



Community Food Security In New Brunswick

Voorhees Public Service Fellows
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Rutgers University
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Agenda

- Methods
- Findings
- Improving food security
- All the money in world!



About the Project

- Defining “Community Food Security”
- Need for a comprehensive report
- Direct contact with the community
- Over 60 organizations
- 34 interviews with community leaders
- Barriers and need for improvement



New Brunswick Community Food Alliance

NBCFA Workgroups

Healthy Food Access

Food Economic Development

Advocacy and Policy

Community Engagement

Agriculture and the Community Garden
Coalition



Access

- Many people in New Brunswick lack transportation, money or time and may have less access to fresh foods and the foods they can access may be more expensive.
- New Brunswick residents access food from churches, schools, hospitals, Rutgers programs, food pantries, and the emergency food system

Healthy Corner Store Initiative

New Brunswick Community Farmers Market

DevCo & City of New Brunswick

Breakfast After the Bell
Body & Soul Program



Emergency Food System

- The emergency food system includes food pantries, soup kitchens, and community organizations
- These organizations provide meals and support for those who are food insecure
- Others provide food and support for the system itself

Elijah's Promise Community
Soup Kitchen

X-Cite Nite

Food for Thought

MCFOODS

RAH & SO RAH

Anshe Emeth Community
Development Corporation

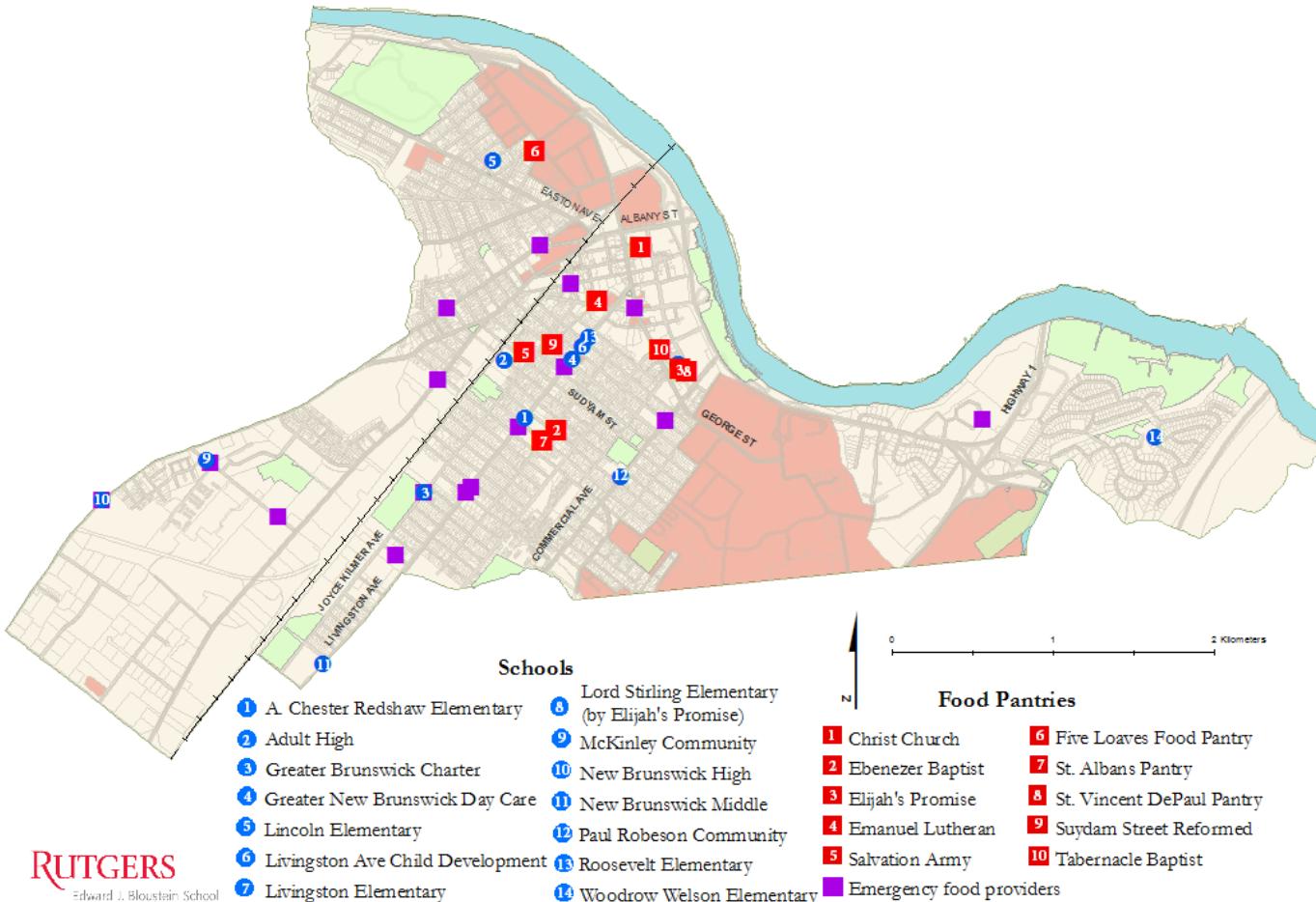


Feeding New Brunswick Network

- A coalition of food pantries under the NBCFA working on feeding those in need
- Meet monthly to discuss how to better utilize limited available resources
- Working on a central client registration system



New Brunswick Food Pantries & Emergency Food Providers



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Community Development Institute 2011

Source: New Brunswick Department of City Planning & New Brunswick Community Groups

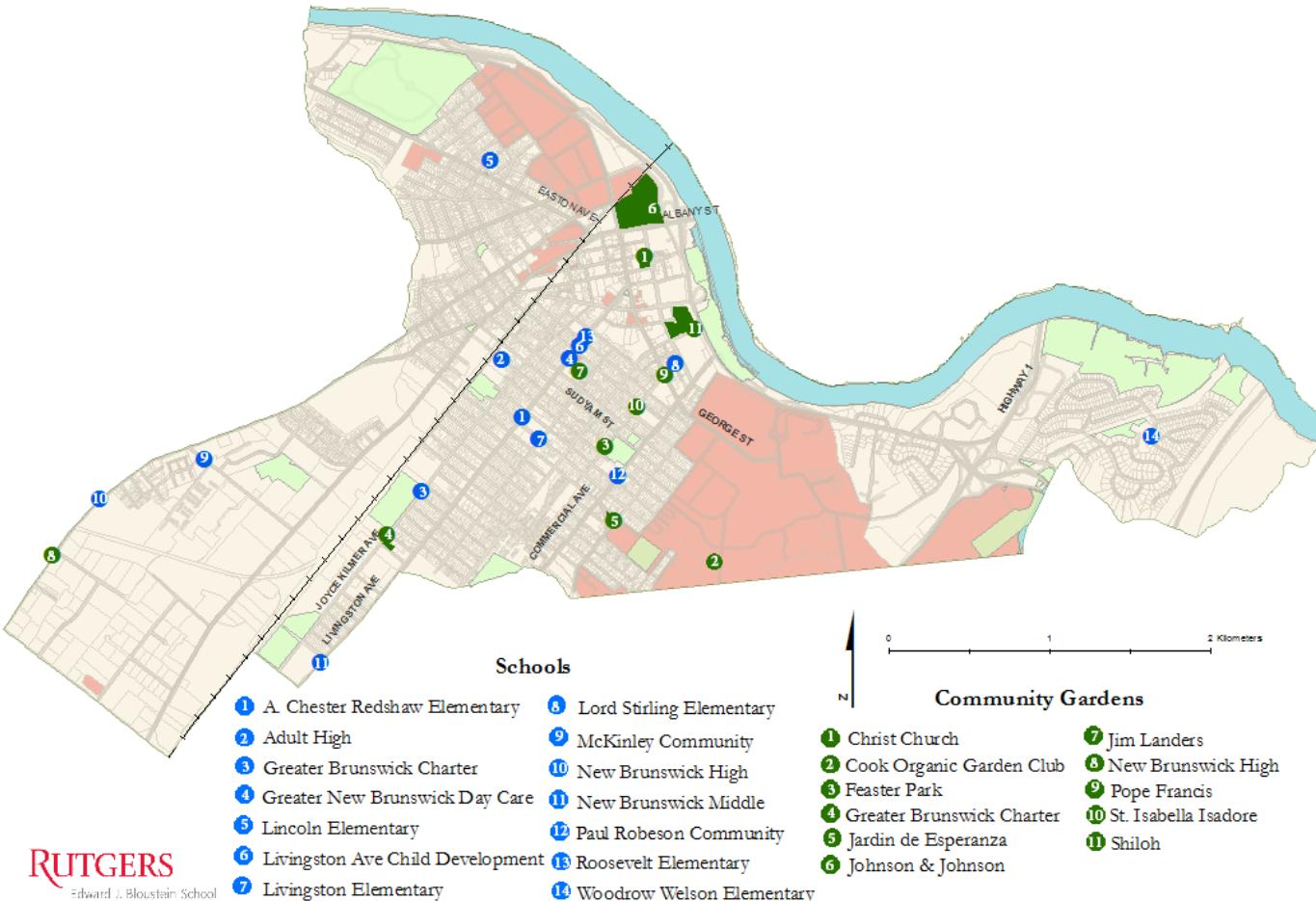
Community Gardens

Community Garden Coalition (CGC)

- Extension of NBCFA
- 11 Community Gardens, 150 residents, 180 beds
- Has been collaborating with the New Brunswick City Council since March to gain recognition as a conservancy



New Brunswick Community Gardens



RUTGERS

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Advocacy

- Studies and growing understanding of the food insecurity problem lead to Advocacy and Policy Workgroup (NBCFA)
- Partnership of organizations promote policies and initiatives through local potlucks and panels.
- Emphasis: Build knowledge and awareness in the community to lead to engagement and action.

Past Advocacy Efforts

Parks and Garden Commission

Food Systems Element in the next
New Brunswick Master Plan

Beekeeping 101 Event

Composting 101 Event

Impacts of the Farm Bill Panel

City Pollinators Ordinance



Community Economic Development

- Encompasses job training and creation, advocacy for fair wages, and growing small businesses
- Elijah's Promise, Better World Market and Promise Culinary School
- Corazón Kitchen's community kitchen incubator
- Unity Square fights wage theft with New Labor and CATA-New Brunswick



Education (1 of 2)

- First type of education programs teaches people at risk about food, healthy living, and access.
- Nutrition and food education foster a broader understanding of community food security and how to achieve it.

The Cooperative Extension

Get Moving, Get Healthy

FoodCorps

New Brunswick Community
Farmers Market

Robert Wood Johnson Fitness
Center



Education (2 of 2)

Second type of education programs: provides community members with food security tools

Johnson and Johnson

NBCFA, New Brunswick Tomorrow, Johnson and Johnson, and the City of New Brunswick

Rutgers University Faculty

Farmers Against Hunger



Food Waste

- Food waste is an important part of the food system; many local organizations work on minimizing food waste

Elijah's Promise: A Better World Cafe

Elijah's Promise's Community Soup Kitchen and Promise Culinary School

Farmers Against Hunger

Johnson & Johnson

Farmers Markets

Rutgers University faculty



Research

Faculty and staff at Rutgers and other institutions work on community food security research, including faculty from

- Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
- School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS)
- Department of Landscape Architecture
- New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health

Department of Nutritional Science

Department of Human Ecology

Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement

NJ Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health

Landscape Architecture





All the Money in the World: Dreams for Improvement

“If you had all of the money in the world, what would you do to improve community food security in New Brunswick?”



Million Dollar Question: Dreams for Improvement

Organizational Capacity

Access to City Food Stores, the Emergency Food System, and

Farming and Gardening

Community Gardens and Linking Farmers to Urban Consumers

Structural Issues

Community Economic Development

Educational Programs





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