Hmong Cultural Landscape of Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Pa Sia Lor Moua
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Ingolf Vogeler, faculty adviser

Hmong Restaurants

Hmong restaurants are spread throughout Eau Claire, but with a closer examination, they are established in well-populated Hmong residential areas.

Egg Roll-Plus is located on Bellinger Street in the downtown area. A few blocks away is Pad Thai, located on North Barstow Street. This central area is the most populated locale for Hmong families and businesses. Many of these families live in state housing situations within a two mile radius of both restaurants. The Hmong Mutual Assistance Association is only a block north of Pad Thai and there majority of the Hmong community passes through this area on a daily basis.

On the north part of town, Asian Café is located on the corner of Starr Avenue and Eddy Lane. This is roughly two miles from Runway Avenue where great populations of low income Hmong families are housed and where many of the Hmong students attend school. Sam Davey Elementary School is directly across the street and North High School is less than quarter of a mile away.

On the south side of town, Noodle Wrap is located off of Mall Drive, behind Festival Foods. This restaurant is an outlier due to the funding they received from the state to maintain access their food needs.

Hmong Grocery Stores

There are four oriental grocery stores that are owned by Hmong families. These stores carry various dry and canned goods that are imported from Asia. Many of the goods are used in daily meals for Hmong families. These stores are also located within the downtown area. Since this area is a service to the Hmong community with jobs, health care, education, and homes, it is a quick and easy way for them to access their food needs.

Long Cheng Market and Oriental are on Bellinger Street among other Hmong businesses. Ameriental Food Store is located on Putnam Street off of Birch Street, and Amerasian Food is on Cameron Street near Clairmont.

Hmong Businesses

In searching for a new way to make a living, a few Hmong families are branching out to expand their services to the community. Along Bellinger Street, Tailor & Alterations Shop are small businesses that offer non-traditional services. The services that they provide are not cultural services, these owners hope to expand their talents and knowledge to the Hmong community.

The skills that they have obtained were learned here in the United States. The owners of these little businesses chose this location due to the amount of Hmong customers that frequent this area.

This is a good place. People can shop for their food, take their family to eat, and come to see what’s good for my business.

Hmong at Farmer’s Market

As a way of survival, Hmong people have always grown everything that is part of their diet. There are many vegetables that are part of their traditional diet. These are still grown today by the Hmong farmers.

Hmong at Farmer’s Market is located in the Festival Food parking lot. This market is open every Sunday and the booth’s placement is established on a first come basis. Here the farmers do not have to pay a fee or function under union rules.

For all of these markets, farmers are beginning to sell some of their traditional vegetables alongside popular ones. Some of the vegetables are carrots, beets, potatoes, beans, peas, lettuce, bell peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, pumpkins, kohlrabi, radishes, and many more. The newest produce and products sold are strawberries, raspberries, and flowers.

The whole family participates in the farmer’s market venture. Children help in the garden as well as in the booth, many times serving as language interpreters for their parents.

Hmong Gardens

Hmong at Farmer’s Market

As a way of survival, Hmong people have always grown everything that is part of their diet. There are many vegetables that are part of their traditional diet. These are still grown today by the Hmong farmers.

Hmong at Farmer’s Market is located in the Festival Food parking lot. This market is open every Sunday and the booth’s placement is established on a first come basis. Here the farmers do not have to pay a fee or function under union rules.

For all of these markets, farmers are beginning to sell some of their traditional vegetables alongside popular ones. Some of the vegetables are carrots, beets, potatoes, beans, peas, lettuce, bell peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, pumpkins, kohlrabi, radishes, and many more. The newest produce and products sold are strawberries, raspberries, and flowers.

The whole family participates in the farmer’s market venture. Children help in the garden as well as in the booth, many times serving as language interpreters for their parents.