

# LOCAL FOODS, LOCAL PLACES

## ACTION PLAN

LEWISTON - AUBURN

OCTOBER 2020

UPDATES &  
OPPORTUNITIES  
TO GET INVOLVED



---

## ABOUT THE PLAN

The Local Foods Local Places (LFLP) Community Action Plan for Lewiston-Auburn is a community-created road-map that engages a wide variety of stakeholders to support opportunities for local farmers and food businesses, improve access to good food, and use local foods as a catalyst for economic growth in Lewiston-Auburn!

To read the plan, and FMI on how the plan was created, click [here](#).

---

## LEARN MORE

### [Watch the Video](#)

On October 27, 2020 - ten months after plan finalization - a Celebration & Public Launch of the plan was held virtually. Many Action Leads shared the specific projects they are working on to implement the plan, and opportunities for the public to get involved.

*Note: We plan to have this video translated into French, Portuguese, and Maay Maay and posted on the same page by the end of November, 2020*

## 2 BASIC WAYS TO SUPPORT ALL ACTIONS

1. [Join the Email List](#) to Stay Updated


2. **Read + Share the Plan**

*All Goals, Actions, & Leads At-A Glance (As of October 2020) - [PDF Download](#)  
Full Action Plan - [PDF Download](#)*

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Local Foods Local Places *Community Action Plan* Lewiston-Auburn

## 4 IMMEDIATE WAYS

 **ACTION** *Conduct a Feasibility Study for a Community Food Center (including shared-use processing, storage, commercial kitchen, and a cooperatively run, low-cost, local foods store) in the Tree Streets neighborhood*


**LEADS** Sherie Blumenthal, *St. Mary's Nutrition Center*; & Emmy Andersson, *Cooperative Development Institute*

**#1 HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT**  If you live OR work in Lewiston-Auburn, please participate in [this community survey](#) to share your feedback and vision.

 **ACTION** *Ensure Food & Agriculture are Represented as Critical & Integrated in Auburn's 2021-2031 Comprehensive Plan Update*

**LEADS** Camille Parrish, *The Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn*

**#2 HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT**  [Sign up for email updates on the City of Auburn's website](#) to follow the current Comprehensive Plan update process from now through projected finalization in mid-2021. Auburn residents can engage in public comment and contact their city councilors to help shape the future.

 **ACTION** *Assist New Roots, The SBCA, and other Potential Farmland Seekers to Purchase and Secure Farmland. Record the Process so it may be used by other Land Seekers*

**LEADS** Ashely Bahlkow, *Somali-Bantu Community Association*, & Omar Hassan, *Cooperative Development Institute & New Roots Cooperative Farm*

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

**#3**  [Donate to the Somali-Bantu Community Association's fundraising campaign](#) for increased staff capacity, materials, and equipment, such as a larger tractor, which will support their 180+ farming families to cultivate their newly secured farmland a short drive from downtown LA.

**#4**  [Donate to New Roots Cooperative Farm's NEW fundraising campaign](#) to purchase the farmland in Lewiston they have farmed on since 2016 as well as much needed farming equipment, and share it widely with others

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Local Foods Local Places *Community Action Plan* Lewiston-Auburn

## 5 ONGOING WAYS

---

### ACTION **Secure a Year-Round Home for the Lewiston Farmers' Market**

**LEADS** Josh Nagine & Ben Daley, *Lewiston Farmers' Market*;  
Sherie Blumenthal, *St. Mary's Nutrition Center*

**#1 HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT** □ Follow and engage in the process by [signing up for the Lewiston Farmers Market eNews](#), follow on [facebook](#) and [instagram](#), and/or check out their website [lewistonfarmersmarket.com](http://lewistonfarmersmarket.com) for updates and shop through their online store through the winter.

□ If you work for, or within, an organization or business that has synchronous goals, please reach out to Sherie Blumenthal ([SBlumenthal@stmarysmaine.com](mailto:SBlumenthal@stmarysmaine.com)), Joshua Nagine ([joshuanagine@gmail.com](mailto:joshuanagine@gmail.com)), and Ben Daley ([chirpcreekfarm@gmail.com](mailto:chirpcreekfarm@gmail.com)) to discuss partnership possibilities.

□ Lastly, please stay-tuned for opportunities to share your voice through community-wide surveys and lend your support to help us create a sustainable future home for the market.

---

### ACTION **Pass Urban Agriculture Ordinances in Auburn and Lewiston, and a Food Sovereignty Ordinance in Lewiston** (Auburn has already passed a Food Sovereignty Ordinance)

**LEADS** *The Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn*; Jesse Tannanbaum, *Eli's Homestead*; and Shelley Norton, *Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments*

**#2 HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT** □ A next critical step is to build nonpartisan community coalitions of residents and elected leaders in both Auburn and Lewiston who are interested both giving feedback on draft model ordinances and also showing public support for these ordinances through the steps to passage in both cities. Contact Julia Harper with the Good Food Council of LA ([goodfood4la@gmail.com](mailto:goodfood4la@gmail.com) or 207-464-4800) if you are interested in supporting these efforts.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Local Foods Local Places *Community Action Plan* Lewiston-Auburn

## 5 ONGOING WAYS (Continued)


---

 **ACTION** *Build Food and Agriculture as a Defining Brand for LA*

**LEADS** Shanna Cox & Scott Benson, *LA Metro Chamber*, & *The Good Food Council of LA*

**#3 HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT**  If you are interested in helping map our Greater LA region food and beverage brands including the restaurants who value local food procurement, the farm businesses who sell to local restaurants and institutions, and any emerging or established food brands, email Scott Benson ([scott@lametrochamber.com](mailto:scott@lametrochamber.com)) and Julia Harper with the Good Food Council of LA ([goodfood4la@gmail.com](mailto:goodfood4la@gmail.com))

---

 **ACTION** *Increase Awareness among Landowners and Land Seekers about organizations that Support Land Access, Land Transfer, Land Preservation, and Land Justice*

**LEAD** Ethan Miller, Land in Common community land trust

**#4 HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT**  If you are seeking land, or if you are a landowner seeking to transition your land in ways that grow equitable access for members of our community, contact Land In Common: [info@landincommon.org](mailto:info@landincommon.org) or 207-754-7575. For more information, check out the [Maine Land Share Project](#).

---

 **ACTION** *Develop A Regional Economic Growth Strategy Incorporating Food & Farm Sectors*

**LEADS** Shanna Cox & Scott Benson, *LA Metro Chamber*

**#5 HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT**  Look for opportunities to reflect on local food and agriculture in local and regional planning processes that are currently underway in your community and county. Email Scott Benson ([scott@lametrochamber.com](mailto:scott@lametrochamber.com)) if you want to actively participate in planning activities.