OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Food Production











Food & Community



A Community Designed Healthy Food System

Susan Colbert, Julie Fox, Stacy Haught, Mike Hogan, Marilyn Rabe, Christie Welch

To explore how the Weinland Park community could make the production, processing, distribution, preparation and celebration of food a catalyst for urban neighborhood development, an OSU Extension team collaborated with other community organizations. With funding support from a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Challenge Grant, the team invested in a two-year Urban Agriculture Overlay Planning Project.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Urban agriculture is increasingly recognized by public health professionals, urban planners, community organizations and policy-makers as a valuable tool for economic development, preservation of green space, and improvement of food security (Brown & Jameton, 2000).

http://go.osu.edu/urbanag

programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.

INTRODUCTION

Weinland Park is an urban neighborhood located between downtown Columbus, Ohio and The Ohio State University. It is home to approximately 4,500 residents, many of whom confront unemployment, poverty and crime. Despite the challenges of this community, residents and businesses have demonstrated resiliency. With the help of community, corporate, civic, church and university partners, this community is being revitalized. The community decided to use food as a focus for transformation.

METHODS

To explore how the Weinland Park community could make the production, processing, distribution, preparation and celebration of food a catalyst for urban neighborhood development, an OSU Extension team collaborated with other community organizations. With funding support from a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Challenge Grant, the team invested in a two-year Urban Agriculture Overlay Planning Project. The OSU Extension team focused on the education component of the project, conducting a Community Food Assessment Survey, piloting educational workshops, facilitating strategic planning dialogues, meeting with stakeholders at numerous events and engaging in ongoing interaction through the OSU University District Extension office.



"Ohio State University
Extension has been an
incredible opportunity for
residents in Weinland
Park," said Joyce Hughes,
president of the Weinland
Park Community Civic
Association.

OSU Extension Educator, Susan Colbert (right), with Joyce Hughes



Snapshot from one of the survey research questions



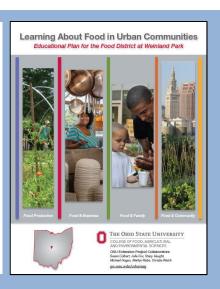
Extension educators set the stage for stable relationships, inter-organizational linkages, and feedback loops upon which localized food systems could be built (Dunning, et al., 2012; Gulati & Gargiulo, 1999; Ramasawmy & Fort, 2011; Sundkvist et al., 2005).

RESULTS

To cultivate community through food-related education and sustainable community economic development, the OSU Extension team developed an Educational Plan for the Food District @ Weinland Park. The comprehensive guide draws upon a foundation of national, state and local Extension research-based programming, as well as the literature, urban agriculture resources, existing community assets, and engagement with community residents.

Primary objectives of this planning project included improving:

- sustainable food production practices and food production capacity
- business start-ups, employment and investment (food & business)
- healthy behaviors and health indicators (food & family)
- social, environmental and economic conditions (food & community)



Food Production

- Growing with your family and community
- Growing for profit
- Food production health and wellness
- Safe food production and harvesting

Food & Business

- Business planning and management
- Workforce development
- Employee health and wellness
- Food safety business practices

Learning About ...

Food & Family

- Accessing, planning and preparing healthy meals
- Preserving food for your family
- Family health and wellness
- Serving safe food to family and friends

Food & Community

- Planning and supporting community food developments
- Leadership and community development
- Community health and wellness
- Community food safety

CONCLUSIONS

Educational needs and priorities will continue to emerge as the Food District at Weinland Park develops. This project provides a starting point and framework based on what was learned during the *Urban Agriculture Overlay Planning Project*. The Educational Plan is an ongoing process that will continue to develop as the community moves into various phases of implementation. For updates on education in Weinland Park, visit http://go.osu.edu/urbanag



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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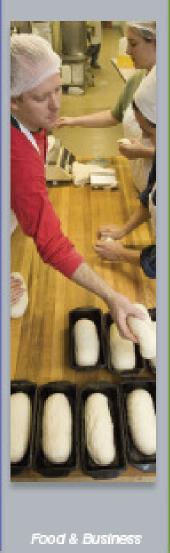




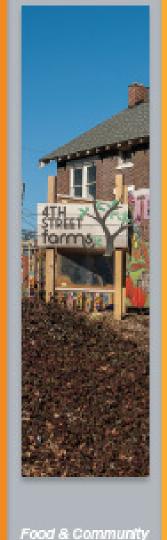












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