



# Introduction

## Why this topic?

I have been a Florida resident for majority of my life. Living in Nassau county has shown me how easy it is to access grocery stores as there is an abundance of them everywhere you look. But when you start to reach areas out west and southwest towards areas like Hilliard and Jacksonville the lack of food availability becomes apparent.

## How this topic resonates with me.

My aspirations in sustainability are in agriculture. I for years have worked at Traders Hill Farm, an aquaponic greenhouse operation in Hilliard, Florida. One of my main goals of working in advanced

# Food Deserts/ Community Gardens/ Northeast Florida

United States Department of Agriculture

*A low-income tract*

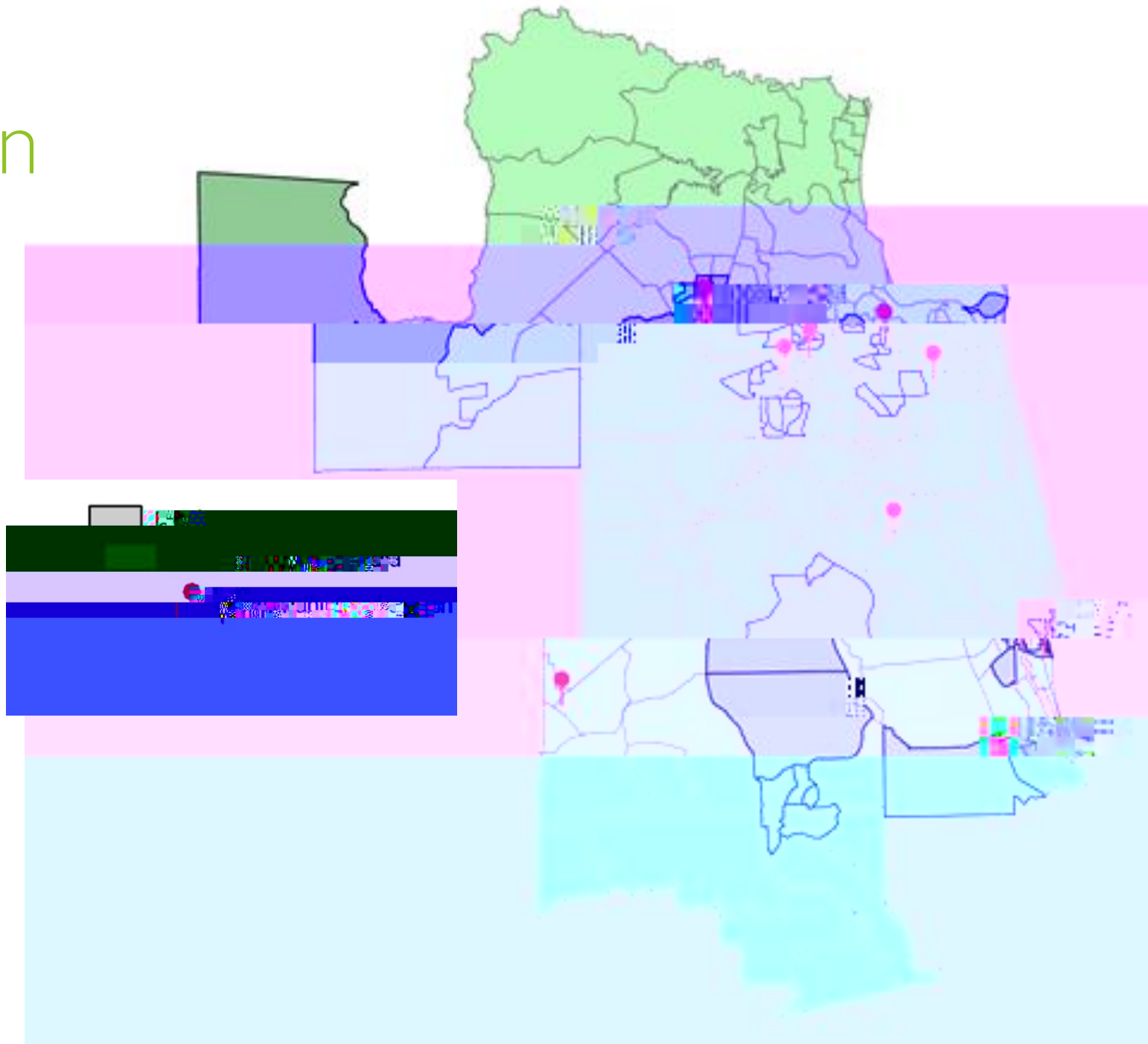
*where a substantial number or substantial share of residents does not have easy access to*  
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Community gardens are a place that can grow vegetables, fruits, flowers, or community. Plots

# Food Desert and Community Garden Locations

This map depicts areas in Northeast Florida that are classified as food deserts and shows community garden locations.

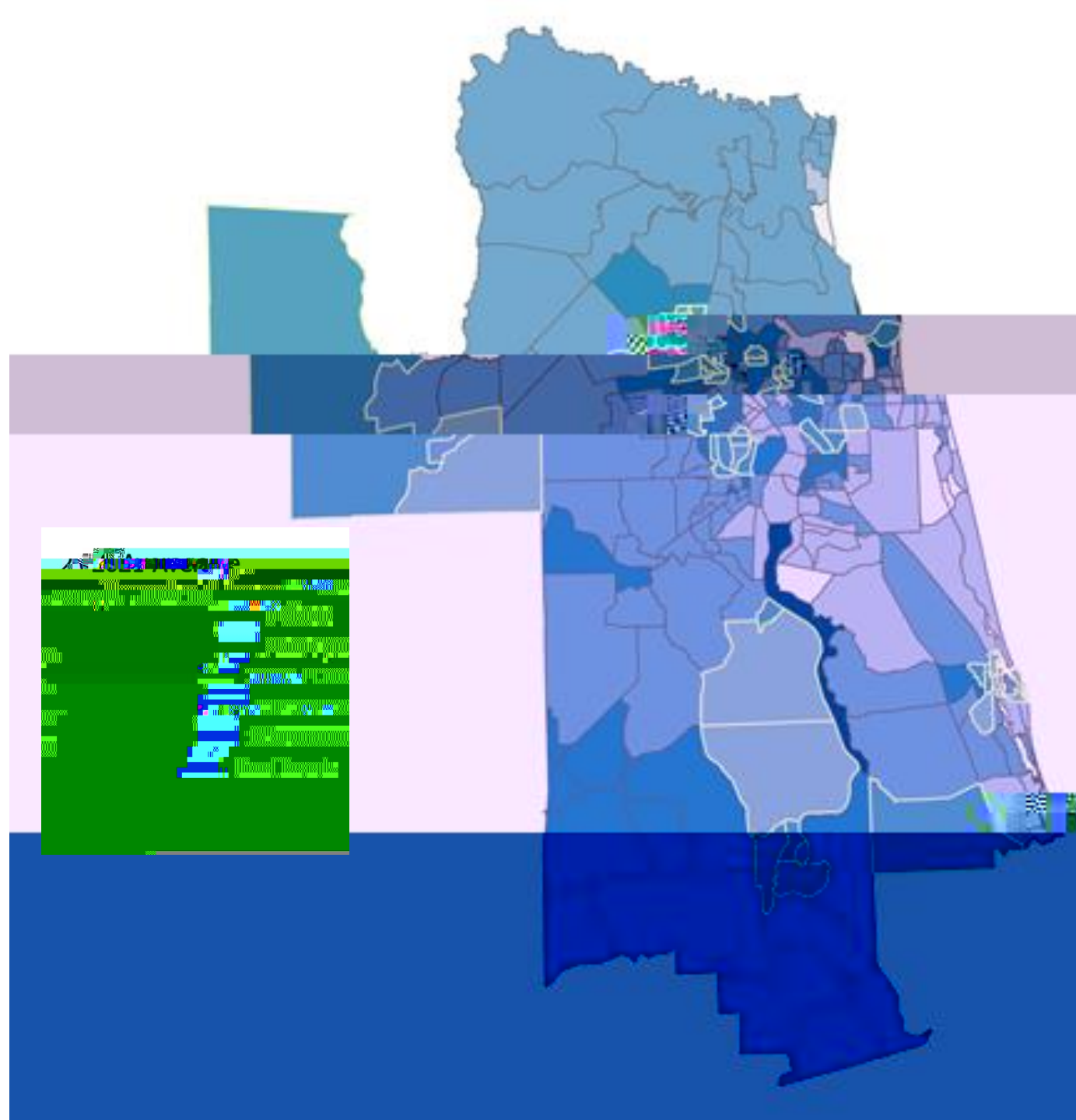
In Northeast Florida there are nine community gardens and forty-eight areas classified as food deserts. Most of these food deserts are in Duval County.



# Income Levels In Food Deserts

The USDA stated that food deserts require low-income tracts and lack of access to large grocery stores.

This map shows that while there are areas with low-income, access to grocery stores is available to those tracts.



# Food Deserts and Education Levels

Some tracts show a difference in the education levels of northeast Florida. A lack of education creates a hold on job opportunities.

This lack of opportunity makes for a lower income level, thus making grocery shopping more difficult.



# Households in Food Deserts That Use Food Stamps

Households in some areas use food stamps to rely on keeping pantries and refrigerators stocked.

In food deserts where there are a lack of grocery stores, food stamps become useless.







# Community Gardens Within Walking Distance From Food Deserts

This map depicts the amount of time it would take to walk to a community garden.

This shows that while there are large food deserts in Northeast Florida, community gardens are within a walking distance.





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# References

Castro, D. C., Samuels, M., & Harman, A. E. (2013). Growing Healthy Kids: A Community Garden-Based Obesity Prevention Program. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 44(3), S193-S199

Giraud, E. G., El-Sayed, S., & Opejin, A. (2021). Gardening for Food Well