



Local Food

Action: Support the production and consumption of healthy, local food.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	Expand Devens’ capacity to produce and distribute healthy and local food, especially to youth and low-income residents.
CHAMPION	Devens Enterprise Commission

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS	PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS	
	Timeframe ¹	Key Partners
Promote and expand farms in the region through preservation of viable farmland, zoning for local food production and sales, incentives, and development resources	Medium/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Organic Farming Association • Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce • Surrounding town Farmer’s Markets • Dick’s Market Garden • Montachusett Regional Planning Commission • Surrounding communities
Facilitate smoother distribution channels between local farms and local food vendors and schools	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Leaf Farms • Local restaurants • Schools • Local farms • Local farmers markets
Expand the farmers market through more diverse offerings, additional locations or dates, and more advertisement	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Leaf Farm • Neighboring towns • SNAP, HIP, WIC • Local farms • Local farmers markets (Groton, Harvard, etc.)
Develop community gardens in neighborhoods and other community gathering spaces	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Prisons • Shriver Job Corps • U.S. Army
Launch an educational campaign about the importance of healthy food and available places to acquire it, with a focus on youth and low-income residents	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Dragonfly Wellness Center • Transitions at Devens • MassDevelopment • Department of Public Health • Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

¹ Short = less than 1 year; Medium = 1-3 years; Long = 4-5years

LOCAL FOOD (CONT.)

<p>FUNDING RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program • USDA Farm to School Grant Program • Buy Local Grant Program • Massachusetts Food Trust Program • USDA Agricultural Marketing Service 	<p>TECHNICAL RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Food Policy Council • MassGrown • Municipal Food Systems Planning Toolkit for MAPC Communities • NOFA's Beginning Farmers Resources • USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
<p>LINKS TO OTHER PLANS & ACTIONS</p> <p>How does this action connect to other Devens goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects and enhances the quality of life of the citizens in the community and the region • Relevant STAR Objectives: GHG Mitigation, Green Market Development, Community Health, Food Access & Nutrition, Working Lands • Relevant LEED Credits: Green Spaces, Compact, Mixed Use and Transit Oriented Development, Distributional Equity 	<p>EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS</p> <p>How can the community incorporate equity into the implementation of this action?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing access to healthy food for low-income residents and youth • Financial assistance for healthy food • Provide transportation to and from the farmers market for those with limited mobility
<p>MEASURING SUCCESS</p> <p>How can we measure the progress and success of this action?</p> <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoother food distribution channels • Farmer's market expansion • Educational campaign <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower rates of obesity and chronic illness • # of farms in the region • # weekly visitors to Devens Farmers Market • # of establishments/institutions sourcing food from local farms 	<p>ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY</p> <p>How can we engage the populations that benefit from implementing this action?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education in schools about where their food comes from and the benefits of healthy food • Suggestion box at the farmers market about what additional food customers would like to see • Information at restaurants and other food vendors about the source of their food • Case studies showing sustainability practices (growing operations/technology, rainwater harvesting, pollinator plantings, etc.)