Abstract

The thesis identifies the unique characteristics of Anchorage, Alaska’s food system, considers the current movement toward a local food system to promote food security within the city, and establishes the grounds for further understanding and addressing community local food needs. The project aimed to characterize and address physical, economic and social accessibility barriers in Anchorage, Alaska, fill the existing socio-spatial local food accessibility data gaps, and produce tools and documentation that can be used in policy development, community interventions, and program implementation. Research methodology included a small scale Community Food Assessment (CFA) through interviewing key food stakeholders in the community; and primary and secondary data analysis with geographical information systems (GIS). Findings conclude that characterizing local food barriers through the use of CFA and GIS can inform local food knowledge with respect to neighborhoods that are deprived of local accessibility and help improve community wide planning of local food access.