

Toward an Equitable Food Systems Future: Lessons Learned from the Flint Leverage Points Project

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Flint Leverage Points Project (FLPP)

- Collaboration between The Community Foundation of Greater Flint (CFGF) and MSU
- Guided by Community Consultative Panel (CCP)
- Identify Leverage Points and ways to change the Flint food system so that it is more equitable, healthy, and sustainable

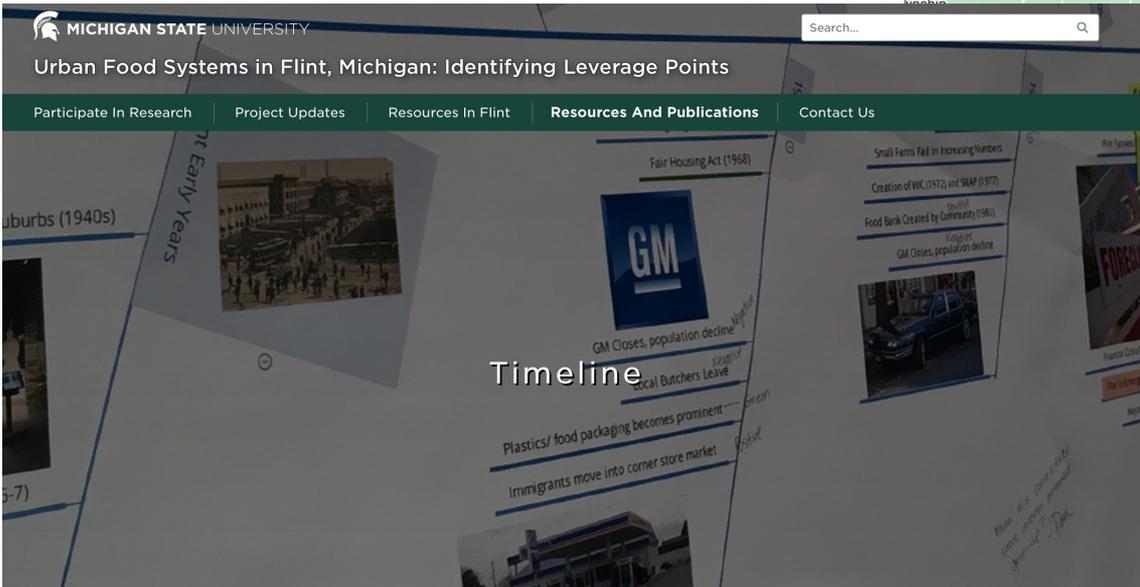
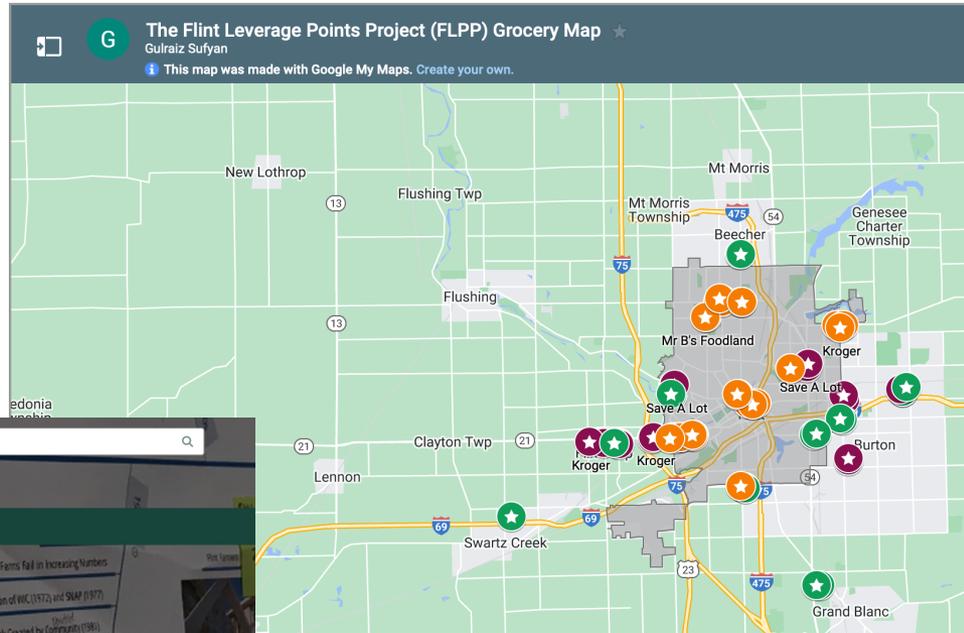
Data Collection: Flint Leverage Points Project



Dissemination: Briefing Notes, Website, Interactive Tools

www.canr.msu.edu/FlintFood

Interactive Grocery Map



“Emergency Response” Loop: Lessons Learned

- Desirable Future: Food system changes reduce the need to access emergency food services like food banks and soup kitchens for greater food independence and resident food equity
- Currently: The food system is focused on supplying emergency food, rather than preventing need, due to current high demand and needs of community.



Resident Food Empowerment: Lessons Learned

- Desirable Future: With increased resident direction, control, and ownership, the food system improves food access to achieve equity, social, and economic justice for residents.
- Currently: Focus on emergency food and meeting immediate needs limits work that will transform the food system and achieve equity and food sovereignty.



Economic Investment: Lessons Learned

- Desirable Future: Drawing on the many assets within our community, future economic investment results in Flint-based ownership within the food system. Economic development fosters cultural growth, is culturally appropriate, and improves quality of life for all residents.
- Currently: Economic investment heavily focuses on emergency food distribution rather than preventing need. Jobs are low-paying and ownership of the food system lies with people outside Flint



Community Collaborative Action: Lessons Learned

- Desirable Future: Community service providers collaborate with resource providers, government, non-profits, residents, faith-based organizations, and retail for mutual benefit, achieving authentic community-based collaboration across all sectors.
- Currently: Limited resources and silos put organizations in competition for funding, promoting self—interested collaboration and limiting system-level innovations.



Next: Scenarios Workshop and Engagement

- Guided process of developing actionable steps toward desired futures
- October 21st workshops followed by feedback and sharing
- In 2023
 - More Briefing Notes, tools, website materials
 - Open Data Flint
 - Collaborative art project
 - Community event

