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Urban Planning & Community Revitalization

This report was researched and written by Jennifer Schwartz Berky, principal of Hone Strategic, LLC, an urban planning, historic preservation, and development advising firm located in Kingston New York with legal research support from Jeffrey LeJava, Managing Director of Land Use Law Center for Sustainable Development at Pace Law School.

The Kingston Urban Agriculture Zoning Project is a program of the Kingston Urban Agriculture Committee in partnership with Family of Woodstock and Larrecca Music, Inc. It was made possible by generous public support, including a donation from Kevin McEvoy and Barbara Epstein.



KINGSTON URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

URBAN AGRICULTURE PLANNING & ZONING STUDY

A Report to the Mayor of Kingston, Kingston Common Council, Conservation Advisory Council, and Comprehensive Plan Committee on the Potential of Urban Agriculture in Kingston and recommendations for comprehensive planning and zoning to support the implementation of urban agriculture practices in Kingston, New York.

Presented to the Kingston Conservation Advisory Council on February 6, 2014.



What is Urban Agriculture?



Simply defined as the growing of food within cities, urban agriculture may also be understood as a form of “**systems change**”: a movement of social empowerment that can reduce poverty and food insecurity, support public health, local economic development and community revitalization, reclaim vacant and under-utilized urban spaces, and address the imbalances of the food system.



Why Now?



We have the chance to support the update to Kingston's Comprehensive Plan, which is currently underway, and recommend changes to the zoning ordinance and related city ordinances that would remove the current barriers to urban agriculture.



Phase 1 Report Contents

Phase 2 Study and Report: Positive Policies for Local Food Systems Change

Phase 1 Appendices

DRAFT

Report Contents

Note: Chapters 1 – 3 and Appendices A – F are included in the Phase 1 Draft Report to support immediate and short-term recommendations. Chapters 4 and 5 and additional appendices will be generated with a full final report.

1. **Introduction: Urban Agriculture and Planning for Food Systems Change.** How do the national urban agriculture movement and the efforts toward regional and local food systems change support Kingston's potential for urban agriculture?
2. **Urban Agriculture in Kingston Today:** A brief history of community gardening and urban agriculture in Kingston; the policy context; identification of stakeholders
 - **Kingston's Agricultural Context:** A historic market town; farming context; a "food desert"; the urban agriculture movement to date.
 - **Organizational Framework:** The presence of organizational support for urban agriculture, in grass-roots community groups, non-profits, education and government; a listing of stakeholder groups.
 - **The Policy Context for Urban Agriculture:** A review of local, county, state and federal policies affecting urban ag potential in Kingston.
3. **Phase 1 Analysis and Recommendations: Local Policy Barriers to Urban Agriculture.**
 - **Zoning Analysis and Recommendations:** A review of zoning barriers to urban agriculture in local policy.
 - **Immediate Steps:** Approval; commitment; Integration with Comprehensive Planning and Zoning
 - **Next Steps:** Institutional Supports; Capacity Building and Partnerships
4. **Phase 2 Focus Areas:** An analysis of the potential for Kingston to implement various elements of food systems change, including:
 - social empowerment opportunities
 - organizational capacity building
 - improved health
 - economic development through jobs , improved property values, import substitution through changes to public and institutional procurement, contract growing, and retail sales;
 - making direct links with urban consumers via farm markets, farm stands, schools restaurants, and retail operations
 - environmental remediation, including soil contamination and mitigation, green infrastructure and stormwater mitigation, and other general environmental hazards and benefits associated with urban agriculture
 - use of resources, such as water, organic waste, vacant City-owned parcels space, and services
5. **Phase 2 Recommendations:** Medium- and longer-term organizational and policy actions to support urban agriculture in Kingston and create Positive Policies for Local Food Systems Change

Appendices:

Photo and Image Credits

Sources and Further Reading

Appendix A: Detailed Analysis of Zoning Ordinance Provisions and Recommendations for Action.

Appendix B: Recommended Standard Urban Agriculture Zoning Definitions

Appendix C: Supporting Resolutions and Mayoral Proclamation in Kingston:

- Kingston Community Gardens Resolution of 2011 (#138)
- Live Well Resolution of 2013 (#162)
- Mayor Gallo's Live Well Proclamation

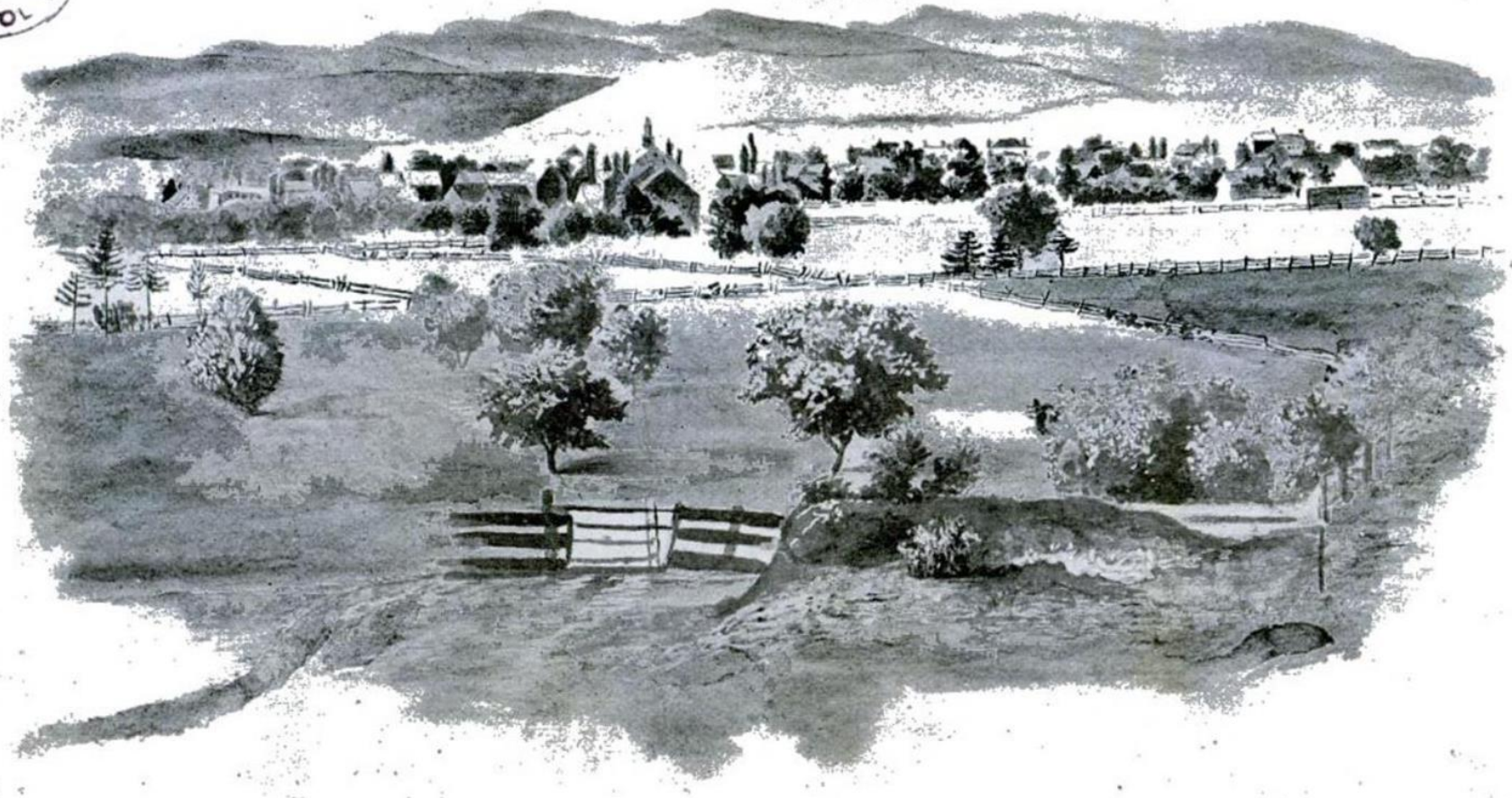
Appendix D: Best Practices in Urban Agriculture

Appendix E: Model Resolutions

Appendix F: Typical Urban agriculture yields

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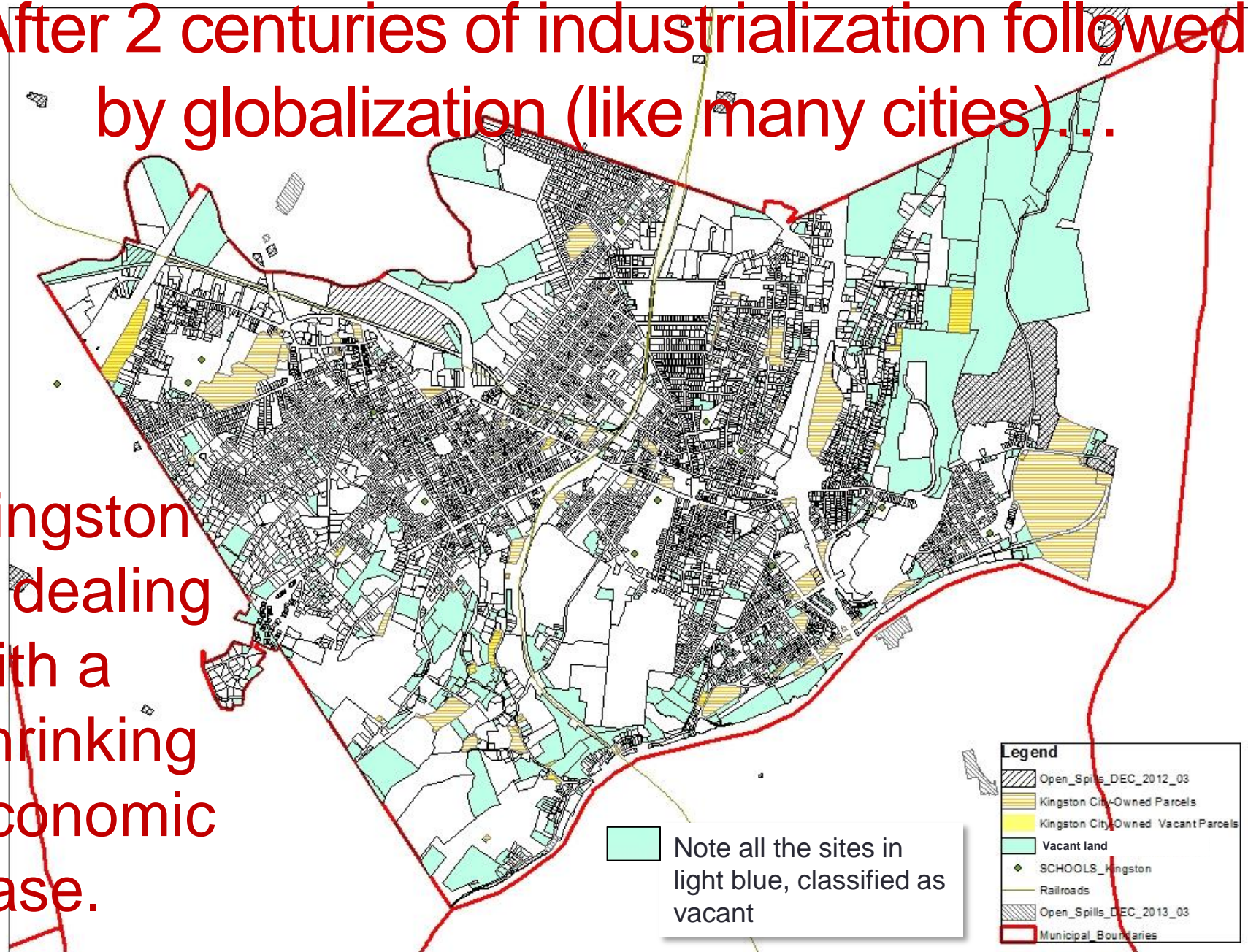
In 1819, Kingston was mainly an agricultural center and “market town”



VIEW OF KINGSTON, 1819. FROM A PAINTING OF JOHN VANDERLYN THE ARTIST.

After 2 centuries of industrialization followed by globalization (like many cities)...

Kingston is dealing with a shrinking economic base.





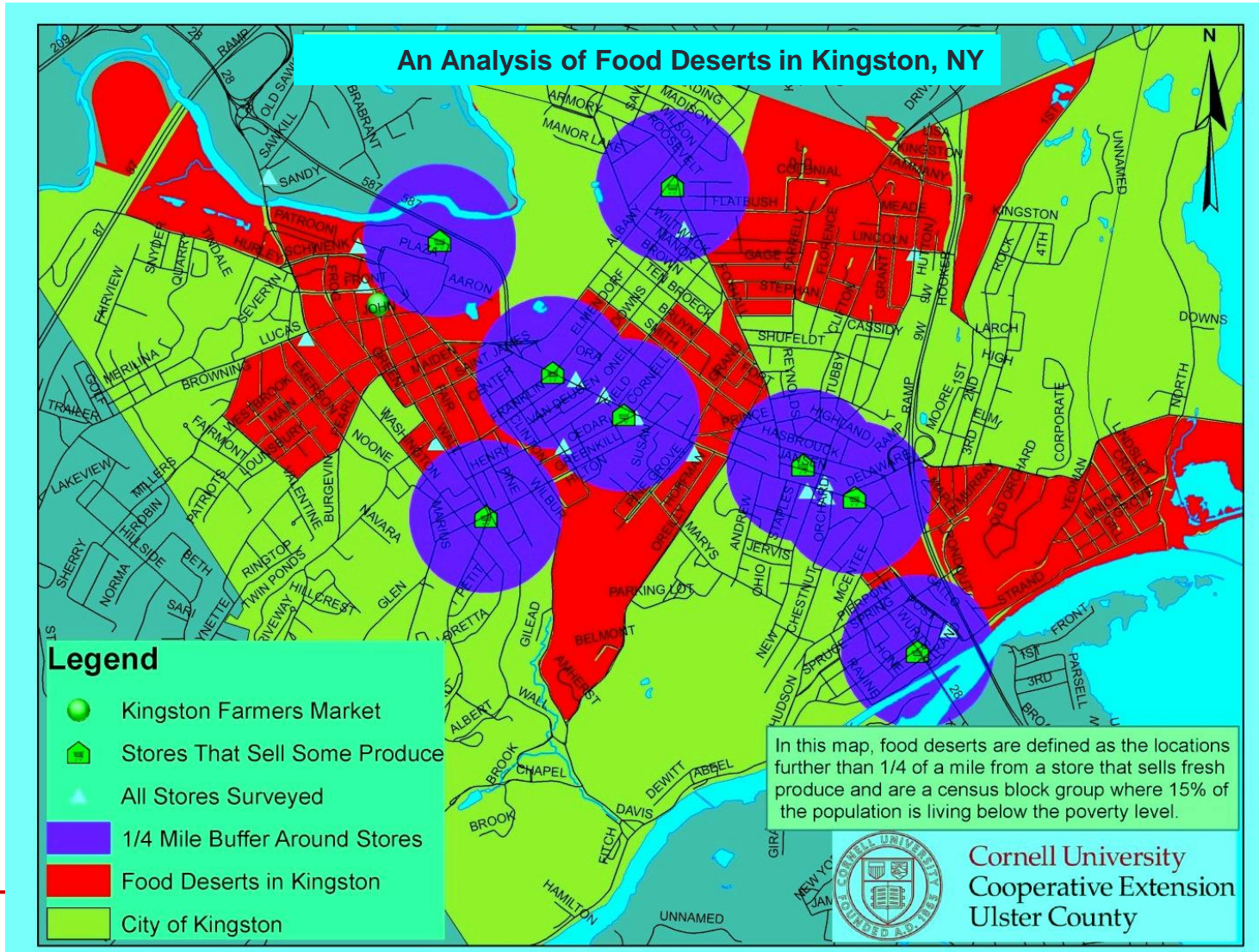
A Crisis of Health and Place



- more than 1 in 5 children lack “adequate food to meet basic nutritional needs”
- 17.4 percent “low-income” and “low-access”
- 1/5 in poverty
- 44 percent overweight or obese



A Crisis of Health and Place





Urban Agriculture Trends



Between **1994** and **2011** the number of farmers' markets in the U.S. grew by over **300%**

15% of the world's food is now grown in urban areas according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Benefits of Urban Agriculture

- Health
- Economic
- Environmental
- Social



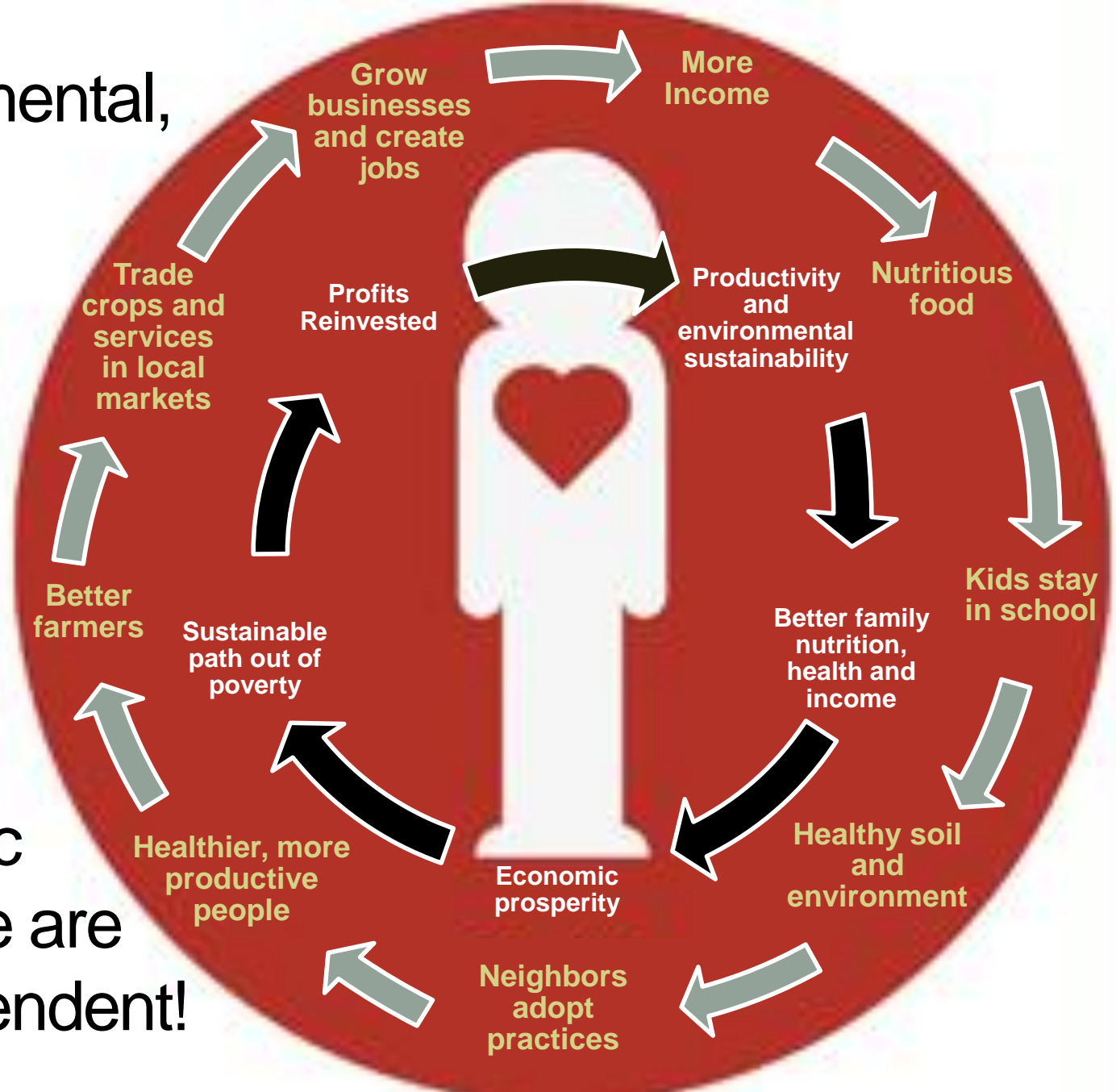


Benefits of Urban Agriculture



Environmental,
social,
and

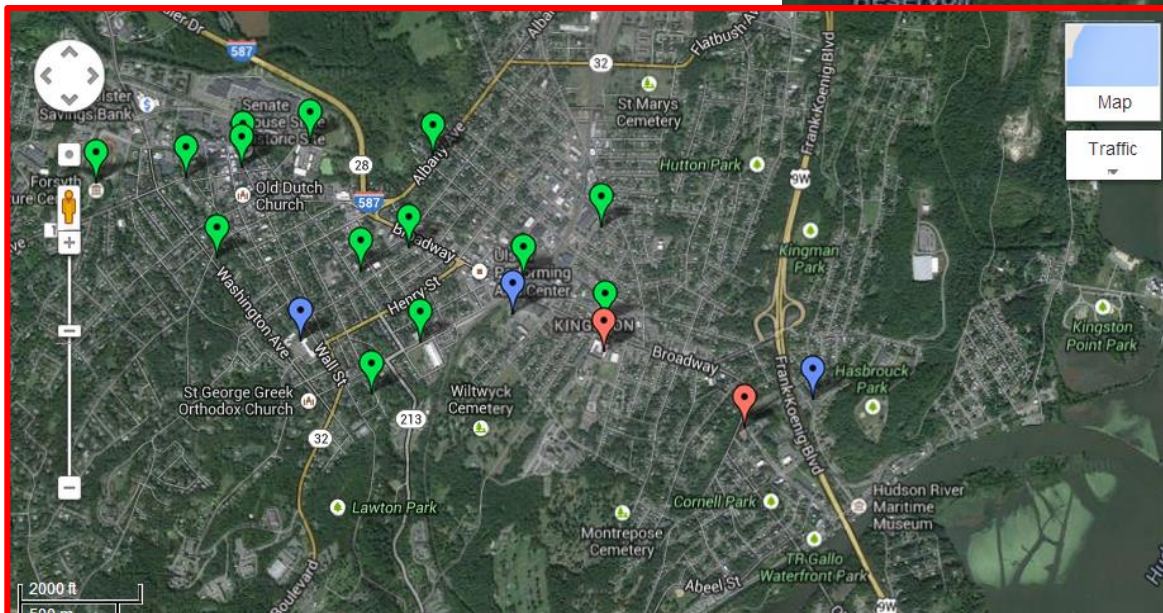
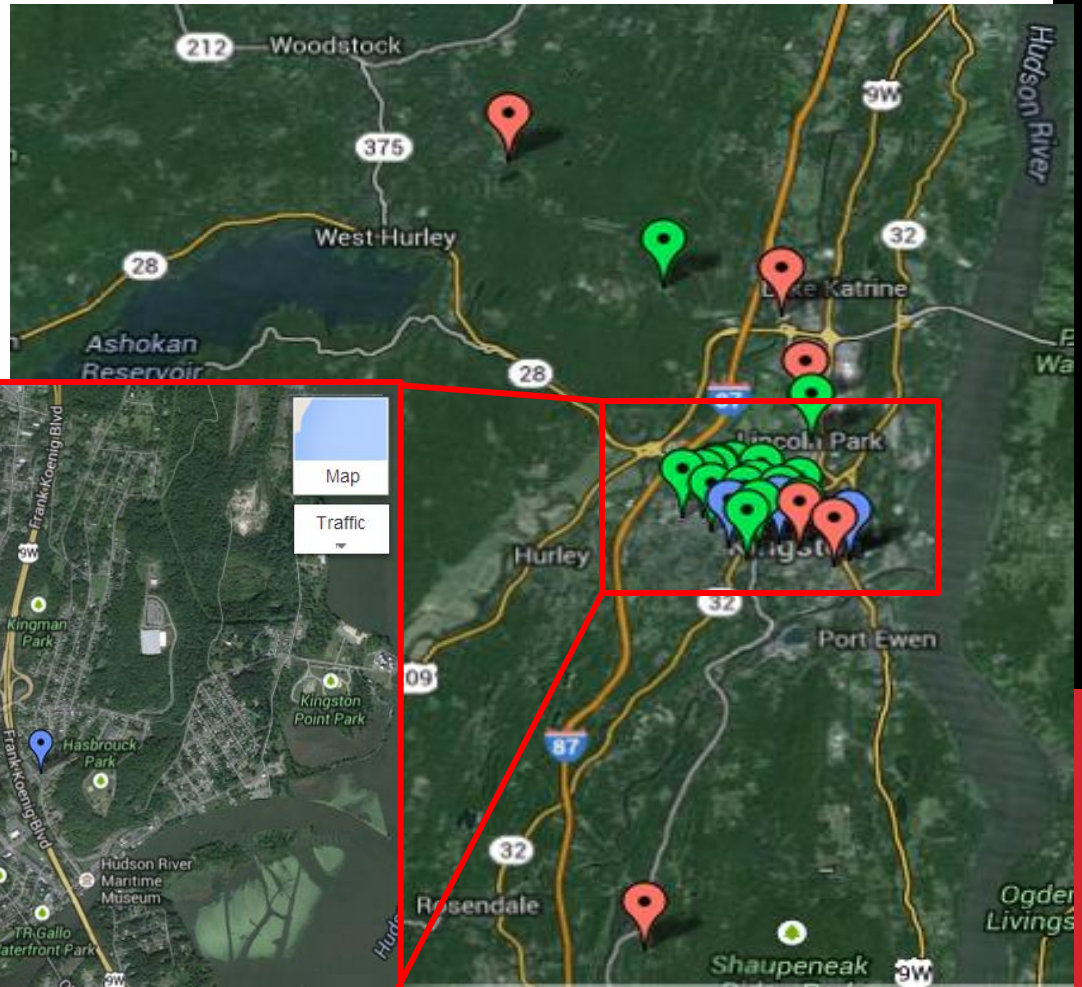
economic
resilience are
interdependent!





Kingston's New Urban Ag Movement

- Eight school gardens
- 15 shared or community ag spaces
- 2 urban "farms"



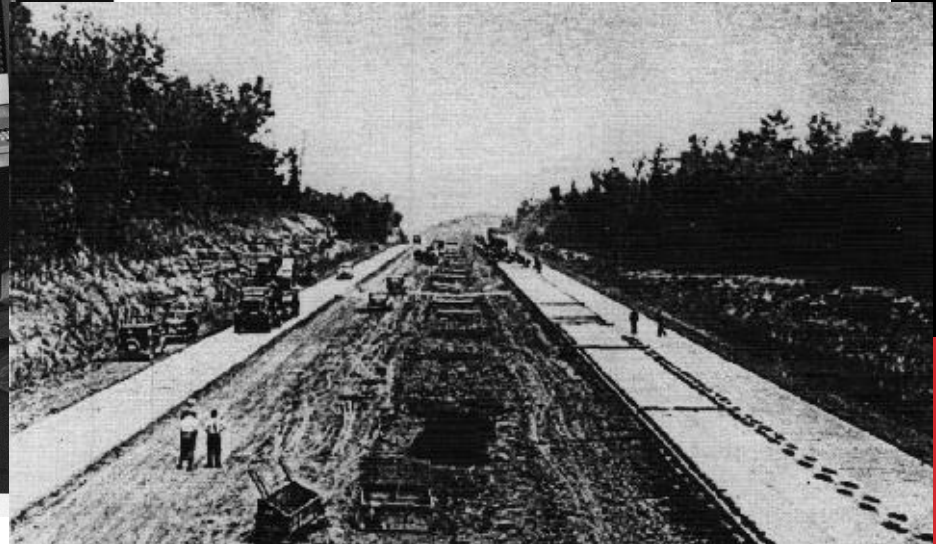
An Opportune Moment



1950s: Growth

Arrival of IBM and I-87

**1994 - present: closure of IBM
Kingston and economic decline**



Burgevin
"Floriculture"



Buzzanco's
Farm



c.1950-1994
I-87, IBM and "urbanization in Kingston"

2008-2013

2025



An Opportune Moment

2000 – present: increasing awareness of local, healthy food and social empowerment

2000: Kingston Farmers' Market

2007: Queen's Galley



An Opportune Moment



Numerous new and ongoing community initiatives supporting health and local food production.



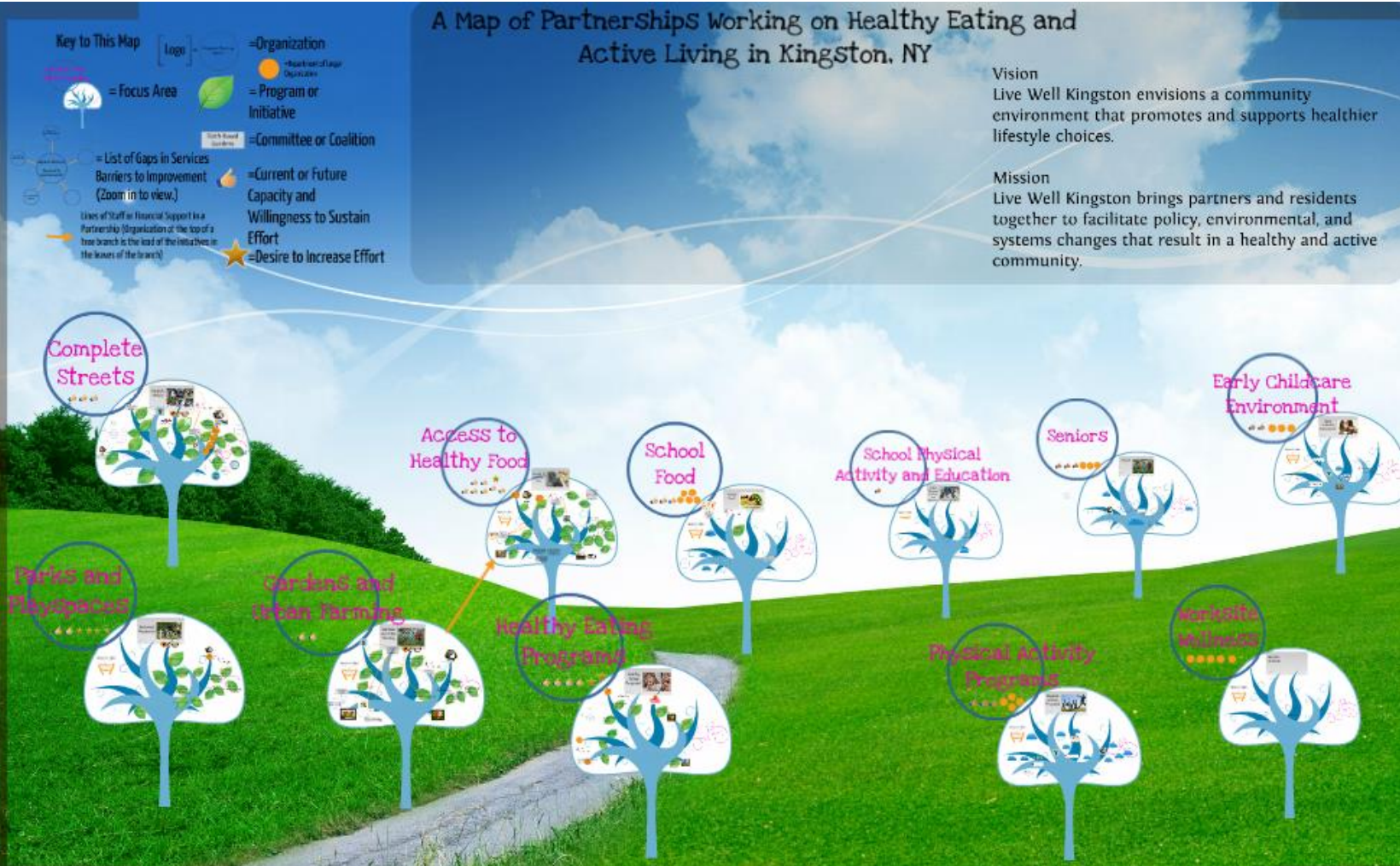
Many agents of change are helping to transform the city.





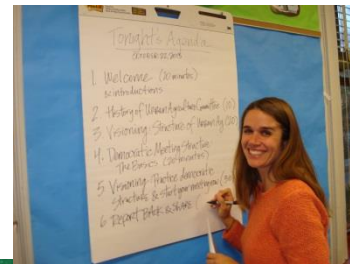
Social Resilience = Economic Resilience

Numerous new and ongoing community initiatives supporting health and local food production. *Many agents of change are helping to transform the city.*



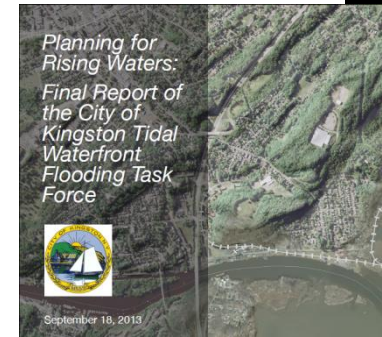
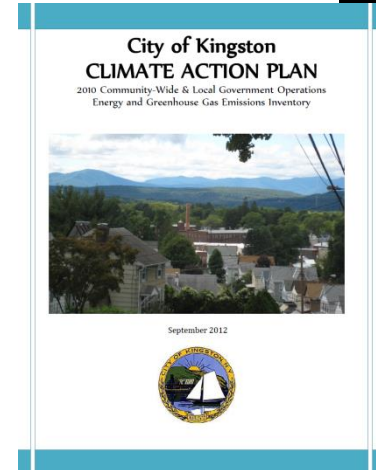
Jobs
Food security

Social Empowerment and Wellness

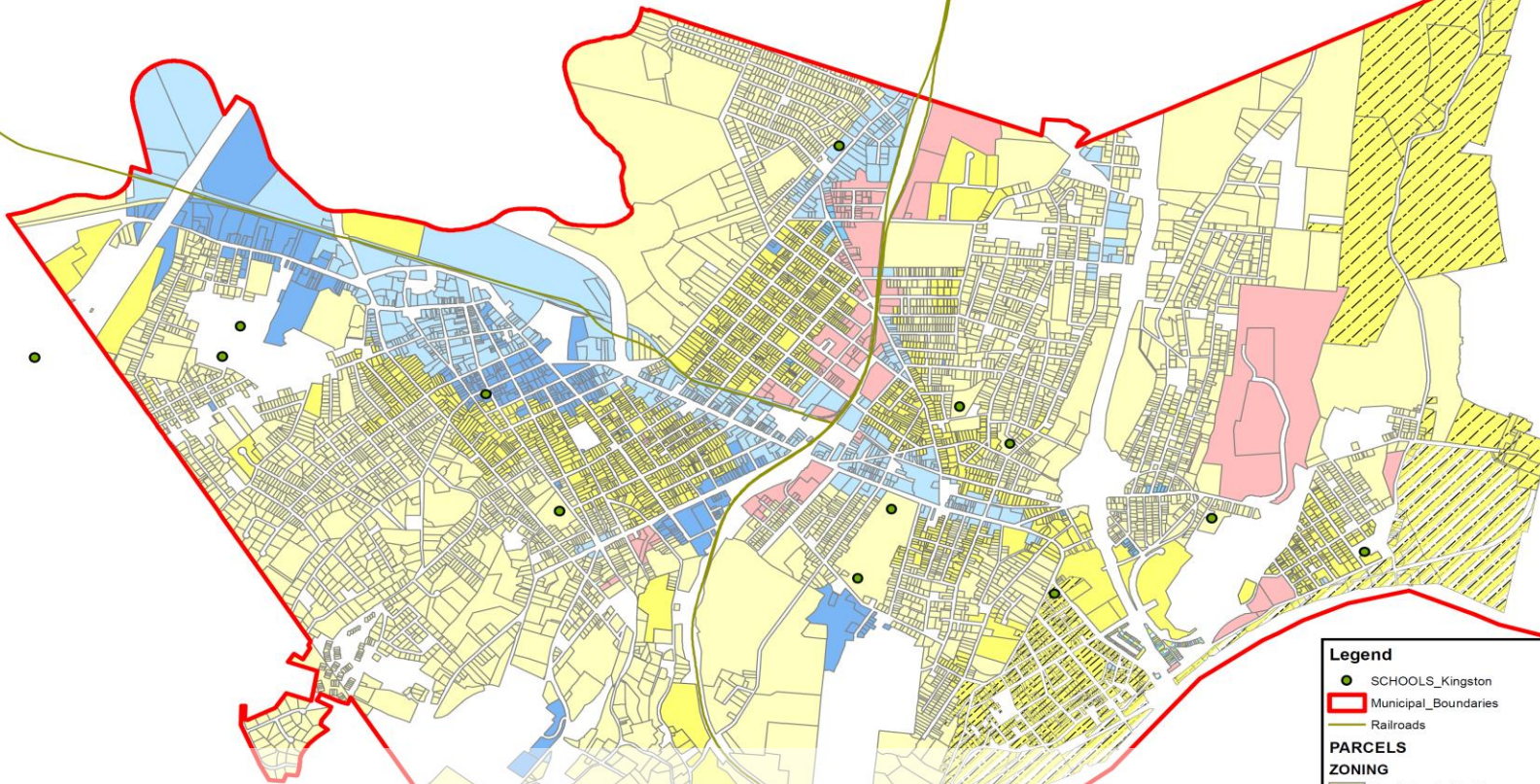


An Opportune Moment

We have the chance to support the update to Kingston's Comprehensive Plan, which is currently underway, and recommend changes to the zoning ordinance and related city ordinances that would remove the current barriers to urban agriculture.



Phase 1 – Zoning Analysis



The focus of Phase 1 was an analysis of Kingston's zoning and a review of best practices to provide recommendations for Kingston's new Comprehensive Plan and zoning.

Legend

- SCHOOLS_Kingston
- Municipal_Boundaries
- Railroads

PARCELS

ZONING

- Single Family Residence
- Two-Family Residence
- Three-Family Residence
- Four-Family Residence
- Multi-Family Residence
- Rondout Creek Hudson Riverfront District
- Riverfront District - Traditional Neighborhood Design Overlay
- Residential Limited Commercial Mixed Use
- Rondout District
- Shopping Center
- General and Central Commercial District
- Convenience Business
- Office District
- Manufacturing



Phase 1 – Recommendations

Commitment

- Support of the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Department and Common Council resolution to adopt and integrate the proposed recommendations into comprehensive planning, zoning and related ordinances, and City programs.

Comprehensive Plan Integration

- Addition of recommended urban agriculture objectives in this report to “Kingston 2025” Comprehensive Plan.



Phase 1 – Recommendations

(continued)

Zoning and Related Ordinance Changes

- Revise zoning to allow urban farming in more districts, including rooftops
- Streamline the permitting process for urban farmers
- Consider allowing chickens, bees, and explore possibilities for other animals
- Allow broader range of accessory structures (coops, apiaries, hoopouses, greenhouses)
- Increase potential for composting (backyard and curbside)
- Create incentives for stormwater management
- Support remediation of contaminated soil
- Support access to land and water



Phase 1 – Recommendations

(continued)

Capacity Building

- Strengthen coordination and support proposed report, including City departments and the Conservation Advisory Council to communicate with the public and coordinate with supportive community organizations.

Partnerships with Supportive Organizations

- Partnerships with Kingston Urban Agriculture Committee, supportive community organizations, and local experts to leverage resources and expertise in support of policy implementation and project coordination.

Coordination of Information, Education, and Outreach

- Working with partners, use the information referenced in this report and best practices resources for information, education and outreach to support a UA program.



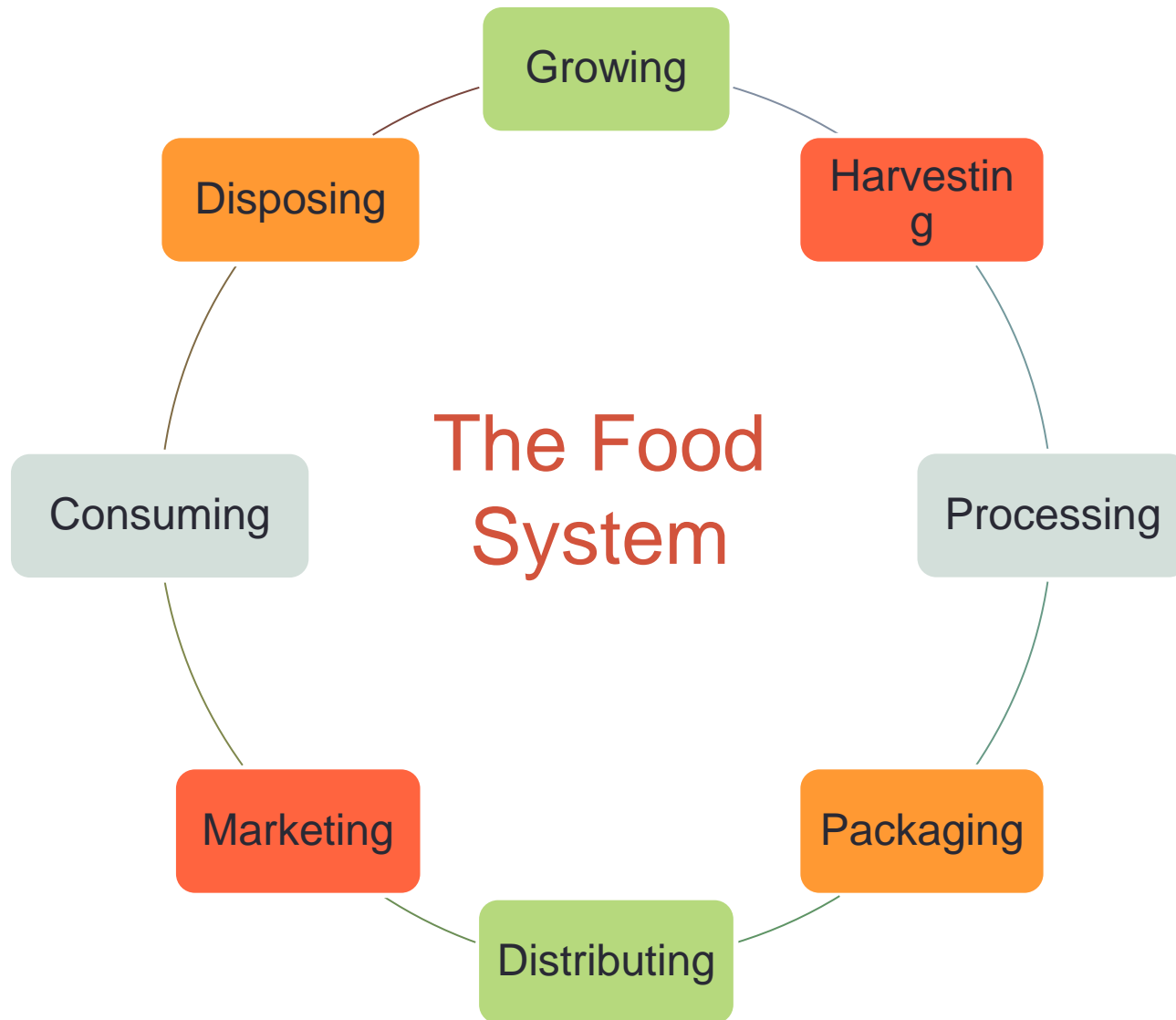
Phase 2 – Potential Focus Areas

Positive Policies to Support Local Food Systems Change

- Inclusion: Focus on access to food production for underserved people.
- Land access: connect vacant city-owned properties with farmers and backyard farming exchange opportunities; establish tenure regulations for public land based on best practices.
- Funding: support business planning and access to credit
- Education: work closely with Cornell Cooperative Extension and the new Farm Hub to support new urban farmers.
- Institutional buyers: work with schools, hospitals to provide legal and policy support for farm-to-table procurement.
- Restaurants and food establishments: provide supports for contract growing.
- Policy: work with newly forming Ulster County Food Policy Council to support urban agricultural policies and connections.
- Rural connections: support connections with surrounding farms.
- Environmental remediation: incorporate stormwater management and other beneficial “green infrastructure” techniques.



Phase 2 Focus: Food production infrastructure






Phase 2 Focus: Food production infrastructure Supports for Urban Farmers



LOCAL ECONOMIES PROJECT
NEW WORLD FOUNDATION

HUDSON VALLEY FOOD HUBS INITIATIVE

Executive Summary



Research conducted by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress and the Urban Design Lab at the Earth Institute, Columbia University
Funded by the Local Economies Project


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- Frozen Products
- Chef Ready Products
- Test Kitchen

WHAT WE DO


Farm to Table Co-packers is a full service contract packaging facility that produces everything from frozen vegetables and soups to jarred pickles and sauces.

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OUR MISSION

To provide superior service throughout the entire co-packing experience, while producing the highest qualities products for our clients.

CLIENT PORTFOLIO




rick's picks
pickles for you "since 2004"

[Watch video](#)


OUR FACILITY

GOOD LAWS, GOOD FOOD:



PUTTING LOCAL FOOD POLICY TO WORK FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

July 2012

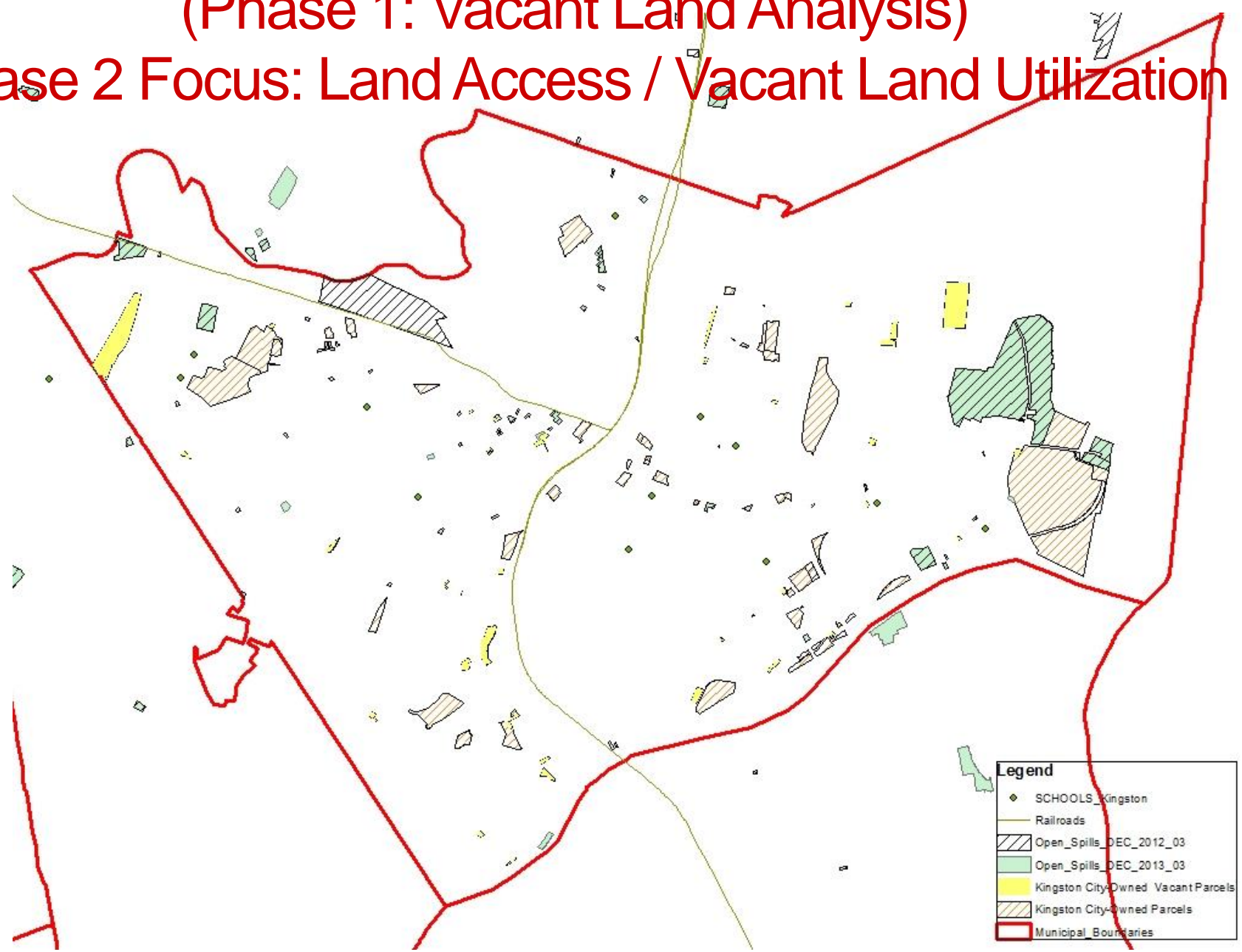



Kingston Urban Agriculture Project – Timeline

- Jobs
- Food security

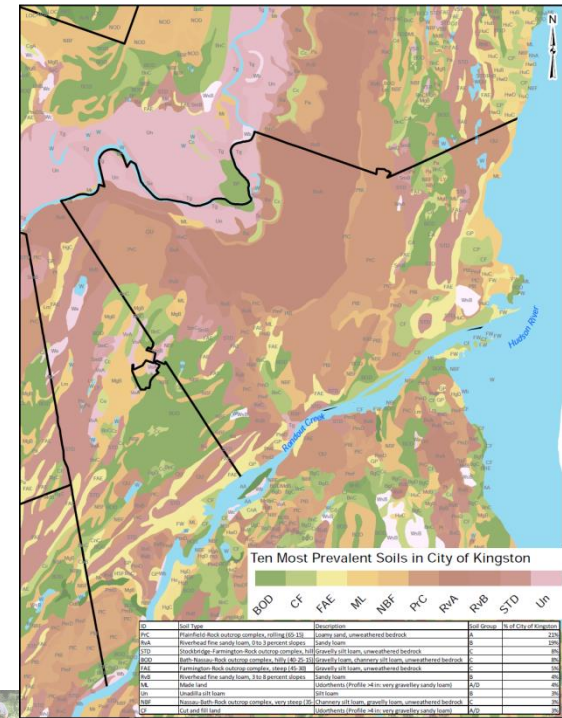
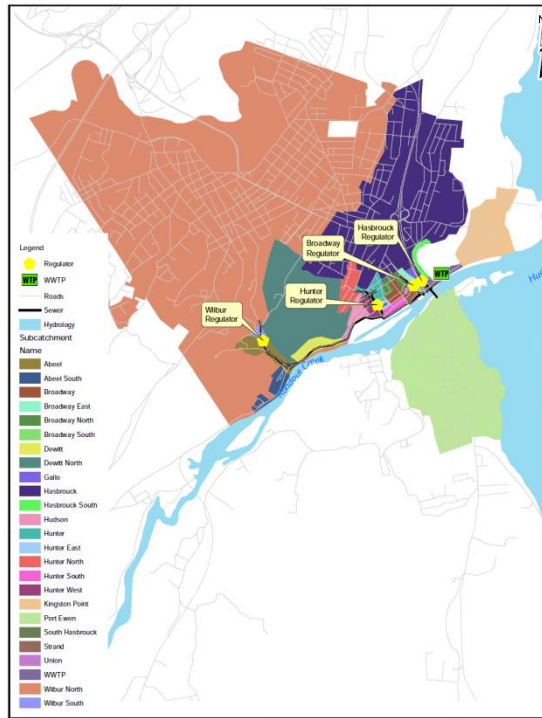
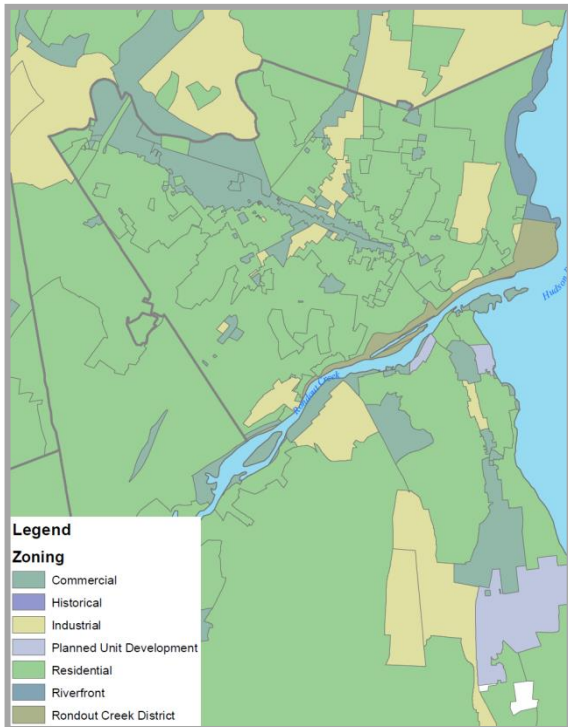
(Phase 1: Vacant Land Analysis)

Phase 2 Focus: Land Access / Vacant Land Utilization



Phase 2 Focus: Green Infrastructure

Zoning Incentives for Urban Ag + Stormwater





The promise of urban agriculture

With just 35* acres, Kingston could...



Imagine the Possibilities.

Jobs. Local Food. Better Health. A Better Environment.