargo City Commission
Beth McConnon, At-Large Member
Jeffrey Miller, At-Large Member
Janice Tweet, At-Large Member
Jeremiah Utecht, At-Large Member

Members Absent:

Chelsey Johnson, Horace City Council
Jeff York, At-Large Member

Others Present:

Jenna Kahly, Clay County Commission
Genesis Pierre, Fargo Cass Public Health
Rory Beil, Clay County Public Health
Rita Ussatis, NDSU Extension
Noelle Harden, U of M Extension
Mary Larson, NDSU – Community Health Sciences Specialization
Taylor Syvertson, Great Plains Food Bank
Erika Franck Clay County Planning
Deb Haugen, Cass Clay Food Partners
Dana Rieth, West Fargo Public Schools
Cindy, Public Citizen
Don B., Public Citizen
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

1a. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda

A motion to approve the order and contents of the overall agenda was made by Ms. White and seconded by Mr. Breitling. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

1b. Review and Action on Minutes from March 10, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes for November was made by Ms. White and seconded by Mr. Aasness. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Commission Check-In

Chair Mongeau stated that Commission members and the steering committee had an opportunity to provide updates on news or events happening in the community.

Ms. White provided an update on changes to Moorhead's mosquito spraying policy. She noted that the city changed its threshold which triggers aerial spraying and that it also changed the composition of its spraying mix to a formula that is less detrimental to pollinators.

Ms. Ussatis explained that a number of urban youth gardening spots were still available in north Fargo. She noted that several master gardeners serve as mentors and that the fee is \$10. Chair Mongeau asked if they were available to area youth in both North Dakota and Minnesota. Ms. Ussatis responded that gardening spots were open to all area youth.

Mr. Breitling noted that the City of Moorhead contracts with Cass County Vector Control to provide aerial spraying services and asked to acknowledge that.

Ms. Preston informed the Commission that Fargo's Sustainability and Resiliency Committee met for a second time in April and that the City of Fargo had also had a lengthy discussion about its mosquito control agreement with Cass County Vector Control.

Mr. Utecht stated that, with the rollback in Covid-19 restrictions, he and others had seen a surge in food and services spending and that initial indicators for area farmers markets look to be exceptionally strong.

Ms. Harden explained that she and the Food Partners have been working with Cass County Weed Control for the past year and noted that there is now more communication when spraying for weeds is happening. She noted that Cass County Weed Control sent out a press release about spraying that was going to occur in south Fargo and that the Food Partners will continue to share information releases on its Facebook page.

Chair Mongeau stated that Clay County was continuing to work on its comprehensive plan with the assistance of Metro COG. She explained that they are trying to be deliberate in its outreach with community members and striving to ensure that important issues, including food access, are addressed as part of the planning process.

3. Jurisdiction Spotlight: City of West Fargo

Dana Rieth, Food Service Director for West Fargo Public Schools, provided information on two community initiatives in West Fargo. She explained that the school district had begun a school lunch repack pilot project, which repurposes unserved, over-produced foods from school kitchens and distributes it through the school food pantry system. She stated that food products were placed into containers with clear lids, frozen overnight, and then distributed by school counselors and social workers to students in need. Information that was collected between April and May showed that 177 containers were filled with leftovers and that 159 were distributed to students during the two-month pilot project.

Ms. Rieth also spoke about the summer meals program that would be beginning. She noted that the USDA had granted waivers to continue serving free meals to students in any area that West Fargo Public Schools would provide free meals at school sites to both enrolled students and the community. She also explained that West Fargo Public Schools would be providing weekly grocery boxes at two locations throughout June and July and that parents would be able to pick up meals for those 18 and younger. She stated that more detailed information would be available on the district website.

4. Incorporating Food Systems Language into Planning Documents Issue Brief and Snapshot

Genesis Pierre, Fargo Cass Public Health Dietetic Intern, provided an overview of the draft issue brief and snapshot regarding incorporating food systems language into comprehensive planning documents.

Ms. Pierre explained that addressing food systems in local planning efforts can play an important role in improving the health and future of a community. She stated that food systems planning can help maintain and grow economic opportunities in food sector jobs and businesses in areas such as agriculture and food production, food processing, and food retail. She also mentioned that sustainable farming practices can reduce the amount of energy and resources needed for food production, increasing the availability and access to healthy, fresh food.

Ms. Pierre noted that the American Planning Association has identified five food systems-related areas commonly addressed in comprehensive plans: rural agriculture, food access and availability, urban agriculture, food retail, and food waste. She also talked about several considerations discussed in the issues brief including: each community has unique food systems issues, food systems issues can be addressed either specifically or generally along other topic areas, identifying partners is important in planning and implementation. She concluded issue brief with a list of resources available including the Minnesota Food Charter and American Planning Association.

Ms. Pierre stated that the snapshot was developed to show how information in the issues brief has been applied locally. She provided a review of eight comprehensive plans in Cass and Clay counties, as well as the recently completed FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan. She concluded with a list a community actions for both local governments and individuals including: utilizing data sets to identify food access issues, developing policies that support strong local food systems, working with community partners and city leaders, and participating in public input meetings when plans are being developed and provide ideas on how to address food systems issues.

Chair Mongeau stated that a final issue brief and snapshot would be brought before the Commission at the next meeting.

5. Selling Local Food in Our Region

Ms. Harden provided a brief presentation on the focus of selling local food in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. She provided an update on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guides for local residents interested in growing, harvesting, and selling food, resources for navigating cottage food laws and selling across state lines, and discussion points on additional food policy questions and topics coming up in local jurisdictions.

Ms. Harden explained that the FAQs were part of the Cass Clay Food Partner's response to Covid-19 to more readily answer questions from residents about local food policy. She also noted that they provided an opportunity to update previous blueprints and give clarification on a few different policy interpretations. The most common policy questions related to urban agriculture included gardens (vegetable, boulevard, and pollinator), composting and garden structures, and chickens and bees.

Ms. Harden stated that a second FAW is in progress to address topics related to selling and processing local food. Of note were the areas of: residential sales of produce and honey, processing game and small livestock, cottage foods, selling across state lines, and donating local food. She concluded by saying that selling local food is generally allowed but that there were opportunities to strengthen policy and network capacity.

6. Public Comment Opportunity

Chair Mongeau informed the Commission that time would be allotted for public comments. She noted that jurisdictions are still looking at ways to get information out to the public and to allow public participation that is safe and comfortable for everyone. She asked how the public is able to access current virtual meetings and how Commission meetings are currently being advertised.

Ms. Harden replied that the information is still sent out on the Food Partner's Facebook page and that anyone who has signed up to receive notifications through Metro COG still receive meeting agendas and packets. She also stated information is sometimes shared with other Facebook pages such as Moorhead=Fantastic, but said that there were likely ways to better engage the public or to solicit public comments.

Chair Mongeau said that the reason she brought up the question is that, during in-person meetings, there were a number of people who would regularly attend and provide comments or updates. She asked if there were a way to include another option for members of the public to submit comments, such as an additional link that is sent out with meeting materials.

No additional public comments were made.

7. Commission and Steering Committee Roundtable

Chair Mongeau asked for the Commission and the steering committee to share any additional updates.

Ms. Ussatis noted that one of her colleagues with NDSU Extension was working on a Little Free Food Pantry program for non-perishable foods. She stated that one would soon be constructed at NDSU and that the program was looking for additional funding and partners to continue building at other locations in the community.

Mr. Altenburg explained that Jeff York, At-Large Member, had informed him that RDO would likely be reinstating its volunteer program this summer, in which employees are given eight hours to volunteer their time in either departments or teams. He asked that if anyone had any volunteer opportunities that they were aware of, to share them with him.

Ms. Haugen stated that there were still spaces available to anyone looking to work in a community garden with Growing Together, especially at their new location at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral in Fargo. She noted that anyone who was interested could reach out to Jack Wood.

Ms. Kahly asked if there were any updates from Extension on creating a drop-off site for excess garden produce to be donated to area food pantries. Chair Mongeau and Ms. Harden replied that they hadn't seen anything but that Mindy Grant with the U of M-Clay County Extension Office may know more.

8. Commission Action Steps

Chair Mongeau stated that there would not be a meeting in July and that the next Commission meeting would be held on September 8. She also mentioned that the next First Fridays event would be held online on June 4 at 8:00 AM.

Chair Mongeau adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Incorporating Food Systems Language into Comprehensive Plans

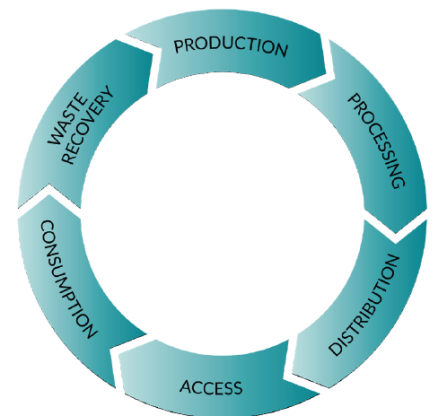
Food systems planning is concerned with improving a community's food system. A food system is generally understood to be the chain of activities connecting food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management. Food is a necessity a basic essential for everyday life, along with air, water, and shelter. Yet, only in recent years have food systems become a focus of serious professional planning interest.

Food system activities take up a substantial amount of urban and regional land and represent important parts of community and regional economies. Access — or the lack thereof — to affordable, healthy food can have significant impacts on communities, and both hunger and obesity are nationwide public health concerns. The environmental impacts of food systems, from farming practices and food waste, as well as the energy and resources consumed by growing, harvesting, processing, and transporting our food are substantial.

A goal of food systems planning is to identify problem areas within a community and develop strategies to produce desirable food outcomes. The overall focus is to feed a population in a nutritious and sustainable way that also has a positive impact on the environment and health of a community. Below is each element of the food system defined:

- **Production:** Describes how food is converted from raw materials to a basic edible product. Production relates to the cultivation and harvesting of food products.
- **Processing:** The way in which basic products generated in production are made appropriate for human consumption, cooking, or storage. This stage is where basic products are converted into other food stuffs that are considered attractive and long-lasting.
- **Distribution:** How food is collected, stored in a warehouse, and allocated to places of sale such as retailers, restaurants, cafeterias, etc. This process logistically looks different depending on product and location of distribution.
- **Access:** Explains how individuals acquire resources, such as food and water, for overall health and well-being. This is related to sanitation, clean water, a nutritious diet, and healthcare. This process specifically has many impacts relating to transportation and location of stores.
- **Consumption:** When food is consumed by an individual.
- **Waste Recovery:** The process in which technology and techniques guide the recovery of food components and by-products, where they are recycled in a viable and efficient way.

Simple Food System

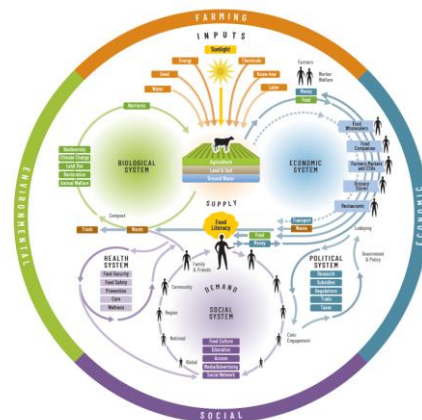


Within these six elements of the food system, every area greatly impacts the outcomes in the other parts of the process. If there are issues found in one of the elements, it can cause concern and ineffective processes in another area. For example, if a food product is processed and put into packaging that is too

large for the product size, it may cause less effective food distribution and excess waste. Thus, it is vital to take corrective actions so that the food system can work efficiently and effectively in its cycle for the most desirable outcomes in a community.

Apart from the influences each element of the food system has on one another, food systems also experience outside influences such as socioeconomic and environmental factors as seen in the [“Complex Food System Diagram”](#). These factors must be kept in mind as they will affect food products and are not always preventable because they are outside controlled systems. An example of this may be weather or overpopulation. Although these factors are inescapable, there are controls that can be put in place by creating guidance suggestions and back-up plans. These controls still allow food systems to operate, even in difficult and sometimes surprising situations.

Complex Food System



The Benefits of Food Systems Planning

Healthy, sustainable local and regional food systems bring economic, environmental, and social benefits to local communities. Planning for local food systems helps maintain and grow economic opportunities in the agricultural and food sectors through jobs and production on farms and in farm support businesses, food processing, food transport, food marketing, food distribution, food retail, and other food-related areas. Community food systems that stress local and regional food production and sales as well as ecologically friendly, sustainable farming practices reduce the amount of energy and resources needed for food production and distribution as well as the negative environmental impacts of agricultural production on land, water, and air. Planning to promote better access to and availability of healthy, fresh food impacts health at both the individual and community level, as does attention to community food security and equitable food access issues. Educating and engaging local residents in community food systems can improve health outcomes, increase social capital, strengthen sense of place and community character, and offer entrepreneurial opportunities.

Comprehensive Plans

The comprehensive plan is a document designed by a city, county, or other local unit of government to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for different activities that affect local governments. This includes guidance on decisions impacting the community's physical, social, and economic development, as well as cooperative efforts with other governmental entities and issues of pressing concern. Most plans are written to provide direction for future activities over a 25-year period after plan adoption. However, it is best practice that plans are reviewed annually and updated every five to seven years when possible.

The elements of a comprehensive plan can vary from community to community. In most cases, plans consist of a study of existing conditions and a discussion of future trends, goals, and objectives. Land use patterns, housing conditions, population, roadways, and other infrastructure issues are usually principle elements that are studied.

In some cases, educational facilities are reviewed along with recreational and other government facilities. Social service facilities may also be discussed. Comprehensive plans tend to deal with the land-use-related issues relevant to each of these topics.

Integrating Food Systems Planning into Comprehensive Plans

Local and regional planners have begun to work closely with public health officials, extension offices, and other professionals with food planning efforts, including the development of food system plans and the integration of food systems considerations into comprehensive plans. As part of these processes, planners are able to identify problems and opportunities related to the community food system; engage and educate community residents about these issues; establish food systems goals and objectives; develop strategies to implement these goals and objectives; and ultimately promote the long-term health and sustainability of the community.

The inclusion of food issues in a comprehensive plan helps connect food systems with land use, transportation, economic development, natural resources, health, and other elements of local policy and planning. When included in comprehensive plans, food is often addressed through the lens of community health and access to healthy food, but food systems can be linked to other plan areas, including land use, economic development, natural resources, and energy, among others.

According to the American Planning Association, the five areas that are most commonly addressed in comprehensive plans with regard to food systems are rural agriculture, food access and availability, urban agriculture, food retail, and food waste. Addressing these areas, along with a multitude of others, are ways a community can become more resourceful, improve the economy, and positively change health for individuals and the community at large.

Since the foundation of comprehensive growth plans is to improve community issues and foster positive changes, and work to strengthen the local food system aims to accomplish this as well, it is important for communities to consider incorporating food system language into their comprehensive plans to positively impact current and future residents.

Food System Specifics in Comprehensive Planning

Areas addressed in comprehensive planning are fairly broad. Nonetheless, when areas within the food system are looked at more closely, these plans can be much more specific as to how food system related topics are approached. Consider some of the following questions as they relate to food systems:

Rural Agriculture: Is there enough land allocated and preserved within a community to support local farming enterprises?

Food Access and Availability: Is public transportation available to people without vehicles to provide access to grocery stores?

Urban Agriculture: Does a city ordinance that support the operation of a community garden, boulevard gardens, or an urban farm?

Food Retail: Are healthier food options priced lower compared to unhealthy options at restaurants and grocery stores?

Food Waste: Do local restaurants have access to a city/county-wide composting program to handle excess waste?

Comprehensive planning will coincide with a particular community's needs, resources available, and the support it receives by funders and community members, all of which can affect directions and priorities taken by a given community. Apart from the areas that are stated above, other food system related topic areas to look for in comprehensive plans are pollinators, housing, transportation, economic development, and food production. Something to note as one browses through comprehensive plans is that food system objectives are not always clearly laid out in one section titled "food systems". There are many issues related to the food system that may be included in larger sections such as land use, transportation, housing, and agriculture. Always be thorough in looking through all parts of a comprehensive plan to evaluate whether food systems are addressed.

Partners

A valuable part of implementing different actions related to the food system in comprehensive plans relies on support and cooperation of community organizations, community members, and donors. Whether it is a local organizations like public health, extension, and a metropolitan planning organization (Metro COG), or residents who want to physically or financially support local food system plans, everyone can play a helpful role in bringing change within a local food system. With support from partners, food systems work can be expanded by developing policies and programming that reinforces goals outlined by a community's comprehensive plan. A single organization or individual cannot accomplish every community goal, so it is vital for collaboration among partners to support efforts to positively change a community food system.

Conclusions

Addressing policy related to food systems is gaining momentum and positively affecting a myriad of health, food, waste, and economic outcomes. Working to strengthen all aspects of the local food systems is an integral part of community planning and a number of communities across the United States have embraced the concept. Efforts to create sustainable food systems are happening in [Austin Texas](#), [Oakland Michigan](#), [Portland Oregon](#), [Salt Lake City Utah](#), and [Seattle Washington](#). Resources such as the Minnesota Food Charter, the American Planning Association, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning offer guides for food systems related planning and provide many examples of how to include food system language into policies and comprehensive plans. As communities work to develop or update comprehensive plans, consider incorporating food system language and policy issues into the plan. Doing so offers the potential to positively change outcomes in the community now and in the future.

For more information, please contact Kim Lipetzky with the Fargo Cass Public Health Office at 701-241-8195 or klipetzky@fargond.gov

- American Planning Association. Planning for Food Access and Community-based Food Systems. (November 2012).
https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy_resources/research/foodaccess/pdf/foodaccessreport.pdf
- Cass County. (2018, July). CASS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE & TRANSPORTATION PLAN. Retrieved February 01, 2021.
<https://www.casscountynynd.gov/home/showdocument?id=5508>
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. Municipal Strategies to Support Local Food Systems. (September 2012).
https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/10927/FY13-0029+LOCAL+FOOD+TOOLKIT_lowres.pdf/ac034661-e7a9-43b7-b375-6e98578f9e89
- The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. (2007, November 07). Food processing. Retrieved February 01, 2021.
<https://www.britannica.com/technology/food-processing>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2006). Food Security. Retrieved February 01, 2021.
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/faoitally/documents/pdf/pdf_Food_Security_Cocept_Note.pdf
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2018). Sustainable Food Systems Concept and Framework. Retrieved February 01, 2021. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca2079en/CA2079EN.pdf>
- Galanakis, C. M. (2016, March 28). How Food Waste Recovery Improves Sustainability of Food Systems: SciTech Connect. Retrieved February 01, 2021. <http://scitechconnect.elsevier.com/food-waste-recovery-sustainability-food-systems/>
- Hodgson, K. (2012, November). PLANNING FOR FOOD ACCESS AND COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD SYSTEMS: A National Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans. Retrieved February 01, 2021. https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/download_pdf/Planning-for-Food-Access-and-Community-Based-Food-Systems.pdf
- MN Food Charter. (2016, June 19). Food Access Planning Guide. Retrieved February 01, 2021.
<http://mnfoodcharter.com/planningguide>
- New World Encyclopedia. (2018, April 18). Food processing. Retrieved February 01, 2021.
https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/food_processing
- Oberholtzer, E., Wein, M., Martin, A., Fong, A., Karsh, M., Reser, A., . . . Seifert, E. (2016, November 17). 10 cities leading the conversation on sustainable eating. Retrieved February 05, 2021. <https://foodtank.com/news/2014/11/ten-cities-leading-the-conversation-on-sustainable-eating>
- Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food. (n.d.). WHAT IS THE FOOD SYSTEM? Retrieved February 01, 2021.
<https://www.futureoffood.ox.ac.uk/what-food-system>
- WORLDLINK. (2021). Food system tools - nourish: Food + community. Retrieved February 03, 2021.
<https://www.nourishlife.org/teach/food-system-tools>

Food Systems Language in Comprehensive Plans

Cass-Clay Community Snapshot

May 2021

Introduction

Food systems is a broad term used to describe the elements and processes of how food moves from farm to table. It is an extensive term that covers many topic areas between the time food is grown to how food waste is handled. As explained in the "Incorporating Food Systems Language into Comprehensive Plans Issue Brief", working to strengthen a local food system can have many implications in a community, both short and long term. It is important to address food systems planning in community comprehensive and growth plans as these plans play a significant role in guiding the future development of a community. Including food systems related language and actions in a comprehensive plan can help a community make strides to improve food access and sustainability.

Identifying food systems recommendations and strategies within a comprehensive plan can help guide partners in addressing community food related issues. Since the topic of food systems is broad, it can be addressed in an array of areas within a plan, including land use, transportation, economic vitality, and agriculture. Some plans also use more recognizable food systems terminology, such as community gardens, urban agriculture, and farmer's markets. When assessing a local plan for work in the area of food systems, it is important to look through each section of the plan to identify actions and recommendations aimed at strengthening the food system.

Below is a list of local comprehensive plans (*in order of date completed/updated*) and a brief summary of how and where food systems issues are addressed or included in each plan. A link to each plan is included, as well as the pages where food systems language can be found.

Cass-Clay Comprehensive Plans

Fargo Go2030 (2012)

https://download.fargond.gov/0/_go2030_comprehensive_plan_-_final.pdf

Healthy Food - p. 150-153

The Fargo Go2030 plan is the area's first to mention food in one of its guiding principles related to health. The Healthy Food section recommends the development of a regional food systems plan (*the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan was completed the fall of 2013*) and the formation of a food council or commission to address local food policy issues (*the Cass Clay Food Commission was formed March 2015*). The plan also calls for establishment of zoning codes and land use policy that supports local food production and urban agriculture activities, as well as farmer's markets and community gardening opportunities in neighborhoods. It also encourages transportation infrastructure that increases equitable access to healthy food and recommends incentives to strengthen food entrepreneurship.

Cass County Comprehensive and Transportation Plan (2018)

<https://www.casscountynynd.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=5324>

Food Systems - p. 54-57, 134-135; Land Use - p. 69-84 including Emerging Land Use topics - p. 74 and opportunities - p. 82

The Cass County Comprehensive and Transportation Plan includes a complete Food Systems section addressing food production, processing, distribution, etc. The plan encourages working to assure

healthy food access in rural areas and partnering with the Cass Clay Food Partners to address food systems issues. The land use section addresses farmland preservation and agriculture as well as emerging issues such as animal feeding operations. The plan includes a number of implementation strategies related to incorporating the needs of urban agriculture and the local food supply into model ordinances as well as establishing and maintaining pollinator habitats.

Dilworth 2045 (2018)

https://www.cityofdilworth.com/vertical/sites/%7B9D58D3D1-B683-400A-88F4-CEAF0C059D1B%7D/uploads/DilworthCompPlan_2018_Final.pdf

Agriculture - p. 64; Community Gardens & Farmers Markets - p. 70; Local food support – p. 80

The Dilworth 2045 comprehensive plan addresses the importance of farmland preservation as well as support for community garden opportunities and maintaining a farmer's market. It includes a recommendation to support sustainability efforts and local food opportunities and encourages working with community members for ways to improve healthy food access and promote equity and health.

West Fargo 2.0 (2018)

<https://www.westfargond.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2073/West-Fargo-20-Comprehensive-Plan>

Groceries & Dining - p. 38, 112; Farmer's Markets - p. 98; Community gardens – p. 136

The West Fargo 2.0 plan encourages recruitment of a variety of dining and grocery opportunities and to consider including these in mix-use walkable areas. The plan mentions support for the local Farmer's Market and recommends exploring opportunities for an indoor market venue in the off season. It also makes reference to small scale community gardens within one of its subarea studies.

Casselton 2045 (2019)

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a5fc163d55b412c123050d6/t/605c9d7df9cbdf417eb45f28/1616682389353/Casselton+2045+Comp+Plan.pdf>

Agriculture – p. 64; Community Gardens & access to fresh produce – p. 69; local food support – p. 95-95

The Casselton 2045 addresses farmland preservation as well as support for a potential community garden in the near future. The plan recommends the support of local and fresh food access opportunities, including encouraging local food retailers to offer more fresh and seasonal produce year-round.

Horace 2045 (2020)

<http://cityofhorace.com/DocumentCenter/View/1093/Horace-2045-5-5-2020>

Economic/Food related business – p. 123; Community Gardens & Pollinators – p. 125

The Horace 2045 comprehensive plan encourages partnering with the Cass Clay Food Partners to support food-related businesses and pursue activities that both improve healthy food access and advance economic development. The plan recommends the establishment and maintenance of community gardens, in addition to reviewing the management of locally owned public land and taking steps to establish and expand pollinator-friendly landscapes.

Onward Moorhead Comprehensive Plan (Currently being updated)

<http://www.cityofmoorhead.com/home/showdocument?id=134> (2009 plan)

The City of Moorhead is in the process of revising their comprehensive plan which was last updated in 2009. Check out the latest information regarding the plan revision, including public input opportunities, on the city website at <http://www.cityofmoorhead.com/departments/community-development/planning-zoning/long-range-planning/city-of-moorhead-comprehensive-plan-onward-moorhead/onward-moorhead-comprehensiv>

Clay County Comprehensive Plan (Currently being updated)

http://www.fmmetrocog.org/application/files/5116/1047/0127/CPWhole_201404161018429873.pdf
(2002 plan)

Clay County is in the process of revising their comprehensive plan which was last updated in 2002. Check out the latest information regarding the plan, including public input opportunities, on the FM Metro COG website at <http://www.fmmetrocog.org/meetings-events/news/clay-county-comprehensive-plan-community-engagement>

Other Planning Documents

In addition to comprehensive plans, local units of government around the country have begun to incorporate food access-related goals and policies into other long-range planning studies. These studies include sustainability plans, recreation plans, corridor studies, sub area analyses, emergency action plans, and other strategic community planning documents.

Fargo-Moorhead Greenway-Recreation Master Plan (2020)

<http://www.fmmetrocog.org/FMGreenway> (click on FM Greenway Master Plan Final Report)
Urban Agriculture/Community Gardens - p. 5.7; Pollinators & Solar – p. 5.4 & 5.19

The FM Greenway-Recreation Master Plan addresses the opportunity to create activities along a 30-mile greenway intended to be used for year-round recreation and economic development. The plan includes a number of food systems related activities including the use of urban agriculture for the purpose of food production and community gardens along the greenway. Vegetation along the entire greenway will support pollinators with two areas adjacent to proposed solar farms having an increased emphasis on pollinator habitat creation.

Community Actions

Local governments can:

- Utilize data sets to identify/map out food deserts and areas within the community where food access issues exist so interventions can be targeted to address the needs of at risk areas within the community.
- Partner with the Cass Clay Food Partners to develop policy that supports a strong local food system.
- Consider funding a Food Systems Coordinator to work with community leaders and residents to identify and address local food system issues.

What can I do?

- Attend Cass Clay Food Commission meetings and First Friday events to stay abreast of local food system related planning activities.
- Participate in public input meetings when comprehensive and other growth plans are being developed to provide input and ideas on how to address local food systems issues.
- Become familiar with your local comprehensive plan and work with community partners, the Cass Clay Food Partners, and city leaders to implement plan recommendations.