

Food Deserts

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What Is A Food Desert?

- Sizable residential area without a supermarket
- Residents are too poor to own cars
- Usually in rundown parts of town
- Surprisingly common
- Results in food inequality between rich and poor

Causes

- Subsidized suburban sprawl draws money away
- Income inequality contributes
- Crime reduces profit
- Business suffers in poor neighborhoods
- Grocery stores move out
- Economic survival requires leaving unprofitable locations

Impacts

- Buying healthy food is more difficult, more expensive
- Big problem if you don't own a car
- Encourages fast food, gas station food, fewer vegetables, increased cost
- Malnourished obese people, diabetes, heart disease

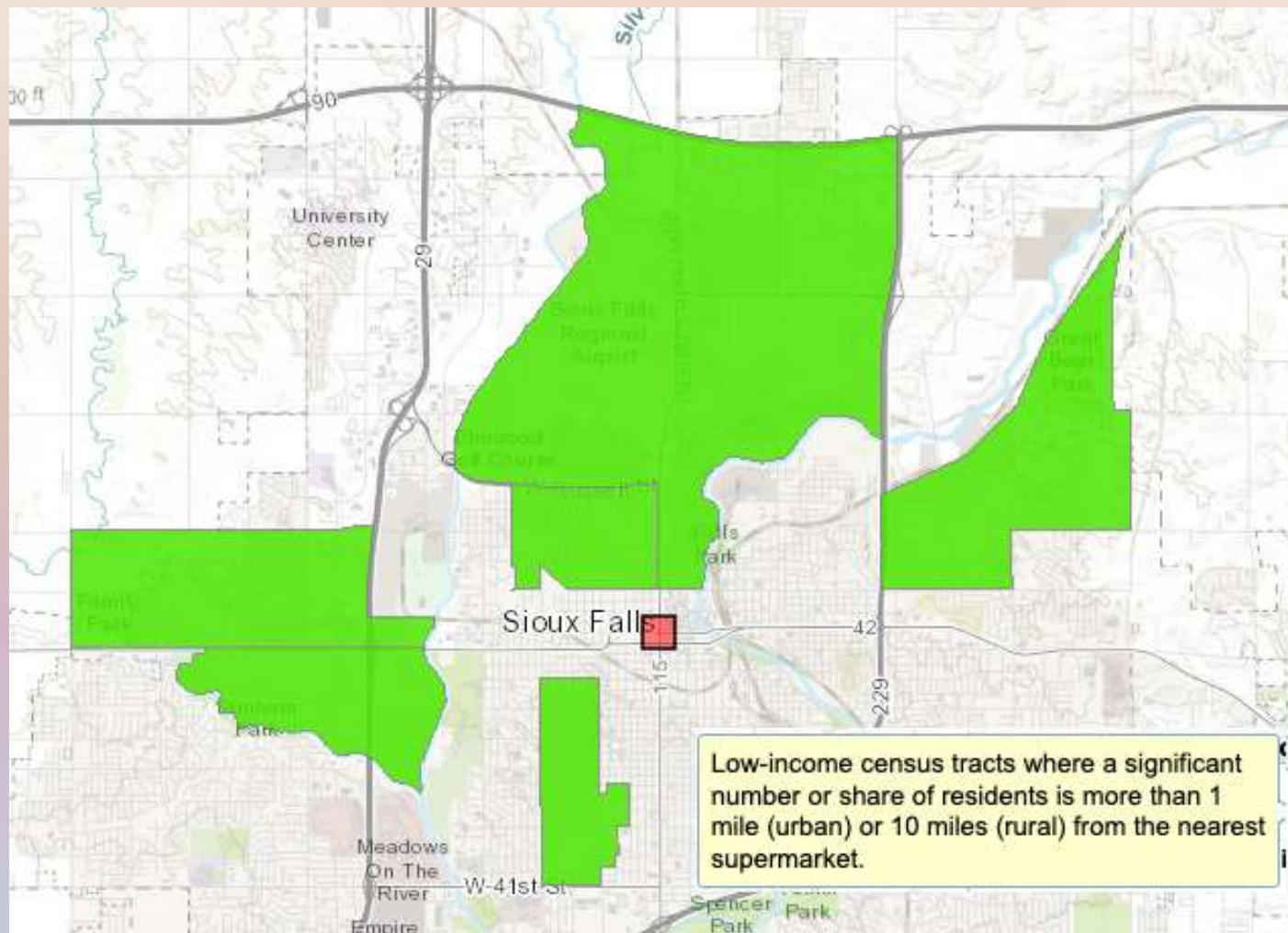
Idealist Government Goals

- Help people live healthy lives together
- Provide critical community needs
- Healthy food → healthy life → healthy city
- Draw supermarkets back into food deserts
- Convert food deserts into food oases
- Requires government subsidy (public private partnership)

Related Policy Changes

- Remove sales tax on food
- Promote urban agriculture
- Allow front yard gardens?

USDA Food Desert Map



From <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/>

Hang Tough

Fresh kale
in December!

