



# mt baker food innovation network

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## what is a food innovation network?

a node for retaining and attracting food businesses in and to the Mt Baker neighborhood; through the use of community of initiatives, smart business practices, and education.

## how can it help build community resilience?

by bringing community members together with a unifying language that cuts across age, race, income, culture. **Food.** This network empowers small community initiatives that can help foster larger business partnerships and encourage food innovation and education, all with the intent of helping build a stronger community in the face of redevelopment.

## precedent studies

seattle, washington

boston, massachusetts

todmorden, england

detroit, michigan

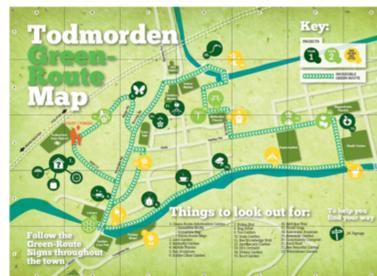


**rainier beach innovation district**

**commonwealth kitchen**

**incredible edible**

**eastern market**



The Rainier Beach Food Innovation District (FID) in South Seattle is in its infancy. It is working to promote local food innovation and production enterprises to help increase access to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for residents of the neighborhood.

Commonwealth Kitchen is a nonprofit that is comprised of a culinary business incubator and contract manufacturing social enterprise. It targets low-income or minority food entrepreneurs and emerging food businesses.

Incredible Edible is a network in Todmorden that has taken small actions like replacing typical landscaping with fruits and vegetables in order to help it's residents find a new way of living and build community by making food a visible part of their landscape.

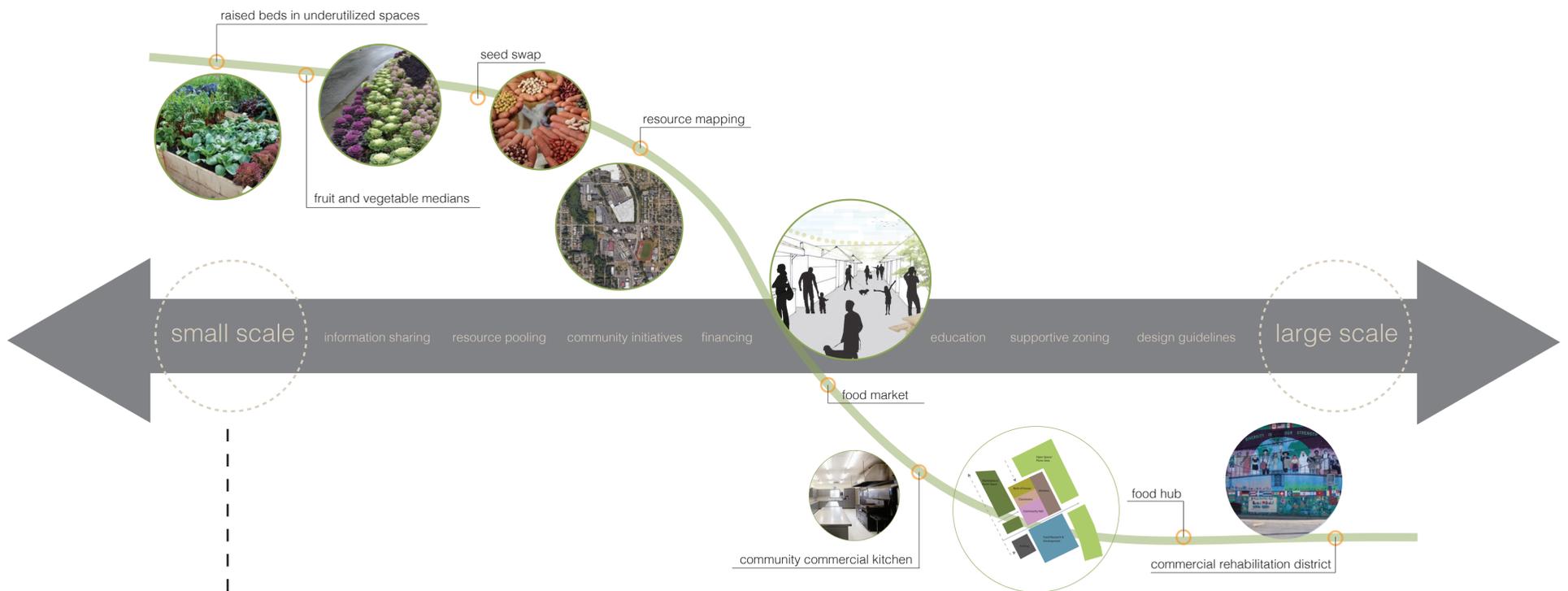
Detroit Eastern Market is a 240-acre district with a six-acre core market area. Restaurants, shops, and dozens of independent food processors and distributors inhabit the district. There is also a twice-weekly retail farmers market and weekday seasonal wholesale produce market.

# community initiatives

creating an innovative food network starts with the community members at a grassroots level, slowly building the foundation that allows for more permanent and policy-oriented interventions. community members could start with small interventions such as finding underutilized spaces such as parking lots or medians.

building on this, the community could begin partnerships to create a resource map that could allow community members to locate where local food interventions are taking place in order to tap into these resources. further, a food market would be a great way to start generating capital from these interventions.

long-term, large scale interventions like zoning updates could help foster business and development that will retain and attract a more local market, helping fight displacement.



potential site interventions



planted medians



**Food visibility** is key to our food network. Not only do we want to create an environment that caters to existing and new food business needs, but we also want to make food more legible to the public. The goal of planting the public right of way and underutilized spaces with edible foods is to give the community a sense of where food comes from and that healthy foods can be grown where they live.

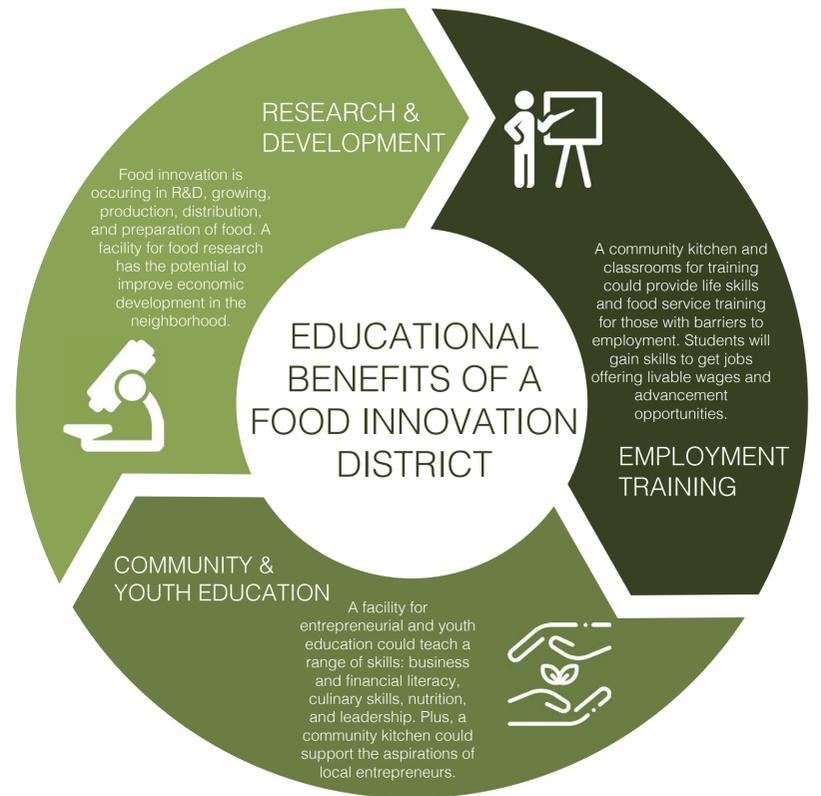
# edible education in mt baker

## What is edible education?

A Mount Baker Food Innovation District has the potential to not only create business opportunities, but to educate and empower community members and local entrepreneurs. A multiuse facility with a community kitchen, classrooms for job training and youth education, and a food research center would promote innovation and produce an educated, confident workforce.

Food preparation is one of the top industries for predicted job growth between 2014-2024.

-U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



## Program spaces



## Program opportunities

Local food innovation will generate new jobs in Mount Baker, many of which have low barriers to entry. With additional training, employees can work their way up the wage ladder. The Mount Baker Food Innovation District will have a facility that provides:

- employment training
- classes on organic gardening
- youth education
- a weekly market
- food research & development
- business incubation
- food packaging and distribution
- cross-cultural food experiences

## Celebrating diversity

Mount Baker is rich in cultural diversity and features many ethnic restaurants and shops. In order to retain these businesses and attract others, the Mount Baker FID will need to provide resources and training in a variety of languages. Nurturing and celebrating the diversity of restaurant owners, entrepreneurs, and growers in the community aligns perfectly with the North Rainier Neighborhood Plan Update's diversity goals.

Ethnic and cultural diversity is a continued presence in the businesses and community

-Goal #2 of the North Rainier Neighborhood Plan Update



# economic gardening in mt baker

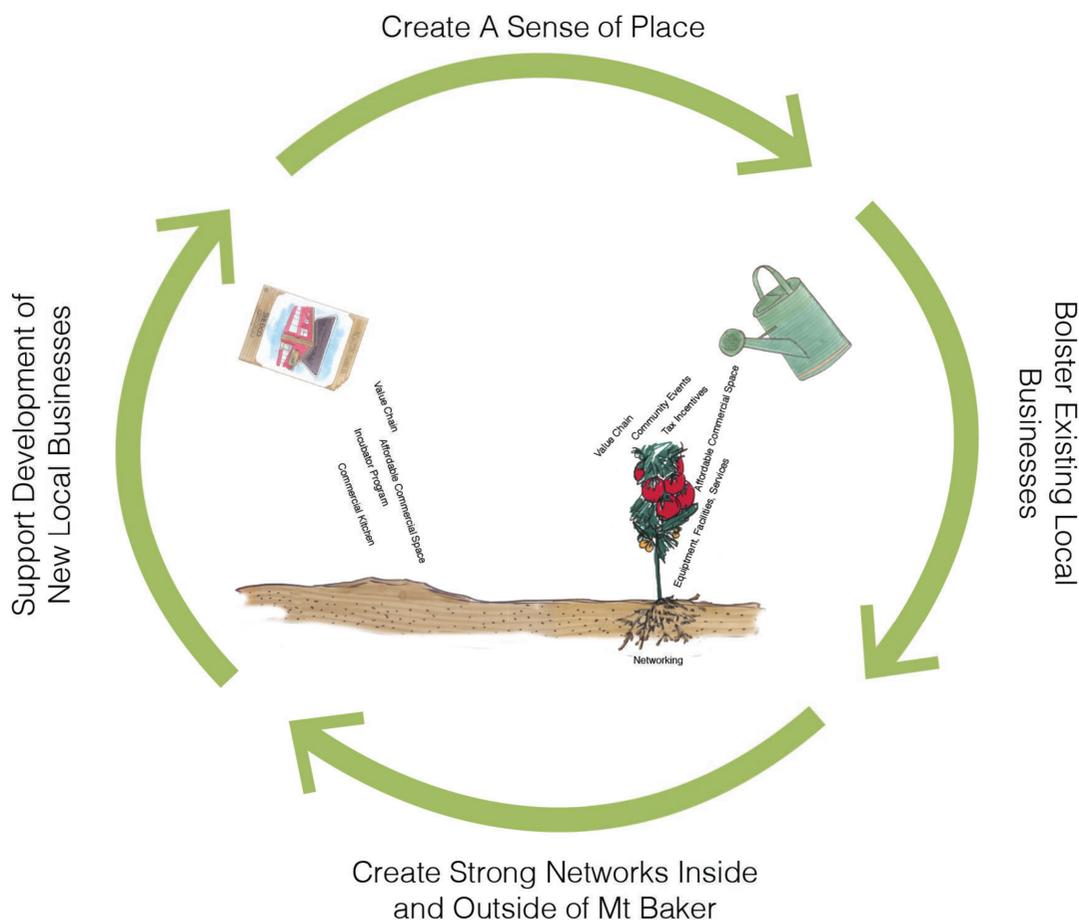
supporting existing local businesses while creating opportunities for new ones

## what is economic gardening?

As opposed to traditional planning practices of incentivizing businesses from outside a city or a neighborhood, the idea behind economic gardening is to “grow your own”. This entails creating an environment that both bolsters existing local businesses and supporting the development of new local businesses.

## what strategies can be used for economic gardening?

- tax incentives
- zoning updates
- partnerships
- incubator programs
- placemaking
- providing affordable commercial space
- providing access to equipment, facilities, and services



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|--|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ opportunity sites</li> <li>■ Lowes</li> <li>■ Mt Baker Park</li> <li>■ MLK Jr Park</li> <li>■ Art Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ schools</li> <li>■ Hoa Mai Vietnamese Bilingual</li> <li>■ John Muir Elementary</li> <li>■ Franklin High School</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ partnerships</li> <li>■ WorkSource Rainier</li> <li>■ Hillside P Patch</li> <li>■ YMCA Powerful Schools</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ restaurants</li> <li>■ Thien Phat</li> <li>■ Rainier Teriyaki</li> <li>■ Elasador</li> <li>■ Pho Bac</li> <li>■ Cafe Ibex</li> <li>■ Vieng Thong</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ LL Teriyaki &amp; Pho</li> <li>■ Mai Vietnamese</li> <li>■ Baked From the Hart</li> <li>■ Original Philly's</li> <li>■ Thai Recipe</li> </ul> |
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## why mt. baker?

Mt. Baker has a distinct foodscape that caters to a diverse population. The threat of displacement is imminent, as the area is prime for redevelopment. By establishing a food innovation district, it is possible to not only help current businesses survive this disturbance, but also give rise to new emerging businesses, and enrich neighborhood identity.

## utilizing zoning

In order to establish a food hub, there is a need to rework some of the current zoning in Mt. Baker. Currently, the Lowes site and surrounding properties are situated in an industrial buffer zone. This allows for general and light manufacturing, which will be needed for the food hub we envision. However, we there will be a need for commercial usage as well. We are proposing utilizing an zoning overlay strategy using the neighborhood commercial designation. By doing so, we would be creating a district that clusters that mixes food businesses on both the commercial and manufacturing side.



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|---------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ industrial buffer       | ■ commercial       |
| ■ neighborhood commercial | ■ proposed overlay |