



METRO FOOD ACCESS NETWORK

ThriveMSP 2040 Success!

Background:

The ThriveMSP 2040 document is created by the Metropolitan Council and is the vision for the 7-county metro region over the next 30 years. It reflects the Met Council's concerns and aspirations, anticipates future needs in the region, and addresses our responsibility to future generations.

The initial ThriveMSP 2040 document had only one paragraph related to food access. At the first quarterly MFAN meeting, in February 2014, the Land Access work group decided to draft and submit a letter to the Met Council outlining the areas of the document where food access should be highlighted. MFAN member organization, West Side Community Organization (WSCO), lead the campaign to draft the letter. Many members from MFAN helped draft the document and even more signed on to the completed copy. This letter was submitted to the Met Council before the deadline for public input in April 2014.

MFAN Success:

The ThriveMSP 2040 document was edited and finalized on May 28, 2014. The Met Council incorporated our recommendations into the final draft of the plan! The document went from containing less than one paragraph about food access to now having food access as a duplicated theme throughout the plan. Below are some of the areas where food access is highlighted throughout the document.

Thrive Outcomes

Prosperity

- Protecting natural resources that are the foundation of prosperity
 - Prime agricultural soils support the region's farm economy and sustain local food production. Agricultural land creates economic opportunity for a variety of residents, ranging from farmers growing crops on century-old family farms to new Americans bringing their farming experience into small-scale local food production serving farmers markets. About a half-million acres in the region, one-quarter of the region's land, are planned, guided, and zoned to maintain agriculture as the primary long-term land use—mainly in a crescent shaped area through Dakota, Scott, and Carver Counties. The Council supports preserving agricultural land to protect the agricultural economy in the region, provide economic opportunities for farmers, and promote local food production and processing. (p23)

Livability

- Promoting healthy communities and active living through land use, planning, and investments

- Recognize opportunities for urban agriculture and small-scale local food production
- Encourage policies and investments that improve access to safe and healthy food. (p49)

Sustainability

- Providing leadership to support climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience
 - Protecting agricultural land for local food production and processing to reduce distance-to-market travel emissions. (p55)

Community Designations

Agricultural

- Preserving large swaths of farmland
 - In the Agricultural area, agriculture is the development. The Council supports the preservation of agricultural land to protect the region's agricultural economy, provide economic opportunities for farmers, and to promote local food production. These long-term uses support the region's economic competitiveness as they provide opportunities for local agricultural- The preservation of long-term agricultural uses and the integration of best management practices in farm operations also contribute to regional sustainability. The incorporation of best management practices, such as conservation tillage and carbon sequestration, can improve soil fertility, reduce soil erosion, and improve overall soil and water quality.
 - Long term agricultural uses can also contribute to the region's air quality by reducing local food transportation distances and related greenhouse gas emissions. and food-based industry clusters and production for local food consumption. (pg. 95,96)

Land Use Policies by Community Designation

Urban Center: Growing vitality in the region's core

- Orderly and Efficient Land Use
 - Community Role: Recognize opportunities for urban agriculture and small-scale food production. (pg 122)

Diversified Rural: Protecting Land for rural lifestyle and long-term organization

- Economic Competitiveness
 - Council Role: Support agriculture as a primary long-term use to protect the region's agricultural economy, to provide economic opportunities for farmers, and to promote local food production.
 - Community Role: Consider opportunities for smaller-acreage agricultural operations to support food production for local markets. (pg 146)

Agricultural: Preserving Large Swaths of Farmland

- Economic Competitiveness

- Council Role: Support agriculture as a primary long-term use to protect the region's agricultural economy, to provide economic opportunities for farmers, and to promote local food production.
- Community Role: Consider opportunities for smaller-acreage agricultural operations to support food production for local markets. (pg. 151)