

GEORGIA FOOD OASIS NETWORK



Columbus Food Oasis Columbus, GA

CORE PARTNERS

- River Valley Regional Commission
- Columbus Botanical Garden
- Feeding the Valley Food Bank
- UGA Muscogee County Extension
- Columbus State University
- UGrow, Inc.
- Columbus Land Bank Authority
- W.C. Bradley Farms

GRASSROOTS NETWORK

Established: 2015

Organizational Structure: informal, independent

Fiscal Agent: Georgia Organics

Background: 6+ years of grassroots projects beginning with Columbus Local Food Fund.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jenn Collins,

Co-chair, Steering Committee
jenncollins1@gmail.com

Ashley Turner,

Secretary, Steering Committee
asturner@wcb Bradley.com

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & PROJECTS

- MercyMed Clinic + Farm: comprehensive services for patients to improve health, includes micro-farm, market, and nutrition education.
- North Highland Farmers Market: Columbus' first multi-partner producer-led market that doubles SNAP.
- Bibb City Urban Orchard: a community fruit orchard in a neighborhood without fresh food access.
- Community Garden Map: project in partnership with CSU that locates gardens for residents.
- Feeding the Valley Giving Garden: campus garden produce featured in Senior Meals program.
- River Valley Regional Commission's Cold-Storage Market Feasibility Study: expected by end of 2019.

LOCAL FOOD ACCESS POINTS

North Highland Farmer's Market*, Columbus, May-Oct., 1st & 3rd Wed., 4-6pm

West Georgia Farmers Co-op Market*, LaGrange, June-Nov., Sat 9am-1pm

Jenny Jack Farm Stand*, Pine Mountain, April-Dec., Wed. 9am-12pm; 1st Sat. 9am-12pm

Midland Community Farmer's Market, Midland, May-Oct., Sat. 9am-12pm

Market Days on Broadway, Columbus, year-round, Sat. 9am-12pm

*accepts EBT/SNAP

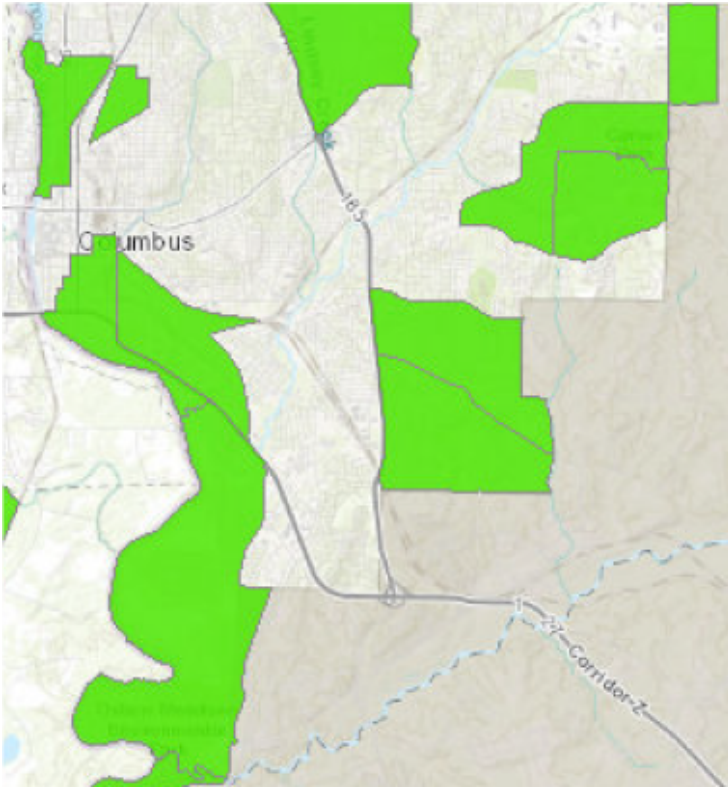
LOCAL POLICIES & PROGRAMS

- **Columbus Land Bank Authority:** Lots of Good Use program returns property to good use, includes community gardens and market gardens uses. Sliding-scale fees for purchase and/or lease.
- **Columbus-Muscogee County:** permits residents to own chickens only on lot sizes of 2 or more acres.
- **Columbus-Muscogee County Neighborhood Open Spaces:** allows for community gardens and agriculture uses on open land.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

- **Food Insecurity: 21%**
- **Children Eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch: 73%**
- **Adult Obesity: 30%**
- **Food Environment Index Rating: 5.9***

*Scale of 1-10, 10 being best. Rating factors local food insecurity rates + access to healthy foods in local environment.
Source: Univ. of Wisconsin, 2019.



Low Access Area(s)

Neighbors in the green area travel 1-10 miles to a grocery store and earn \$39K or less for a family of 4.

Retailers Accepting SNAP

Grocery Stores: 39
Convenience Stores: 108
Supercenter/Club: 4

Direct-to-Consumer Farms

Overall Farms: 4
Farms harvesting vegetables: 4
Farms harvesting fruit: 1

Sources: USDA's Food Environment Atlas, Food Access Atlas, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Data years range from 2012-2017.



seeded by Georgia Organics

Georgia Food Oasis Network (GFON) is a community outreach initiative of Georgia Organics. GFON seeks to elevate and connect pioneering communities that recognize food is a powerful tool to unite residents, build local economies, and foster public health. As a GFON member, this community is dedicated to a coalition strategy that promotes:



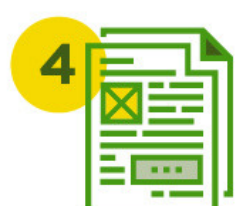
1
Public Engagement



2
Partnership



3
Planning



4
Policy

Georgia Organics connects organic food from Georgia farms to Georgia families.