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Mayor



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## Arlington Elementary Middle School INSPIRE Steering Committee Meeting Food Access Focused Meeting Summary July 12, 2016-4:30 pm

### Presenters:

Sarah Buzogany, Food Access Planner: [sarah.buzogany@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:sarah.buzogany@baltimorecity.gov) or (410) 396-4359

Bo Banwo, Healthy Stores Coordinator: [Bodunrin.Banwo@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Bodunrin.Banwo@baltimorecity.gov)

### Food Access:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s definition of food security is, "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life."

- Physical Access
- Economic Access
- Other Access Issues

### Summary of the group discussion regarding the "Food Environment" around Arlington.

**Guiding questions: What things do you like about your food environment? What things do you think could use improvement?**

- Too many options for fast food/greasy/fried food
- The farmers market at Pimlico is underused and is only open part of the year-times should be extended so more people can access--Same farmers come to Pimlico as the other farmers markets in the city but Pimlico's has a different price point
- Potential for matching bonus bucks/foods stamps at Farmer's Market
- Any opportunity for traveling food-the sentiment of "what is old is new again" – such as the milkman
- Tap into the local knowledge and provide opportunity for education/lessons-the local herb grower and Woodland Farm
- Coordinate food pantry distributions
- Work towards local restaurant partnerships-capitalize on the local—opportunity to place attractive dining options-such as sit down and outdoor dining options
- The major redevelopment area in the Park Heights Master Plan should be evaluated for the potential of "agrihoods"- build off the momentum and partnerships of Neighborhoods United, Park Heights Renaissance, Sinai, INSPIRE and two 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools in Park Heights

- Look to other city and communities as models such as Detroit with rehabbing homes/buildings with roof farms and vacant lots as community farms
- Opportunities for agricultural programming
- Education around Food Groups-healthy eating classes
- Nutrition and Cooking classes that include the use of healthy ingredients and healthy preparation
- Addressing Transportation barriers to food access—Uber, Lyft, coordinated shuttles to supermarkets
- Identify Senior Housing Sites for Baltimarket’s Virtual Supermarket program—also look to pilot a school site with parents
- 7-11 is a big issue in regards to tardiness and children eating unhealthy food-there are 2 within walking distance of school
- Mt. Washington Pediatric-partnership and food education in school
- Bmore Healthy Community for Schools-target corner stores and healthy food education
- Improve School lunches
- Feature a healthy food a week in the school cafeteria
- Fish Farming-Aquaponics

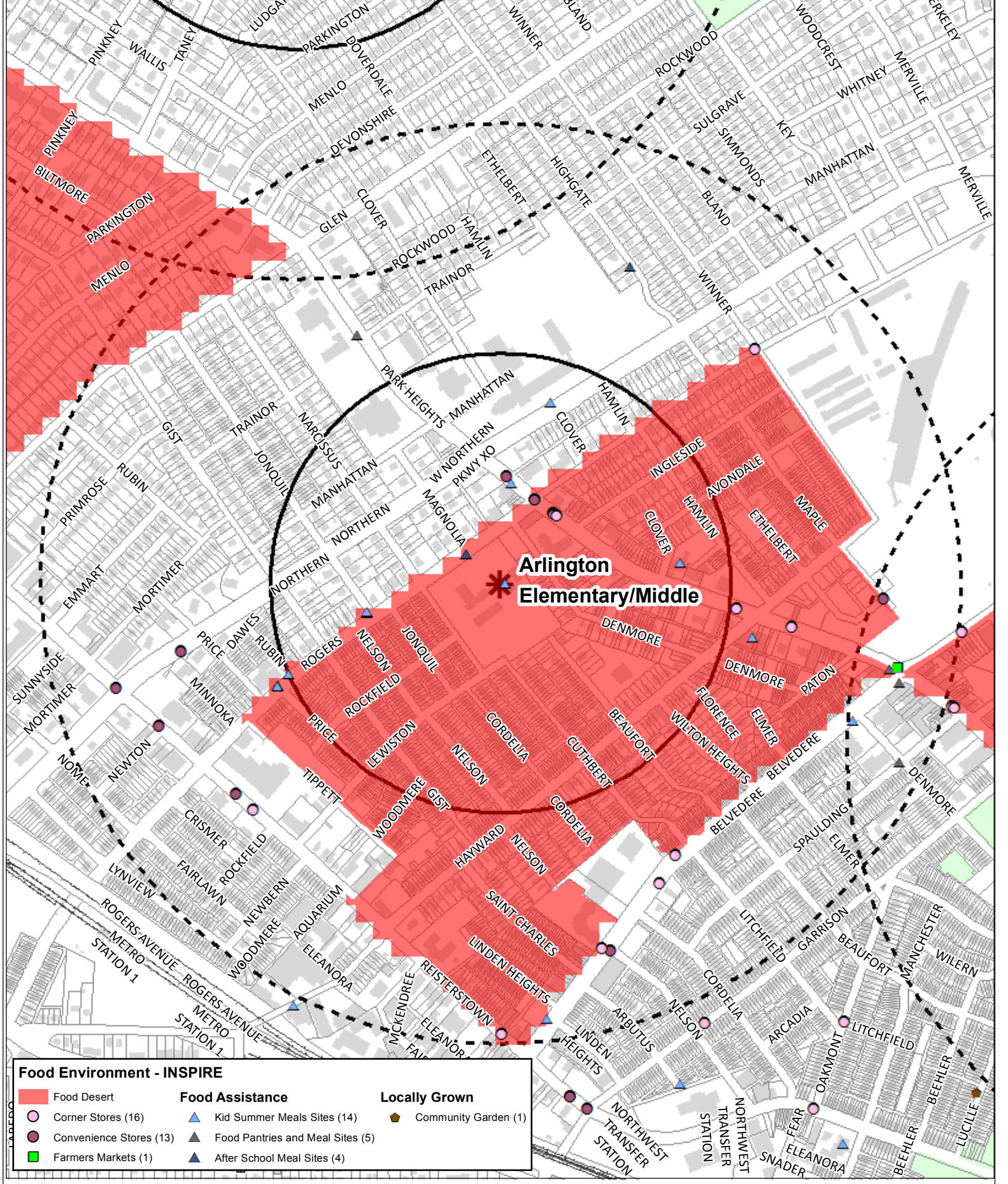
## Potential Resources and Programs

- **Baltimarket Healthy Stores**
  - Since early 2015, the BCHD [Baltimarket Healthy Stores](#) program engaged 18 corner store owners to stock and sell fruits, vegetables, whole grain foods, low-fat milk and dairy, and healthy snacks and drinks. The program engages Youth Neighborhood Food Advocates and area supermarkets to promote healthy food options to customers.
- **Gardening Funding and Materials**
  - **Parks and People Neighborhood Greening Grants** provide grants of up to \$1,000 twice per year. Examples of greening projects eligible for a grant include, but are not limited to: vacant lot clean-up and restoration projects, community gardens, rain gardens, tree plantings, alley gating, neighborhood clean-ups, schoolyard greening, water quality improvement and environmental education activities. <http://www.parksandpeople.org/greening/grants-for-greening/neighborhood-greening-grants/>(for spring cycle)
  - **Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN)** is an annual membership program assisting individuals, community gardens, schools and green spaces throughout the City of Baltimore. For \$20/year, CGRN provides access to the materials, resources, education, and connections gardens need to have a successful and sustainable green space. <http://www.parksandpeople.org/greening/resource-network/>
  - **The Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge** is a grant program for student-led sustainability projects in Baltimore City Public Schools. <http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/projects/green-schools-initiative/green-healthy-smart-challenge/>

## Next Steps for an overall Food Strategy

- School/Community Garden
  - Formalize agreement with property owner to allow school to use the adjacent vacant lot.
  - Apply for membership to CGRN to have access to resources and free materials and monitor Parks and People grant for spring application.
  - Consider becoming Green School to get a school garden as a first step in working towards larger community garden.
  - Potential for Youthworks in garden during the summer months.
- Baltimarket Healthy Corner Stores
  - Health Department representative will present to Park Heights Merchants Association
- 7-11 strategy meeting
  - City will look into potential for monitoring and punitive measures related to Health permits
- Food Pantry Coordination
  - Meeting between school, Food Bank and Schools Food and Nutrition Services to align priorities and ensure that expectations are clear
- Healthy food preparation classes
  - Meeting participants who volunteered should seek out ways to engage with existing programming at school, farmers market, and or stores.

**For more information, please contact Mary Colleen Buettner at (410) 396-5937 or [mc.buettner@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:mc.buettner@baltimorecity.gov).**



**Food Environment - INSPIRE**

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Food Desert             | Kid Summer Meals Sites (14)      | Community Garden (1) |
| Corner Stores (16)      | Food Pantries and Meal Sites (5) |                      |
| Convenience Stores (13) | After School Meal Sites (4)      |                      |
| Farmers Markets (1)     |                                  |                      |

**Arlington Elementary**

3705 W Rogers Ave  
 Building # 234  
 Program # 234  
 Phase 1

- INSPIRE Schools
- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius

- Railroad
- Building Footprint
- Property Boundaries
- Park Property