

Public Abstract

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Department:Geography

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Title:Foods Eye View: Using participant-generated data, and creative non-fiction to explore the extent and current scope of urban agriculture in Saint Paul, MN and barriers therto.

Though the role that Urban Agriculture (UA) may play in creating sustainable food systems remains to be seen, current research has primarily focused on production capabilities and potential barriers inherent in scaling up UA activities. This project aimed to capture citizen perceptions of urban food activities and examine what they reveal about community strengths, and resources that are actively contributing to sustainable solutions. ArcOnline, a public mapping platform, was used to document the extent of food production in the case study area, while Photovoice, was used to collect participant stories and expressions of motivations. Combined evidence of urban food production, through use of mapping software and the embodied visual meaning of urban food production disclosed in participant-generated photos may contribute to understanding the role food plays in the urban environment. The study will also demonstrate accessible research methodologies that may be useful in promoting the growth of local and alternative food networks.