

Introduction:

- Newport News and the general Hampton Roads community are a part of a food desert, meaning that they lack access to affordable and nutritious food sources.
- This project partners with Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture (HRUA) to increase food security in the Hampton Roads community.
- HRUA community outreach projects include:
 1. Urban Farm (pictured below)
 - open to all community members
 - educational opportunities
 - youth development programs
 2. Farmers Market
 3. Food Hub (in development)
 - partner with local farms to source food items
 - distribute goods to community members and other community partners (e.g., schools, hospitals, restaurants, grocery stores)



Map of Hampton Roads Virginia

Project Plan:

- I began this partnership by familiarizing myself with HRUA and the basics of food hubs.
- The foundation of food hubs includes:
 1. Aggregation
 2. Packaging and Production
 3. Storage
 4. Delivery
- Other design elements include:
 1. Ideal location and facility for hub
 2. Food items that should be offered and their seasonality
 3. Local farms and other community partners to work with
 4. Staff and volunteers required
 5. Equipment needed for production, packaging, and storage
 6. Facilitation of delivery
 7. Certifications required from state and federal governments
 8. Exploration of grants to fund the hub



- Then, I created a database for all potential farms and community partners that may work with the hub
- This includes farms that could source:
 1. Vegetables
 2. Fruits
 3. Dairy Products
 4. Eggs
 5. Meats
- This includes community partners such as:
 1. Grocery Stores
 2. Farmers Markets
 3. Schools
 4. Hospitals
 5. Restaurants
- I also helped to create a pitch deck, which can be used to market, or 'pitch', the hub to potential funding sources or community partners.

Future Steps:

- Continue developing pitch decks and a proposal for Food Hub implementation
- Secure funding for the hub through local donations and grants
- Confirm which farms and community partners the hub will work with

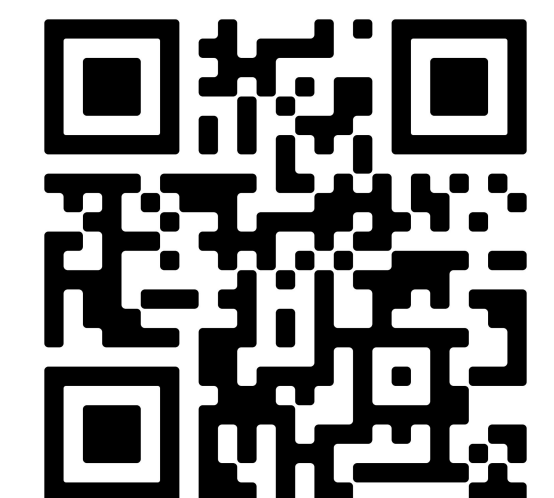


(top)
Puget Sound Food Hub, located in Mount Vernon WA
(bottom)
Appalachian Harvest Food Hub, in Duffield VA



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Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture Urban Farm, located in downtown Newport News VA

References:

- USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service. (2012). Regional Food Hub Resource Guide.
- USDA,. (2016). Running a Food Hub: Assessing Financial Viability. Service Report 77, Volume III.