



Policy Memo: Mobile Produce Markets

The City of Syracuse should partner with organizations such as local farms and the CNY Regional Market to purchase and operate refrigerated produce market trucks that make scheduled stops in neighborhoods across the city in an effort to address food deserts.

Overview:

Refrigerated produce market trucks, like those from [Farmers' Truck](#), can keep a regular schedule visiting various neighborhoods of the city of Syracuse to provide access to buy fresh groceries within walking distance to neighborhoods currently lacking such access. Assuming a consistent or rotating weekly schedule seven days a week, one truck could stop in at least fourteen neighborhoods per week, with a morning shift (before and during work hours), and an evening shift (during and after work hours).

Where available, highly visible, and centrally located, libraries, parks, community centers, schools, and other publicly owned places and community gathering spaces are good candidates for truck stopping points. Permanent signage at stop locations can familiarize the community with this program and the schedule.

We recommend these fourteen locations: Hazard Branch Library, Mundy Branch Library, Skiddy Park, Perseverance Park, Dr. King Elementary School, McKinley Park, Meachem Field, Petit Branch Library, Soule Branch Library, Paine Branch Library, Dr. Weeks Elementary School, White Branch Library, Wester Elementary School, and Franklin Square Park.

Additional locations for a potential second truck include Upper Onondaga Park, Comfort Tyler Park, Beauchamp Branch Library, Spirit of Jubilee Park, Burnet Park, Leavenworth Park, Forman Park, Walnut Park, Loguen Park, Huntington PreK-8 School, Lincoln Middle School, DeMong Park, Grant Middle School, and Washington Square Park.

Food provided can include produce, meat, dairy, and other perishables, alongside staple foods and essentials not readily available in the neighborhood. It is essential for the market to provide a wide range of foods to allow for the replacement of grocery store visits, especially for items not available in any stores within a short walk.

Mobile produce markets have had positive impacts in other communities. These include [Niagara County](#), [Grand Rapids](#), [Boston](#), and others. Syracuse has also had some form of a mobile produce market such as the [Farm Fresh Mobile Market](#).