Abstract

This project is intended to support the development of a food system mapping application to aid the Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) in meeting the goals set forth in the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan. Food system mapping aims to increase the transparency of food system components and their interactions, allowing researchers, public health professionals, policy-makers and consumers to bring more awareness to food system issues and encourage engagement in the decision processes, ultimately aimed at increasing food system resiliency and sustainability. The research questions focused on expanding and protecting food production capacity and increasing accessibility to affordable, healthy (preferably local) foods, through the utilization of publicly available agricultural lands/soils, land management and transportation datasets. Spatial analysis conducted found percentages of lands in current State defined agricultural parcels that meet the Land Capability Classification appropriate for cropland development, 22% of croplands in Alaska are administratively designated in such a way that would preclude agricultural development, and that 72% of local food access points are within 10 miles of Alaska’s major road systems.