



COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Duncan Martin, Senior Planner, Planning and Development

PREPARED BY: Duncan Martin, Senior Planner, Planning and Development

REPORT TITLE: Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with the City of Leduc's Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP). The UAP offers a comprehensive framework to promote urban agriculture and enhance local food systems. This is the first-of-its-kind plan for Leduc and identifies actionable steps to support agriculture.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Urban Agriculture Plan provided as an attachment to the March 24, 2025, report entitled "Urban Agricultural Plan (UAP)".

COUNCIL HISTORY

On January 20, 2025, Administration presented an update on the UAP as an information item.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

The City of Leduc's UAP was started due to the requirement of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP), being a component of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board's (EMRB) Growth Plan. However, as of November 22, 2024, this requirement is no longer required as the EMRB is winding down operations. Nevertheless, Administration believes this plan has merit and will be of use to the community. Administration moved forward with the completion of the plan that was already in the final stages.

PLAN – HIGHLIGHTS

The UAP aims to support local food production, enhance food accessibility, foster community well-being, and encourage education and skill development. The Plan integrates community feedback and best practices to establish a comprehensive framework for urban agriculture in Leduc. The plan is structured around four guiding principles, each with key initiatives or "Big Moves" to drive implementation:

Key Principles and Big Moves:

- Strong Local Food Economy: Establish a working group to support urban agriculture businesses, create a demonstration urban farm to showcase small-scale food production, and develop a community kitchen for food processing and skills training.

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- Food Accessibility & Affordability: Launch an edible landscaping pilot in public spaces, expand community gardens by identifying and repurposing public land, and promote food-sharing initiatives like community fridges and harvesting programs.
- Community Wellbeing: Designate an internal urban agriculture "Champion" to coordinate initiatives, host annual community events to promote gardening and food security, and support volunteer programs to engage residents in urban agriculture projects.
- Education & Skill Development: Develop an urban agriculture volunteer network for mentorship, launch an awareness campaign on the benefits of urban agriculture, and create an online information portal with learning resources and event listings.

To ensure effective implementation, the City will:

1. Initiate Priority Actions: Focus on launching short-term, low-cost initiatives such as community engagement programs, educational resources, and initial pilot projects.
2. Monitor and Report Progress: Conduct bi-annual reviews to assess program effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.
3. Evaluate and Update the Plan: Review the UAP every five years to ensure alignment with community needs and priorities.

The *Implementation Table* further details each Big Move, its expected timeframe, budget considerations, and key partners responsible for execution. Regular evaluation and community involvement will be critical to the success of urban agriculture in Leduc.

STRATEGIC / RELEVANT PLANS ALIGNMENT

The Urban Agriculture Plan aligns with:

2023-2026 Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1 – A City Where People Want To Live
 - o 1.1.1 – Enhance citizen engagement to shape our community.
- Goal 2 – A City With A Plan For The Future
 - o Ensure that the City of Leduc has clear plans and strategies, supported by emerging technologies; to improve that efficiency and effectiveness of services and programs.
- Goal 3 – An Economically Prosperous City And Region
 - o 3.1.2 – Increase economic growth and diversification by leveraging partnerships and opportunities.
 - o 3.1.4 – Identify, support and promote tourism opportunities and events.

The Municipal Development Plan:

- Policy 2.3.2.1 – Preserves agricultural land until it is required for urban development.
- Policy 2.9.2.2 – Encourages the development and maintenance of agricultural uses that will strengthen the local economy.
- Section 2.9.3 – encourages soil management through all stages of development and during relocations.

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- Policy 2.9.2.3 – Encourages the development of industries related to food production and the processing of agricultural products.
- Policy 2.9.4.1 – Requires the development of an Urban Agriculture Plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION:

If the UAP is approved, Administration will further develop and track the Action Items listed in the *Urban Agriculture Plan*, and bring them forward at a later date or as Council directs.

RISK ANALYSIS: FINANCIAL / LEGAL:

If the UAP is approved, Administration may seek resources and funding to implement the Action Items in the *Urban Agriculture Plan* under Council direction.

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATIONS:

If the UAP is approved, Administration may return with specific Action Items, and will be tracking the progress of the *Urban Agriculture Plan*.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- City of Leduc Urban Agriculture Plan
- Administrative PowerPoint