Mapping Food Access as Part of a Statewide Food Strategy

APA PLANNING WEBCAST SERIES

July 14, 2017
Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Planners4Health Program and RI-APA
3. Intro to food systems planning and mapping
4. Food planning in Rhode Island
   • RI Food Policy Council
   • RI State Food Strategy
   • HEZ initiative
5. The RI Food System Map
   • Background
   • Process
   • The map
   • Map applications
6. Next steps and conclusions
7. Q+A
Introductions

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Planning in Rhode Island
What makes us different?

• Yes, we’re small . . . But that can be a good thing!
• Statewide coordination is more like a large city or county
• Comprehensive Planning required for all 39 cities and towns
• We all know each other
• And we all know all of our local and state elected officials!

Though our socioeconomics can be stark for such a small place
Planning for *Health* in Rhode Island

**PLAN4Health**
An American Planning Association Project

**South Kingstown:**
Designing a Healthier Community

**farm fresh rhode island!**

**RI Food Policy Council**

**Olneyville Health Equity Zone**
Good food is good business.

It’s our job, our mission, and our commitment to help you connect the two. From designing regional sourcing strategies and sustainability plans to developing cutting-edge food curricula, we customize our approach to changing the food environment in your communities, marketplaces, or within your own organizations.
Food Systems Planning

How do we define the food system?

Adapted by Christy Shi, Center for Environmental Farming Systems.
From: Wilkins, J. and Eames-Sheardy, M. Discovering the Food System; An experiential learning program for young and inquiring minds. Cornell University, Departments of Nutritional Science and Horticulture. http://www.discoverfooodsys.cornell.edu/
Food Systems Planning

Food Security
access to healthful, affordable, and culturally appropriate foods at all times

Food Access
Includes both geographic/physical access and economic access

“Food Desert” or Low-Income/Low-Access (LILA) Area
a low-income census tract where either a substantial number or share of residents has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. In 2015, over 83 million Americans (27%) lived in a LILA area.

The “Foodshed”
the geographic area from which a population center draws its food
Planning for Healthy Food: A range of potential goals

- Access for the underserved and at-risk
- Healthy food options for all eaters
- Local and regional food systems
- Jobs, economic development, and placemaking
- Education and culture of healthy eating
Planning for Healthy Food: A range of potential approaches

- Community/urban food production
- Farmers Markets and CSAs
- Farm to school
- Food policy councils
- Food policy coordinator/director
- Value chain coordinator
- Transportation initiatives
- Strategic land use planning and zoning

- School and institutional food procurement and policy
- Food assessments and plans
- Inclusion in comprehensive plans
- Connections between stakeholders
- Community education ("if you build it...")
- Food site as destination
- Comprehensive planning and other planning efforts
- Farmland conservation
Cultivating a Food Systems Planning Mindset

Where and how does food fit in?

Who are the eaters?

Where are the sites of opportunity?
- Medical providers
- Parks and open space
- Schools
- Emergency food resources
- Housing and mixed use developments
- Transportation nodes
Food Systems Planning: Some observations

Everyone eats!

Trust and relationships are critical

An inherently cross-sector / systems-based approach

Crucial to engage a range of stakeholders

Supply chain diversity is key to resiliency
Leo Pollock
Network Director
Rhode Island Food Policy Council
Assessing the State of the State

- Food System Assessment (Karp Resources), November 2011
- Update to the RI Food Assessment: 2011 - 2016 and Beyond (KK&P), July 2016
Rhode Island Fact Sheets

Rhode Island Food System 2016 Snapshot

**Rhode Island**
Population: 1,052,587

**Food System**

- **776 Farms**
- **2,025 Commercial Fisheries**
- **69 Aquaculture Farms**
- **524 Food Processors**
- **145 Distributions**
- **176 Farms Markets**
- **1,202 Markets**
- **67 Farmers Markets**
- **5,086 Restaurants**
- **39 School Districts Providing Breakfasts & Lunches**

**Production & Harvesting**

- **7,776 Acres of Commercial Food Waste**
- **$2M Annual Fees for Residential Food Waste**
- **90,615 Annual Tons of Commercial Food Waste**
- **1 Commercial Food Waste Processing Facility**

**Processing**

- **176 Farms Markets**
- **5,086 Restaurants**
- **39 School Districts Providing Breakfasts & Lunches**

**Distribution**

- **145 Distributions**
- **1,202 Markets**
- **67 Farmers Markets**

**Consumption**

- **9,0615 Annual Tons of Commercial Food Waste**
- **$2M Annual Fees for Residential Food Waste**

**Food Pantries**

- **111 Food Pantries**
- **173,886 SNAP Participants**
- **23,202 WIC Participants**

**Community Needs & Resources**

- **Congregate Meal Sites**
  - **95**
  - Meals on Wheels Home Delivery Recipients: **2,342**
  - Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Meals: **66,763**

**Did You Know?**

Rhode Island saw an 11.2% increase in food system jobs, and a 3.2% increase in food system businesses over the past 5 years.

**State Food System Data**

- **Businesses**: **7,820**
- **Jobs**: **66,770**
PROJECT SHOWCASE 2014
RHODE ISLAND LOCAL AGRICULTURE & SEAFOOD ACT GRANTS PROGRAM

Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) Grants Program
Food Matters Events
A food strategy for Rhode Island

building a food system that benefits our families, businesses, and economy.
Agenda

- Food Strategy Process
- Core Themes of the Food Strategy
- Integrated Focus Areas
Food Strategy Process

- Listening Tour ~ 150+ RI’ers
- Rhode Island Food Summit – 350 RI’ers
- Written Comment - ~40 RI’ers
- Road Show with RIFPC - ~30 presentations
- Research, Analysis, Regional Partnership
Core Themes

- Environment & Resiliency
- Economic Development
- Health & Access
Preserve & Grow Thriving Fisheries & Agriculture Industries

Agriculture:
- Expand Preservation of Active Agricultural Lands
- Enhance Technical Assistance
- Strengthen Job Training
- Enhance Staff at Key Support Agencies

Fisheries:
- Collaborate on Strategic Infrastructure Investments
- Expand Seafood Marketing
- Increase Opportunities for Direct-to-Consumer Sales
- Encourage New Entrants

Shellfish/Aquaculture:
- Implement the Shellfish Management Plan & Goals of Shellfish Initiative
Sustain & Create Markets for RI Products

- Encourage Direct-to-Consumer Sales
- Connect Rhode Island products to Institutional Markets
- Support Strategic Infrastructure Investments
- Coordinate Tourism Messages on Food
Develop & Maintain Climate For Food & Beverage Businesses

- Identify, prioritize, and Tackle Regulatory Challenges
- Assess & Implement Practices for Communications and Engagement on Processes & Regulations
- Recognize & Celebrate Participants in RI’s Rich Food Culture
- Assess Capital Availability & Gaps
- Fully Staff Key Regulatory Agencies to Foster Innovation
Minimize Food Waste & Divert It from the Waste Stream

Source Reduction: Reduce the Volume of Surplus Food Generated

Connect Healthful, Potentially Wasted Food to Rhode Islanders in Need

Support Technical Assistance and Resources Needed to Divert Organic Waste from the Landfill
Ensure Food Security for All Rhode Islanders

Food that Is Sufficient, Preserves Dignity & Joy, Is Healthful & Culturally Appropriate

- Reduce Food Insecurity from 11.8% - below 10% by 2020
- Lead a Hunger Taskforce of key stakeholders across the State
- Address Transportation Barriers to Access
- Maximize Participation in Federal Meal Programs
- Reduce Price of Healthful Food
- Support Community Garden Infrastructure

Diet-Related Disease and Food Education

- Ensure High Nutrition Standards & Education in Schools and Childcare Facilities
- Expand Partnerships with Public Health Allies
- Lead by Example with Workplace Wellness
Health Equity Zone Initiative

10 Health Equity Zones Across the State:

- Innovative approaches to improve the social and environmental conditions of communities across the State
- Food Security, Opioids, Chronic Disease prevention, etc.

Food Security Focus

- All focus on food insecurity & increased access
- Transportation Access
- Need for data/mapping tools
The Rhode Island Food System Map: Background

Farm Economy and Jobs in Rhode Island

**Rhode Island**
- 1,243 farms
- 2,055 farm operators
- 1,869 farm workers
- $19.9 million in farm payroll
- $59.7 million worth of farm products sold

**Bristol County**
- 42 farms
- 66 farm workers
- 56 farm operators
- $638,000 in farm payroll
- $2.7 million worth of farm products sold

**Kent County**
- 126 farms
- 146 farm workers
- 187 farm operators
- $2.1 million in farm payroll
- $4.4 million worth of farm products sold

**Newport County**
- 214 farms
- 591 farm workers
- 370 farm operators
- $5.8 million in farm payroll
- $14.6 million worth of farm products sold

**Providence County**
- 425 farms
- 443 farm workers
- 721 farm operators
- $3.4 million in farm payroll
- $14.1 million worth of farm products sold

**Washington County**
- 436 farms
- 623 farm workers
- 721 farm operators
- $7.9 million in farm payroll
- $23.9 million worth of farm products sold

State and county outlines are not drawn to scale.
The Rhode Island Food System Map: Background

Economy and Food Jobs
Northern Rhode Island excluding Providence area, Pawtucket and Central Falls

- Food Manufacturing Jobs
  - Fewer than 20
  - 20 - 100
  - 100 - 500
  - 500 - 1000
  - More than 1000

- Food Service and Retail Jobs
  - 20 - 100
  - 100 - 500
  - 500 - 1000
  - More than 1000

- Unemployment exceeds national average (9.2%)
- Median Household Income
  - $35,053
  - $103,937

Food Access and SNAP enrollment
Providence area, Pawtucket and Central Falls

- WIC Retailers
- SNAP Retailers
- Food Pantries and Meal Sites
- Low-Income Low-Access Tracts

- Licensed Food Retailers
- Cash Registers - 1-2
- Cash Registers - 3-5
- Cash Registers - 6 or more
- Market (Non-Profit)
- Retail Food Peddler

Percent of Households on SNAP
- 14%
- 8.6%
- 43.2%

The data sources for ECONOMY AND FOOD JOBS maps are as follows:
Food Manufacturing and Food Service and Retail Jobs: U.S. 2012 Economic Census.
Jobs figures are minimum estimates. See Methodology section for more details.
The Rhode Island Food System Map: Background

Public Health Indicators

Diagnosed Diabetes
Percentage of population

- Providence County: 9.5%
- Kent County: 9.4%
- Bristol County: 8.7%
- Newport County: 8.1%
- Washington County: 8.5%

Prevalence of Obesity
Percentage of population

- Providence County: 27.60%
- Kent County: 27.70%
- Bristol County: 21.30%
- Newport County: 21.70%
- Washington County: 23.90%

Heart Disease
Deaths per 100,000

- Providence County: 172.8

Leisure Time Inactivity
Percentage of population

- Providence County: 26.20%

Access to Health Care

Health Care and Social Assistance Establishments per 1000 Households

- Federally Qualified Health Centers

- Health Care and Social Assistance Establishments and based on ACS 2010-12, which includes the following subsectors: Ambulatory Health care services, Hospitals, Nursing and residential care facilities, and Social assistance.
Let’s launch the map!
Check out the map yourself!  

**tiny.cc/rifoodmap**

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**Resources**

APA Food Systems Knowledge Base: planning.org/knowledgebase/food/

APA-Food Interest Group (FIG): apafig.wordpress.org

Growing Food Connections: growingfoodconnections.org

USDA: Food Access Research Atlas and Food Environment Atlas

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