

**The success of the PCK project is contingent on the commitment of many community partners. Project organizers, advisors, and stakeholders include:**

- City of Freeport
- University of Illinois Extension
- CareerTEC
- Blackhawk Hills Regional Council
- Freeport Downtown Development Foundation
- Freeport School District
- Stephenson County Farm Bureau
- Farm Credit Services
- Highland Community College
- Stephenson County Health Department
- Specialty Crop Farmers
- Food Entrepreneurs

**Thanks to the following organizations for their financial support:**



40 YEARS OF  
GIVING & GROWING  
**Freeport  
Community  
Foundation**

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Organizers are searching for other partners - both individuals and organizations - to support PCK! Please contact us if you would like to get involved in these or other ways:

You or someone you know is...

- Interested in using the facility when it opens
- Able to donate money, equipment, or labor
- Able to mentor PCK users/start-ups
- Skilled in marketing, branding, fundraising, or event planning
- Able to facilitate business networking opportunities (with grocers, farmers' markets, buyers/sellers in general)

## CONTACT US!

### For general inquiries:

Grant McCarty  
University of Illinois Extension  
(815) 235-4125  
gmccarty@illinois.edu

### For cash/equipment donations, in-kind contributions, and pre-registration:

[www.pretzelcitykitchens.org/give](http://www.pretzelcitykitchens.org/give)

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Blackhawk Hills Regional Council  
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# Pretzel City Kitchens

*A planned shared-use commercial kitchen serving nearby Illinois and Wisconsin. Located in Freeport, IL.*



**Pretzel City Kitchens (PCK)** will support the local/regional food economy, food entrepreneurs, and specialty crop growers, helping meet the estimated \$10 billion unmet demand for local foods in Illinois alone.<sup>1</sup>

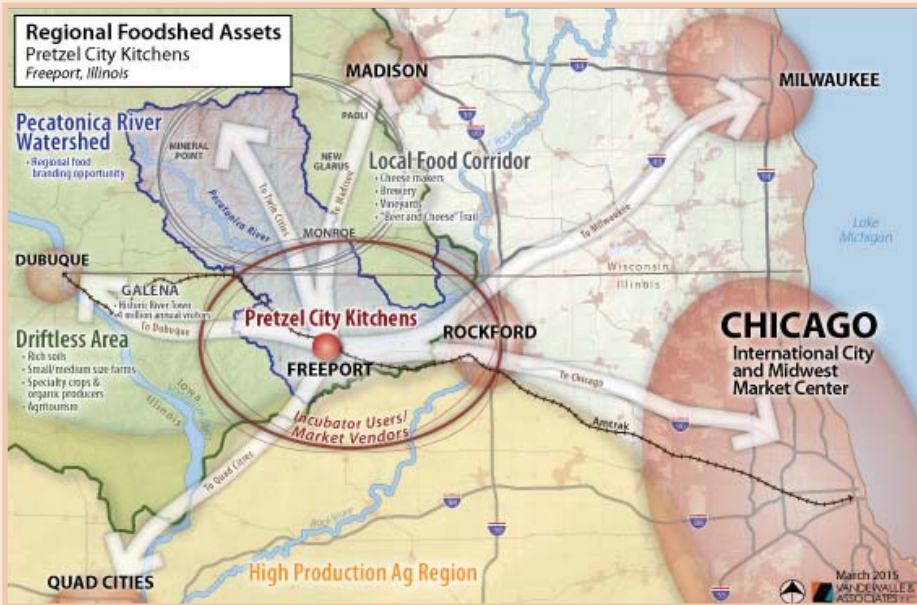
## Planned Services

- Affordable, certified space available to rent by the hour
- Support to help entrepreneurs move from recipes and ideas to production and sales
- Dry and cold storage space
- Classroom and demonstration space
- Space to showcase and sell local/regional products
- Education, training, and business networking opportunities
- Potentially offering fee-based co-packing services



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [www.pretzelcitykitchens.org](http://www.pretzelcitykitchens.org)  
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/pretzelcitykitchens](https://facebook.com/pretzelcitykitchens)

<sup>1</sup> from *Building Successful Food Hubs: A Business Planning Guide for Aggregating and Processing Local Foods in Illinois*, 2012  
Last updated: 5/4/2016



## PROJECT GOALS

This project, and others like it in Illinois and across the country, sparks collaboration among organizers and stakeholders because it helps advance shared goals, including:

- *Local and Regional Economic Development* – support start-up and growing food businesses and specialty crop farmers. Support job training for the unemployed and under-employed.
- *Food Security* – provide critical infrastructure needed to support more local and regional food production and consumption, reducing dependence on the global supply chain.
- *Downtown Reinvestment* – put Stephenson County and Freeport on the map as a culinary destination, providing locally produced food for area restaurants and supporting start-up businesses that could invest in downtown Freeport.
- *Health and Wellness* – increase access to fresh, healthy foods and culinary education, including food handling classes
- *Youth Development* – build partnerships with youth-serving agencies to promote food-related entrepreneurship, culinary education, and general life skills

## PROJECT STATUS

Project organizers are focused on these next steps:

- *Recruitment and Pre-Registration* - organizers are seeking all types of users including existing food businesses, farmers/agricultural producers, people considering starting a business, and organizations seeking kitchen space for catering and other commercial uses.

*TO PRE-REGISTER: [pretzelcitykitchens.org/pre-registration](http://pretzelcitykitchens.org/pre-registration)*

- *Facility Planning and Renovation* – organizers have identified an ideal location in Freeport, IL – the former grocery store and deli at 1 West Stephenson Street (known as Stephen’s Market). This 7,000 ft<sup>2</sup> location offers existing kitchen equipment, visibility, historic charm, and other amenities that make it ideally suited for reuse as a commercial kitchen.

- *Continue Fundraising and Grant-Writing Campaign* – organizers will continue to raise cash and solicit in-kind donations, including equipment and skilled labor for construction/renovation of 1 West Stephenson Street. To date, over \$100,000 in grants (cash and in-kind) has been secured to date, although more is needed.



- *Creating a Not-For-Profit* – organizers are currently building a not-for-profit organization and board to oversee the operations and development of PCK over the long-term.
- *Expected Users* – organizers plan to open the kitchen in fall 2016. At that time, the kitchen would be available for use by educators, food businesses, and the general public.

