

Sayler Park Community & Food Asset Maps

Project Report
December, 2020



Submitted by:
Community, Produce
R. Alan Wight, Ph.D.
Health
Food Mapper
C/O: Tevis Foreman,
Produce Perks Midwest



FOOD Mapping

To: Sayler Park
Perks
Midwest & Mercy

Executive Director

3600 Park
42 Dr., Ste. 105A |
Cincinnati,
OH 45241

Report Overview

Acknowledgements & Participants

Sayler Park Geography & Community

Scope & Deliverables

Engagement & Mapping Process

Assets & Products

Food Access, Production Potential, & Recommendations

Food Mapping Team

References & Resources





Acknowledgements & Participants

Community engagement work is successful because of the contributions and collaboration of stakeholders, funders, and participants. Thank you to Produce Perks Midwest for the opportunity to work with the Sayler Park Community and formally assess their food and community assets. Thank you to Mercy Health for funding this project. Special thanks to the following Produce Perks Midwest Directors:

Tevis Foreman – Executive Director
Anna Bird – Programs Director
Kristin Gangwer – Director of Operations

Finally, this kind of asset-based community development process and products are only as good as the input, participation, and feedback from community members and connected stakeholders. Thank you to the following people for your gift of time and insights into the Sayler Park Community:

Jen Langdon – Sayler Park Village Council President
Garrett Gerard – Sayler Park Village Council Vice President
Edith Yakutis, Mapping Project Recorder
Leo Yakutis
Ellen Gerard
Bud Dornette
Mary Dornette
Lance Langdon
Tammy Newcomer
Tom Wells
Andrew Maloney
Mike Oberst
Merideth Wells
Leesa Scudder
Joy Rosebrook
Jamie Sowders
Mara Cecile
Anna Mouch
Donna Holtman
Lauren and Michael
Adelyn Hall – Sayler Park School Resource Coordinator
Alan Edwards – Groundwork Ohio River Valley, Co Executive Director

Sayler Park History, Geography & Community

Officially established in 1911, Sayler Park is located on the western edge of Cincinnati, Ohio on the banks of the Ohio River in Hamilton County. The neighborhood is 1 mile in length and 2 miles wide. Sayler Park is considered to be “Cincinnati’s Western Gateway,” tucked between the river and hillside leading to Delhi and Western Hills. The community is known for its charming, sleepy small-town feel – it has been recognized by Tree City USA, and features 5 parks and a 71 percent of residents have a mortgage. The neighborhood is located 15 minutes from downtown Cincinnati via route 50 along the river. For more information see the [City of Cincinnati’s neighborhood data](#)

Statistics & Demographics

Area: 1.638 square miles
Population: 3,611

White 3,171 (83.3%)
Hispanic or Latino 393 (10.3%)
Two or more races: 96 (2.5%)
Black: 70 (1.8%)
Some other race: 47 (1.2%)
American Indian: 25 (.7%)
Asian: 5 (.1%)



Project Scope & Deliverables

This project focused specifically on identifying the food and community assets present within and close to the Sayler Park community. The goals were to fully understand and visualize the food related assets, such as businesses, government and not-for-profit programs, local champions (community members and related stakeholders), green space, perennial edibles, and other assets. Also the project was interested in assessing shopping behaviors, preferences, and the potential for increased community food production. As a result of the Corona Virus Pandemic, the assessment of shopping behaviors and preferences was not completed. Specifically, the project team did completed the following:

A. Community Engagement: Lead community engagement process for members to understand current food access points and interest in increasing local food production – in and near the community.

B. Food Asset Mapping: Worked with community members to identify and map all places residents interact with food within the community. Two maps have been produced that visualize these points of contact – one for traditional brick and mortar retail food locations and another for perennial edibles – fruit and nut trees growing within Sayler Park.

C. Food Production Assessment: Document and assess community assets, including existing land (green space) and buildings that could be utilized for the production of food.

Engagement & Mapping Process

The Asset Mapping Process helps community members and participants understand their local food webs / the food environment. These maps are tools and the data collected serves as baselines that can show improvements over time on a wide array of food and community related issues. Food maps can tell a story of how the physical environment intersects with the lived experience of food access for community members.

This participatory mapping process engages participants and generates local knowledge that increases people's awareness regarding food sources. Food Mapping strengthens and establishes new social and economic links between different components of the food web. It can highlight land use (fruit trees, community gardens, etc.) and identify the possibilities for current and future projects. It can also locate "food deserts" or "food swamps" and highlight the supports and barriers to healthy food availability and access. Food Mapping creates transparent, abundant data that can show relationships between community organizations, businesses, and farmers.

The Sayler Park community participated in a series of face-to-face gatherings and planning meetings at the school prior to the Corona Virus Pandemic hitting this part of the country. During these initial meetings the group created several lists of organizational assets. Community organizations and groups were identified – including: *The Fernbank Garden Club (the oldest in the city), The Sayler Park Historical Society, Sayler Park Racing Club, the Food Pantry at Eden Chapel, Paper Street Farm, and Dinners at Eden Chapel.* Paper Street Farm is the most active agricultural project. There are raised beds at the school, but they are under utilized.

Also, cultural events and other food related organizations were discussed such as: *The Sayler Park Farmers Market, Sayler Park Sustains, Oktoberfest, and their Harvest Festival.* Additional note-worthy projects in the neighborhood include a robust tree planting effort lead by Tom Wells. The neighborhood also boasts a large number (approx 25) musicians. Many of these events were cancelled or modified to be online given the pandemic.

The project continued virtually in May – with data and maps being generated and shared digitally. There was a decrease in project participation from the community – as many were not comfortable doing the group mapping – despite this being an outdoors, walking based, crowd sourced data gathering process. As a result most of the "ground truthing" was conducted by the Food Mapping Team. Additional data points were collected by some community members on their own and incorporated into the shared project data sheet.

This was an iterative process, where data and draft maps were shared back and forth between the Food Mapping team and the key participants.

The following timeline tracks the community engagement and mapping process – including the creation of draft maps, mapping materials, and feedback.

- 1.13.2020 Planning Meeting
- 1.23.2020 Planning meeting
- 2.24.2020 Kick off and Initial Data Generation
- 3.9.2020 Corona Virus in Ohio, beginning of Stay-At-Home Orders
- 3.22.2020 [Google Excel sheet made available for community data uploads](#) (link)
- 3.22.2020 [Facebook group created by J. Langdon for organizing](#) (link)
- 5.1.2020 Video Conference Planning Meeting
- 5.19.2020 [Data Sheets created and shared with participants & member checked](#)
- 5.19.2020 [Draft Maps Produced for food access, recreation, civic engagement, and future development possibilities](#) (link to files)
- 6.5.2020 Perennial Edible Mapping
- 6.7.2020 [Food Mapping How to Video & Materials provided](#) (link to files)
- 6.19.2020 Perennial Edible Mapping
- 7.10.2020 Perennial Edible Mapping
- 7.14.2020 Perennial Edible Mapping
- 7.20.2020 Video Conference Mapping Update
- 8.14.2020 [Draft Maps created and edited](#) (link to files)
- 8.23.2020 Draft Maps of Assets and Perennial Edibles shared for feedback
- 10.5.2020 Draft Maps of Assets and Perennial Edibles shared for feedback
- 11.15.2020 [Final Maps Delivered](#) and [project data sheets available](#) (link to files)

Assets & Products

Two [Sayler Park Community & Food Asset Maps](#) were created – one featuring traditional food locations and community assets – restaurants, stores, food pantries, schools, churches, businesses, etc., and another showcasing fruit & nut trees.



SAYLER PARK

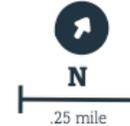
- EST. 1911 -



Perennial Edible Food Map

legend

-  black walnuts
-  mulberries
-  grapes
-  cherries
-  apples
-  peaches
-  pawpaws
-  herbs
-  garden
-  neighborhood boundary
-  forested area



What is Food Mapping?

Food Mapping is a participatory, psychogeographic exercise that engages communities in creating art, while simultaneously mapping food sources and related community assets. This map is for educational purposes only and is not intended for the commission of any crime.

Funding: This map and community engagement project was funded Mercy Health and Produce Perks Midwest

Thank You - This map was created with the Sayer Park Community Council and residences who participated in our workshops and conversations.

Map Produced by: Mel Musie & Alan Wight, Base Map & Icons Created by: Mel Musie

Interested in Food Mapping? Contact Alan Wight: wightra@ucmail.uc.edu

partners



Summary Table of Community & Food Related Assets

The [complete data](#) set is available on our shared Google Drive

Asset Category	Number	Description
Food Access Points	21	From McDonalds to Paper Street Farm, Eden Chapel's Food Pantry, and Gracely Food Mart – there is a wide range of within this category
Businesses (non-food)	~24	From Automotive to Cleaners, Banks, Dance Studio, and Ace Hardware, etc.
Parks, Green Space, & Public Art / Beautification	21+	From 5 official parks to lots of other green and recreation space – including the school, recreation center, vacant lots, access to the Western Wildlife Corridor, as well as murals, public art, and Fernbank Golf Course
Churches	4	First Baptist Church of Delhi, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sayler Park Church of Christ, & Eden Chapel
Community Events	2	Sayler Park Sustains, Oktober Fest, and Harvest Fest
Civic Organizations	2	Post Office & Fire Department
Healthcare	2	Mercy Health Center located at the School to Sayler Park Chiropractic

Two additional food access points just beyond the neighborhood boarder include Carriage House Farm and Hollmeyer Orchards.

Future Beautification, Engagement, & Food Access Points

The following possibilities were discussed throughout the project. Additional exploration for some of these is explored further in the final section of the report.

Asset Category	Address	Description
Possible Mural	River Road Retaining Walls	Future Beautification
Public Kiosk	Sayler Park Square	Large Display of Maps and other information
Evan & Alison Hildebrandt	6571 Parkland Ave, Cin OH 45233	Future Garden
Parkland Grill	6550 Parkland Ave, Cin OH 45233	Future Food Access
The Tracks	6344 Gracely Dr, Cin OH 45233	Future Food Access
Private Greenhouse	6845 Home City Ave, Cin OH 45233	Future Food Access
Orchard Behind School	6700 Home City Ave, Cin OH 45233	Future Food Access

Food Access, Production Potential, & Recommendations

Sayler Park has potential to increase local food access and production capacity. The existing partnerships with Mercy Health, Produce Perks Midwest, and several Sayler Park businesses and organizations such as Gracely's Food Mart, Sayler Park School, the Cincinnati Recreation Center, and Village Council provide a solid foundation.

Gracely Food Mart offers a small selection of produce.

Sayler Park Farmers Market operates for 6 months during the growing season on the square from 4-7 pm. There are approximately 14-19 vendors.

Eden Chapel United Methodist Church – offers community dinners and has a food pantry.

Healthy Harvest Mobile Market sells produce at Gracely Dr & Monitor Ave on Tuesday from 4pm - 6:30pm. The market accepts Produce Perks.

Carriage House Farm, located 7.4 miles (from the square) west along the river offers a 20 week (5- month) Community Supported Agriculture program.

Hollmeyer Orchard and Farmers Market, is located 3 miles (from the square) and offers seasonal Peaches, Apples, Tomatoes, a variety of Peppers, zucchini, squash jams, preserves and honey.

Paper Street Farm, started in 2012, is a community garden with 16 plots that is coordinated by Mike Oberst with help from Adam Hudepohl and Megan Ayers. Over the years the community has install a few fruit trees and bushes in the garden and into the surrounding properties (with permission). The Do-It-Your Self mentality, along with some grass roots organizing and the creation of the Sayler Park Sustains festival has propelled the community garden forward over the last 8 years. The garden has hosted Workshops on topics of: backyard biodiversity, herb cultivation, seed saving, fermenting, and backyard chickens.

A **Private Green House**, is located at 6845 Home City Ave, Cincinnati OH 45233 – ideal for seed starting, plant propagation, and indoor growing.

There are approximately **2-4 Vacant Lots** in the neighborhood that have potential for production (see that data sheet for addresses). Sayler Park has robust public and private **green space** available – including a huge open grass field behind the school and recreation center on Home City Ave, as well as open space at the Hollow (a recreation space featuring a baseball diamond) – near the intersection of Gracely and Cist Street. Many of the homes have large lots with ample lawns as well.

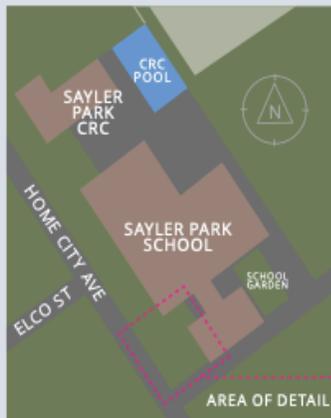
Perennial Edibles – from cultivated fruit trees such as peaches, nectarines, apples, and pawpaws, to large numbers of wild mulberry and black walnut trees cover the neighborhood (see map above).

A Future Community Orchard has been planned (see below) and seed funding provided via the Giving Trees Initiative (part of Cincinnati Permaculture Institute). This multi-step project is a collaboration with Groundwork Ohio River Valley and the Saylor Park community. The endeavor seeks to plant fruit trees in front of the Saylor Park School (600 Home City Ave) as well as in the large field behind the school and recreation center, along with a walking path and additional trees (both fruit trees and hardwoods).

Saylor Park School, 6700 Home City Avenue Proposed Phase 1 Community Orchard Site

Phase 1 of the Community Orchard Project:

- Install several fruit bearing trees in the front yard of Saylor Park School
- We have a teacher and classroom committed to adopting the trees as part of their Project Based Learning curriculum.
- Funding has already been secured from Giving Trees, as a culmination of our work with Alan Wright in a Saylor Park Food Map
- Phase 1 project to foster interest, fundraising, and PR opportunities for a larger Phase 2 project in the future.



Recommendations

The community assets needed to increase access and production of local foods - from land, to people, to interest - are abundant in Sayler Park. The greatest challenge(s) lie in the funding of a person or persons to coordinate these efforts, as well as additional financial resources for materials and farming expertise.

1. Work with Carriage House Farm to create a direct pathway for produce to enter Sayler Park – either via the Farms Market, Gracley Food Mart, or Eden Chapel. In 2021 Carriage House has reduced the number of CSAs subscriptions offered to the public to provide a larger produce selection for their on the farm stand. Carriage House is also partnering with a larger wholesaler out of Indiana to supply their farm stand. There is an opportunity to foster a special relationship with Carriage House Farm and their evolving network to directly serve Sayler Park residents.
2. Work with Hollmeyer Orchards to create a special relationship with Sayler Park. Possibilities include a fruit CSA, farmers market stand, Gracely Food Mart distribution, or some kind of direct order and delivery. This does not have to be specific to fresh fruit and could also work for preserves, dried fruit, and other shelf stable products.
3. Work to increase Produce Perks availability at the Sayler Park Farmers Market, Carriage House Farm (CSA program), and Hollmeyer Orchards.
4. Work with the business district to increase all kinds of food retail options in the neighborhood.
5. Enter into conversations with Produce Perks Midwest, Mercy Health, and other neighborhood stakeholders to fund a *Sayler Park Food Access and Production Coordinator(s)*. This could be a part time job and/or tacked onto an existing position at the School, Community Recreation Center, or Village Council. The coordinator would connect existing assets, recruit and manage community gardeners, the new orchard, and ramp up produce at Paper Street Farm; CSA management; work with the farmers market, Hollmeyer Orchards, and Carriage House Farm to increase the production of local foods and access to produce

Food Mapping Team

Alan Wight, Ph.D., is on faculty at The Christ College of Nursing. He runs their Service Learning Program and leads the Mt. Auburn Gardens Initiative & Collaborative. Alan also works with the University of Cincinnati, as their School and Community Food Forest Liaison, and teaches Fruit and Nut Production for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. He is one of Cincinnati's Food Mappers, working with communities and interested civic groups to map their food related assets. His current project, *Edible City: An Art Atlas*, explores Cincinnati's foodshed, past, present, and future.

Email: wightra@ucmail.uc.edu

Phone: 513 543 7315

Mel Musie is a recent graduate from the Master of Community Planning program at the University of Cincinnati, with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. As a lifelong Ohio native, she loves getting to explore, meet and work with various Cincinnati neighborhoods. She comes from a large Ethiopian family, and as a result, has always been interested in finding ways to connect and support diverse communities. Her work interests revolve around mapping, environmental equity, and social justice. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and traveling.

References & Resources

Central Ohio River Valley (CORV) Food Guide - <https://www.eatlocalcorv.org/>
CORV Food Guide Maps - <https://www.eatlocalcorv.org/food-maps>

City Data on Sayler Park - <http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Sayler-Park-Cincinnati-OH.html>

Cincinnati Permaculture Institute - <https://cincinnati-permacultureinstitute.org/>

Common Orchard Project - <https://commonorchard.com/>

Groundwork Ohio River Valley - <https://www.groundworkorv.org/>

Healthy Harvest Mobile Market - <https://healthyharvestmobilemarket.com/>

Mercy Community Health Needs Assessment - <https://www.mercy.com/about-us/mission/giving-back/community-health-needs-assessment>

Paper Street Farm - <http://www.saylerpark.org/paper-street-farm/>

Produce Perks Midwest - <https://produceperks.org/>

Sayler Park - <https://www.saylerpark.org/>