# COMMUNITY RESOURCE GREEN MAPS

MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, USA

**KELLY SALCHOW MACARTHUR** 

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS** 

PROFESSOR OF GRAPHIC DESIGN | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY WWW.ELEVATEDESIGN.ORG | SALCHOW@MSU.EDU RIVER RAISIN INSTITUTE + MONROE COUNTY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Located on the edge of Lake Erie, within the Great Lakes—the largest fresh water system in the world—Monroe, Michigan is an agricultural community that suffers a surprising disconnect between its local residents and fresh local food. Food deserts—limited access to fresh foods that constitute a healthy diet—exist for many low-income residents. Local non-profit organizations were searching for ways to inform the public of local food resources, while simultaneously educating them on green living practices (which directly impact the Great Lakes).

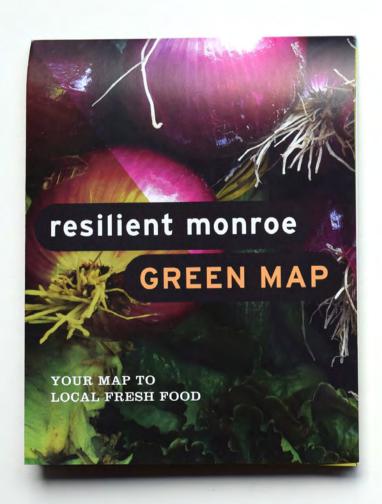
#### APPROACH & MAIN RESULTS

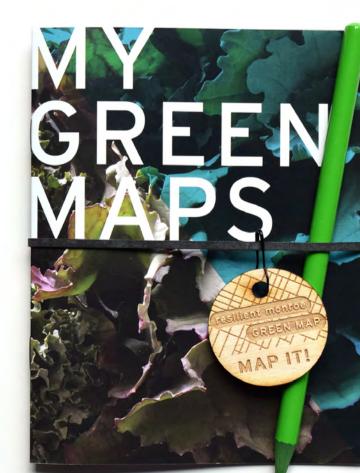
A partnership between Kelly Salchow MacArthur and the River Raisin Institute (RRI) led to the Resilient Monroe Green Map System. It introduced green mapping—the practice of locating and plotting often overlooked green living, natural and cultural resources in an area—to the local community by focusing on fresh, local food resources. The system is interactive on both a personal and public level, designed to engage young and old. The success of the initial green map system led to additional partnership with the Monroe County Opportunity Program, and subsequent development of the Fresh Opportunity Green Map, which identifies food deserts, food pantries, and other resources. The maps utilize the international resource (and database) of the Green Map® icon system, which as greenmap.org notes, "has engaged over 950 communities in 65 countries." Each piece was produced as environmentally-responsibly as possible. Maps were printed locally with soy-based ink on 100% post-consumer recycled stock (milled locally with hydro-power). Wooden medallions were lasercut locally. Woodless pencils were provided with the children's mapmaking passport booklets. Rubber stamps were created (instead of stickers) to acknowldege mapmaking milestones. And 800 reusable grocery bags, made of 100% recycled plastic water bottles, were provided to the community.

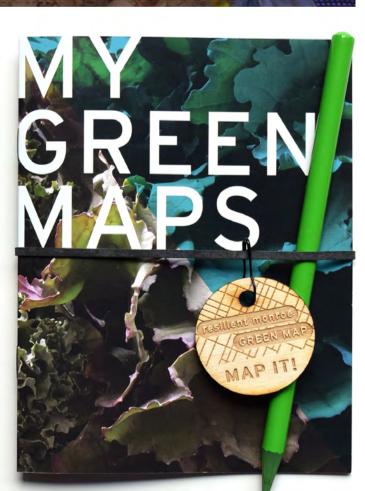
#### CONCLUSIONS

The system was developed towards impacting and fitting appropriately within the community, from a grassroots approach. The initiative was launched on Earth Day 2018, and has been disseminated through local schools and organizations, teaching residents about green mapping and local healthy food, and inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards as part of RRI's Climate Literacy Program. The system instigates active participation, pride, health, inclusivity, learning, and connection in the community and natural environment.







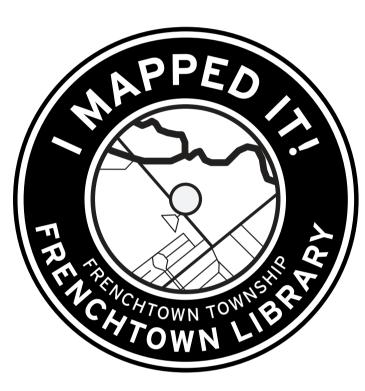


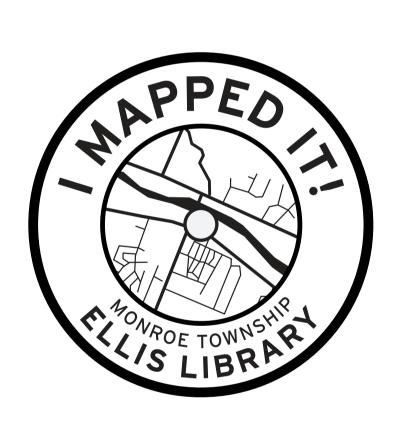






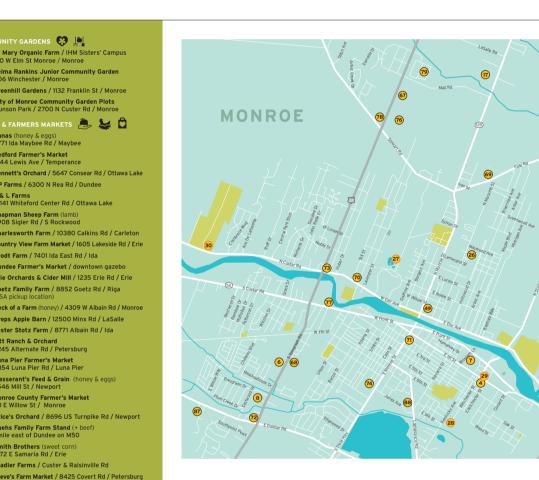












## where ) to recycle 🛕 **60 / Dundee Kroger** / 571 E Monroe St / Dundee

family in 6 trips to the grocery store 85 / Bedford Township Hall / 8100 Jackman Rd / Temperance / Tuesdays 86 / St Joseph Church / 2238 Manhattan St / Erie 87 / Monroe Township Hall / 4925 E Dunbar Rd / Monroe / Wednesday ELECTRONIC RECYCLING 88 / Habitat for Humanity Restore 840 LaPlaisance Rd / Monroe 10am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday

### HOW2RECYCLE.INFO what to RECYCLE

PAPER / office paper, junk mail, newspap PLASTIC / clean, empty & rinsed: #1, 2, 4, 5, 7 GLASS / clean, empty & rinsed: jugs, bottles, jars METAL / clean, empty & rinsed: aluminun CARTONS / clean empty & rinsed: aesepti containers, milk + juice cartons, juice boxe

1 / Ciolino Fruit & Vegetable Market 6750 Lewis Ave / Temperance

## REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS?

On average, 90 plastic bags are consumed per Each year the US uses 30 billion plastic bags and 10 million paper grocery bags = 12 million barrels of oil and 14 million trees. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage throwr into the ocean kill as many as one million sea creatures every year. Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator

# Do not put these in the recycling containe

Plastic bags cannot be recycled at RecycleNOW

styrofoam greasy pizza boxes and soiled pape clothing, shoes, or toys nstruction waste or scrap metal Do not put recyclables in containers or bags.

Reuse plastic bags for the next time or recycle them at your local grocer.

educes the food miles, the distance that food must be transported from site of production fruits and vegetables allowed to grow to full grains, low fat milk, legumes and other foods at constitute a healthy diet. Residents in this area may be low-income and live more than or

REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES? Americans buy more than 30 billion liters of water per year, most of which are contained in bolyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles. Environmentally friendly water bottles are BPA ree and will not leach plastic chemicals into the of oil to produce. Only 20% of these are recycled A \$20 reusable water bottle can save someone \$6,180 after five years of use It takes a plastic bottle 450+ years to decompos

For bottled water, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees labeling and content, while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards for both tap water and ground water.

5/ TO USE, mix compost with 2/3 soil





is grown and consumed:
1 / land where food grows
2 / local distribution system

PPORTUNITY

Safe Fish Guide. creating a natural fertilizer. Encourages the production of humus, a rich Reduces methane emissions from landfills ar Lowers garbage and water bills. 5 EASY STEPS:
1 / ADD compost items continually
2 / LAYER with green and brown waste
3 / DAMPEN compost each year
4 / TURN/MIX the compost once in a while

Smaller fish are better

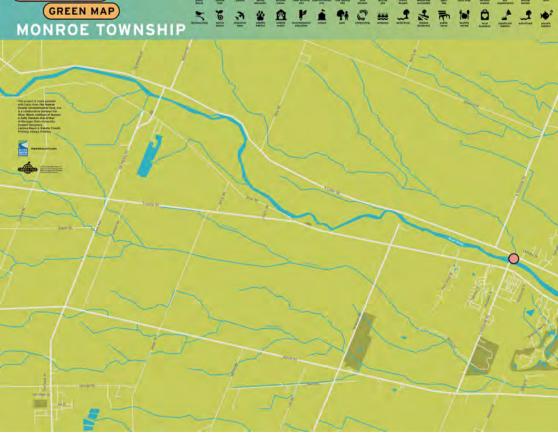




Left bottom: Folded Resilient Monroe Green Maps and My Green Maps booklets were distributed as a set. The booklet serves as a community passport to log mapping contributions, and a personal sketchbook to draw new green maps and note environmental observations. Left top: The green map system was shared with local schools, libraries, community centers, youth groups, and scouts. Center: A series of site-specific rubber stamps documented participants' contributions in their My Green Maps booklets. Above: Inside and outside (unfolded) Fresh Opportunity Green Map identifies

food deserts and informs the community of green practices.

resilient monroe GREEN MAP



Left: Laseretched wooden medallions to attach to a backpack, keychain, jewelry, or apparel as a low-tech way to aid in project dissemination. Above: Large format maps were displayed separately at each public library, prompting community members to contribute to their neighborhood green map. Top legend bars show the stickers available on site for individuals to place on maps. Each library had a unique stamp to add to participants' My Green Maps Booklet to log their participation.