A top-down view of a woven basket filled with fresh produce. A large head of purple cabbage is the central focus. Surrounding it are yellow squash, green beans, ears of corn, and other vegetables. The basket is lined with brown paper. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the produce.

City of Jacksonville

# STATE OF THE FOOD

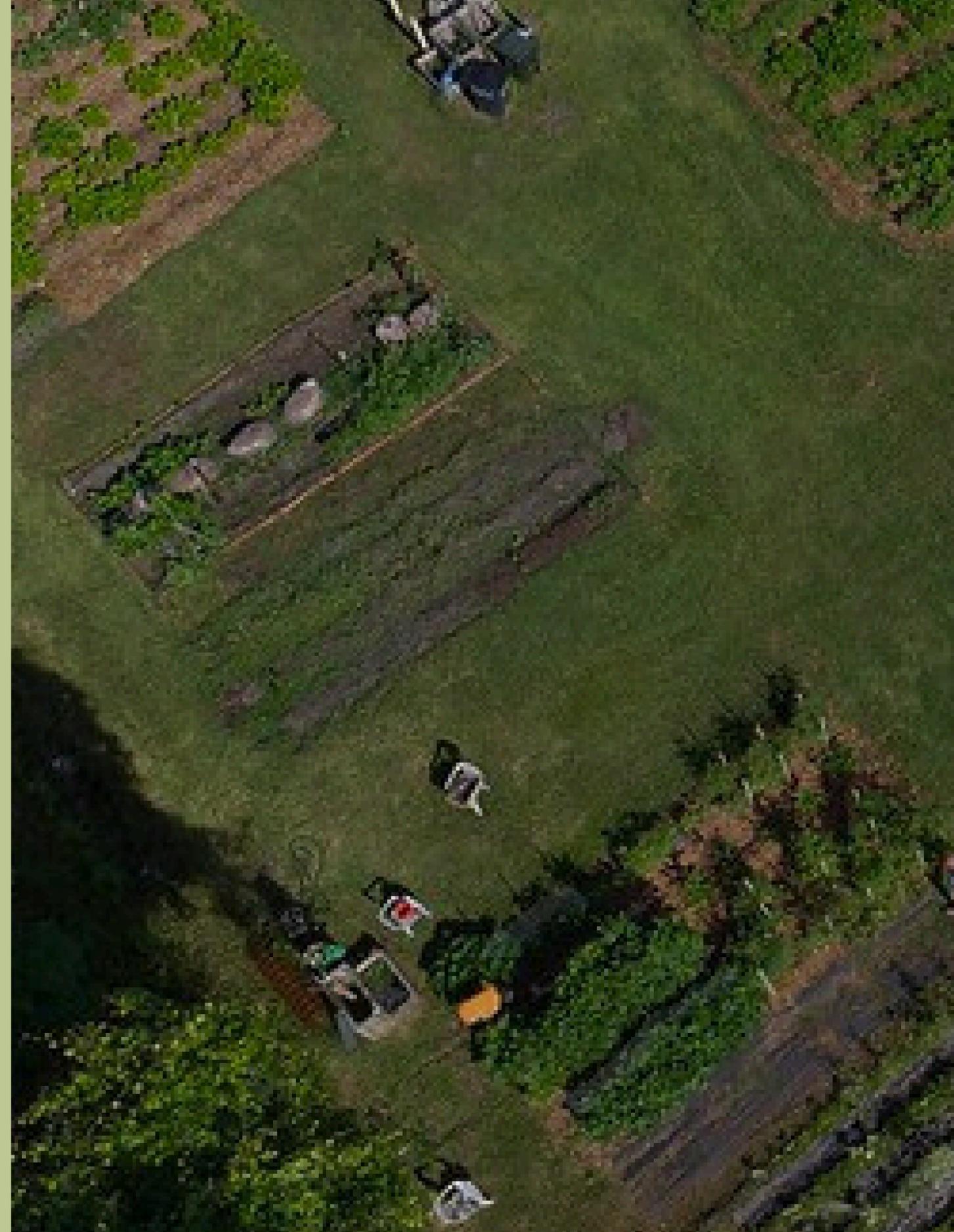
An analysis of Jacksonville's  
Food System

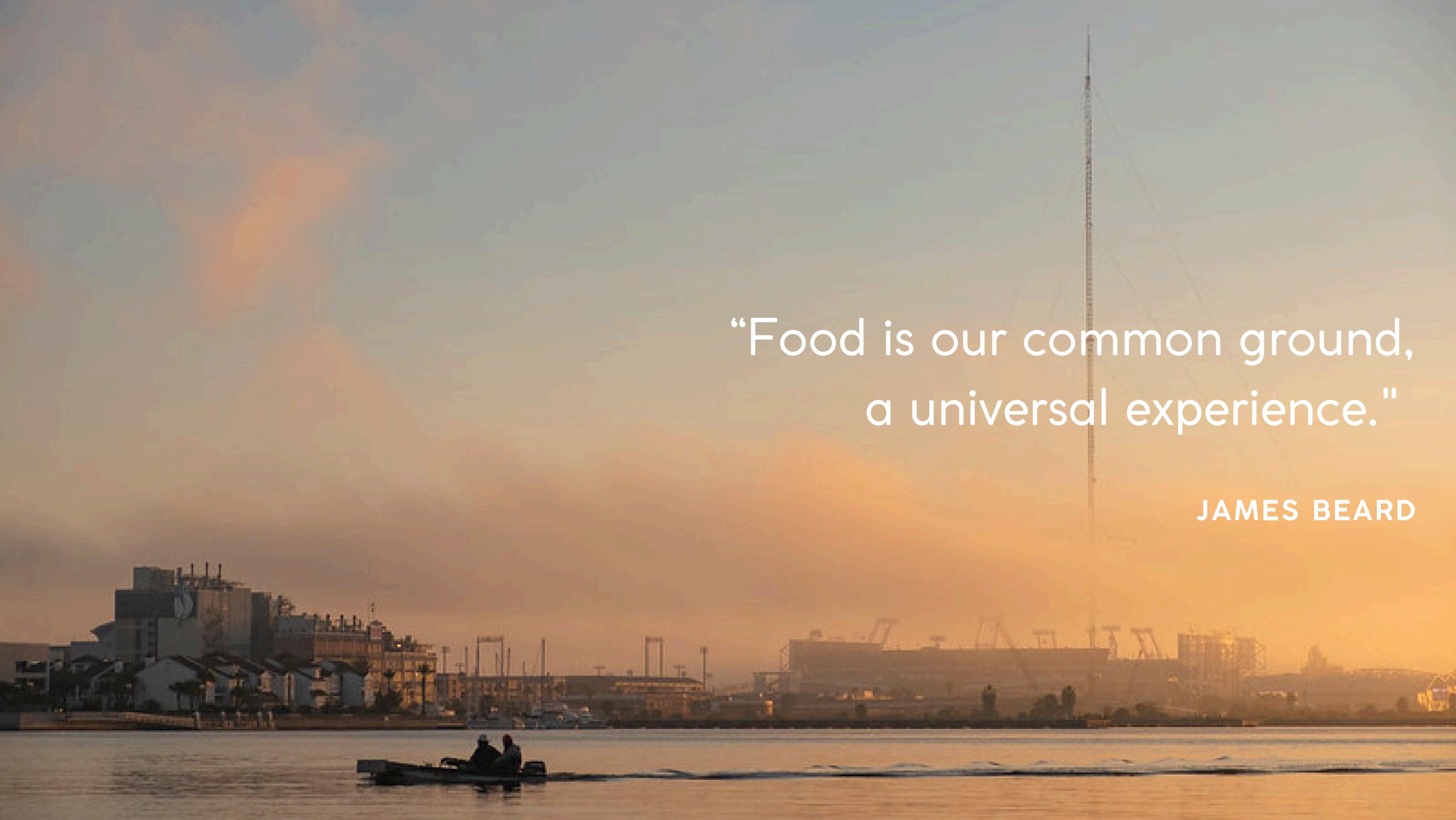
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# about JAX FOOD

Jacksonville is a growing city with a growing demand for food.

Over the years we have experienced external shocks & stressors that have shaped the way people interact with food. Whether that be due to local agricultural barriers, limited distribution partnerships, shortages on supplemental government assistance & grocery stores, or the lack of food waste diversion programs, our food system is stable but needs additional support.



A scenic view of a harbor at sunset. The sky is a mix of soft orange, yellow, and pale blue. In the foreground, the calm water reflects the light. A small boat with two people is visible in the lower left. In the background, a city skyline is visible, including a large building with a distinctive tower and several cranes. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

“Food is our common ground,  
a universal experience.”

JAMES BEARD



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# What is a Food System?

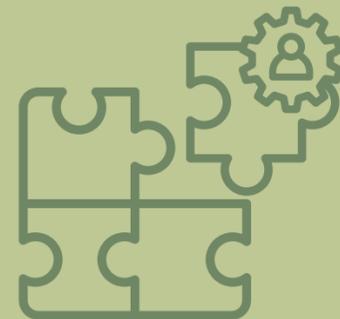
A Food System is a cycle of activities, impacts, and policies associated with producing, distributing, selling, consuming food, and disposing food including the individuals, businesses & organizations doing those activities (UF IFAS)



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# What is a Food Plan?

Food plans are strategies that identify how a city may address their community's food related needs & offer opportunities for growth. It creates a plan to ensure affordable and accessible fresh food, supports locally owned farms & food businesses, outlines an emergency preparedness strategy, while also offering ways to efficiently handle food waste.



# What's in a Food Plan

## Analysis of Pillars

A robust analysis of Jacksonville's food system. The current state of our food production, distribution, access, and waste sectors. Analyzing their operations, economic value & policies that support or stifle progress & partnerships

**It's a snapshot of how food is being produced, moved around, eaten, and wasted within the city.**

## Identifying Gaps & Constraints

The analysis depicting the current state of our food system will highlight gaps and constraints within each pillar. (i.e. Local agencies are not steering the process of grocery store placement in food insecure areas )

## Identifying Opportunities for Growth

Based on the analysis of all pillars, identifying gaps and constraints, and working alongside stakeholders. This plan will comprise of opportunities for growth within our food system. (i.e. circulate common language, incentivize local business partnerships, food policy proposals)



# Food System Pillars

Jacksonville's 1st Food Report will Analyze these four pillars in our food system & how they interact with one another

## Production

Urban farming, regional agriculture & the resilience of those supply chains



## Processing & Distribution

Local food hubs, warehousing, logistics that move products efficiently throughout Jacksonville.

## Waste

Diversion programs composting, food recovery networks, that reduce landfill impact & redirect surplus to those in need

## Access

Availability of grocery stores, restaurants & emergency food providers, while also addressing affordability challenges and nutrition gaps.

# Tools - How can COJ affect change



Data



Planning



Funding



Regulations



Tools that Shape Each Pillar  
These tools are within each pillar of our food system and can be used to create change



Partnerships



Standards & Practices



Education



Resource & Investment

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# Pillars

Jacksonville's 1<sup>st</sup> Food Report will Analyze these four pillars in our food system

01

## Food Production

Urban farming, regional agriculture & the resilience of those supply chains

03

## Access

Availability of grocery stores, restaurants & emergency food providers, while also addressing affordability challenges and nutrition gaps

02

## Processing & Distribution

Local food hubs, warehousing, logistics that move products efficiently throughout Jacksonville

04

## Waste

Diversion programs composting, food recovery networks, that reduce landfill impact & redirect surplus to those in need

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# FOOD PRODUCTION

Urban farming, regional agriculture, fishing & the resilience of those supply chains.



20,000+ acres of land  
dedicated to agriculture



314 Farms

\$6.8 million value of  
local farmers products





# DISTRIBUTION

Local food hubs, warehousing, cold storage, and logistics that move food efficiently throughout Jacksonville.



171,500 residents are employed through our distribution sector

JaxPORT imports over 300,000 MTONS of food



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# FOOD ACCESS

Availability of grocery stores, farmers' markets, restaurants & emergency food providers, while also addressing affordability challenges and nutrition gaps.



1 out of 7 people in Duval County are food insecure



SNAP generates \$69 million in economic activity



# WASTE

Food diversion programs, composting, and food recovery networks that reduce landfill impact & redirect surplus to communities in need



On average Jacksonville residents produce roughly 552.5 million lbs of food waste annually

Food waste comprises of 24.1% of municipal solid waste



# NEXT STEPS



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Public meetings
- CPAC Meetings
- Survey & Targeted Outreach

## PLAN DRAFTING

- Synthesize community feedback
- Integrate comments into the final plan

## FINALIZE PLAN & PUBLISH

- Summer 2026

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Strategize implementation priorities
- Carry out target strategies

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# Current Resources

This plan touches on a range of challenges our city is navigating & addressing. Here are resources that are standing in the gap, ready to support Jacksonville's residents today.

## Duval Care Coalition

Network of faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and community food banks that ensure no resident in need goes without essential support.

<https://www.jacksonville.gov/snap>

## NEFL Farmers Consortium

Network for regional growers to receive shared tools, knowledge, and infrastructure necessary to thrive.

<https://www.neffarmers.com/>





# THANK YOU

If you have any questions or insight you  
would like to share please email us

[foodplan@coj.net](mailto:foodplan@coj.net)