

Technical Assistance Program







Local Foods, Local Places Community Action Plan for Tallulah, Louisiana July 2017



















For more information about Local Foods, Local Places visit: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places

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Community Story

Situated just miles west from the Mississippi River, the vast acreage of northeast Louisiana's farmland gives way to the City of Tallulah's small urban footprint. Tallulah is the parish seat of Madison Parish, a rural agricultural community rich in history and cultural heritage.

The area that is now Madison Parish has historically flown five national flags, although in times prior, native tribes also claimed this land. It is believed the Spanish explorer, Fernando DeSoto, first discovered the wooded shores of the Mississippi River at present day Madison Parish. However, the first flag that flew over these grounds was that of the French fleur-delis. Later, the white emblem of the Bourbons, then the Spanish banner and next, the French Tri-color of Revolution and First Empire. The Tricolor was followed by the Stars and Stripes, which was replaced for a time by the Stars and Bars of the Southern Confederacy; and again, came the Stars and Stripes as the emblem of a reunited people.1

Named after President James Madison, the parish also has deep historical ties to the Civil War. While no great battles were fought within Madison Parish, armies have tramped heavily over its surface, and a canal dug by General Grant in efforts to divert the Mississippi River and bypass confederate forces at Vicksburg can be plainly seen to this day.² After the Civil War, the economic order of Madison Parish changed as many people moved away, leaving plantations



Figure 1 – North Cedar Street, Tallulah, outside the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center offices where the workshop was held. Image credit: Renaissance Planning.



Figure 2 – Healthy food check out aisles at Doug's Market in Tallulah.

idle. The first farms were large and were planted with cotton, rice, and small grains.³ Today, the area sustains itself primarily on agriculture production. Primary crops include cotton, soybeans, corn, rice, crawfish, and cattle.⁴

The population of Tallulah is approximately 7,200 residents; Madison Parish hosts an additional 4,700 residents. The rate of obesity is higher in Tallulah (43 percent) than the Louisiana average (33 percent), reflective of overall poor health conditions in the community. Additionally, Tallulah's rate of diabetes is

¹ History of Madison Parish, LA, http://files.usgwarchives.net/la/madison/history/other/historyo2nms.txt

² History of Madison Parish, LA, http://files.usgwarchives.net/la/madison/history/other/historyo2nms.txt

³ Soil Survey of Madison Parish, Louisiana, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1982. Page 39.

⁴ Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance, http://www.nelea.us/parishes/madison/

17 percent, 6 percent higher than the state average of 11 percent. Compounding the health issues is the prevalence of persistent poverty: the unemployment rate in the Parish is 9 percent and Tallulah's poverty rate is 35 percent. Specific to food access, the rate of food insecurity in Madison Parish is 26 percent compared to the 17 percent Louisiana average. Appendix A contains additional data collected for the technical assistance effort.

In attempts to decrease these higher than average percentages, the Madison Healthy Communities Coalition was created, a community-driven project supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that is a partnership between the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter), the Southern University AgCenter, the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and the Louisiana Department of Health along with the Madison Parish community. The coalition has focused its efforts on making policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve healthy food and physical activity access in Tallulah. Walkability is also a main focus of the coalition; although Tallulah has high pedestrian and cycling traffic, and amenities such as schools, a post office, courthouse, grocery store, and farmers market exist within a one mile radius, the city received a "somewhat walkable" Walk Score rating. Local foods play an integral role in addressing some of these challenges facing Tallulah. With city-wide support, connecting local, fresh foods with downtown revitalization strategies will allow Tallulah to move closer to their ultimate goal of increasing the health of citizens by creating a more livable community and increasing food access.

In 2016, the LSU AgCenter requested assistance for the City of Tallulah through the Local Foods, Local Places program to develop an action plan for promoting local food systems and healthy, walkable, economically vibrant communities. The steering committee formed (see Figure 3) was comprised of people working in the coalition who felt the program

WORKSHOP STEERING COMMITEE

- Yvonne Lewis, Assistant to Mayor Brown,
 City of Tallulah
- Sarah Sims, Nutrition Agent, LSU AgCenter
- Doug Curtis, Owner, Doug's Market
- Porter Johnson, Community Member, Historical Scotland House
- George Shepard, Pesticide and Environmental Programs, Louisiana Department of Agriculture
- Victoria McDonald, LSU AgCenter, Tallulah (point of contact)
- Elisabeth Altazan, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA

Figure 3 – List of the workshop steering committee.



Figure 4 – The walking tour included a visit to "The Slab" a priority community project for creating a safe, attractive community asset for youth to use, play and be active.

⁵ Healthy Food Access Portal Mapping Tool, http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/get-started/research-your-community

⁶ Feeding America Map the Meal Gap, http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2013/overall

would help their overall efforts. The goals of the Local Foods, Local Places workshop in Tallulah were to specifically:

- Create more connections between local food and healthy living.
- Strengthen and expand community and school garden initiatives.
- Realize opportunities for town beautification and revitalization.

The Local Foods, Local Places program is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the CDC, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority. Tallulah was one of 24 communities across the United States selected to participate in the program in 2017.

The request for the Local Foods, Local places assistance is well timed to explore the food and health dimension of this coalition further. In 2016, its first year of CDC funding, the Madison Healthy Communities initiative held a community forum and several monthly followon meetings of key stakeholders. A needs assessment and asset mapping were conducted. Consultants visited and provided advice to local retailers on marketing and



Figure 5 – Heavy, large, and fast traffic on downtown one-way streets is a safety hazard and walkability concern in Tallulah.



Figure 6 – Mayor Branch welcoming the workshop participants.

promoting in-store displays of healthy food options and choices, and Doug's Market has since begun to implement these recommendations. Consultants also visited Tallulah to conduct a walkability audit.

Several intervention projects have been identified during the Madison Healthy Communities initiative, including revitalizing the Fairgrounds Community Park and adding crosswalks, clean up dates, and food demonstrations. These are just some of the many ideas and actions taking place in the parish leading up to, and related to the topics of the Local Foods, Local places workshop. There are opportunities with the CDC grant to continue implementation of specific actions and ideas around health, food, walkability and activity that came out of the workshop. The remainder of this report and appendices document the Local Foods, Local places engagement process, the workshop activities, and most importantly, the action plan and next steps for achieving the community's goals.

Engagement

The technical assistance engagement process for Local Foods, Local places has three phases, illustrated in Figure 7 below. The assessment phase consists of three preparation conference calls with the Local Foods, Local places steering committee to establish the workshop goals, agenda, logistics, and

stakeholder invitation lists. The convening phase includes the effort's capstone event—a two-day workshop in the community. The next steps phase includes three follow up conference calls as well as process reporting and documentation.

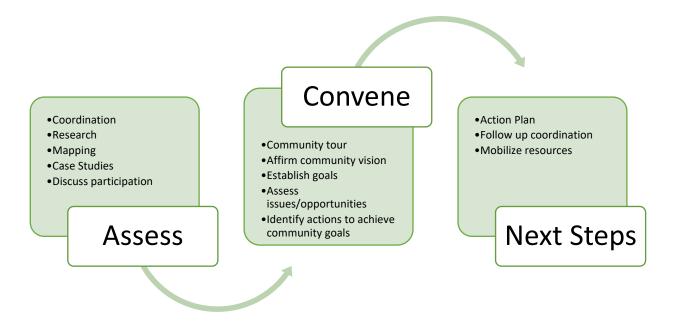


Figure 7 - Local Foods, Local Places technical assistance process diagram.

The community workshop was held April 19-20, 2017. It included a small lunch gathering with the steering committee members and regional, state, and federal partners; a tour of the community; and an evening community meeting at the LSU AgCenter located in downtown Tallulah on day 1; and an action-planning session, also the LSU AgCenter on day 2. The community meeting and all-day working session were well attended by key stakeholder groups, residents, and local leaders. The workshop sign-in sheets are provided in Appendix B. A photo album of the workshop is available in Appendix C.

Community Tour

The first day the federal agency partners and consultant team met with the steering committee at the LSU AgCenter offices in downtown Tallulah. After lunch, the group took a walking tour of downtown Tallulah, stopping first at Doug's Market, an independent grocery store owned by Doug Curtis with fifty years of operation. In 2016, consultants from The Food Trust were supported by the CDC grant to visit Tallulah, and they provided the market some advice on how to better display and promote healthy food choices and produce. The market is a valuable source of food not just for the city but for the rural area. The tour continued down Cedar Street, past the Court House and City Hall. US Highway 65 is split into one-way pairs on North Cedar Street and North Chestnut Streets that run parallel to each other. The two lanes of one-way traffic enable traffic speeds that are unsafe for a downtown environment, and it was

observed that there is high truck traffic along this route, highlighting one of the safety and walkability challenges downtown. Many of the sidewalks are not in ideal shape and suffer from gaps and overgrowth. The tour was informed that consultants had come in 2016 and had conducted a walkability audit which highlighted many of these challenges. The coalition will continue working on walkability and safety and has secured the Louisiana-based Center for Planning Excellence to visit later in 2017 to work on a complete streets action plan.

The next stop on the tour was about a quarter mile, or five-minute walk, from downtown to a piece of property nicknamed "the Slab" (formally, The Fairgrounds Community Park). It's a makeshift playground between a charter school and the Tallulah City Votech center that is heavily used by area youth for play and recreation. The Slab represents a high priority location for improving athletic and playground amenities and could become a much more attractive, versatile community park and asset if improved with better landscaping, better lighting, shade, park furniture, newer and more dynamic playground equipment, and better basketball facilities. Many youths were at play there at the time of the visit. The park is surrounded by residential housing beyond the schools. The farmers market was previously



Figure 8 – Vacant buildings downtown are a challenge but also an opportunity for revitalization.



Figure 9 – The historic court house is an anchor downtown.

hosted here, and it's since been moved downtown to the courthouse area, but it could easily be returned there to help activate a renewed space. Many opportunities were evident.

On the return to the LSU AgCenter offices, the tour passed other important downtown assets such as a handsome Madison Parish Library and Hermione Museum, both on Mulberry Street. Further down Mulberry Street, closer to Highway 80, are several vacant commercial buildings that could represent opportunities for development. One is currently undergoing renovation and will become a local restaurant expected to open within a year by a community member. The downtown commercial area is alongside the bayou, which is no longer a free-flowing waterway, but it is a major water feature and asset to have near the downtown and represents opportunity for waterfront-oriented improvements and public space.

Vision and Values

The first night was attended by over 20 persons. The session was opened by the Mayor of Tallulah, Paxton Branch, who welcomed everyone to the city and parish, thanked the federal partners for the opportunity for this technical assistance, and expressed the local



Figure 10 - Word could representing the words spoken during the "This I Believe" values exercise.

commitment to the issues and solutions under discussion. Elisabeth Altazan and Victoria McDonald of the LSU AgCenter provided a brief overview of the context of the Local Foods, Local places application and described many of the accomplishments of the CDC-funded Madison Parish Healthy Communities Coalition and initiative. Jason Espie of Renaissance Planning then provided a presentation that covered the overview of the Local Foods, Local places program, touching briefly on key topics and lessons from other communities that are working to improve health, improve food access, enhance place, and create employment opportunities.

The second half of the evening session was dedicated to getting feedback and direction from the participants that would set up the second day's action planning efforts. First, a vision and values exercise was conducted where participants were asked to stand and state "This I believe" and complete the phrase with something about Tallulah and/or food and health. A word cloud was created that captures the key words and sentiments used in this values exercise (see figure 10). Another visioning exercise was to come up with a headline of a success story

HEADLINES OF FUTURE SUCCESSES

We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the I20 ag and tech corridor.

Years from now Tallulah is growing because of new and diverse industries that have brought in a younger, more diverse and educated population.

A ribbon cutting on bayou now turned into moving body of water, used for recreation and kayaking, and accessed via an Amtrak station.

A downtown revitalized, with young people who have pride and have returned home to apply their skills and talents.

Tallulah Food Festival draws thousands of attendees and has become a year-round economic driver for the community. Activities are centered around town hall, and all areas downtown are walkable. The vitality is evident from thriving local businesses and better local eating options that promote healthy practices.

Tallulah is a place of healthy families that care for and work with youth and kids.

Figure 11 – A sampling of workshop participants' headlines describing future successes in Tallulah.

from the future. The purpose of this was to gain insight into what success means and looks like. Figure 11 provides a summary of some of the headlines imagined that speak to the health and vitality goals for the community.

At the end of the evening session, participants were asked to brainstorm opportunities and challenges around the three workshop goals. They worked in small groups and then reported out their findings, which are shown in figure 12. The purpose of these exercises was to set the stage for more detailed exploration of what to do and how to do it the second day.

The morning of day two opened with introductions and a recap of the night's meeting results (see Figures 10-12). Presentations followed with case studies on food access and education, food policy councils, community garden examples, organizational and collaborative models, and lessons learned from downtown revitalization efforts around the country in towns similar in size and rural context to Tallulah. The presentations were interspersed with informal discussions as the group would reflect on how some of these might apply or not apply in Tallulah. The group also learned a few things from each other. Grover Ainsworth of the Delta Regional Authority shared that there are Delta Corp opportunities for communities that can be applied for. Ms. Sarah Sims, with the LSU AgCenter, shared slides on their work with community gardens and city youth that they hope to expand and continue. At the end of the morning the group conducted an asset mapping exercise where they identified things of immediate need or attention, favorite things, local partners, and food system elements. These maps are shown in Appendix D.

OPPORTUNITIES

- There has been collaboration recently between counties and parishes cconversations and strategic planning and doing.
- I-20 could be a major technology and agriculture corridor.
- There is good transportation access to the river, rail, and roads.
- There are two ports in this parish.
- Our location between Dallas and Atlanta is key.
- We have a culture of farming; we are a row crop area—the largest in the state--and there are economic opportunities in that.
- Town Hall and local leadership is supportive.
- Tallulah has trong, small town values and community connections.
- The presence of big ag means there is potential for skills and equipment for local gardens and improvements.
 Our bayou is a major asset and opportunity.

CHALLENGES

- Heavy clay soil.
- Extremes of heat, insects, and disease.
- A climate that is tough on vegetables.
- Ever-changing technology.
- Agriculture that is mostly corn, cotton, and soy—hard to diversify.
- Many blighted and unkempt properties.
- Current behavioral norms.
- Lack of money and financial resources.
- Not enough collaboration, conversations, strategic planning and doing.

Figure 12 - Workshop participants' summarized thoughts on the challenges and opportunities present in the local food system and downtown revitalization efforts.

Action Plan

The culminating product of the workshop was a community action plan to guide implementation. The plan is organized around three goals and includes actions the participants brainstormed at the meeting and during follow-up calls. The action plan matrix helps to further clarify, prioritize, and define roles and responsibilities for moving forward on these actions. The goals and actions that are part of this plan are

in full detail below. A list of funding resources (Appendix E) and references (Appendix F) are provided to aid the community in implementing the goals and actions.

GOAL 1: Create and Strengthen Connections Between Local Food and Healthy Living.

Action 1.1: Promote and market health education and food through an outreach campaign and activities.	
What this is and why it is important	This action entails informing the community regarding what is available and that choices do exist. People grow up with different ideas about what is healthy, and education can help correct or improve knowledge about nutrition. This campaign could encourage healthy eating, promote local producers and promote a culture of healthy living and eating in Tallulah and the region. It could include more awareness activities at local stores, expanding on the work that Doug Curtis has already initiated at Doug's Market. It could include demos and hands-on activities at community events. It could include getting more local produce in Doug's Market and other Tallulah restaurants and stores and quarterly scheduled food demonstrations that include MyPlate information at Doug's Market. MyPlate is being taught in schools and reinforced in the cafeterias through smarter lunchroom techniques.
Measures of success	The number of people and businesses engaged.
Timeframe	Three months start up, and on-going for at least a year or more.
Lead	LSU AgCenter and Southern University Ag Center with Doug Curtis (Owner, Doug's Market).
Supporting cast	TBD
Costs and/or resources needed	An additional resource would be to reach out to John Cotton Dean, Director of Regional Innovation for Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA). John heads up the local foods initiative in Central Louisiana (CENLA). They have made significant strides in local foods initiatives in CENLA. John is very knowledgeable in this arena and may be able to provide valuable information. If desired, I can provide a virtual introduction. – Eddie Thompson, USDA, RD
Possible funding sources	CDC Grant

Action 1.2: Teach people budgeting, meal planning, and cooking techniques.	
What this is and why it is important	Knowledge and training can help make overwhelming or intimidating decisions easier and less scary. Financial knowledge can help consumers stretch their dollars and make wise choices. Such a program could help residents plan meals that are healthier and less expensive.
Measures of success	Number of persons enrolled and graduated from a program. Testimonials and follow-up interviews or survey of program graduates.

Action 1.2: Teach people budgeting, meal planning, and cooking techniques.	
Timeframe	Within two months start working with local schools and colleges and try to get on-going programs as part of the school year. Within 6 months, launch a program that teaches adult classes to community members.
Lead	LSU AgCenter and Southern University Ag Center Extension.
Supporting cast	Volunteers trained in nutrition working through the AgCenter and/or Youth and 4H center, Council on Aging, Schools.
Costs and/or resources needed	No cost to participants. LSU Ag center will need staffing support and volunteers.
Possible funding sources	CDC grant, donations

Action 1.3: Revitalize the Slab.	
What this is and why it is important	Intervention activities to revitalize and beautify the Slab area include: installing new benches, tables, trash receptacles, and a shade structure; painting a basketball court on the concrete slab; stenciling childrens' activities on the smaller slab; adding a bike rack; having a mural painted on the building; installing solar lights around the building; adding signage and landscaping (fruit trees/edible plants); and purchasing tables and chairs for the building that will be used for the farmers market and ongoing programming. The revitalized Slab will provide a multi-use community social space that promotes physical activity and healthy food access for Madison Parish residents of all ages.
Measures of success	Project completion and utilization and sustainability of the area.
Timeframe	On-going.
Lead	Healthy Communities Coalition members, City of Tallulah.
Supporting cast	LSU AgCenter and Southern University Ag Center Extension.
Costs and/or resources needed	Equipment cost, maintenance/upkeep of property by the city.
Possible funding sources	CDC grant, in-kind donations.

Other ideas for actions:

- Find funding for a small grants program to help small/struggling producers/providers to become profitable. Would require grantees to help with community-wide outreach and programs.
- Create and implement a branding initiative for Tallulah, including marketing and advertising the farmers market to surrounding Parishes and hosting events.
- Apply for planning and implementation grants through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Local Food Promotion Program, which supports expansion of local and regional food business enterprises.

GOAL 2: Beautify and Revitalize Downtown.

Action 2.1: Install planters in the downtown area and in public spaces, using hardy plants and flowers. Consider including edible landscaped plants.	
What this is and why it is important	Planters would encourage use of downtown Tallulah; enhance downtown; encourage physical activity by walking and cycling, and encourage downtown development.
Measures of success	Planters in place and maintained.
Timeframe	6 months.
Lead	Tallulah Beautification Committee.
Supporting cast	City, schools, Council on Aging.
Costs and/or resources needed	AmeriCorps/DeltaCorps volunteers; high schools (Jr and/or Sr); hardware store donations or sponsorship; materials costs would include planters, soil, plants/seeds.
Possible funding sources	CDC grant for supplies, volunteers from AmeriCorps or from DeltaCorps (Delta Regional Authority)

Action 2.2: Get the community excited about the potential for improved walking and accessibility		
downtown, active demonstrations of traffic calming measures such as reverse angle parking,		
painted cross-walks, bulbouts, and one-day road diets.		
What this is and why it is	Safety and comfort are critical to creating vibrant and enjoyable places t	

What this is and why it is important	visit that encourage active forms of getting around by foot and biking. The traffic speeds are fast along US-65, enabled by the two-lane, one-way directional pairs downtown. Through traffic, including large trucks, have no physical or design elements to signal they should slow down. The actual process of change downtown could take a long time, but some quick and easy demos can occur at targeted locations such as putting in markers for bulb outs for pedestrian crossings, having a one-day road diet where auto traffic is reduced to one lane, etc. The demos can get people excited about the potential for transformative change and could lead to adoption of permanent traffic calming measures.
Measures of success	When adopted by the city and changes are made to downtown streets.
Timeframe	Demos and on-street activities within 6 months; start installing permanent upgrades/changes within 1 year.
Lead	City of Tallulah, Center for Planning Excellence and LSU AgCenter (through the Complete Streets Initiative).
Supporting cast	LADOT, the Community, police department.
Costs and/or resources needed	Demo materials, manpower, and volunteers.
Possible funding sources	CDC Grant (a contract with Center for Planning Excellence is already in place).

Action 2.3: Convene a meeting with business and property owners in the downtown area to inform them of initiatives taking place in Tallulah.	
What this is and why it is important	The purpose of these meetings would be to discuss efforts to make Tallulah a more vibrant and prosperous place for investment and business opportunities. Tallulah is the urban hub for a rural region and as such there are economic opportunities. The convening events could be simply to share ideas and think about specific projects or activities that would help promote place-making enhancements in Tallulah.
Measures of success	Attendance of key businesses and owners, number of projects and meetings help with clear next steps and outcomes.
Timeframe	Organizing starts right away and a convening to occur within three months.
Lead	(To be determined) Rotary, Porter Johnson.
Supporting cast	Healthy Communities Coalition, business owners, outside presenters or guest speakers (e.g., a USDA Rural Development representative) could provide information about their programs.
Costs and/or resources needed	Food costs, venue costs, and staff from the lead organization.
Possible funding sources	While not an avenue to procure funds for the actual meeting, <u>USDA Rural Development's Business Programs</u> provide funding sources for several business-related ventures/projects. This program also offers assistance to rural public entities that lead to the development or expansion of private businesses.

Action 2.4: Get local students to work with a local artist and paint a mural of the city's heritage on a downtown building.	
What this is and why it is important	A mural would provide beautification and ownership by youth.
Measures of success	When the mural is completed.
Timeframe	8 months.
Lead	Beautification Committee.
Supporting cast	High School, HC coalition, Americorps/DeltaCorps.
Costs and/or resources needed	Paint supplies, muralist commission, and a willing building owner with a prominent façade.
Possible funding sources	Delta Regional Authority (DeltaCorps), donations from hardware stores, CDC Grant.

<u>USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program</u> provides funding for a myriad of community/municipality-based projects. Depending on the recipient (municipality, nonprofit,

etc.) this program could be applicable for several action steps, specifically those under Goal 2. Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities.
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars, or street improvements.
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing.
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles, or equipment.
- Educational services such as museums, libraries, or private schools.
- Utility services such as tele-medicine or distance learning equipment.
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, or greenhouses.

GOAL 3: Advance Community and School Garden Initiatives.

Action 3.1: Identify gardener stakeholders who will continue the garden efforts and support the existing efforts of Ms. Sims of the LSU AgCenter.	
What this is and why it is important	Though a lot has been accomplished, more volunteer gardeners and support are needed for the efforts already underway. This action entails establishing greater communication and exploring volunteer options with seniors and retirees who could assist.
Measures of success	More manpower and stakeholders to maintain and sustain the garden.
Timeframe	Currently in progress and on-going.
Lead	LSU AgCenter and Southern University Ag Center facilitators.
Supporting cast	Master gardeners, school board, community volunteers, the city, various high school clubs, 4H, Rotary, and Chamber of Commerce.
Costs and/or resources needed	Time.
Possible funding sources	School District.

Action 3.2: Install a hoop house (high tunnel) at the community garden.	
What this is and why it is important	A hoop house would extend the growing season and increase the number and variety of things that can be grown.
Measures of success	Hoop house is in place.
Timeframe	6 months.
Lead	Southern University Ag Center.
Supporting cast	School board, community volunteers and the City.
Costs and/or resources needed	LSU AgCenter, Southern University Ag Center, schools, and volunteers. Need to identify appropriate location.
Possible funding sources	CDC grant (already in budget for hoop house).

Action 3.3: Revive the Junior League / Senior Club.	
What this is and why it is important	Engaging seniors and children with one another and with gardeners can help maintain the gardens and community planters.
Measures of success	When participants meet regularly to do volunteer activities, produce is grown, gardens are maintained, and tours are given.
Timeframe	As soon as possible and on-going.
Lead	Porter Johnson.
Supporting cast	Farmers market, AgCenter, school board, city, Council on Aging.
Costs and/or resources needed	Communications, agreements signed; Marketing efforts need support and staff time to organize.
Possible funding sources	TBD

Implementation and Next Steps

Three post-workshop conference calls were held during May, June, and July 2017, following the workshop. The calls were held with the Local Foods, Local Places steering committee and a few additional stakeholders whose interest was cultivated during the workshop. They worked to refine the action plan and add clarifying language. Some of the key actions and post-workshop developments included the following:

- The Madison Healthy Communities Coalition held a follow-up meeting to review the action plan and provide feedback. The coalition is continuing to meet monthly to follow-up on action items.
- The Center for Planning Excellence kicked off their Complete Streets work in Madison Parish.
- The LSU AgCenter developed partnerships with the Madison Parish Library to provide resources related to health such as Yoga for Kids programming and books related to healthy living, and the Madison Parish Nutrition Supervisor to provide tables and chair for the summer feeding program.
- The LSU AgCenter and Southern University AgCenter hosted a CHEF Camp for children, which teaches youth how to prepare healthy meals.
- The Madison Healthy Communities Coalition is currently planning a community event to clean up and paint the basketball courts at the Slab.
- Doug's Market began implementation of healthy food access social marketing materials, provided by the LSU AgCenter and The Food Trust.
- The local DOTD installed pedestrian crossing signage near the Slab and Charter school, where safety is of concern.
- The Center for Planning Excellence held a community meeting in July to start on a complete streets action plan for Tallulah. The manual will focus on increasing walking and biking in the town and will be complete this fall. A demonstration project will also take place this fall as part of the complete streets action plan.
- A Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design workshop was held in May. It focused deterring crime at the Slab through design elements such as landscaping, lighting, and public art.

Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance Workshop

Delta Regional Authority Implementation Assistance

The LSU AgCenter is working with the Delta Regional Authority to apply for implementation assistance. The application for funding will center on the Tallulah Farmers Market and improving the downtown area.

Appendices

- Appendix A Community Data Profile
- Appendix B Workshop Sign-in Sheets
- Appendix C Workshop Photo Album
- Appendix D Workshop Mapping Exercise Results
- Appendix E Funding Resources
- Appendix F References