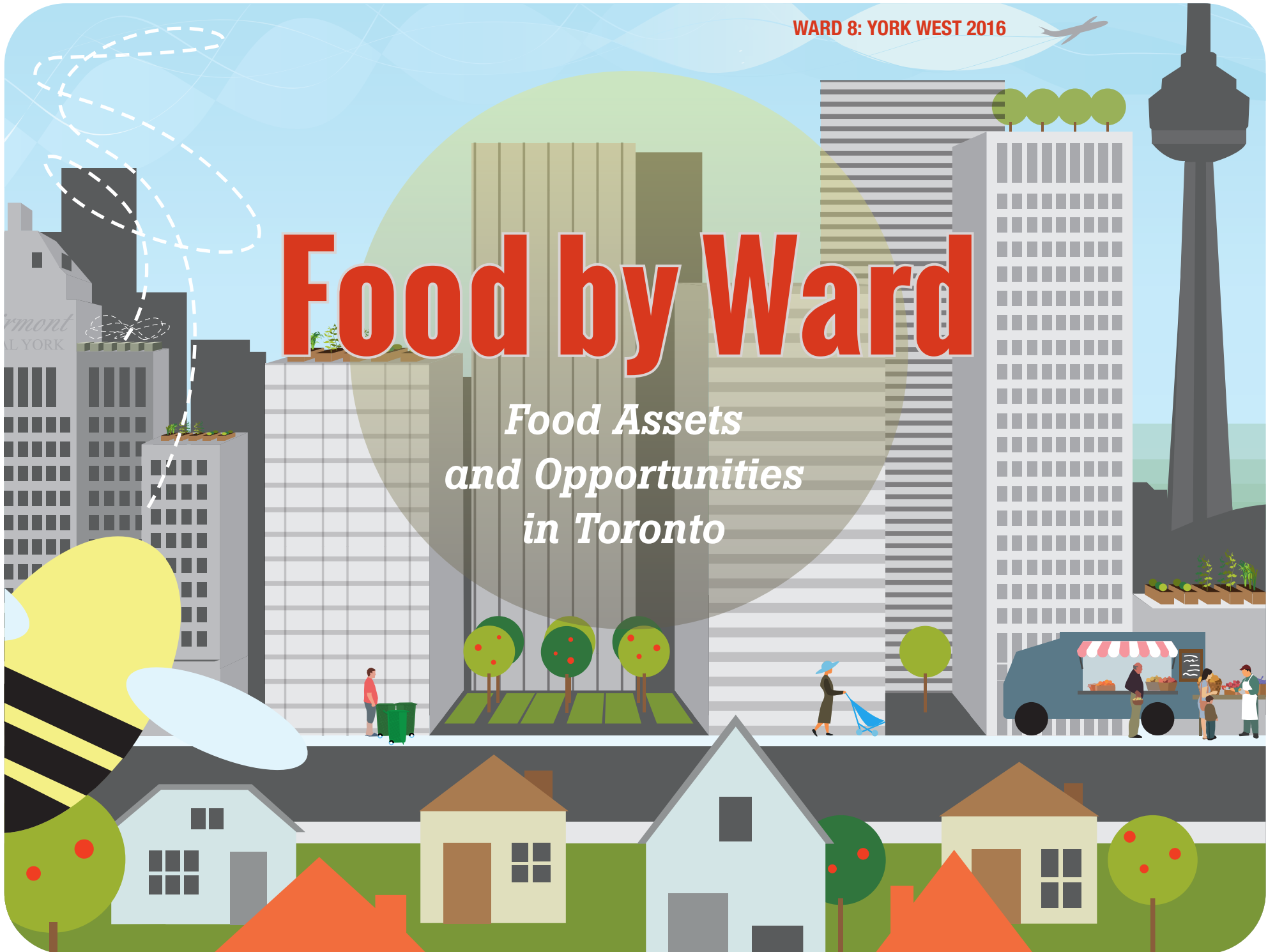


WARD 8: YORK WEST 2016

# Food by Ward

*Food Assets  
and Opportunities  
in Toronto*



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# OVERVIEW

Great cities are shaped by their ability to nourish their citizens.

Food is central to life in Toronto. It nourishes individuals, animates neighbourhoods, activates communities, reflects the city's cultural diversity and represents Toronto's largest business sector.

The Toronto Food Policy Council is composed of City Councillors, non profit and enterprise leaders who offer strategic insight into how to use food to turn city challenges into opportunities.

Some Toronto wards are seizing the opportunities food offers better than others.

This document will give Councillors and communities insight into:

1. Projects already happening
2. Opportunities to play catch-up
3. Where they might join, mimic or partner on projects creating returns in other wards

This is what you can expect to find in the following pages.

1. A list of food assets in your ward, compared to the food assets across the city.
2. Four sections that explain why these food assets matter to Toronto.
3. Food opportunities for your ward, along with resources to help catalyze and capitalize on these opportunities.

Maintaining, supporting and promoting the food assets and opportunities in your ward will:

- Nourish Communities
- Grow an Edible City
- Celebrate Food Festivals and Events
- Create Good Food Jobs

# WARD 8 / CITY WIDE / AVERAGE

**1 / 34 / <1**

GOOD FOOD &amp; MOBILE FOOD MARKETS

**52 / 1,653 / 38**

HEALTHIER FOOD RETAIL

**1 / 23 / <1**

COMMUNITY FOOD AGENCIES

**9**

CITY-WIDE FOOD BOX PROGRAMS

**11 / 196 / 4**

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**3 / 116 / 3**

COMMUNITY KITCHENS

**1 / 38 / <1**

FARMERS' MARKETS

**7,379 / 160,257 / 3,642**STUDENTS SERVED/DAY IN  
28 STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAMS  
IN 17 LOCATIONS**9 / 247 / 6**

SCHOOL &amp; COMMUNITY GARDENS

**0 / 5 / <1**

FOOD CO-OPS

**0 / 51 / 1**

FOOD FESTIVALS

There are many resources available to help strengthen food assets in Toronto.  
Please see our [resources list on page 15](#).

# NOURISH COMMUNITIES

Healthier food retail, farmers' markets, and food box programs improve residents' physical access to nutritious food.

Increasing access to nutritious food contributes to individual health, community resilience and a productive city.

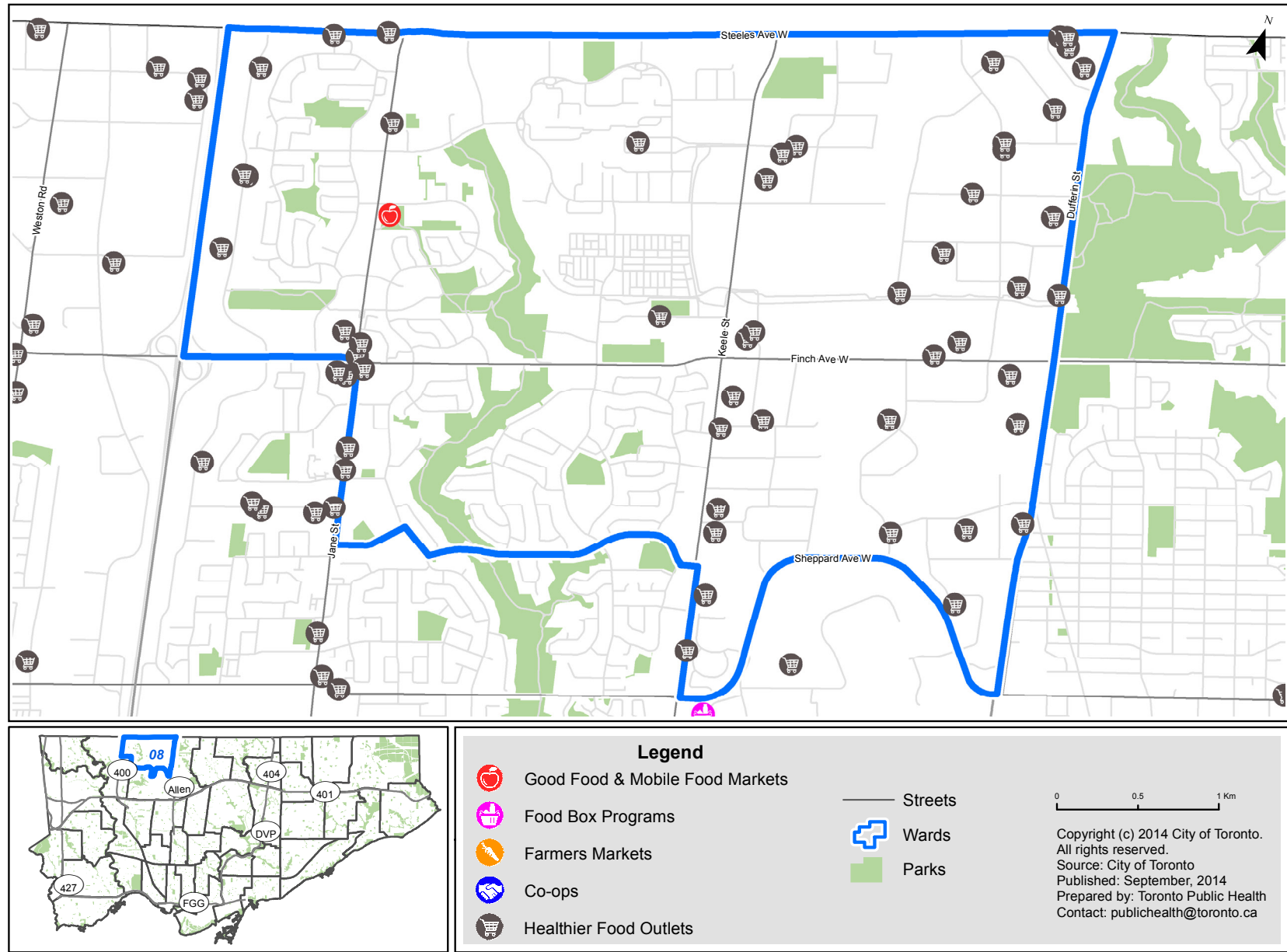
Unfortunately, and perhaps surprisingly to some, healthy food is not accessible to all Torontonians.

Some neighbourhoods lack options for healthier food retail, making it difficult for residents to buy and eat nutritious foods.

In other neighbourhoods, options for healthy food may be nearby, but not affordable and therefore inaccessible to many living in the community.

The maps on the next two pages show access to healthy food across the ward, as well as the emergency food assistance programs.

ACCESS TO HEALTHIER FOOD



## THIS MAP SHOWS:

### GOOD FOOD & MOBILE FOOD MARKETS

Markets operated by FoodShare that sell high-quality fruits and vegetables at an affordable price.

### CITY-WIDE FOOD BOX PROGRAMS

Food box or community shared agriculture programs deliver fresh, local foods to people's houses or designated drop-off points in the community.

### FARMERS' MARKETS

Markets that sell fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods from local farms.

### FOOD CO-OPS

A non-profit, owner-controlled, democratically run grocery store often with a focus on organic or locally-produced fresh foods and farm products.

### HEALTHIER FOOD RETAIL

Stores that sell fresh produce or specialize in one of the four food groups listed on Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating.

## *Your ward has access to:*

### 9 CITY-WIDE FOOD BOX PROGRAMS

*Cooper Road CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) • Cultivate Toronto FoodShare • Fresh City Farms • Front Door Organics • Fuller Avenue: Good Catch Good Food Box • Green Earth Organics • Mama Earth Organics • Shores CSA Network*

## *In your ward, there are:*

### 1 GOOD FOOD & MOBILE FOOD MARKET

*Driftwood Community Food Market – 4401 Jane St*

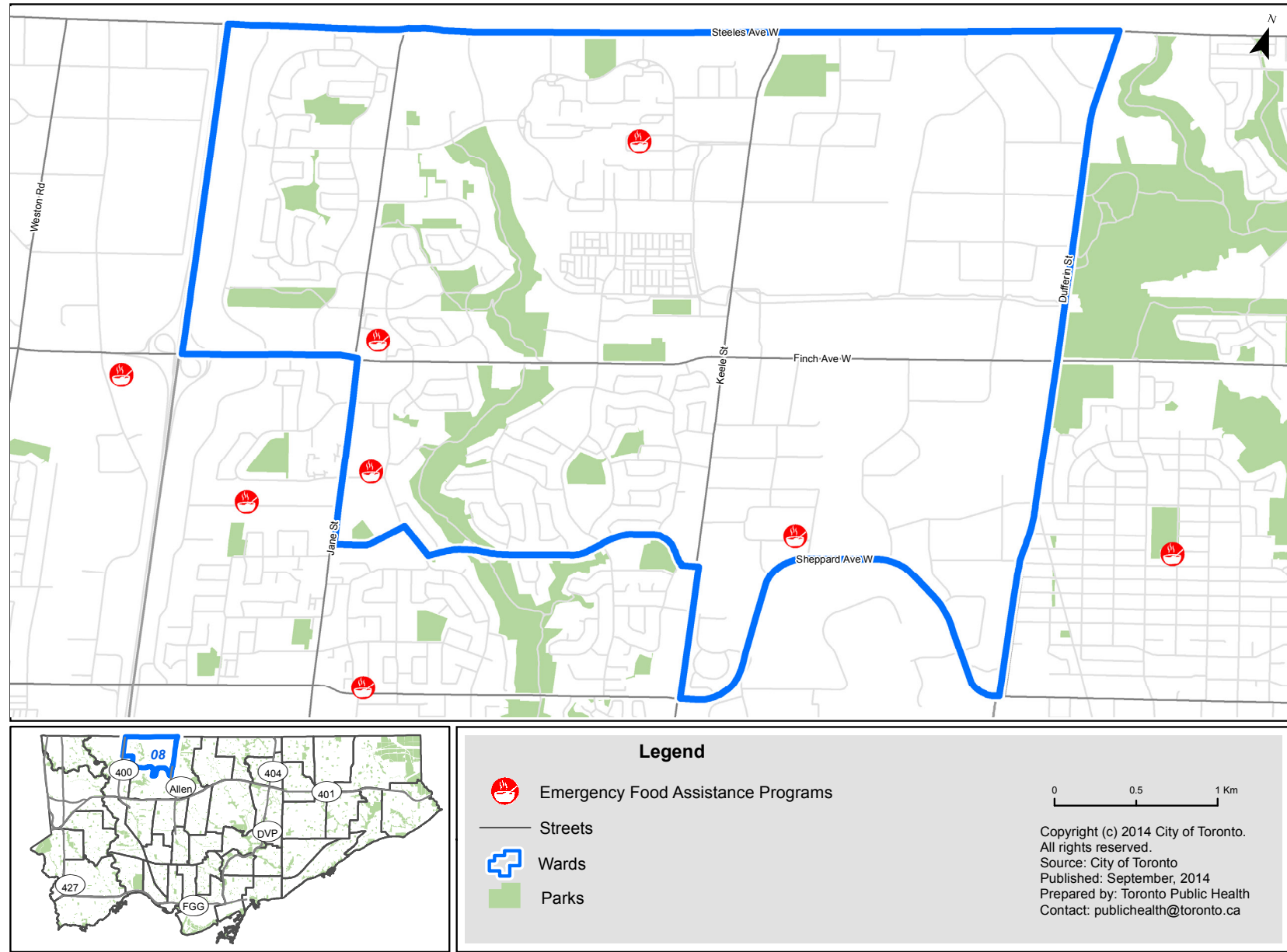
### 1 FARMERS' MARKET

*York University Market (YUM!) @ TEL Building – 88 The Pond Rd*

### 0 FOOD CO-OPS

### 52 HEALTHIER FOOD RETAIL OUTLETS

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS





**THIS MAP SHOWS:****EMERGENCY FOOD  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Food banks and drop-in meal programs designed to provide temporary emergency food assistance to individuals and families who cannot afford to buy enough food.

*In your ward, there are:***11 EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

*Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-Day Adventist Church Food Bank –  
140 St. Regis Cres S*

*Yorkwoods Community and Family Services (Salvation Army) –  
20 Yorkwoods Gate*

*York University Federation of Student's Food 4 Thought Food Bank –  
4700 Keele St*

*San Romanoway Revitalization Association – 10 San Romanoway*

*Christian Centre Food Bank – 4545 Jane St*

*All Nations Church (ANIDA) NOAH Food Bank – 4401 Steeles Ave W*

*St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish – 80 Shoreham Dr*

*Jane and Milo - Jane and Finch Community / Family Centre  
(building residents only) – 4400 Jane St*

*Tobermory Community Activities / Hincks Dellcrest and Jane and Finch  
Community Family Centre (building residents only) – 15 Tobermory Dr*

*Jane and Finch Community/ Family Centre (building residents only) –  
2999 Jane St*

*The Spot Where Youth Wanna Be (Youth Drop-in Meals) Jane and Finch  
Community Family Centre – 1 Yorkgate Blvd*

# GROW AN EDIBLE CITY

Community food programs enhance health by increasing access to nutritious food, building social support networks, and promoting civic vitality. Food programs work to ensure dignified access to healthy food for all community members.

The City of Toronto supports community gardens, community kitchens, student nutrition programs, and many agencies that focus on food.

In particular, the City has recently increased investments for student nutrition programs.

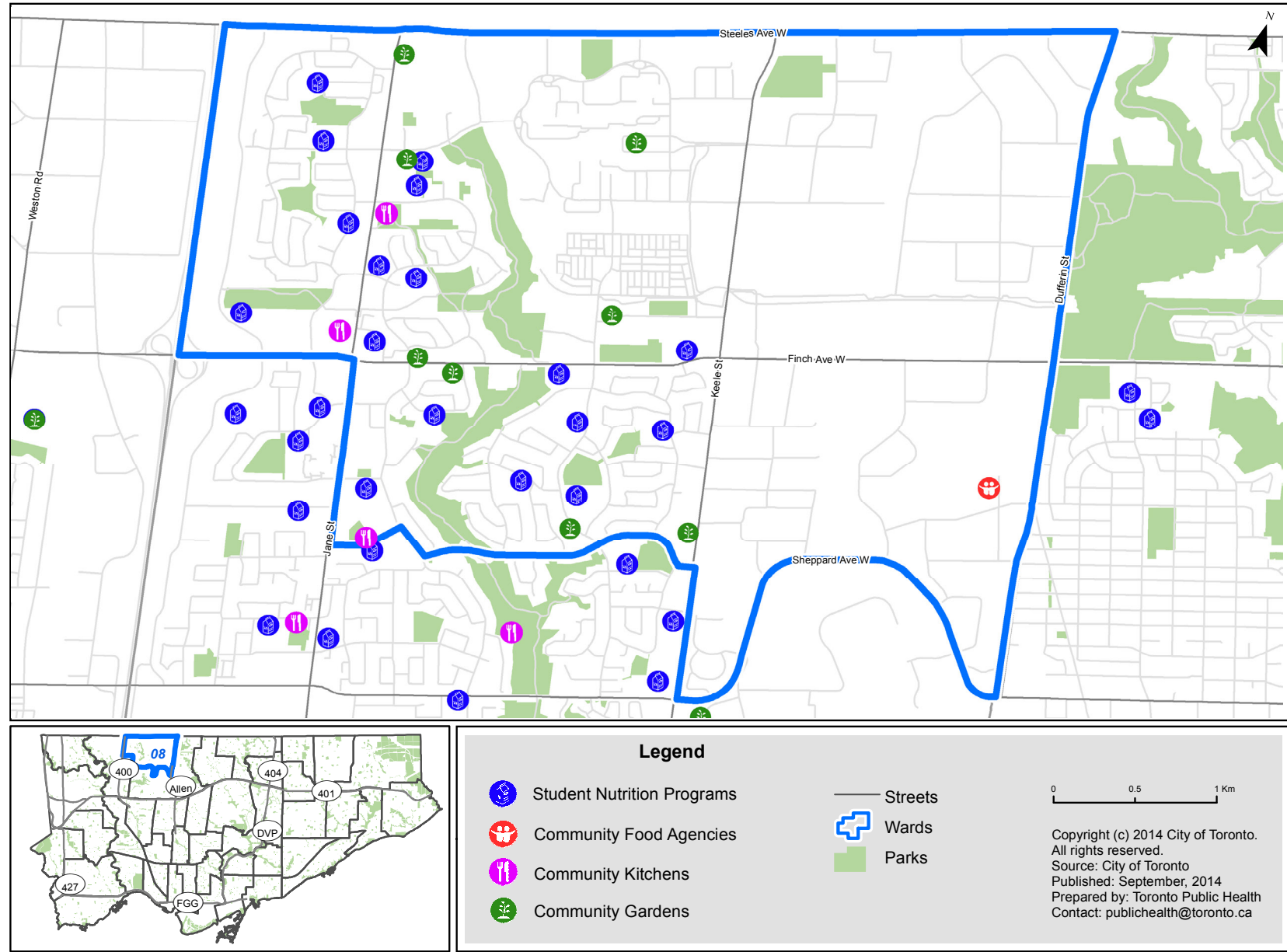
Toronto's student nutrition programs operate with the goal of providing nutritious snacks to all school-aged children to promote positive health, learning, and behavioural outcomes.

Currently, 58% of Toronto schools have a student nutrition program collectively providing over 149,000 students with a healthy snack every day.

Further increasing the City's commitment to funding student nutrition programs will ensure all children in Toronto are properly nourished, have increased attention and better learning outcomes. School nutrition programs provide an important foundation for healthy lives.

Community food programs provide opportunities for people to come together to grow, cook, eat, and advocate for healthy food. These programs play a vital role in community engagement and connectedness and offer spaces for intergenerational interaction, cross-cultural learning, and environmental stewardship.

## COMMUNITY FOOD PROGRAMS



**THIS MAP SHOWS:****STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

Nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack programs offered to all students regardless of socioeconomic status at participating schools.

**COMMUNITY FOOD AGENCIES**

Organizations that deliver and/or support community food programs.

**COMMUNITY KITCHENS**

Kitchen facilities that are available for public use through rentals or permitting. Community groups often use these spaces to meet, socialize, prepare and share meals.

**SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Food and flower gardens planted and maintained by community members on city, institutional, or private property. Some of these gardens are open to the public and some are only open to members of specific community groups.

*In your ward, there are:***STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

7,379 students participate in 28 student nutrition programs in 17 locations.

**1 COMMUNITY FOOD AGENCY**

*Second Harvest – 1450 Loadstar Rd*

**3 COMMUNITY KITCHENS**

*Driftwood Community Recreation Centre – 4401 Jane St*

*Black Creek Community Health Centre -Yorkgate Site – 1 Yorkgate Blvd*

*Oakdale Community Centre – 350 Grandravine Dr*

**9 SCHOOL & COMMUNITY GARDENS**

*Oakdale Community Garden – 350 Grandravine Dr*

*Growing Up Green Garden – 1830 Finch Ave W*

*Fourwinds Allotment Garden – 20 Four Winds Dr*

*Black Creek Community Farm – 4929 Jane St*

*Maloca Community Garden (York University) – Hoover Rd (off the Pond Rd)*

*Northwood Apartments (Toronto Community Housing) – 3680 Keele St*

*Edgeley Apartments (Toronto Community Housing) – 35 Shoreham Dr*

*Finch Topcliffe (Toronto Community Housing) – 20 Yellowstone St*

*Sentinel Road (Toronto Community Housing) – 182, 192, 202 Sentinel Rd*

# CELEBRATE FOOD FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Food festivals and events bring community members together to celebrate food and culture. These events use food to showcase Toronto's cultural diversity and promote cultural awareness and understanding. Food trucks celebrate food, increase access to food, and provide opportunities for small business entrepreneurs.

Food-centred events not only promote Toronto's cultural diversity, but also help to strengthen the rural-urban connection. Farmers' markets provide opportunities for Torontonians to learn about food production in Ontario and help to build relationships with local farmers. This provides economic, environmental, and health benefits to individuals, communities, Toronto, and the province of Ontario.

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*In your ward:*

0 FOOD FESTIVALS

# CREATE GOOD FOOD JOBS

The food sector includes industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, wholesale, retail, food services, and more. It is an important source of employment in Toronto, as there are over 128,000 food sector jobs that account for 9.3% of all jobs in the city<sup>5</sup>.

Out of all food sector jobs, food services and retail trade are the largest employers (51.6% and 23.1% respectively). Agricultural production and food processing contributes \$12.3 billion annually to the economy of the Golden Horseshoe. Although agriculture accounts for only 0.9% of all food sector jobs in Toronto, the amount of money it generates makes it an essential component of Toronto's economy.

The City of Toronto is part of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (GHFFA), which represents one of North America's largest food and farming clusters. The cluster is made up of enterprises and institutions involved in growing, harvesting, processing, and distributing food, beverage, and bioproducts derived from agriculture. The city has endorsed the GHFFA's Food & Farming Action Plan that outlines how to:

- *GROW THE CLUSTER* so it becomes a world leader
- *LINK FOOD, FARMING, AND HEALTH* to enhance consumer health and well-being
- *FOSTER INNOVATION* to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the cluster
- *ENABLE THE CLUSTER* to increase its competitiveness and profitability
- *CULTIVATE NEW APPROACHES* to food and farming in the Golden Horseshoe

The *Food & Farming Action Plan* will need continued support from the City of Toronto as it moves further into the implementation and action stages.

# FOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR WARD 8

As a leader in your ward, you have an opportunity to support the food programs already taking place as well as help build new ones to increase access to healthy food for the residents.

The TFPC and your community Food Champions have identified the following opportunities in Ward 8:

- Start a food co-op
- Liaise with York University to access community garden space and develop food related programs/ hub space
- Start a food festival
- Work with community Food Champions to identify food opportunities

On the following page you will find resources to help you achieve these goals.



# RESOURCES

## INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

### CITY RESOURCES

[Toronto Food Strategy - Food Access Mapping & Mobile Food Markets](#)

[Toronto Food Policy Council](#)

[Nutritious Food Basket](#)

[Live Green Toronto](#)

### NON-CITY RESOURCES

[Mobile Good Food Market \(FoodShare\)](#)

[Good Food Box \(FoodShare\)](#)

[Food Co-ops Within Ontario](#)

[How to start a Food Co-op \(USA\)](#)

[Ontario Farmers Markets](#)

[Toronto Farmers Market Network](#)

[Ontario CSA Directory](#)

[Daily Bread Food Bank](#)

[North York Harvest Food Bank](#)

[Food Banks Canada](#)

[Toronto Seed Library](#)

## PROMOTE FOOD FESTIVALS & EVENTS

### CITY RESOURCES

[Special Events Office - Festivals and Events](#)

[Street Food Vending Overview](#)

[Food Vendor Opportunities - Special Events Office](#)

### VENUES THAT HOST LARGE FOOD FESTIVALS

[Enercare Centre/Direct Energy Centre & Exhibition Place](#)

[Metro Toronto Convention Centre](#)

[Harbourfront Centre](#)

[Mel Lastman Square](#)

[Nathan Phillips Square](#)

### NON-CITY RESOURCES

[Food Trucks in Toronto](#)

## SUPPORT COMMUNITY FOOD PROGRAMS

### CITY RESOURCES

[Student Nutrition Programs, TPH](#)

[Nutrition and Food Access Programs, TPH](#)

[Community Hubs in Toronto](#)

[Gardens and Urban Agriculture](#)

[Wellbeing Toronto](#)

[Live Green Toronto](#)

### NON-CITY RESOURCES

[Ontario Student Nutrition Program](#)

[Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition](#)

[Community Gardens/Farm Start-ups](#)

[Community Kitchens \(FoodShare\)](#)

[Community Food Organizations/Agencies](#)

For a complete listing of these resources and the references used in this report please visit [www.tfpc.to](http://www.tfpc.to).

# ABOUT THE TFPC

The Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) was established in 1991 as a subcommittee of the Board of Health to advise the City of Toronto on food policy issues.

Comprised of a diverse group of people from the food, farming, and community sector including three City Councillors appointed by the Board of Health, the TFPC:

- Develops innovative policies and projects that support a health-focussed food system
- Provides a forum for action across the food system.
- Identifies emerging food issues that will impact Torontonians
- Promotes food system innovation
- Facilitates food policy development.

The TFPC can help you achieve the food opportunities identified in your ward.

To learn more about the TFPC, its members, and its work visit [www.tfpc.to](http://www.tfpc.to).



