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City of Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Local Food and Agriculture Meeting 2

MaCie' Moore
29 March 2018

SPEA

Lead for the Greater Good





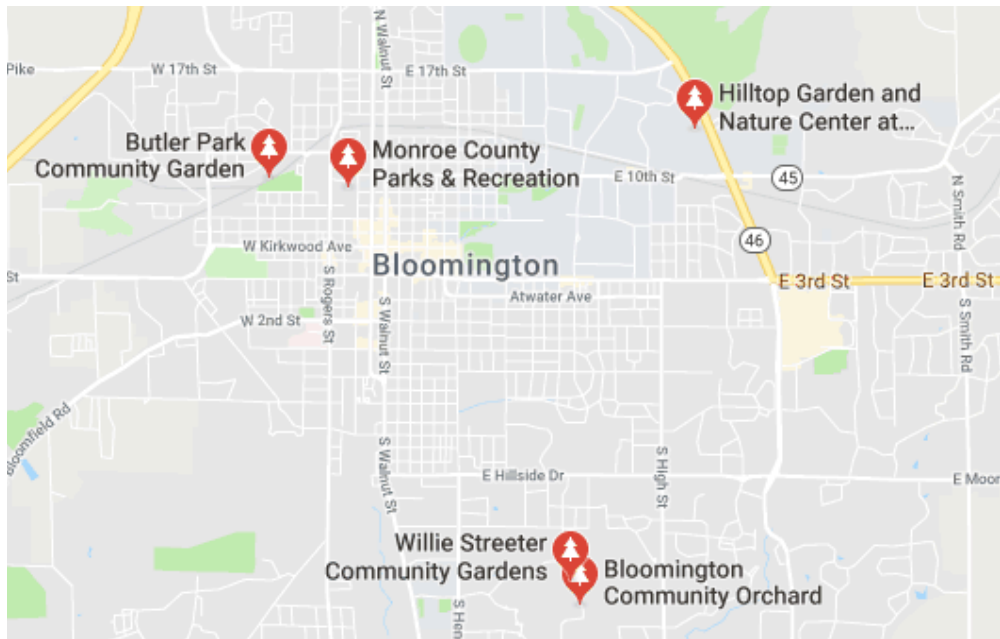
Current Situation in Bloomington

- The City of Bloomington is heavily dependent on out of state food
- There are 5 community garden initiatives around the city of Bloomington
- Some of these initiatives offer the Garden Financial Aid Program, a scholarship for individuals enabling them opportunities to participate in recreation programs
- The Bloomington Housing Authority, within its Outdoor/ Patio Policy, allows a small area for individual planting, and a common area for planting provided by the BHA
- 16% of the city's funding to social services goes to food centered organizations



Food Availability

Community Gardens in Bloomington, IN



Community Gardens Where Individuals Can Rent Plots

Name	Number of Plots (2017)	Number of Plots Rented (2017)	Cost
Willie Streeter Community Gardens	165	133 (80.6%)	\$37-73 Bloomington Residents
Butler Park Community Gardens	41	41 (100 %)	\$33-51 Bloomington Residents

Monroe County Parks & Recreation Garden Plot Rental

Name	Number of Plots	Number of Plots Rented	Cost
Will Detmer Park	~64	Number unknown	\$25



Food Availability

Public Housing Operated by Bloomington Housing Authority

Crestmont
1006 N Summitt St
Bloomington, Indiana

Walnut Woods
818 E Miller Dr
Bloomington, Indiana

Bloomington Housing Authority: Outdoor/ Yard/Patio Policy -Section I

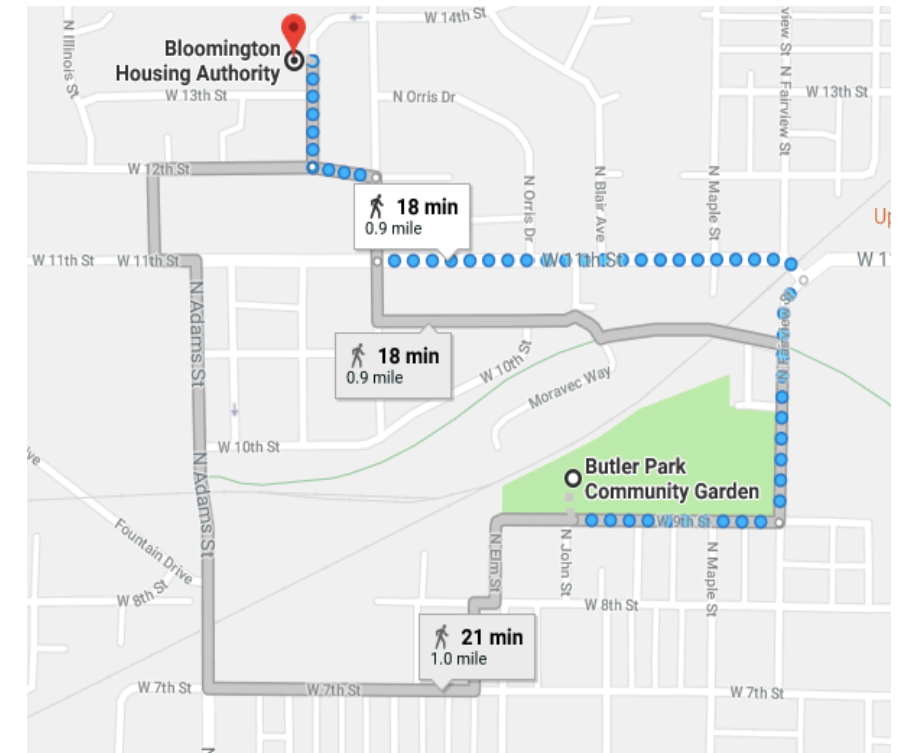
- *Walkways, front and rear entrances, stairs (steps), and all buildings, must be free from graffiti, trash, and hazards of any kind*
- *No trees, bushes, vines, or shrubs of any kind can be planted in individual yards.*
- *Up to four (4) flowers or plants (including vegetable plants) may be allowed within the designated landscape area (bed) at the front of the building. The area shall not extend more than three (3) feet from the building.*
- *Any plants or flowers planted by the resident must be well tended at all times. If the BHA has to remove any plants and/or weeds the resident will be charged a \$35 clean - up fee.*
- *Common areas for planting will be provided by the BHA.*



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Food Availability

Closest Community Garden to Public Housing Operated by Bloomington
Housing Authority- Crestmont



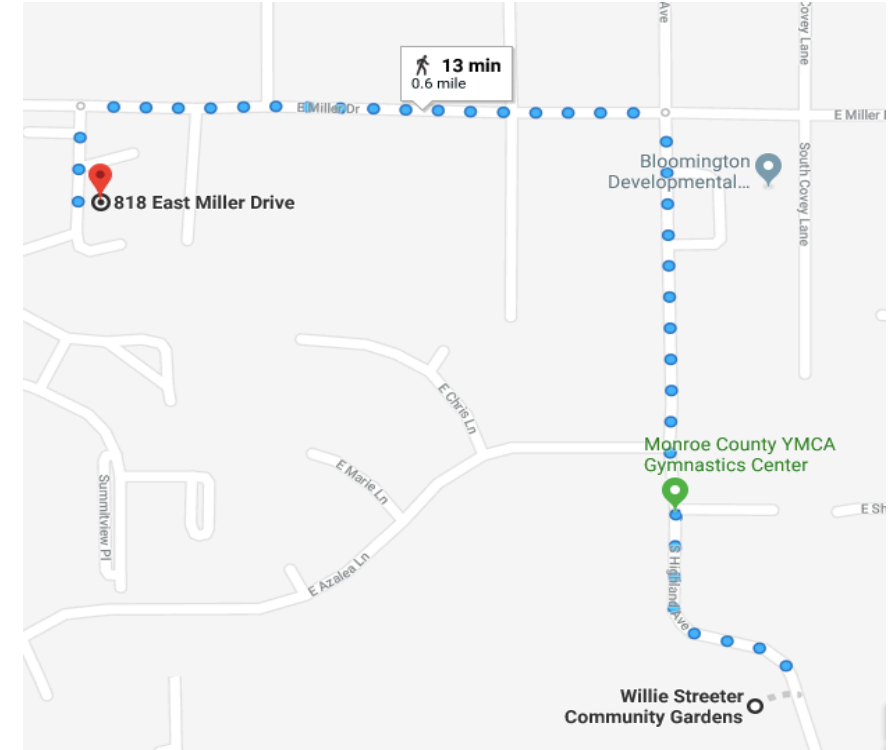
0.8-1 mile away, 18-21 minute walk



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Closest Community Garden to Public Housing Operated by Bloomington
Housing Authority- Walnut Woods



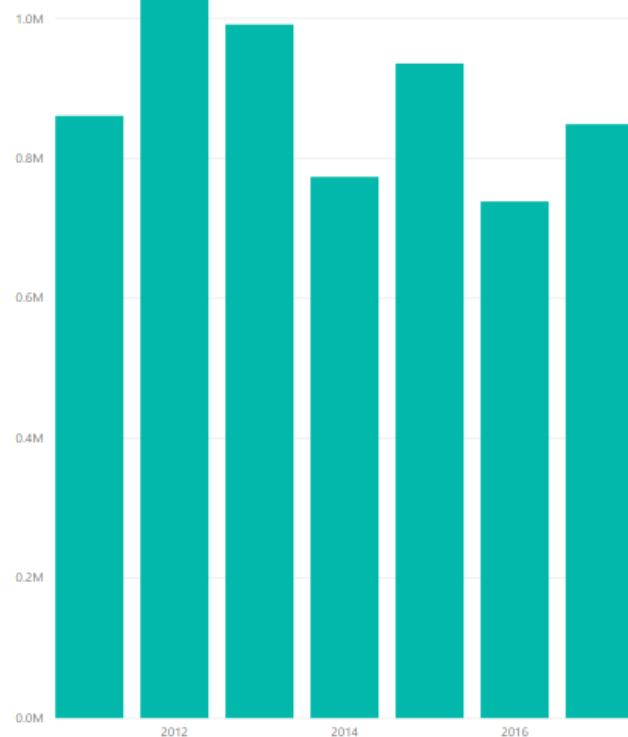
0.6 miles away, 13 minute walk



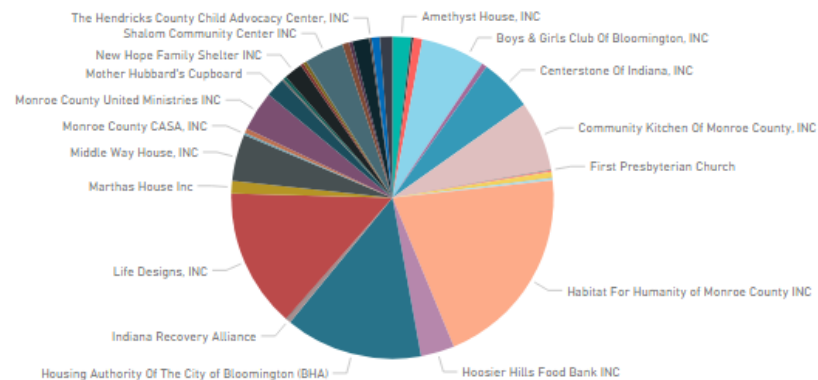
Food Availability

CITY FUNDING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

Distribution Amount by Year

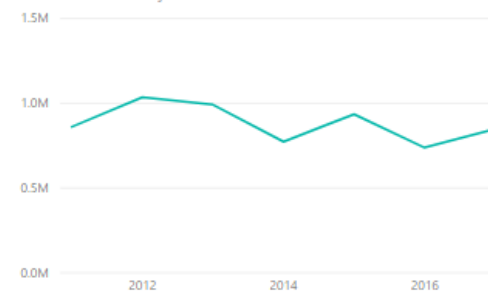


Distribution Amount by Vender Name



6.18M
Total Distribution Amount

Distribution Amount by Year





Community Goals found in Bloomington Documents

Bloomington Comprehensive Plan

- Assess “Bloomington’s Food System: A First Look” and partner with the Bloomington Food Policy Council, other community organizations, residents, businesses, schools, and government agencies to implement the goals of the Bloomington Food Charter
- Encourage community gardens throughout the City
- Modify regulations for protective fence heights surrounding in dealing with white-tailed deer and other nuisance animals
- Assess the creation of an agricultural zoning district and/ or permitted urban agriculture uses within other existing zoning districts
- Encourage neighborhood associations and home owners associations to be more tolerant of vegetative alternatives practices



Community Goals found in Bloomington Documents

Food Charter

- Promote farmers' markets, farm stands, and the utilization of local and regional foods by groceries, restaurants, and institutions
- Encourage community gardens, home gardens, rooftop gardens, orchards, and edible landscaping to increase food self-reliance and enhance the development of community
- In an effort to promote food security, the governments of the City of Bloomington and Monroe County, Indiana, will partner with the Bloomington Food Policy Council, other community organizations, residents, businesses, schools, and government agencies to achieve goals mentioned in the Food Charter



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Metrics Found in Bloomington Documents

Bloomington Comprehensive Plan

- Number of home gardens and community gardens
 - Local regulatory framework facilitates local food production and distribution
 - Food desert inventory
-
- Bloomington Food Policy Council- Food Charter
 - No Metrics



Goals/Metrics Used in Other Cities

- Develop a long-term county- and community based planning tool for local food and agriculture
- Support efforts to expand urban food production on privately owned land, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties
- Stimulate collaboration among community organizations, institutions, neighborhoods, and governments
- Value of local food sold at Seattle farmers markets or other direct-to-consumer activities



Metrics Recommended in STAR

Outcome 1: Local Fresh Food-Total sales from community supported agriculture (CSAs) in the jurisdiction

Outcome 4: School Nutrition- Create a local food assessment that includes:

1. an analysis of existing governmental and nongovernmental policies and programs affecting food access and choice in the community
2. a description of the neighborhood, school, and workplace environments related to food access, food and nutrition literacy, and nutrition and local food production



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Actions Used in Other Cities

- Enhance partnerships with the public and private sectors and community-based organizations in the City and across the region- Boulder County, Colorado
- Lease underutilized City-owned land to urban farmers through the Seattle Farms program- Seattle, WA
- Where appropriate, consider leasing City-owned land to non-profit community partners to support community goals and produce food for the community- Seattle, WA
- Conserving regional agricultural land through transferring development rights from farmland to urban areas- Seattle, WA
- Support market gardens for low-income immigrant and refugee communities- Seattle, WA and Houston, TX
- Working within the City's property database, develop additional site criteria to more readily identify vacant or underused parcels suitable for urban agriculture- Seattle, WA
- Adoption of new ordinance that expand urban agriculture to incorporate the growing of crops, raising animals, bee keeping, and the selling of goods grown or produced in urban agricultural settings- Sacramento County, CA



Actions Recommended in STAR

- Adopt zoning and development regulations that allow farmer's markets, community gardens, and other forms of urban agriculture that promote increased food access
- Support the development of healthy eating campaigns for residents to learn about nutrition, food safety, and food assistance programs
- Conduct an assessment of the local food system, including existing policies and programs that increase access to healthful food and nutrition education



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Thank You

Questions and Answers