



## SUMMARY

This document identifies opportunities to enhance the City of Fort Lauderdale’s proposed Comprehensive Plan Policies and Objectives. The City proposes several progressive policies, which will most certainly advance healthy food access with greater social equity.

*Food for All Broward* identifies the following opportunities:

1. A metric for *Healthy Food Priority Areas* (HFPAs) based on food access, diabetes and proportions of food retail types.
2. An annual Food Environment Report with a map of the City’s HFPAs.
3. An online, interactive mapping system for Fort Lauderdale’s food environment to encourage public engagement in the City’s food system.
4. Residential market gardening supported by regulations for selling produce from front yards.
5. A system of wayfinding for food access that integrates with the County’s Complete Streets projects.
6. Food pantries and food banks as stakeholders in the City’s food system planning process and evaluation.

## EXISTING POLICIES & OPPORTUNITIES

| Fort Lauderdale Proposed Policy   | OPPORTUNITIES  |
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| <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.1:</b> The City will regularly monitor the food level of accessibility for residents to identify and reduce any <b>food deserts</b> in the City.</p> | <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.1:</b><br/>Change the term “food desert” and the measure for food access.</p> <p>Although “food desert” is a term used by the USDA, it has become to be recognized by many food system planners as stigmatizing communities<sup>1</sup>. As an alternative, the Reinvestment Fund developed another term, <a href="#">Limited Supermarket Access Areas</a> (LSA): “LSA analysis looks at such criteria as income, distance to existing stores and car ownership rates to identify places where households have inadequate and inequitable access to supermarkets. The analysis quantifies disparate levels of food access and estimates the dollar amount that area residents spend outside of their communities (retail leakage). The LSA analysis is accepted by the CDFI Fund as eligibility criteria for federally-funded healthy food lending.”</p> <p>However, according <a href="#">to the latest LSA maps</a>, Fort Lauderdale does not have any LSAs, although we know from six years of the CDC-funded TOUCH initiative, that healthy food access is a challenge for many Fort Lauderdale residents.</p> <p>Another alternative term adopted by the City of Baltimore, is a <a href="#">Healthy Food Priority Area (HFPA)</a>. This geographic unit recognizes that the, “food environment comprises both physical and social elements that</p> |

<sup>1</sup> Alison Hope Alkon writes a compelling critique of using food deserts, and noting conflicting studies linking physical access to supermarkets and health outcomes. She proposes an approach that incorporates, “Foodways: the cultural and social practices that affect food consumption, including how and what communities eat, where and how they shop and what motivates their food preferences.” However, even in her work, geographic access is still a factor that cannot be dismissed.

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| <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.1a:</b> Utilize data collected by the <b>US Department of Agriculture and from business licenses</b> to map the locations of grocery stores, supermarkets, farmer markets, and similar establishments to determine the accessibility for residents in the City.</p> | <p><i>can influence a population’s eating patterns.”</i> HFPAs use USDA Food Deserts as the base geographic unit and incorporate additional factors, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A low average Healthy Food Availability Index (HFAI) score (created by assessing the availability of healthy food within stores).</li> <li>• Over 30 percent of households have no vehicle available</li> </ul> <p>The HFAI score is based on a survey of staple foods across food stores types such as small grocery stores, convenience stores, public markets and supermarkets. A high HFAI score range is 19.1-28.5. In Baltimore, supermarkets have an average HFAI score of 27.7, while convenience stores have an average score of 9.3. Although this score system is innovative, it may not be sustainable to expect the City of Fort Lauderdale to conduct reoccurring surveys of food stores to calculate a HFAI score. Fortunately, the HFLPA term is flexible enough to incorporate other factors that can be readily attained with public access data.</p> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.1a:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a Fort Lauderdale version of Healthy Food Priority Areas (HFPAs).</li> <li>2. <i>Food for All Broward</i> could provide TA to develop an online mapping system methodology for the City of Fort Lauderdale.</li> </ol> <p>The City could create their own version of Baltimore’s HFPAs using census tract level food deserts (USDA), food retail data (InfoGroup), and tract-level diabetes/obesity data (CDC 500 Cities Project). According to our research, the City of Fort Lauderdale currently has approximately twenty-two (22) USDA food desert tracts (2015 data) within the city boundary. Of these, ten of the tracts have a diabetes rate above the Broward County average of 11.06% (percent of 18+ population estimated to have diabetes). The food desert tracts with above-county diabetes have a mean of 16.08%, which is 45.39% higher than the County average.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>A possible census-tract HFLPA formula for Fort Lauderdale could be:<br/>FLL HFLPA=</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A USDA food desert tract with a diabetes rates above the County rate, and/or</li> <li>• A tract location quotient of convenience store retail square footage per population is greater than the supermarket retail square footage per population.</li> </ul> |
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<sup>2</sup> The 500 Cities Data does not cover all of Broward County. However, it does cover 10 municipalities, and 266 tracts (74% of all tracts). This is based on 500 cities data collected for 2016. There is a 2018 update, which may change the current estimate.

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| <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.Ib:</b> Annually update the location map to determine underserved areas in the community.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Pantries within the HFPAs</li> </ul> <p>The USDA food desert data is readily available for free as well as the CDC tract-level diabetes data. Food Pantries can be obtained from Feeding South Florida and the South Florida Hunger Coalition.</p> <p><b>The food retail data</b> could be purchased from InfoGroup for approximately \$150.00. This data would include the approximately 252 food retail locations with the following categories and their Standard Industry Codes (SIC)<sup>3</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5499-18 Grocers-Specialty Foods</li> <li>5411-07 Grocers-Ethnic Foods</li> <li>5411-08 Grocers-Health Foods</li> <li>5411-05 Grocers-Retail</li> <li>5411-09 Grocers-Take-Out Foods</li> <li>5411-01 Food Markets</li> <li>5421-01 Seafood-Retail</li> <li>5421-07 Meat-Retail</li> <li>5499-09 Foods-Natural</li> </ul> <p><b>SIC Categories:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grocery Stores (5411)</li> <li>Meat &amp; Fish Markets (5421)</li> <li>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Markets (5431)</li> <li>Candy Nut &amp; Confectionery Stores (5441)</li> <li>Dairy Products Stores (5451)</li> <li>Miscellaneous Food Stores (5499)</li> </ul> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.Ib:</b></p> <p>The City could use the above data to annually <a href="#">produce a static map and report</a> much like City of Baltimore. Alternatively, or in addition, the City could publish an online mapping system of the data via an ESRI Web Map App.</p> <p>Food For All Broward could provide TA in the development of mapping products for the City of Fort Lauderdale that provides a framework for monitoring the level of food accessibility and health equity.</p> <p>In addition, an online map could be imported into an ESRI web Map App that the City could use internally or embed on its website as a public education and outreach tool. <a href="#">Here is an example</a> of a transportation Web Map App Urban Health Partnerships created for the City of Miami Gardens.</p> |
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<sup>3</sup> Food For All Broward contacted InfoGroup on 4/8/19 for an estimate.

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| <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.2:</b> Encourage the location of grocery stores, farmers markets, and community food gardens to support access to healthful food for all areas where people live.</p> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.2b:</b> Provide and promote resources designed to encourage urban agriculture opportunities, including, but not limited to, community and home gardens, including consideration of land use amendments and permitted and consideration of conditional use regulations, where appropriate.</p> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.2c:</b> Accommodate concentrations of food service providers at strategic locations in relation to the transportation system and concentrations of housing and employment in the City.</p> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.20:</b> The City shall seek opportunities to partner with non-profit organizations, local businesses, student organizations, and other community efforts aimed at providing healthy and affordable food options for communities in Fort Lauderdale, including to identify areas of the City in need of additional resources or services.</p> | <p>Food For All Broward could share recommendations on how to produce a food access map for the City of Fort Lauderdale much like the <a href="#">Maryland Food System Map</a> (zoomed into Baltimore).</p> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.2 &amp; POLICY FLU 3.2.2b</b><br/>Fort Lauderdale’s <a href="#">current Urban Farming/Community Garden Ordinance</a> may need to be amended to encourage residential market gardens as done with the City of Miramar. Currently, only nonprofit, community gardens are allowed on residential land.</p> <p>Small economic incentives can go a long way with offsetting the cost of maintaining home food production, especially for low-income communities that are in the most need of home food production. In addition, the micro-economic activity of organizing residential produce growing and selling could encourage neighbor interaction and thus promote neighborhood social cohesion and open <a href="#">new domains of civic space</a>. Incentives for food growing in the front yard, where private property interacts with the public realm, <a href="#">may encourage more food gardening</a> by adjacent neighbors.</p> <p>In order to permit and promote residential food sales, City’s land development regulations would need to define farmers markets and/or produce stands. A user-friendly permitting process that takes into consideration non-English speaking populations should be considered.</p> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.2c:</b><br/>In addition to providing incentives to concentrate food access points along transit corridor, a system of food wayfinding may be useful. <a href="#">This example from the City of Tampa</a> in collaboration with the MPO helps residents find community gardens by bicycling or walking. The City could align such wayfinding with Broward County’s Complete Streets projects.</p> <p><b>POLICY FLU 3.2.20:</b><br/>Often food pantries are overlooked. It may be beneficial to include the South Florida Hunger Coalition and Feeding South Florida as partners. Their collaboration may also inform the City’s emergency preparedness planning as well.</p> |
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