**Mid-North Food Access Initiative Timeline**

**3/2014 through 2/2015 – Mid-North QOLP Health Partnership planning**

Key informant interviews across ten meetings on the topic of community health needs assessments including residents and representatives from Raphael Health Center, Community Health, Franciscan St. Francis Health, IU Health Methodist Hospital, and St. Vincent Health Indianapolis. The data were sorted into three focus areas; access to health services; access to healthy foods; and access that encourages physical activity (parks, green spaces, infrastructure, etc.) in order to develop action steps for a new Health Plan component of the Mid-North Quality of Life Plan. In addition to these new health-specific action steps there are existing action steps from the original 2011 QOLP that are health-related but organized under different strategy headings.

**6/2014 – Mid-North QOLP Health Partnership report**

Mid-North Community Health Planning Report and draft QOLP Health Plan component released.

**11/21/14 – Commercial Node Study**

MFCDC commercial node study for development at Fairfield & College released.

**5/11/15 – Mid-North QOLP Health Action Team**

QOLP Health Plan component finalized. Martha Baker Blue and Brenda Havens co-chair the Mid-North QOLP Health Action Team.

**6/10/15 – Mid-North QOLP CAN (Community Assembly of Neighbors)**

Residents vote to add the Health Plan component to the existing Mid-North Quality of Life Plan in order to address health concerns, including food access.

**7/10/15 – Grocery Sector Study**

Market study of grocery sector centered on 38th & Illinois (Great Places 2020) released.

**7/23/15 – Double 8 Foods closes Indianapolis stores**

7/25/15 – Flanner House hosts emergency meeting to discuss food access in the Near Westside community.

**7/28/15 – Food Desert Designation**

Marion County Health Department designates Mid-North area as a food desert, maps released.

**7/28/15 – Urban Patch SAFE food access meeting**

Introductory meeting and formation of resident-led working groups focusing on a short-, mid-, and long-term solutions to address food access concerns in the Mid-North community.

**8/2/15 – KI Eco Double 8 conversation Part I, *Youth-Led Conversations on Double 8***

Community conversation led by KI youth about the closing of Double 8, its impact on our community, and ideas for the future.

**8/4/15 – Urban Patch SAFE food access meeting**

Resident-led working groups focusing on a short-term (OAS1$ project), mid-term (bodegas), and long-term (full-service grocery and/or co-op) solutions to address food access concerns in the Mid-North community.

**8/9/15 – KI Eco Double 8 conversation Part II, *Poverty and the Politics of Food*** Community conversation focused on how race and poverty are intimately connected to people's ability to access and buy food.

**8/11/15 – Mid-North QOLP Health Action Team**

Initial meeting between QOLP Health Action Team and Urban Patch SAFE food access stakeholders. MFCDC agrees to lead long-term efforts to explore the addition of a full-service grocery and/or food co-op to the community.

**8/23/15 – KI Eco Double 8 conversation Part III, *Community Solutions and Alternative Food Systems***

Community conversation focused on models and strategies communities have used to empower themselves to address poverty and food.

**9/6/15 – KI Eco Double 8 conversation Part IV, *Theory to Practice: Turning Ideas into Action***

Community conversation focused on how we can use the understanding, relationships and resources that exist in our community to make positive change.

**9/10/15 – Mid-North Food Co-op working group (Urban Patch SAFE long-term solution group)**

Initial meeting between MFCDC, Indy Food Co-op and community stakeholders to discuss Mid-North food co-op concept.

**9/18/15 – Indy Food Council presentation, *Cooperatively Improving Food Access***

**10/15/15 – Mid-North QOLP CAN (Community Assembly of Neighbors)**

This meeting highlighted current efforts to address food access. Deb Trocha of Indiana Cooperative Development Center gave a presentation on co-op principles and what a food co-op could look like in the Mid-North community.

**10/22/15 – Mid-North Food Co-op working group (Urban Patch SAFE long-term solution group)**

MFCDC, Indy Food Co-op, Urban Patch, and the Mid-North Health Action Team outline a strategy to formally engage the IFC board and Mid-North stakeholders in a series of community conversations.

**1/28/16 Mid-North Food Access: Exploring a Food Co-op I**

Discuss the history of food in the Mid-North area and recent efforts to improve food access.

**2/10/16** **Mid North Food Access Affinity Group meeting included Deputy Mayor David Hampton**

**2/25/16 Mid-North Food Access: Exploring a Food Co-op II**

Presentation by Deb Trocha of the Indiana Cooperative Development Center that explained the cooperative principles.

**3/24/16 Mid-North Food Access: Exploring a Food Co-op III**

An interactive workshop that explored what a food co-op in the Mid-North area could look like.

**4/28/16 Mid-North Food Access: Exploring a Food Co-op IV**

Learned about the critical steps required to create a sustainable and community-driven food co-op

**1/21/17 Neighborhood Food Champions**

The Indy Food Council launched the Neighborhood Food Champion fellowship to empower individual to gain valuable knowledge related to combatting food insecurity and building connections with like-minded individuals. Brittanie Redd, Community Builder for Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation and the Mid-North Quality of Life Plan was selected as one of the 12 Neighborhood Food Champions.

**2/8/17 Indy Healthy Food Access Challenge, INQUIRE Phase**

The panel and discussion introduced a variety of voices from within the community, and touched upon root causes, existing efforts, and challenges within food access. Panelists represented the City of Indianapolis, Brookside Community Church & Food Co-op, Flanner House, and Purdue Extension.

**2/24/17 Indy Healthy Food Access Challenge, INQUIRE Phase**

The prior community meeting led to an analysis to identify what preliminary trends and issues seemed to be emerging. Six major themes were identifies: 1) Nutrition and education 2) Urban and community gardens 3) Resources (family, time, support, etc) 4) Limited retail options 5) Transportation challenges 6) Food waste and resources. Participants were asked to identify issues to prioritize within each theme. Also, new issues could be posted.

**Six Dates in March 2017 Indy Healthy Food Access Challenge, IDEATE Phase**

Community brainstorming sessions to address four brainstorming prompts: 1) Urban Agriculture: How might we start and sustain more urban farms? 2) Food & Nutrition Education: How might we empower youth to inspire healthy eating in their families? 3) Transportation: How might we make transportation convenient and affordable in getting people to existing grocery stores? 4) Alternative Retail Models: How might we create affordable ways for people to buy healthy food in the areas where they live?

**2/15/17 Mid-North Church Affinity Group Meeting**

Representatives from churches in the Mid-North neighborhood meet to explore ways they can work together to improve food access and security.

**3/23/17 Mid-North Church Affinity Group Meeting**

Church representatives and individuals leading food access initiatives met to better understand what efforts are currently underway that address food issues and discuss current challenges facing Fall Creek Gardens.

**3/31/17 - Fall Creek Gardens / Mid-North Church Combined Meeting**

The group met to discuss the future of Fall Creek Gardens.

**5/16/17 – Neighborhood Food Champion Funding--$1900**

**5/26/17 – Do Something Grant Award--$500**

**9/1/17 – AmeriCorps Public Ally acquired by MFCDC**

Ally will serve as Community builder to aid in the health and hunger initiative.

**9/29/17 – Indy Do Day @ Fall Creek Gardens**

St. Richard’s school students helped with beautifying the gardens.

**10/09/17- Food Access Taskforce Meeting**

Attendees discussed feasibility of a food co-op in Mapleton-Fall Creek, based on commercial node factors.

**10/21/17 – Community Service Day**

Wabash students volunteered to clear the gardens.

**10/24/17 – Focus Group**

A focus group of community partners, organized by MFCDC, met to discuss multi-use development plans, which include food access.

**3/20/18- Central Avenue Gardens**

An agreement was established with a volunteer garden coordinator and MFCDC to make plots available for rent during the growing season from March-November.

**4/14/18-Great Indy Cleanup**

Residents and community partners volunteer at the gardens for trash removal and mulch spreading.

**4/28/18- Under The Sun Market Opens**

The discount market opens a location at 38th & Illinois offering produce, packaged foods and home good essentials.

Supporting documents available for review at www.MidNorthFoodCo-op.hundredyear.net