



## [Local Foods, Local Places: Palmer, AK](#)

In 2016, Palmer, AK was able to participate in *Local Foods, Local Places*, an EPA funded Technical Assistance program. Jan Newman of Grow Palmer applied to and was awarded the grant; she then assembled a steering committee that represented the City of Palmer, the Mat-Su Borough, Alaska Farmland Trust, AARP, and NeighborWorks® Alaska. Together, that group worked to define five areas of focus for the greater community to discuss over the course of a two day workshop, held in July. 50 community members, including local producers, attended the workshop.

## [Five Priority Areas](#)

The steering committee and the larger community agreed to focus on the following goals:

1. Support local growers, vendors, and processors
2. Promote farmland and wild food resources, stewardship, and preservation
3. Improve local food accessibility and food security by increasing availability of Mat-Su Valley food to local residents
4. Build on the existing agricultural identity to become a local foods destination
5. Increase collaboration and integration on efforts for a healthy, vibrant, and walkable community

Within those goals, the community listed out twenty priorities for short, medium, and long-term action.

## [What's next?](#)

The steering committee decided that for effective action they needed to establish a group that would continue to oversee and champion the efforts. They have formed a Local Foods Network with the goal of collaborating with other food groups in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and across the State of Alaska. For more information on the network, contact [growpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:growpalmer@gmail.com).



Thank you to the EPA and Progressive Urban Management Associates for their technical assistance!