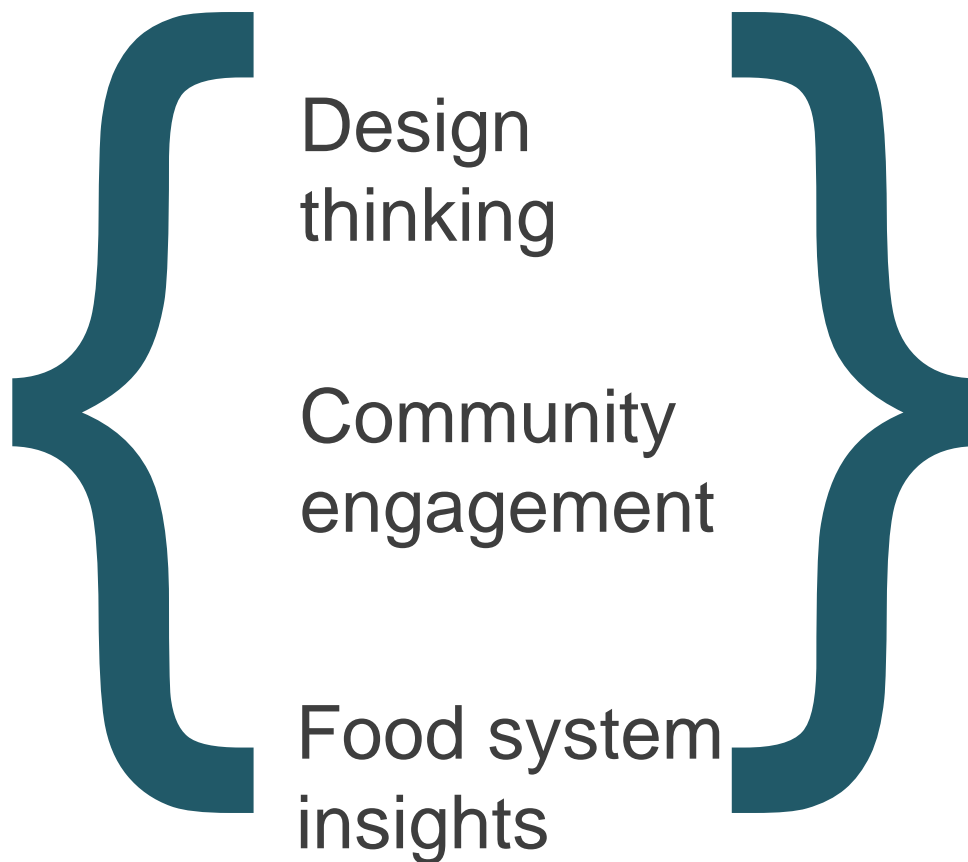


# Design Thinking and Community Engagement for Adaptive Food System Frameworks:

Critical reflections on opportunities  
and limitations

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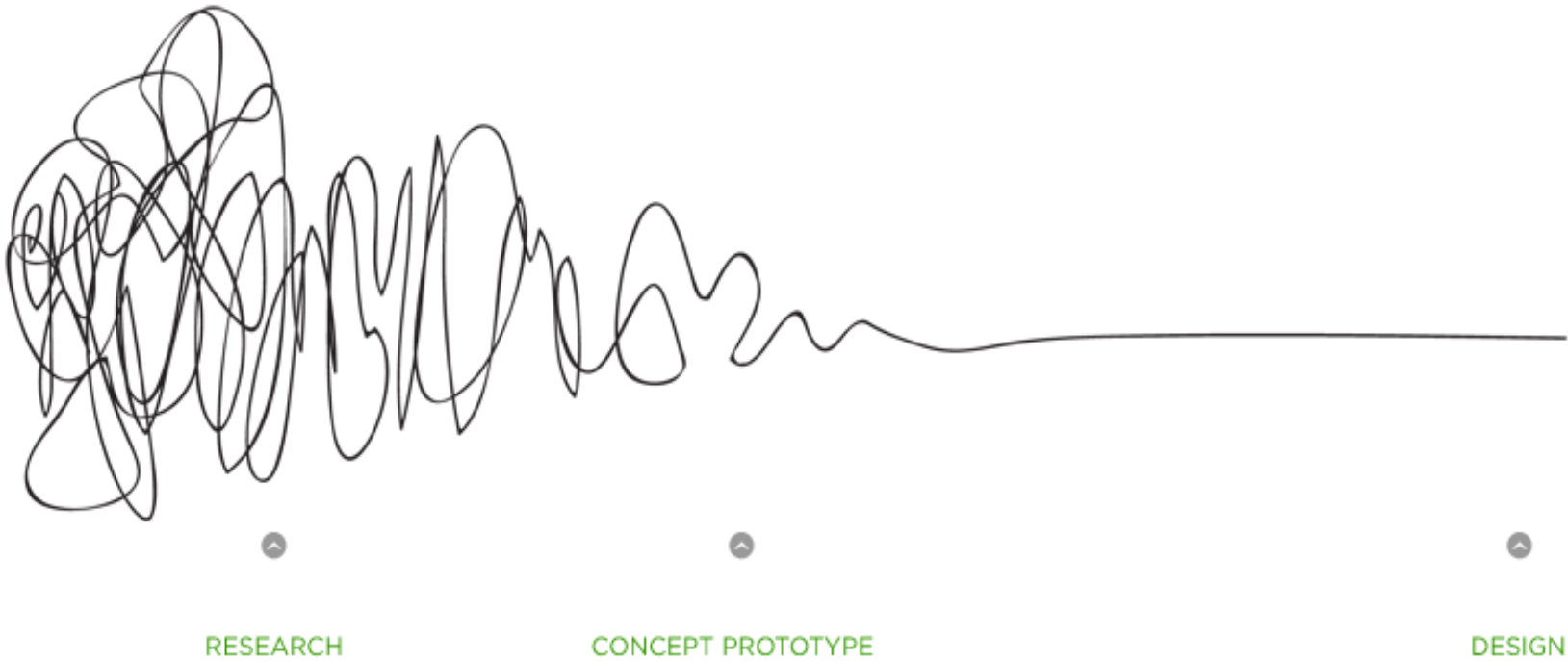


Our emerging  
theory of food  
system change

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UNCERTAINTY / PATTERNS / INSIGHTS

CLARITY / FOCUS



[http://v2.centralstory.com/\\_gfx/squiggle.png](http://v2.centralstory.com/_gfx/squiggle.png)

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# Design thinking

- Allows solutions in ambiguous contexts
- Helps envision and model alternate futures
- Encourages intersectional, circular, and systems thinking within outcomes-based process
- Encourages multi-scale considerations

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NON-LOCAL AGRICULTURE

MAINSTREAM



LOCAL AGRICULTURE

LOCAL

CONV STORE

WALMART

GROCERY

FARMERS MARKET

CSA



URBAN + COMMUNITY GARDENS

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# Community engagement

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→ MEETING ROOMS  
RESTROOM

## INFORMATION









# Community engagement

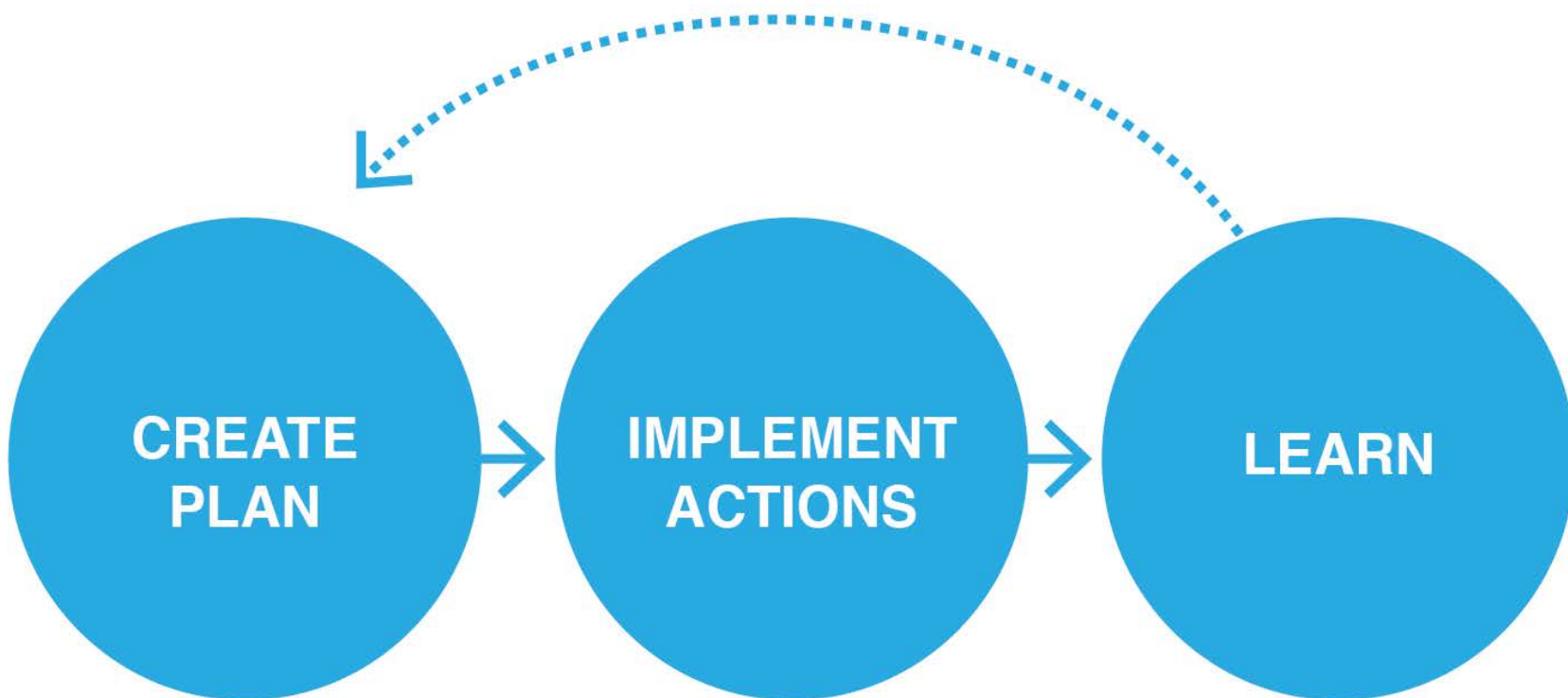
- Reflect community needs in planning
- Caution around extractive vs participatory methods
- Key elements include transparency, clear communication, investing in trust

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# Adaptive planning frameworks





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# Adaptive planning frameworks

- Drive coordinated action in ambiguous contexts
- Encourage regular feedback loops and learning
- Adjust to changing conditions without losing value

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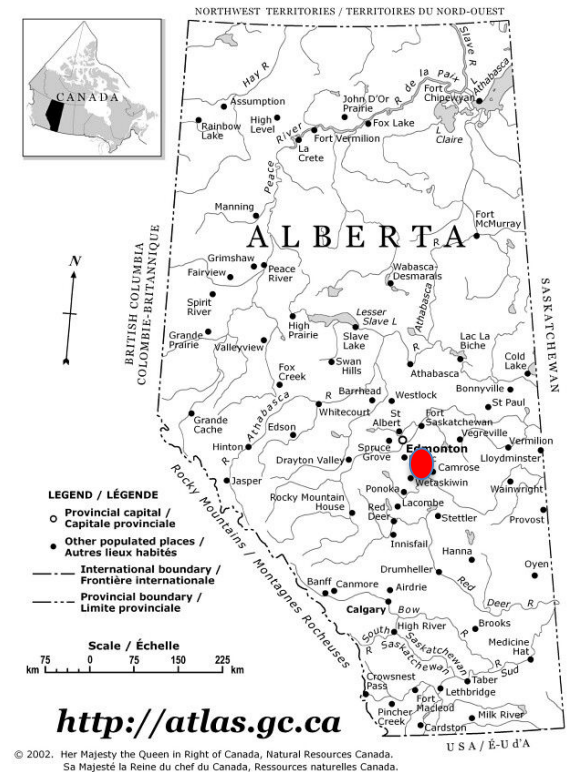
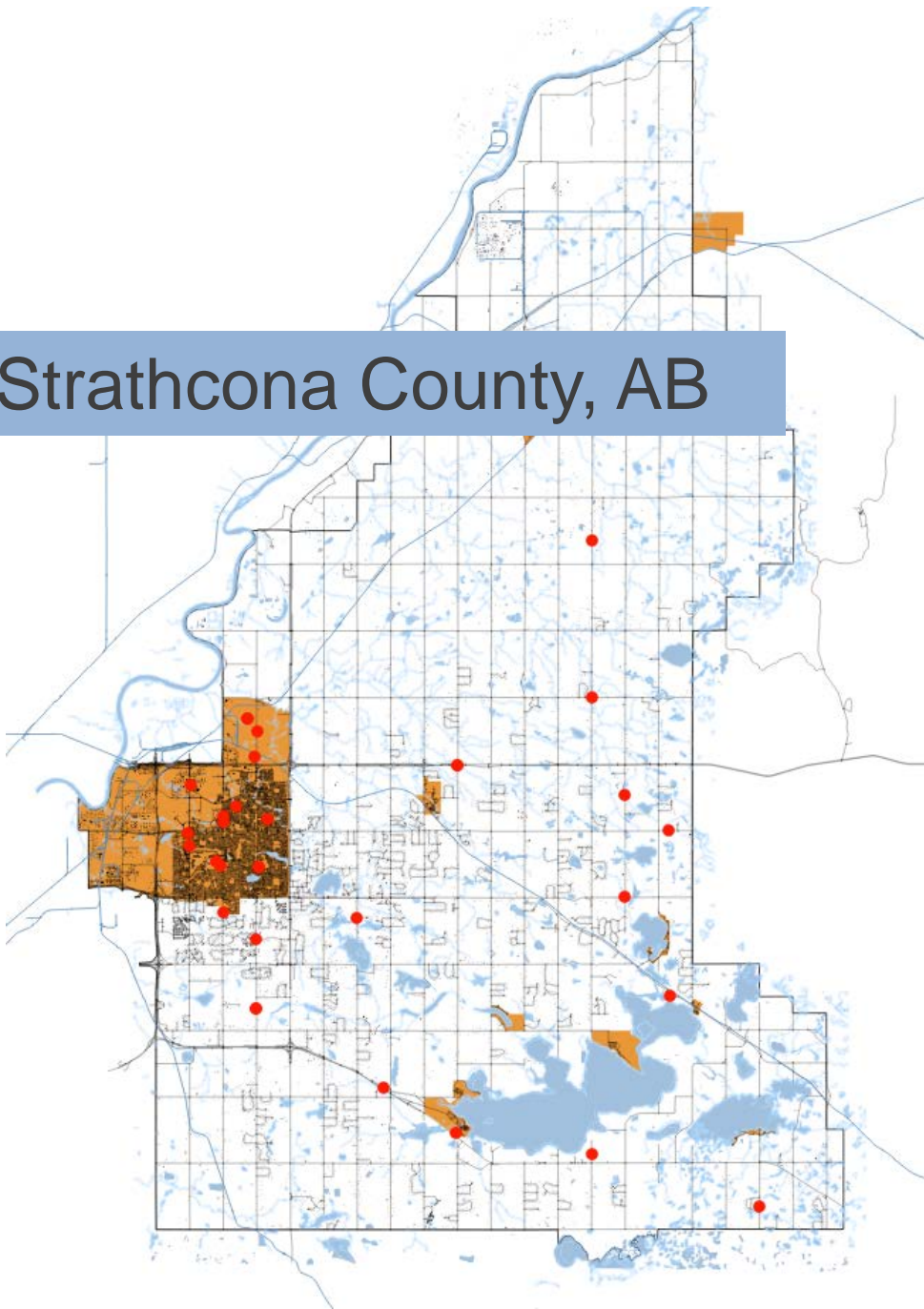
# Two case studies

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Strathcona County Urban  
Agriculture Strategy

# Urban Agriculture Strategy

# Strathcona County, AB



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# Strathcona County Urban Agriculture Strategy

Developed by:

Transportation and Agricultural Services

Project Team:

Intelligent Futures and Community Food Lab

Implementing Leadership:

Transportation and Agricultural Services

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# Engagement activities and stats.

# 6

## ROADSHOW STOPS

Antler Lake Community Hall / Ardrossan Recreation Complex / North Cooking Lake Community Hall / Josephburg Community Hall / Sherwood Park Ottewell Barn / South Cooking Lake Community Hall

# 12

## EVENTS ATTENDED

Ardrossan Farm Safety Fair / Ardrossan Picnic and Parade / Baseline Farmers' Market / Canada Day / Deville Hall Farmers' Market / Greenland Greenhouse / Salisbury Farmers' Market / Sherwood Park Farmers' Market / South Cooking Lake Bookmobile / South Cooking Lake Seniors Potluck / Strathcona County Trade Fair / Rural Living Days

# 85

HOURS  
OF ENGAGEMENT

# 2

ENGAGEMENT PHASES

EXPLORE & ASSESS

APR 8 - JUL 1 2016

SYNTHESIZE

AUG 8 - 10 2016

2,253  
PARTICIPANTS

8,896  
IDEAS

FEEDBACK CHANNEL		PARTICIPANTS	IDEAS
Attendance at events and businesses		979	949
Roadshow open houses		45	119
Online	Survey 1	161	184
	Survey 2	1051	7456
Workshops		9	188
Interviews		10	--
TOTAL		2253	8896

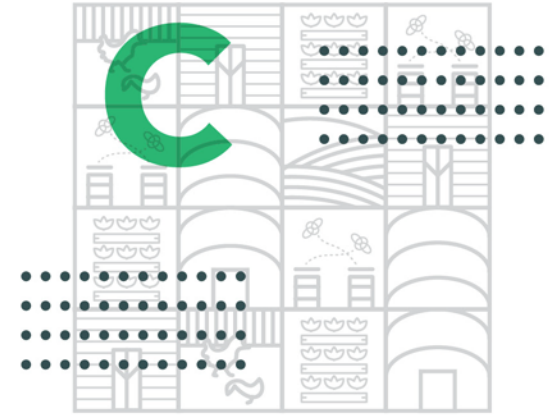
## Strategy Areas



Community Gardening



Public Agriculture



Urban Farming



School Agriculture  
Programs



Urban Livestock



Home Gardens



Education and  
Coordination



# *Urban Agriculture Strategy*



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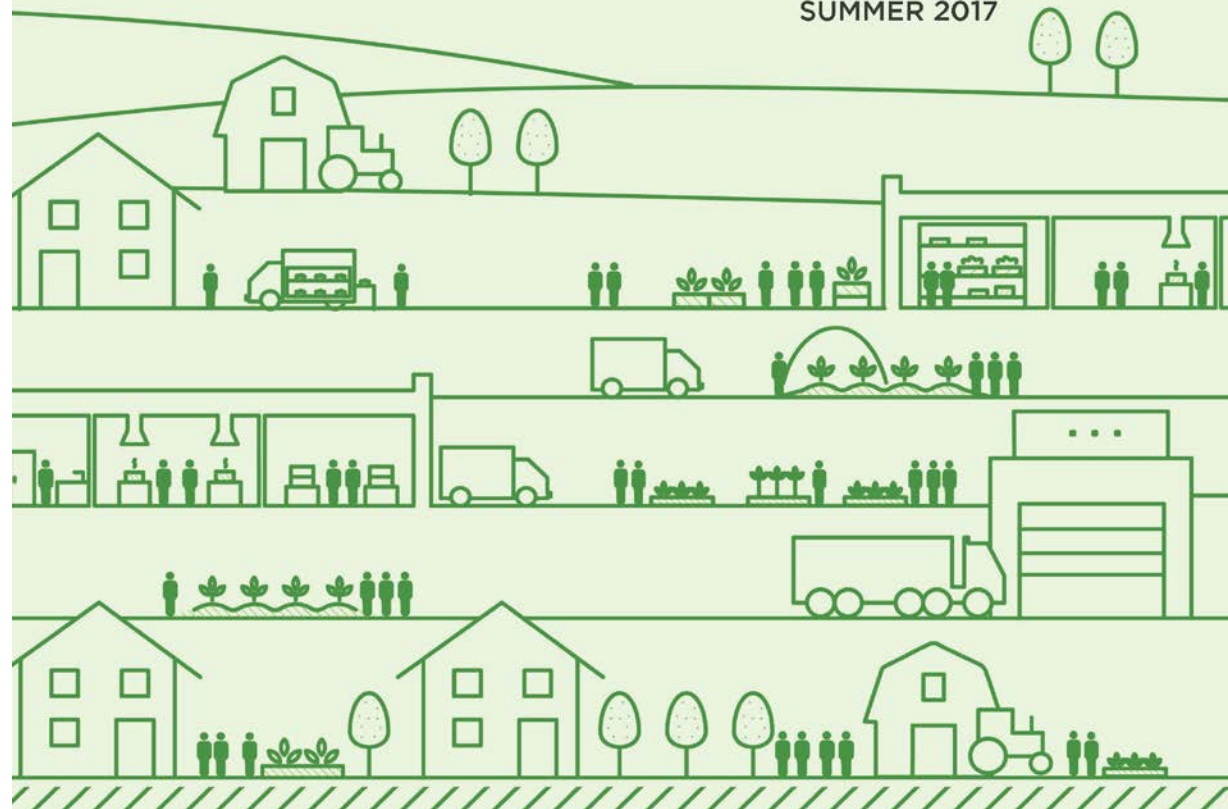
# Wake County Food Security Plan

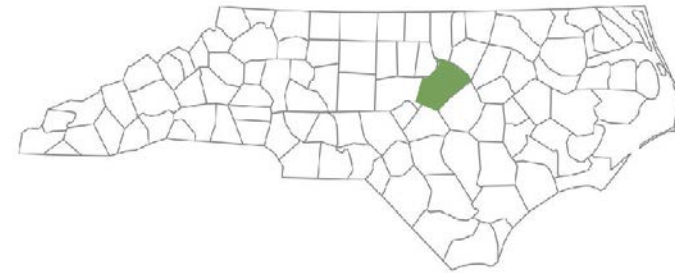
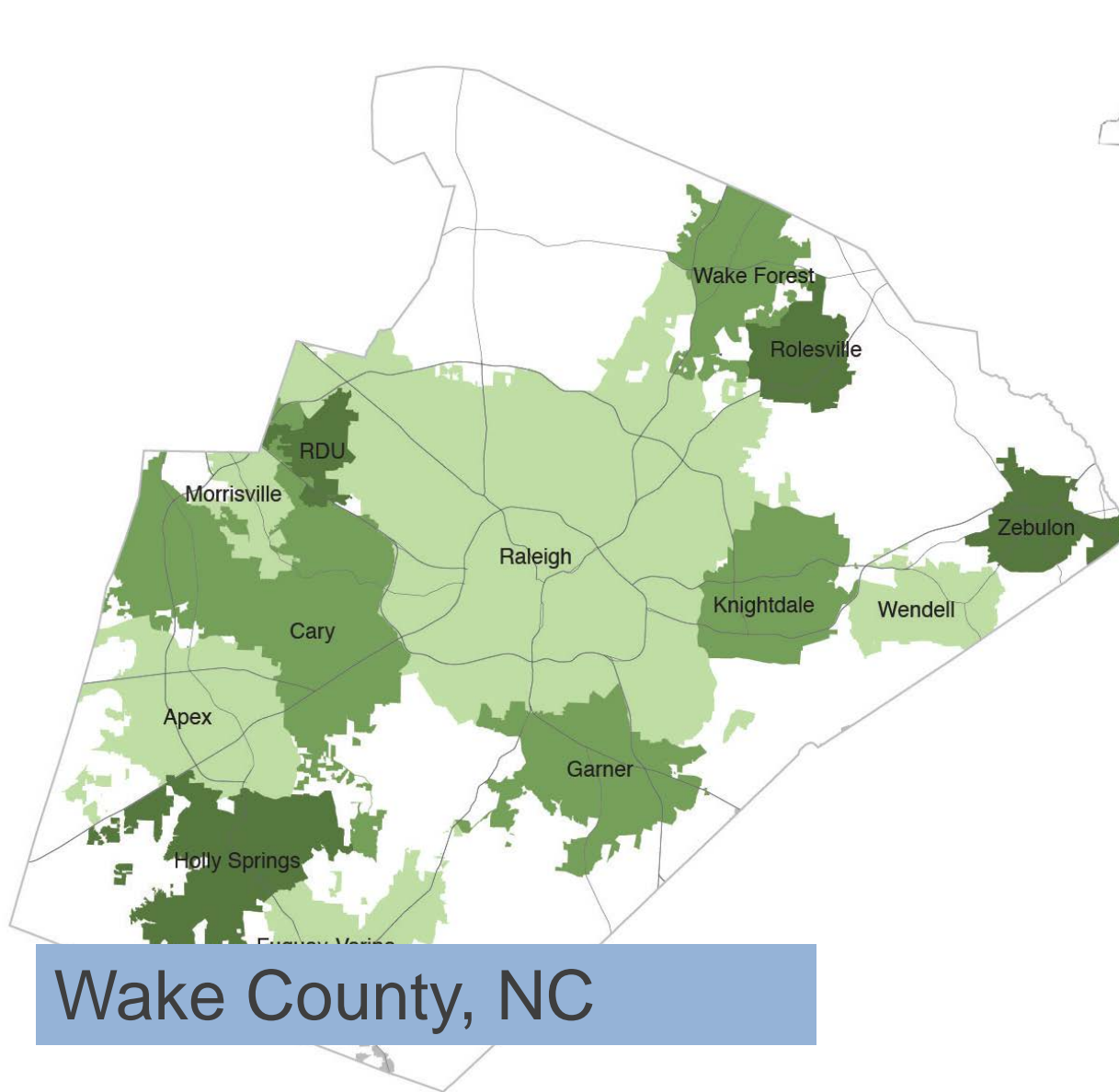


## Moving Beyond Hunger

### COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SECURITY PLAN AND ACTION MANUAL FOR WAKE COUNTY

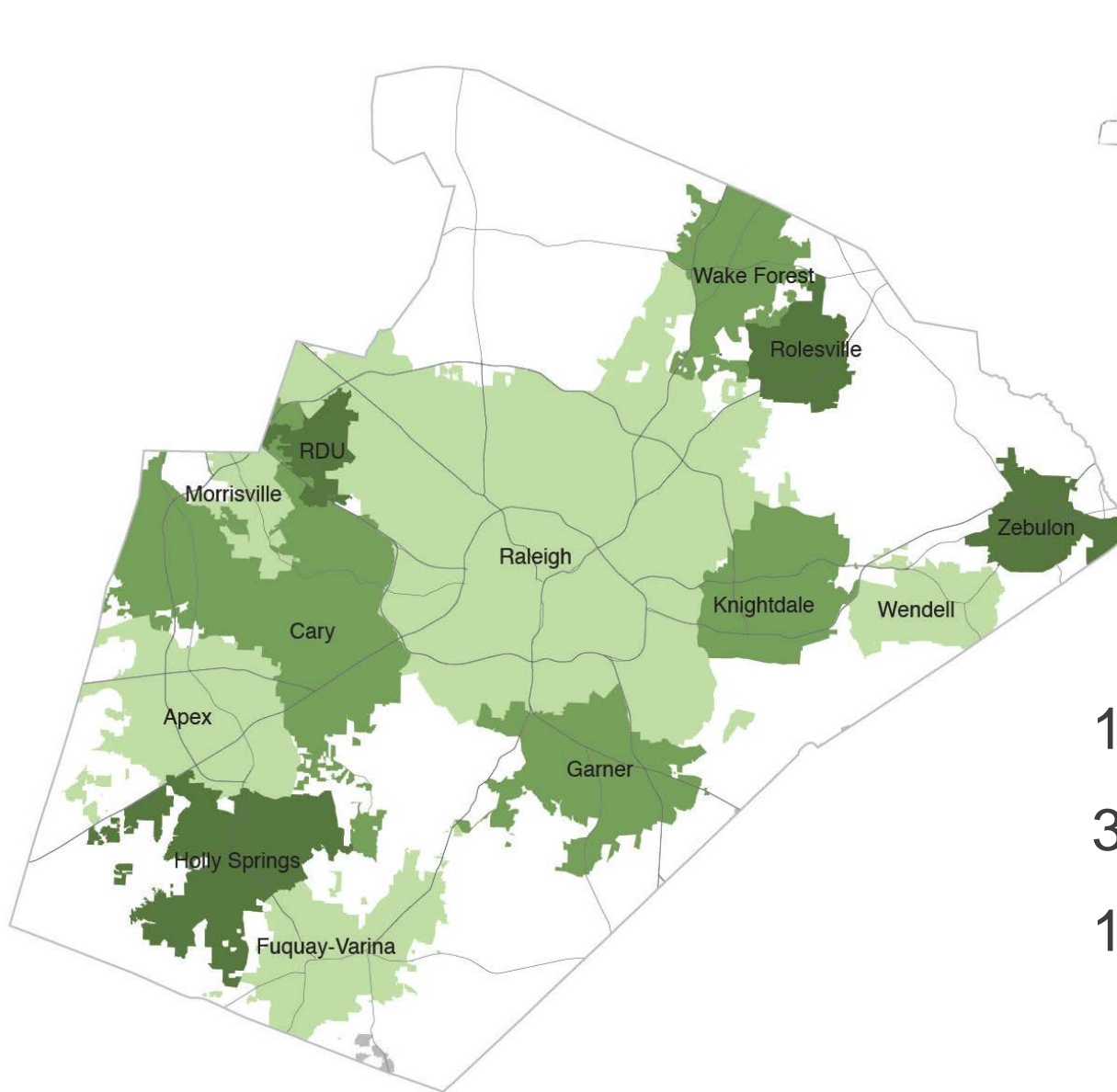
SUMMER 2017





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1.1 million residents  
3.8% unemployment  
12.7% food insecure

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# Wake County Food Security Plan

Developed by:

Wake County Human Services and Cooperative  
Extension

Project Team:

Community Food Lab and Capital Area Food Network  
(food council)

Implementing Leadership:

Capital Area Food Network and Wake County

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# Engagement Activities and Stats

Summer 2016

**PHASE 0:**  
Food Security Summit

**PHASE 1:**  
Define Success

Nov 2016 - Feb 2017

**PHASE 2:**  
Explore and Assess

Feb - March 2017

**PHASE 3:**  
Synthesize

**130**

Attendees

**1,071**

People Engaged

429 Online Surveys  
552 In-person Surveys

**102**

Participants

**1,303**

Total Wake County  
Residents Engaged

**1**

Event

**16**

Direct  
Engagement  
Events

**4**

Feedback Gatherings

**4**

Focus Groups

**33**

Total Events

**1,234**

Ideas Generated on  
Creating Food Security



# VISION

A food secure Wake County, where ALL people have physical, social, and economic access to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate, and affordable food.

# APPROACH

Building a culture of connections and nourishment

# FIVE STRATEGIES





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# Emerging Adaptive Project: Durham County Food Planning

Developed by:

Duke University and Durham City/County Gov't

Project Team:

Community Food Lab and purpose-built community  
design team

Implementing Leadership:

TBD

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# Opportunities for Adaptive Frameworks

- Find planning processes that build community cohesion, trust, and shared ownership
- Plan for intersecting systems and cultures
- Grow comfort in ambiguity and changing landscapes
- Plan for lasting structures and networks
- Plan like an organizer

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# Limitations of Adaptive Frameworks

- Can be slower to develop and complete
- May need to bring along funders, elected officials, and community in new approaches
- Requires regular planning effort to reflect, revise, and update plans
- Less valuable where there is relatively little ambiguity

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@comm\_food\_lab

[www.communityfoodlab.org](http://www.communityfoodlab.org)

## Strathcona Urban Ag Strategy

<https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/plans-and-reports/strategic-documents/agriculture-master-plan/urban-agriculture-strategy/>

## Wake County Food Security Plan

<https://www.capitalareafoodnetwork.org/foodplan/>

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