Climate-resilient Urban Food Forests to Address Climate Vulnerability, Food Insecurity, and Inequitable Heat Risks in Lynchburg, VA
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Randolph is part of "Virginia Heat Watch", a VFIC project to map urban heat islands. We used the procedure of CAPA Strategies during a high heat event in July 2021. Our data revealed disproportionate heat vulnerabilities and those historically "red-lined" areas are among the most impacted. This summer, we will work with the City of Lynchburg, Virginia Department of Forestry, University of Lynchburg, Sweet Briar College, and community partners to develop equitable strategies to address heat risk and food insecurity in our most vulnerable communities. We will analyze heat maps, socioeconomic data, food insecurity indices, and other factors to determine priority locations. We will consult sustainable urban food systems experts, tour an urban food forest, and use resilience planning tools to research and design an urban food forest in a vulnerable community. We will also collaborate with VDoF and the City to plan fall implementation of our project.