



Sheridan Food Access

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To: CANDO

Background

The City of Sheridan is compiling this memorandum highlighting efforts the City has enacted to improve fresh food access in the community and other resources that can help further improve this goal as a follow up to the CANDO meeting held on July 10th of 2020. This memorandum summarizes the City of Sheridan 2015 Comprehensive Plan's goals for fresh food access, the 2014 Health Impact Assessment conducted by Tri-County Health Department, the Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund managed by Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, existing businesses offering fresh food and food pantries within Sheridan, the back-yard fowl ordinance of 2014, the Pool Feasibility report of 2019, and additional future opportunities.

2015 Comprehensive Plan

The City of Sheridan has made increasing the availability of fresh and healthy food a priority for growth and economic development within the City. The 2015 Comprehensive Plan promotes development of new retail venues to sell fresh food and discusses taking advantage of greenways in utility or railroad rights-of-way as an opportunity for adding community gardens. Another priority of the plan is to identify "programs, incentives, and/or grants to encourage existing small grocery or convenience stores to sell fresh fruits and vegetables in underserved areas (CG 3.1.2, 2015 Sheridan Comprehensive Plan)."

One goal for Sheridan's Civic Center Neighborhood in particular is to "eliminate food desert issues" through strategies like "encouraging the establishment of a grocery store in this neighborhood" (NC 4, 2015 Sheridan Comprehensive Plan). This area along South Federal Boulevard encompasses a broad cross-section of Sheridan including City Hall, two schools, as well as single and multi-family residences. Currently, the only SNAP accepting food store in the area is a small 7-Eleven at the Northeast corner of Oxford and Federal (see map attachment). It is frequently used by both residents and school children who do not have the ability to drive to a grocery store. Forte Fruits is a local fresh food store and is located across from 7 Eleven and could benefit from increased visibility. A mural that was recently painted on the building may help with visibility.

Existing Food Stores and Food Pantries

The City of Sheridan has several existing grocers offering fresh fruit and produce:

- Costco and Target, located in River Point on the east side of Sheridan, are full-service supermarkets in Sheridan that accept SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. Various convenience stores along Federal and Hampden also accept SNAP.
- Forte Fruits, located at 4021 S. Federal Boulevard, offers fresh fruit, and produce grown in Palisade, Colorado and is thinking about expanding to offer other types of foods as well. This location is key to the community because it is closer to the residential parts of the city currently not walking distance to grocers. Forte offers "seconds" - imperfect produce - at a discount.

- In partnership with St. Philip Lutheran Church, Sheridan supports a food pantry called “Sharing with Sheridan” to residents in the zip codes 80110 and 80236, as well as families with students in the Sheridan School District regardless of where they reside.
- The USDA hosts several Summer Meal Sites to provide temporary meal access points for children during the summer. Sheridan High School hosts a breakfast and lunch throughout the summer, and there are several additional meal sites at bus stops during the months of May and June.
- Additionally, the City of Sheridan has identified two areas within the City that would be great locations for a grocery store—3000 W Hampden and 4399 S Federal. Both locations have an analysis of traffic in the surrounding area and potential customers in need of groceries. The attached handouts were created by P.U.M.A. (Progressive Urban Management Associates) in 2016. Since then, a convenience store has gone in at 4399 S Federal.

City of Sheridan Supported Projects

Health Impact Assessment

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) conducted by Tri-County Health Department identified several key takeaways about food access in the Sheridan community. As of the writing of this assessment (2014), “27% of Sheridan households received assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the past 12 months. Approximately half of retail food outlets (restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets) in Sheridan were all located in the River Point neighborhood, and the remainder were not evenly distributed, with no supermarkets on the west side of town.

Beekeeping & Home Gardens Ordinance Amendments

Section 56-112(a) of the Zoning Code was amended per Ordinance No. 7-2019 to include beekeeping and home gardens as permitted accessory uses in the RES-SF District. Retail sale of products cultivated in a home garden is prohibited. Section 56-92 of the zoning code was also amended to permit beekeeping as an outdoor accessory use to a public use in the P district. In both districts, Africanized bees are prohibited, as is the sale of honey produced onsite. A maximum of two hive boxes are permitted and must be in the backyard.

Backyard Fowl Ordinance

As of 2014, City of Sheridan permits backyard fowl as an accessory use to residential in the single-family residential district (RES-SF) per Ordinance No. 12-2014. A maximum of 6 fowl are permitted per dwelling unit, and types of fowl permitted include quail, geese, and turkeys. Fowl structures must be properly ventilated, cleaned and predator/weather resistant. Odor must be controlled to minimize nuisance complaints. Fowl may not be slaughtered onsite.

Pool Feasibility Report

In 2016, Community Attributes, Inc applied for grant funding to produce a Pool Feasibility Study to evaluate options for adaptive reuse of an indoor pool facility at the Sheridan Recreation Center. This study involved a site condition inventory, an analysis of Sheridan demographic data, a review of similar case studies, and creative methods of engaging key stakeholders to produce a final report. The study explored potential partnerships with foundations, community organizations and other public and private entities. A few different ideas were evaluated and one of the most supported ideas was a food hub and community center.

Sheridan Boomer Bond

As the Baby Boomer population ages, increased demands will be put on city services for older adults. The Boomer Bond project focuses on improving housing, mobility and access, community living and support services to facilitate aging in place for this demographic. Proposed strategies include coordinating a volunteer center that provides a database of volunteer opportunities older adults can match with given specific interests and availability, for example cooking or food shopping for an older adult.

Additional Resources, Programs, and Grant Opportunities

Loretto Heights Small Area Plan

In summer 2019, the City of Denver produced a Small Area Plan for the Loretto Heights campus that centered on quality of life improvements related to increasing fresh food access, availability, and affordability. One main method of improving quality of life was improving connectivity through an increase in shared mobility options and multi-use trails, parks, and open space.

Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund

The Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund (CO4F) is a statewide fund that improves access to healthy food in low-income and underserved communities by financing grocery stores and healthy food retail. These investments can be utilized to start a new business or to expand and acquire new equipment for grocery stores offering fresh foods. The financing comes in the form of low-interest loans or grants. As of March 2020, there is still \$1.7 million dollars available in the fund. Applicants must be a private or public entity or individual with the ability to incur debt, who can demonstrate at least 3 years of retail grocery business experience or other applicable business experience. Application forms for loan and/or grant financing may be obtained by contacting the fund administrator. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis as long as program funds remain available.

Healthy Corner Stores Initiative

The Healthy Corner Stores Network, a coalition of community members, local government staff, nonprofits, funders, and others led by the Community Food Security Coalition, The Food Trust, and Public Health Law & Policy, aims to bring healthier foods to corner stores in low-income and underserved communities. The initiative provides small business owners with technical assistance (i.e. storage guidelines) and access to financing that allow them to provide fresh produce in stores. By facilitating wholesale and cooperative buying, the initiative improves accessibility to fresh, nutritious food items that are typically cost-prohibitive for smaller stores to stock.

Double Up Food Bucks

Run by LiveWell Colorado, this statewide incentive program doubles the value of federal nutrition (SNAP/food stamps) benefits spent at participating locations. You can purchase twice the dollar amount on your EBT card on fresh fruits and vegetables at participating locations; for example, if you spend \$5, you get \$5 for next time, up to \$20 per visit. Initially funded by the 2016 Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grant, Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) has grown dramatically thanks to continued support from the USDA and contributions from several Colorado-based foundations and individuals. While Sheridan does not currently host any locations, we are looking into encouraging partnerships.

Link: [Double Up Food Bucks!](#)

Possible Next Steps

- **Short-term (3-6 months)**
 - Promote healthy food sold in more retailers throughout the city. Encourage all stores selling fresh foods to enroll in SNAP and DUFb (this not only increases their revenue, but also provides further access for our residents) through community outreach & marketing campaign
 - Encourage local businesses (convenience stores) to offer more fresh foods and vegetables in their stores
 - Promote stores that are working within these programs within the community
- **Medium-term (6-18 months)**

- Establish a food security task force made up of community members, business owners, and non-profit representatives to meet often (monthly?) to address the community's food security needs
- Attract another vendor to Sheridan to establish along west side of Federal offering fresh foods, closer to the residential areas of the community
- Attract a Farmers Market
- **Long-term (2-5 years)**
 - Work with Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) to establish a community garden in Sheridan
 - Site acquisition for community garden/store/kitchen
 - Work with Arapahoe County Open Spaces (ACOS) for garden grants
 - Locate or design an app./website/social media forum to trade, donate, or sell food

Attachments: Comprehensive Plan CG 3
Food Assistance Map
Forte Fruits Picture
3000 W. Hampden Avenue Market Area Profile
4399 S. Federal Boulevard Market Area Profile
Pool Feasibility Report Project Idea/ Potential Tenants
Loretto Heights Small Area Plan Food Access
Denver Urban Garden Steps to Getting Started