



December 16, 2022  
Facilitated by:



**Lorain County  
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All



# Stakeholder Convening #3



Lorain County  
Public Health  
For the Health of Us All



# Agenda

- 9:00 AM Welcome
- 9:05 AM Past - A summary of Food Forward Lorain to Date
- 9:15 AM Present - Successes
- 9:40 AM Complexities, Roadblocks & Failures
- 10:00 AM Breakout Activity
- 10:45 AM Future - Plans for 2023

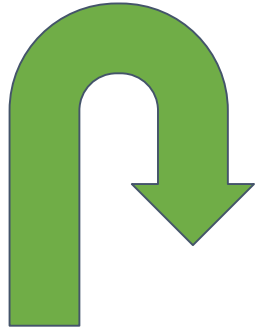


# Food Forward Lorain

- **Purpose:** To build upon community momentum, sustain efforts and encourage new partnerships to increase access to healthy food, and improve community well-being.



# Food Forward Lorain Objectives



1. Evaluate local food systems
2. Increase coordination of food system resources
3. Identify collaborative opportunities for solutions to system problems; initiate conversations, and convene relevant stakeholders



4. Aid in implementation
5. Promote outcomes



# How We Got Here: 2019 & 2020



SH & LCPH begins planning to establish a Food Advisory Council.

January 2020



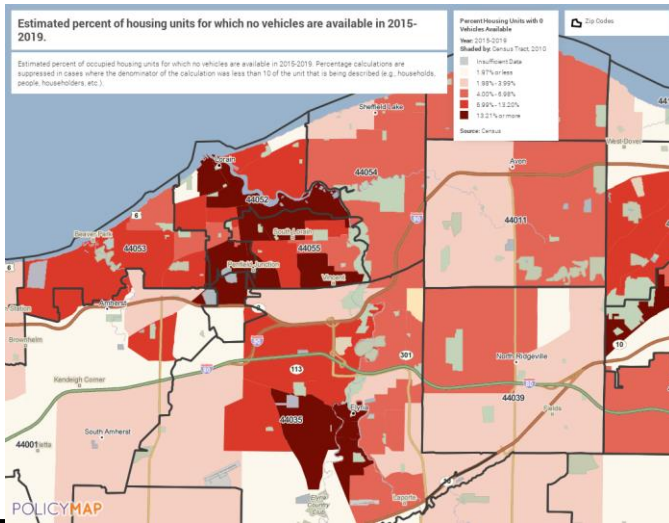
Fall 2019

Second Harvest Child Hunger Summit results in calls for better coordination from participants.



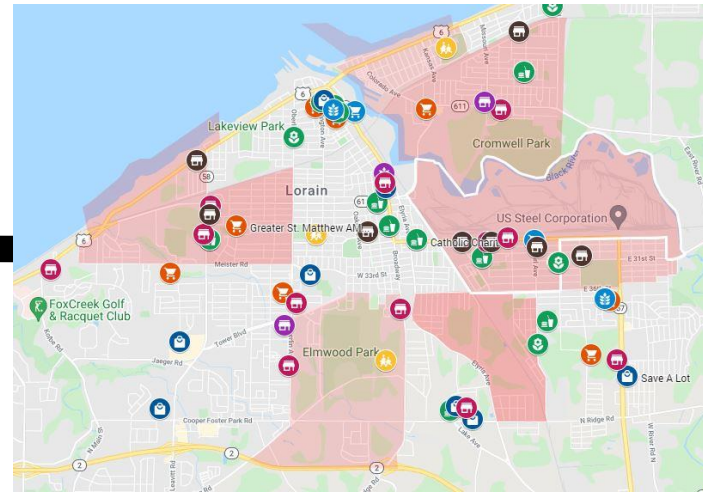


# How We Got Here: 2020



Ongoing planning: Google MyMaps is created for Lorain County and City of Lorain, showing disconnects in the food system.

2020



Spring 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SH and LCPH gather data on food access in Lorain County and City.



# How We Got Here: 2021



1:1 stakeholder meetings occur between SH, LCPH, and partners.

Spring 2021

January 2021

SH and LCPH form the Food Advisory Council and identify partners working in the City of Lorain.

June 2021

Stakeholder Convening #1 takes place, and 3 focus areas are created.

**\$** #1: Economic development, urban farm & retail expansion

**+** #2: Improving healthcare partnerships, diabetes prevention, nutrition/culinary literacy

**⚙️** #3: Connecting people to food through technology & transportation



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# How We Got Here: 2021

Focus areas inspire projects which continue to progress through 1:1 project sponsor meetings, community engagement, stakeholder surveys, etc.

Projects include: applying for USDA Urban Agriculture Planning Grant, joining the Unite Us Ohio Network, piloting ProjectDash, and more.

The City of Lorain joined as a FFL co-lead. Project-based workgroups continue to function. Stakeholder Convening #3 planning takes place.

2021



2022



October 2021

Stakeholder Convening #2 takes place. Projects, Progress, and opportunities for involvement are presented and discussed.







Focus Area 1: Inspiring economic development through urban farm and retail expansion



Increase access to healthy, fresh food in the City of Lorain by helping to spur economic development and expanding farm & food retail opportunities.



Focus Area 2: Strengthening healthcare partnerships through Food is Medicine programming



Establish robust healthcare partnerships with a focus on diabetes prevention and nutrition education/culinary literacy programming.



Focus Area 3: Connect People to Food through Technology & Transportation Networks



Increase food access through the improvement of transportation opportunities and utilize new technology to increase healthy food access.



# Focus Area 1: Economic Development, Urban Farm & Retail Expansion

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Increase access to healthy, fresh food in the City of Lorain by helping to spur economic development and expanding farm &amp; food retail opportunities.</b>
<b>Intents</b>	Get healthier, fresh food in the hands of more people on a consistent basis
	More options to purchase fresh food no matter location in the city
	Create viable economic opportunities for growers, gardens, businesses & strengthen fresh food supply chain



Latest Achievement: Awarded USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovation Planning Grant in partnership with government and urban farms





## Focus Area 2: Strengthening healthcare partnerships through Food is Medicine programming

Strategy	Strengthening healthcare partnerships through Food is Medicine programming.
Intents	Increase healthcare sector awareness of community-based food-focused resources to support patients with healthy eating behavior change
	Increase food access in healthcare settings

★ Latest Achievement: Successfully joined Unite Us in order to receive referrals directly from health care providers and other community organizations.





## Focus Area 3: Connecting People to Food through Technology & Transportation Networks

Strategy	Connect People to Food through Technology & Transportation Networks
Intents	Increase food access through the improvement of transportation opportunities
	Utilize new technology to increase food access

★ Latest Achievement: Created DoorDash pilot (Project Dash) at Second Harvest to deliver federal CSFP (Senior Food Boxes) to seniors at or below 130% of poverty. Currently delivering 215 boxes per month via volunteers and DoorDash. Helped to uncover a need within the city, but pilot will be forced to pivot due to changes in DoorDash fee structure in 2023.

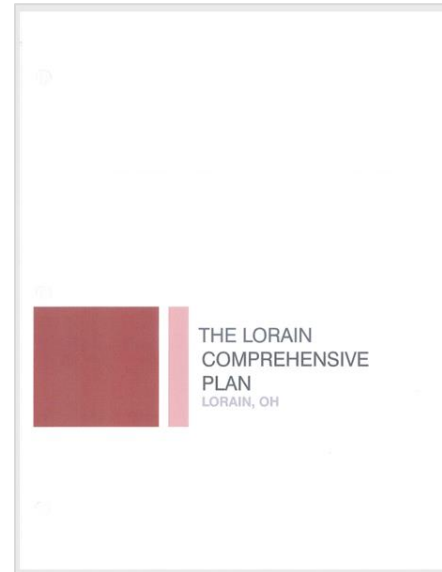


# City of Lorain Involvement

## The City of Lorain Comprehensive Plan

*Adopted 2017*

“...Other compatible uses could also be considered such as **temporary tree farming** or **local food production**. Only in parks with very limited sizes and location should they be sold/donated, and those should be targeted to remain open-space oriented use.” - **Priority 4**



### Plan Priorities

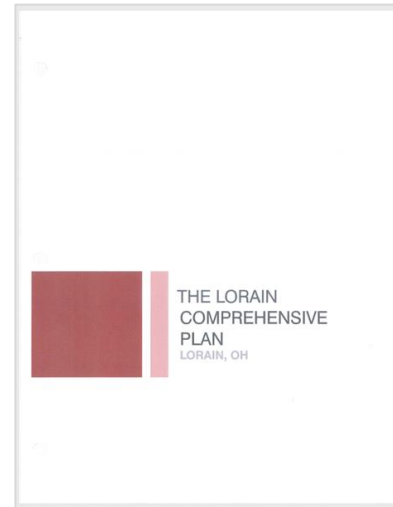
- 1 MAKE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT READY
- 2 MAKE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT READY
- 3 STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS
- 4 PARKS  
Providing space for gathering, recreational opportunities, and environmental benefits, city parks are an integral part of a community. Capitalizing on these assets and safeguarding them for future generations are key issues.
- 5 STABILIZE VACANT PROPERTIES
- 6 GATEWAY AND SIGNAGE
- 7 ANNEXATION STRATEGY
- 8 PROMOTE LORAIN

# City of Lorain Involvement

## The City of Lorain Comprehensive Plan

*Adopted 2017*

“...vacant land in residential neighborhoods poses **significant safety challenges** to **quality** of life for residents; unoccupied properties and poorly maintained landscapes don't promote safe environments to walk in, particularly after dark...” - **Priority 5**



**5** STABILIZE VACANT PROPERTIES



Figure 2.5: Vacant Land

	Total Acres	% of Vacant Land in the City
Commercial	862	~30%
Industrial	403	~14%
Residential	972	~34%
Agricultural	619	~22%

**~18%**  
of the overall land in the City is vacant.

Table 2.4: Vacant Land, by Land Use Category

# City of Lorain Involvement

## Challenges for our Community:

- **Limited Affordable Transportation Options**
  - Only on specific routes
- **Access to Functional Foods\***
  - Limited grocery stores
- **Non-supportive Policy**
  - Property Maintenance
  - Zoning
  - Land Bank
- **Abundance of Vacant Property**
  - Lack of Tax revenue generated
- **Limited Resources and Economic Drivers**
  - Limited Loans, Grants, etc. for Enterprises
  - Limited local food network or vital connections





# City of Lorain Involvement

## Urban Agriculture interpreted through Code

### Zoning Code:

- **Residential Zoning**
  - Not permitted
- **Commercial Zoning**
  - Not permitted
- **Industrial Zoning**
  - Larger food production i.e. Greenhouses

### IPM Code:

- **Adopted to manage High Grass / Weeds**
  - Could conflict with yard gardening



*“As set forth in Ordinance #179-20, all property owners are hereby duly notified that **the City of Lorain may take action necessary to abate high grass and/or noxious weeds exceeding eight (8) inches in height during the 2022 calendar year.**”*



# City of Lorain Involvement

## Opportunities for our Community:

- **Increasing Access to Functional Foods**
  - Through grow local / sell local
  - Prioritizing businesses that support / provide Functional Foods
- **Update Policies to match the Comprehensive Plan Priorities and support urban agriculture as an economic driver.**
  - Zoning - adopt best suited methodology i.e. overlay district or general conditions
  - Utilize or create Property Maintenance - gardens provisions
  - Land Bank - design an easy process for quick acquisition
- **Design resources and connections to assist entrepreneurs in the local food industry**



# City of Lorain Involvement

## USDA Invests \$14.2 Million in 52 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Efforts

Examples of planning projects include the City of Lorain's Food Forward Lorain Initiative in Ohio, which seeks to create, improve, and expand access to healthy food for economically distressed neighborhoods and families by improving the urban agriculture landscape to support additional urban farming operations. Another planning project, implemented by Tampa Family Health Centers in Florida, will inform and educate residents by offering nutrition education, food preparation classes, and gardening lessons.

Partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio and Lorain County Public Health



# Roadblocks & Failures

*Try again. Fail again. Fail better.* – Samuel Beckett

- Produce Rx
- Diabetes Prevention



# Roadblocks & Failures

*They aren't roadblocks. They're signposts.* – Richie Norton

- DoorDash Pilot





# Breakout Activity

You may choose your own  
groups. This is an OPEN and SAFE space.



Focus Area 1: Inspiring economic development through urban farm and retail expansion



Focus Area 2: Strengthening healthcare partnerships through Food is Medicine programming



Focus Area 3: Connect People to Food through Technology & Transportation Networks



# Report Out & Final Discussion

 **Mentimeter**



<https://www.menti.com/aldd7dw6vmu7>

Voting Code:  
visit [mentimeter.com](https://www.menti.com) and  
type in #3516 7394

# Future Plans for 2023 & Beyond: Roles

- Co-leads
- Project Sponsors
- Stakeholders/Allies



# Future Plans for 2023 & Beyond: Structure

- Ongoing convenings (frequency TBD)
- Focus area/project meetings and continuous work toward projects throughout the year
- Community Involvement & Outreach
- Evaluation





# Want to get involved?



**Contact us.**

[cmavrich@loraincountyhealth.com](mailto:cmavrich@loraincountyhealth.com)

[www.FoodForwardLorain.org](http://www.FoodForwardLorain.org)

# Thank you!

*Kat Bray, LCPH*

*Catherine Mavrigh, LCPH*

*Julie Chase-Morefield, Second Harvest*

*Polly Leland, Second Harvest*

*Sam Flores, Second Harvest*

*Hannah Kiraly, City of Lorain*

