

URBAN AGRICULTURE PLAN

March 2025

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TREATY & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Leduc acknowledges we are situated within Treaty 6 Territory, comprised of the ancestral and modern-day territory of the Nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Anishinaabe, Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), as well as the Métis Peoples. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit, whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

We acknowledge the relationship between the land, food production and urban agriculture, and understand we are all Treaty people with shared responsibility to this land and to each other. At this time of truth and reconciliation, we welcome the opportunity to listen, learn and act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Leduc has developed an Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP) to establish a cohesive approach to support agriculture and promote its diversification within the city. This Plan provides direction to enhance agriculture in Leduc based on local priorities identified through engagement with residents, stakeholders, and local agriculture representatives.

This UAP is the first plan created by the City of Leduc to address urban agriculture within the city. It is envisioned that the plan will be implemented in a collaborative effort with residents, local businesses, community organizations, and various City departments.



The UAP sets the foundation for future work based on the four key principles below:

1

PRINCIPLE 1: STRONG LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY

Leduc supports the growth and diversification of the local food economy, including the value-added agriculture industry, to leverage existing successes and explore new opportunities.

2

PRINCIPLE 2: FOOD ACCESSIBILITY & AFFORDABILITY

Leduc supports stable access to local, affordable, and nutritious food to enhance food security within the community.

3

PRINCIPLE 3: COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Leduc supports building community cohesion and encouraging volunteerism through urban agriculture to support community social development and wellbeing.

4

PRINCIPLE 4: EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Leduc supports community members to get involved in and benefit from urban agriculture by offering access to urban agriculture knowledge, resources, and skill development opportunities.

Each principle is supported by objectives and policies. Under each objective is a big move the city will action to implement the plan.

1. INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

Urban agriculture refers to the practice of growing food and raising animals within a city environment. The purpose is to enhance local food production, provide access to affordable nutritious food, boost food literacy, enhance social connections, foster community pride, and strengthen historical connections to food production.

The City of Leduc currently has some existing urban agricultural programs such as the backyard hen keeping, backyard beekeeping, and community gardens.



POLICY CONTEXT

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP)

The City's Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is the municipal-wide plan for growth of the city which outlines policy direction on land use planning, community service priorities, and infrastructure investment. Urban agriculture is supported in the MDP by the goal that "the City will support agriculture in the region through compact urban development that provides services to the agricultural industry, and by promoting urban agriculture opportunities in the community."

Additionally, the MDP supports urban agriculture with the following policies:

- Policy 2.9.2.1 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.
- Policies in section 2.9.3 encourages soil management through all stages of development and during relocation.
- 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.

ANIMAL LICENCING & CONTROL BYLAW

The Animal Licencing and Control Bylaw establishes a system for the licencing and control of animals within the City of Leduc. The Bylaw enables bee and hen licences to be obtained from the City.

CITY OF LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

The Environmental Plan guides sustainability actions over a ten-year period to support the vision to "be a community leader in environmental sustainability and stewardship." The Plan aims to:

- Promote land stewardship,
- Evaluate food security and opportunities for local production, and
- Encourage sustainable land management while supporting growth.

PARKS, OPEN SPACES & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

The Parks, Open Spaces and Trails Master Plan guides decision making related to parks, open spaces, and trails. Urban agriculture is supported in the implementation strategies of this plan which recommend building more pollinator gardens and continuing to provide and expand community/urban gardens.

LAND USE BYLAW (LUB)

The Land Use Bylaw (LUB) regulates the development and use of land within the city. Agriculture is a permitted use in the Urban Reserve district. Some elements of urban agriculture are defined and enabled such as greenhouses and farmers markets.



PROCESS

The Urban Agriculture Plan was created with the following three phases:

1

Information Gathering and Research

Phase 1 focused on gathering relevant information related to urban agriculture and how it applies to the local context of Leduc. Phase 1 highlights include:

Opportunities and Constraints

Through a review of supporting documentation, opportunities and constraints within existing policy were identified along with approaches to address these opportunities and constraints. Background research also explored how agriculture has been a part of Leduc's history and the impacts of urban agriculture on urban environments.

Best Practices

A regional review of existing urban agriculture plans examined the trends in content, commonalities and differences, aspects considered innovative or interesting, and implementation approaches.

2

Engagement

Phase 2 looked to learn from residents, City staff, stakeholders, and local agriculture representatives by visualizing the future of urban agriculture in Leduc. Phase 2 included the following engagement activities:

Internal Workshop

An internal workshop was held with City staff with roles related to urban agriculture to collaborate with internal departments through discussions on the current urban agriculture initiatives, identifying opportunities and constraints, and gathering ideas for the Plan.

Public Survey

A community survey and feedback survey was launched to gather feedback from the general public on the future of urban agriculture in Leduc, potential urban agriculture initiatives, and barriers to participating in urban agriculture.

External Workshop

An external workshop was held with local agriculture representatives to collect more in-depth community input and to collaborate with stakeholders to create principles and identify potential urban agriculture initiatives that could be explored in Leduc.

3

Drafting the Urban Agriculture Plan

Phase 3 combined the knowledge gained in Phases 1 and 2 to draft an Urban Agriculture Plan. The Plan was shared with City staff for feedback before being presented to City Council for approval.

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Plan is based on engagement input received in Phase 2 from the public, internal City departments, and stakeholders. Highlights from the engagement are listed below.

Urban agriculture can strengthen the local food economy through:

- exploring new food production methods
- enabling community-based value-added opportunities

Food accessibility and affordability can be increased by:

- supporting food access & sharing
- promoting local food production & self-sufficiency

The wellbeing of the community can be supported by connecting the community.

More people will be able to participate in urban agriculture through initiatives that focus on:

- building skillsets
- generating public awareness of urban agriculture
- creating educational resources

These highlights were one component used to create the plan principles and objectives in Section 3. The complete What We Heard Report containing a summary and analysis of the ideas and insights that were shared during the engagement can be found in Appendix C.





2. LOCAL CONTEXT

HISTORY OF URBAN AGRICULTURE IN LEDUC

Like many communities within Alberta, Leduc began as an agricultural community when settlers came to the area to homestead. The area began to grow as the rail line from Edmonton to Calgary was developed and a stop was placed in Leduc.

Since agriculture was a major economic driver in Leduc, the built form had many agricultural features such as markets, grocery stores, butcher shops, flour mills, dairies, stables, a grain elevator, and seed cleaning plant.



URBAN AGRICULTURE TODAY

While this is the first Urban Agriculture Plan for Leduc, urban agricultural itself is not new to Leduc. Highlighted below are some of the existing opportunities for people to participate in urban agriculture in Leduc.

BACKYARD HEN KEEPING

Residents can apply for hen keeping licenses to allow three to six hens to be kept in their rear yards in residential districts for the purpose of producing eggs.

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING

Residents can apply for beekeeping licenses to keep bees in rear yards of residential districts. A rooftop beekeeping pilot project was launched in 2024 for a building in a non-residential district, suggesting beekeeping in non-residential areas may be permitted in the future.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

There are two community gardens managed by the City, and one managed by the local neighborhood. Plots can be rented and provide a space for residents to grow their own food and a place for community building. Community groups can also apply to create and independently manage neighbourhood gardens.

AGRIVALUE PROCESSING BUSINESS INCUBATOR

The Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator is a food processing facility designed to drive economic growth and innovation in the Albertan food industry. The incubator provides new businesses the infrastructure and services to support and enhance the establishment and growth of their agribusinesses.

AGRI-BUSINESSES

Leduc has a variety of agri-businesses or businesses that involve the agriculture industry such as food trucks, breweries, and agri-tourism. These businesses are part of the local food economy.



EXISTING AGRICULTURE LANDS

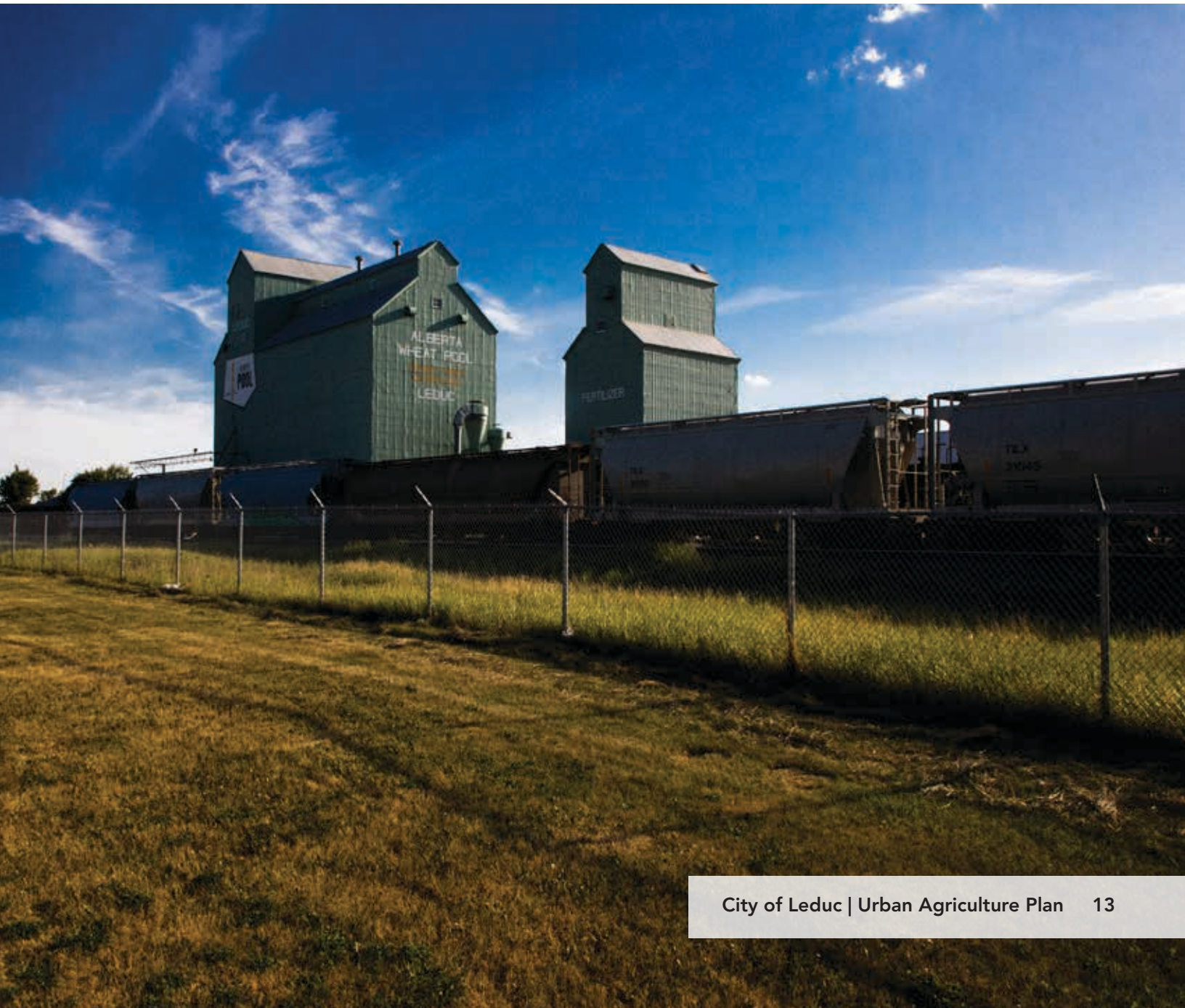
Within the City limits there are large quarter sections of land used for large-scale farming practices. These will continue to be used for agricultural uses until they are needed for urban development.

LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET

Leduc's Farmers' Market has been operating for over 50 years. The market has existed in several locations over the years and runs from mid-May to the end of September. The market supports the local food economy by providing local farmers and businesses a place to sell their goods and enables residents to purchase fresh, locally grown foods.

HISTORIC SITES

Historic sites provide educational opportunities to connect to the agricultural history of Leduc. The Stone Barn & Cultural Village contains a structure that resembles the original stone dairy barn that used to be on the site, a milking shed, and landscaped garden. The Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator site possesses one of the last single composite wood crib grain elevators to be built in Alberta.



3. PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, & BIG MOVES

Leduc's approach to urban agriculture is shaped by four guiding principles derived from best practices, research, and consultation with external stakeholders, the public, and internal departments.



STRONG LOCAL FOOD
ECONOMY



FOOD ACCESSIBILITY &
AFFORDABILITY



COMMUNITY WELLBEING



EDUCATION & SKILL
DEVELOPMENT



PRINCIPLE 1: STRONG LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY



Leduc supports the growth and diversification of the local food economy, including the value-added agriculture industry, to leverage existing successes and explore new opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 1 – ATTRACT AND RETAIN INVESTMENT

Attract investment by offering incentives and retain existing businesses through engaging businesses and networking opportunities.

Policies:

1. Examine the feasibility of developing strategies that address opportunities for value-added industry to attract new investment.
2. Consider hosting networking events to bring producers and processors together.
3. Consider conducting regular surveys of existing urban agriculture businesses to assess ongoing needs and relative satisfaction with services offered by the City.
4. Explore options to develop incentives or programs which encourage the development or expansion of the urban agriculture industry within Leduc.

Big Move - Agriculture and Economic Development Task Force

The City will explore the creation of a working group or task force with regional representatives from the agriculture industry and municipal economic development departments to identify and support the needs of the agriculture industry in the area.



OBJECTIVE 2 – ENABLE COMMUNITY-BASED VALUE-ADDED OPPORTUNITIES

Leverage existing resources to enable opportunities for community and small-scale enterprises to participate in value-added agriculture.

Policies:

1. Identify existing community kitchens which may be able to act as a resource hub and provide smaller-scale food processing opportunities.
2. Consider networking with the Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator to facilitate up-scaling of start-up value-added business within the city.

Big Move - Community Kitchen

The City will examine the feasibility of using a community kitchen as a place for small enterprise food processing and community-based cooking workshops and other gatherings.



OBJECTIVE 3 – EXPLORE AND EXPAND FOOD PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

Explore different options to grow food locally and expand existing production through incorporating urban agriculture activities into existing spaces and new developments.

Policies:

1. Encourage new planning documents to reflect the importance of urban agriculture at the community and neighbourhood scales and to integrate urban agriculture into new neighbourhoods.
2. Explore if the backyard beekeeping program can be expanded to non-residential land use districts to increase local honey production.
3. Explore opportunities for establishing commercial vertical gardens to support year-round food production.
4. Explore opportunities for commercial greenhouses in industrial parks to support year-round food production.
5. Assess rooftop garden feasibility to increase options for growing food in the built-up areas of the city.
6. Investigate opportunities for re-purposing underutilized spaces for garden plots to increase local food production seasonally.
7. Investigate land that could be suitable for use as urban farms.

Big Move - Urban Farm or Garden Demonstration

The City will explore establishing seminars which demonstrate an urban farm or urban garden and how to generate income by growing food intensively at a small scale.

PRINCIPLE 2: FOOD ACCESSIBILITY & AFFORDABILITY



Leduc supports stable access to local, affordable, and nutritious food to enhance food security within the community.

OBJECTIVE 1 – SUPPORT FOOD ACCESS & SHARING

Increase access to food by establishing initiatives that share food in the community.

Policies:

1. Consider partnering with gleaning societies or food rescue groups to help harvest excess fruit and produce.
2. Explore creating a gleaning map or forum as part of the urban agriculture online portal to reduce food waste in Leduc.
3. Consider promoting 'grow a row' for the food bank in community/urban garden groups.
4. Investigate edible landscaping opportunities on public lands in Leduc.
5. Assess the feasibility of installing a community fridge that stores excess produce and foods donated by residents for residents.

Big Move - Edible Landscaping Pilot Project

Create a pilot project in partnership with downtown businesses to plant edible landscaping in the downtown core that replaces the annual flower plantings with vegetable, herbs, and edible flowers.

OBJECTIVE 2 – PROMOTE LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION & SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Remove barriers for people to grow their own food through updating regulations, expanding community/urban gardens, offering low-cost or subsidized programming, and connecting people with gardening resources.

Policies:

1. Investigate low cost options and subsidies related to participating in urban agriculture activities, programs, and events.
2. Examine opportunities to promote and/or expand grants available to community organizations undertaking urban agriculture initiatives.
3. Explore ways to remove barriers to participating in existing hen keeping and beekeeping programs.
4. Explore opportunities for community/urban gardens to be incorporated into multi-unit housing developments.
5. Consider hosting annual gardening supplies, tools, and plant and seed swap events.
6. Identify and resolve conflicts between regulations to remove barriers to urban agricultural initiatives.

Big Move - Community/Urban Garden Spaces

The City will examine public land to identify suitable locations for use as community/urban gardens.



PRINCIPLE 3: COMMUNITY WELLBEING



Leduc supports building community cohesion and encouraging volunteerism through urban agriculture to support community social development and wellbeing.

OBJECTIVE 1 – CREATE CONNECTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Support community connection and volunteerism by engaging residents in urban agriculture through partnerships, sponsorships, and celebratory opportunities.

Policies:

1. Consider partnering with schools to promote urban agriculture through specific activities, such as having students plant downtown garden beds.
2. Explore creating an ‘adopt a fruit tree’ sponsorship program to help offset costs of public orchard maintenance.
3. Investigate opportunities for partnering with local home builders to secure ‘waste’ construction materials that could be used to build hen coops.
4. Consider promoting volunteer opportunities offered by community organizations for people to get involved in urban agriculture initiatives.
5. Consider creating opportunities for connection through celebrating urban agriculture in the community such as friendly garden competitions, tours, and award programs.
6. Support community events that bring people together around locally grown food such as garlic festival, harvest potlucks, markets, fairs, etc.

Big Move - Urban Agriculture Champion

The City will explore the creation of an internal urban agriculture ‘Champion’ at the City of Leduc to connect community members, implement the Plan, and spearhead initiatives.

OBJECTIVE 2 – PROMOTE BENEFITS OF GARDENING

Promote mental and physical health benefits from personal and community gardening to Leduc’s residents.

Policies:

1. Consider promoting the physical health benefits of gardening including an active lifestyle and consumption of fresh produce.
2. Consider promoting the mental health benefits of gardening including reducing stress and anxiety, stimulating cognitive function by learning new skills, creative expression, and stabilizing mood.

Big Move - Annual “Get Ready to Grow” Event

The City will consider an annual “get ready to grow” event to connect experienced and novice home gardeners to gardening resources.



PRINCIPLE 4: EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT



Leduc supports community members to get involved in and benefit from urban agriculture by offering access to urban agriculture knowledge, resources, and skill development opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 1 – BUILD SKILLSETS

Increase community members ability to participate in urban agriculture by providing skill development opportunities.

Policies:

1. Consider hosting educational sessions on how to care for bees and hens to increase participation in these programs.
2. Consider creating a series of education videos or webinars that teach skills related to home gardening, growing fruit bearing plants, foraging, food preservation, and composting.
3. Consider hosting workshops on how to build a hen coop.

Big Move - Urban Agriculture Volunteer Database

The City will consider an urban agriculture volunteer database for community members with advanced urban agriculture skillsets who are willing to mentor beginners or host workshops.

OBJECTIVE 2 – GENERATE PUBLIC AWARENESS

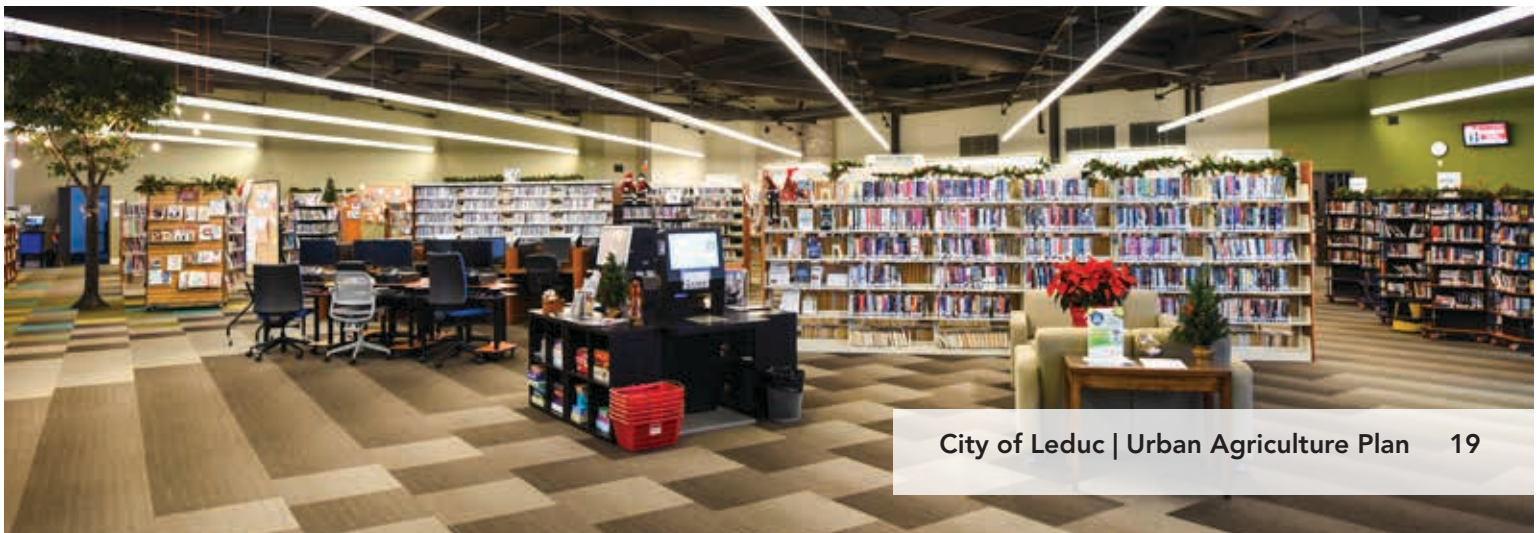
Increase public awareness of urban agriculture in Leduc through promoting and marketing initiatives, events, and the Urban Agriculture Plan.

Policies:

1. Consider promoting and market existing urban agriculture programs, opportunities, and events including the hen keeping and beekeeping programs to encourage participation.
2. Consider using existing events to promote urban agriculture initiatives.

Big Move - Urban Agriculture Awareness

The City will explore opportunities to build awareness of the Urban Agriculture Plan implementation items on an ongoing basis.





OBJECTIVE 3 – CREATE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Create educational resources that provide information on urban agriculture within Leduc through a variety of communication methods.

Policies:

1. Explore creating a series of gardening guides to provide residents with information on home gardening, pollinator gardens, community gardening, organic gardening, composting, and water harvesting.
2. Consider installing signage with QR codes near edible landscaping to allow residents to access information about each plant, including harvesting, preparing, and nutritional details.
3. Consider creating a map of edible landscaping to highlight where fresh produce can be found for free.

Big Move - Urban Agriculture Online Portal

The City will assess the feasibility of creating an online information portal for all things urban agriculture with information on local initiatives and how to get involved, community events and programming, learning opportunities and resources, links to community organizations, and food security resources. The portal could include a live webpage that shows where edible trees, bushes, community/urban gardens, and other food related items are in the City.



4. IMPLEMENTATION

APPROACH

Implementation of this Plan will be completed through collaboration with multiple City departments following the process below.



**INITIATE PRIORITY
ACTIONS**

**MONITOR &
REPORT
BI-ANNUALLY ON
PROGRESS**

**EVALUATE THE
UAP & UPDATE
EVERY FIVE YEARS**

REPEAT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

It is intended that the four key principles of this Plan be upheld through the implementation of the Big Moves listed above. The columns in the Implementation Table are described below:

Timeframes indicate whether the Big Move will be done in the short term (1-3 years), midterm (4-6 years) or long-term (7+ years).

The **Budget Impact** column associates the Big Move with a monetary range that it will cost the City to implement.

\$ = within existing budgets
\$\$ = some additional funds required
\$\$\$ = significant funds requiring Council approval

The **Links to Opportunities and Constraints** show which opportunities and constraints (found in Appendix A) are addressed by each Big Move.

It is recommended that the Implementation Table be reviewed annually to set budget priorities. The Table is intended to be a living component of this plan and may be edited as deemed appropriate by the City. Changes to the Table do not trigger edits to the main body of the Plan.

To kickstart implementation of the Big Moves three example project sheets are found in Appendix B. The City can use these as a starting point to create robust project plans.



IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

PRINCIPLE 1: STRONG LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY

Big Move	Timeframe	Budget Impact	Links to Opportunities & Constraints
Agriculture and Economic Development Task Force The City will explore the creation of a working group or task force with regional representatives from the agriculture industry and municipal economic development departments to identify and support the needs of the agriculture industry in the area.	Short	\$	Business Support Partnerships
Community Kitchen The City will examine the feasibility of using a community kitchen as a place for small enterprise food processing and community-based cooking workshops and other gatherings.	Short	\$	Business Support Innovation Partnerships
Urban Farm or Garden Demonstration The City will explore establishing seminars which demonstrate an urban farm or urban garden and how to generate income by growing food intensively at a small scale.	Long	\$\$\$	Agricultural History Business Support Space for Urban Agriculture Partnerships Perceptions

PRINCIPLE 2: FOOD ACCESSIBILITY & AFFORDABILITY

Big Move	Timeframe	Budget Impact	Links to Opportunities & Constraints
Edible Landscaping Pilot Project Create a pilot project in partnership with downtown businesses to plant edible landscaping in the downtown core that replaces the annual flower plantings with vegetable, herbs, and edible flowers.	Short	\$\$	Urban Agriculture Initiatives Partnerships Perceptions
Community/Urban Garden Spaces The City will examine public land to identify suitable locations for use as community/urban gardens.	Short	\$	Urban Agriculture Initiative Space for Urban Agriculture

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

PRINCIPLE 3: COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Big Move	Timeframe	Budget Impact	Links to Opportunities & Constraints
Urban Agriculture Champion The City will explore the creation of an internal urban agriculture 'Champion' at the City of Leduc to connect community members, implement the Plan, and spearhead initiatives.	Short	\$-\$\$\$	Regulations Partnerships Perceptions
Annual "Get Ready to Grow" Event The City will consider an annual "get ready to grow" event to connect experienced and novice home gardeners to gardening resources.	Mid	\$	Urban Agriculture Initiative Partnerships

PRINCIPLE 4: EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Big Move	Timeframe	Budget Impact	Links to Opportunities & Constraints
Urban Agriculture Volunteer Database The City will consider an urban agriculture volunteer database for community members with advanced urban agriculture skillsets who are willing to mentor beginners or host workshops.	Mid	\$	Urban Agriculture Initiatives Partnerships
Urban Agriculture Awareness The City will explore opportunities to build awareness of the Urban Agriculture Plan implementation items on an ongoing basis.	Short	\$	Urban Agriculture Initiatives Perceptions
Urban Agriculture Online Portal The City will assess the feasibility of creating an online information portal for all things urban agriculture with information on local initiatives and how to get involved, community events and programming, learning opportunities and resources, links to community organizations, and food security resources. The portal could include a live webpage that shows where edible trees, bushes, community/urban gardens, and other food related items are in the City.	Short	\$\$	Urban Agriculture Initiatives Business Support Partnerships Perceptions

5. DEFINITIONS

This section defines various terms and abbreviations found throughout this Plan. The terms and abbreviations are listed alphabetically.

A

Agriculture means the practice of cultivating soil, growing crops, and raising animals for food, fiber, medicinal plants, and other products used to sustain and enhance human life.

Agribusiness means a sector of the economy that involves the production, processing, and distribution of agricultural products. It encompasses everything from farms to food/manufacturers, transport companies, and retail businesses that sell agricultural products.

Agri-tourism means a form of tourism that involves visiting agricultural areas to experience farm life, participate in farming activities, and learn about agricultural practices. It may include activities like farm stays, farm tours, and picking produce.

B

Beekeeping means keeping of bees for honey, pollination, or both, either in yards or on the tops of buildings.

Backyard hen keeping means raising hens within the backyard of a residential property for egg production.

C

Champion means a City employee or City department who is responsible for implementation of the Urban Agriculture Plan.

Community garden means a plot of land gardened collectively by a group of people. These gardens are often used to grow food, flowers, or other plants, and promote social interaction, local food production, and environmental sustainability.

Compost means organic matter that has been decomposed and recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment. It is created from plant materials, food scraps, and other biodegradable waste, and enriches soil by adding nutrients.

E

Edible landscaping means a form of landscaping that incorporates food-producing plants, such as fruits, vegetables, and herbs, alongside ornamental plants. It allows for the aesthetic appeal of a landscape while producing edible items.

EMRB means the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board.

F

Farmers' market means a public market where farmers and other vendors sell locally produced goods such as food, drinks, and artisan wares.

Food literacy means the understanding of food systems, including knowledge about where food comes from, how it's produced, how it affects health, and the environment. It also encompasses skills like cooking and understanding nutrition.

Food security means the condition where all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life. It depends on factors like food availability, affordability, and access.

Food sovereignty means the right of people to define their own food systems, including the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. It emphasizes local control over food production and distribution.

G

Greenhouses means a building used to grow, acclimate, propagate, harvest, display and sell plants.

H

Hydroponics means a method of growing plants without soil, using mineral nutrient solutions in an aqueous solvent. The plants are typically grown in a controlled environment with a liquid solution that provides all the nutrients they need.

Home gardening means growing plants and food within the yards of a residential property for personal use.

L

LUB means the City of Leduc's Land Use Bylaw.

M

MDP means the City of Leduc's Municipal Development Plan.

R

Rooftop gardens means growing plants and food on the rooftop of a building.

S

Sustainability means the ability to maintain or improve systems and processes over the long term without depleting natural resources or harming the environment. In agriculture, it refers to practices that are environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.

U

Urban agriculture means the practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around urban areas. This can involve growing food in backyards, on rooftops, or in community/urban gardens, and aims to reduce food transportation distances, enhance food security, and promote local food systems.

Urban development means the process of planning and building urban areas, including infrastructure like roads, housing, schools, and parks. It encompasses both the growth of cities and the transformation of rural areas into urban environments.

Urban farm means a farm within an urban area that grows plants and may include hen keeping or beekeeping for commercial purposes.

V

Value-added agriculture means the process of increasing the economic value of an agricultural product through processing, packaging, branding, or creating new products from raw agricultural materials. This includes things like turning milk into cheese or fruit into jam.

Vertical gardens means a gardening method where plants are grown in vertically stacked layers, often in a structure like a wall or tower. This method is often used in urban areas to save space and can be employed for growing vegetables, herbs, or flowers in smaller environments.



APPENDIX A

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

Opportunity - Celebrate Leduc's agricultural history and build off this history to promote urban agriculture within Leduc.

URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES

Opportunity - Pilot programs for urban agriculture as initiatives such as backyard hens and bees have successfully turned into permanent programs at the City. There is an opportunity to enhance these programs and establish new programs building momentum for urban agriculture along the way.

Opportunity - Extra produce available at community gardens is not being used and has not made its way to people experiencing food insecurity.

Constraint - Some existing initiatives such as community gardens may be operating at capacity and newly interested residents may not easily be able to participate.

Constraint - Participating in urban agriculture requires some skills and knowledge such as knowing how to garden. Lack of knowledge may be a barrier to participation.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

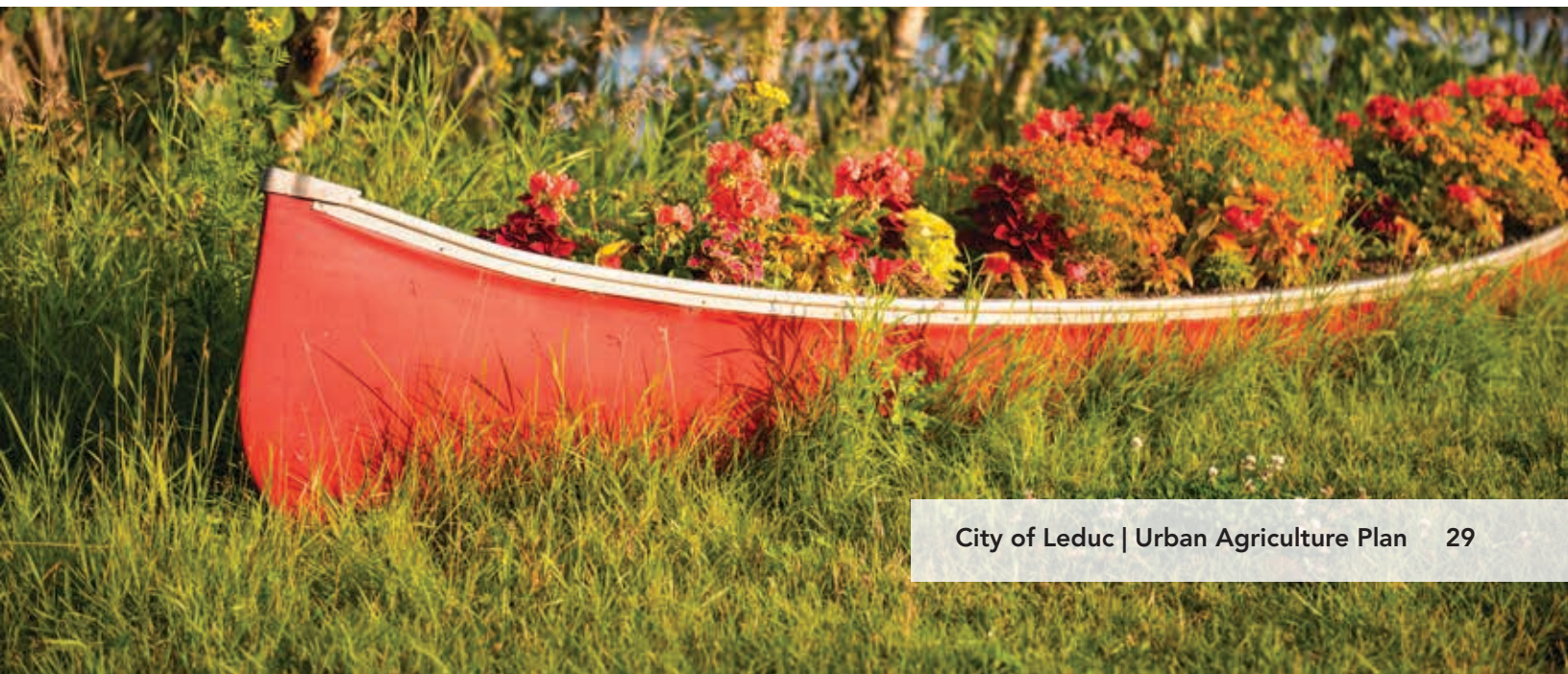
Opportunity - Programs such as the Western Innovation Initiative Program, Alberta Manufacturing and Fabrication Innovation Program, Agri-Innovation Program, and Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership are available to provide resources and incentives to agribusinesses.

Constraint - There is limited municipal resources to incentivize and educate agribusiness or capacity to create incentives.

REGULATIONS

Opportunity - High level and strategic planning documents at the City support urban agriculture and can be used as justification to support further exploration of urban agriculture.

Constraint - Regulations such as the Land Use Bylaw require updates to ensure various forms of urban agriculture are enabled throughout the city.





INNOVATION

Opportunity - The Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator is equipped with pilot plants and product development laboratories which can be utilized by new businesses that require food experts and research to launch their business.

Constraint - The Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator may not be suitable for small startups.

Constraint - Entrepreneurs and startup companies may not be aware of the Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator and the support it can provide.

SPACE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

Opportunity - Urban agriculture can be accommodated in existing spaces and building throughout the community such as rooftops, parks, and private yards.

Constraint - There are limited lands available for non-residential growth and/or the cost of non-residential land can be prohibitive. This may be a barrier to new agriculture related businesses locating within Leduc.

Residents indicated access to space as a barrier to growing their own food.

Constraint - Accommodating urban agriculture on private lands requires community organizations to operate and provide insurance.

PARTNERSHIPS

Opportunity - Build off existing urban agriculture initiatives and relationships with community organizations to jointly support and encourage urban agriculture.

PERCEPTIONS

Constraint - Community members and businesses may perceive changes to traditional landscaping as negative and may not support urban agriculture initiatives that incorporate these elements.



APPENDIX B

SAMPLE PROJECT PLANS

ONLINE URBAN AGRICULTURE PORTAL

DESIRED OUTCOME: Create a single point of access for people looking to obtain information on urban agriculture in Leduc.

OPPORTUNITY

The online portal contains urban agriculture information on local initiatives and how to get involved, community events and programming, learning opportunities and resources, links to community organizations, and food security resources. The portal may include a forum where residents can connect and discuss urban agriculture.

STEPS TO COMPLETE

1. Gather and organize resources/ information to share on portal. Connect with community organizations to provide information on urban agriculture related activities and events.
2. Develop user interface and story board portal layout.
3. Work with web designer to develop portal and upload data.
4. Test portal with local urban agriculture enthusiasts.
5. Promote and launch portal for public use.
6. Regularly update and conduct ongoing maintenance of portal.

RESOURCES

Human

- Research and data management
- Web designer
- Portal maintenance

Financial

- External web designer, if necessary
- Domain name and web hosting services

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Communications Department
- IT Department
- Community organizations
- Consultant (i.e., web designer)

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Portal website analytics (number of visitors, length of visit, number of clicks, etc.).
- Portal is linked on third party websites.
- Portal expands due to increase demand by users for additional information.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

DESIRED OUTCOME: A kitchen for community use is established within Leduc.

OPPORTUNITY

The community kitchen acts as a resource centre providing information on urban agriculture through community-based cooking and food processing programs, written information like pamphlets, drop-in events, etc. This kitchen can also be used by entrepreneurs of startup value-added businesses with smaller operations than businesses using the Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator.

STEPS TO COMPLETE

1. Identify community needs (e.g., space and equipment requirements, programming interests) through engagement with the public, community organizations, and local businesses.
2. Confirm existing kitchen can be used and will meet community needs.
3. Create plan for community kitchen operations (e.g., schedule, booking procedures, drop-in hours).
4. Partner with community organizations to design and provide programming.
5. Create educational resources on urban agriculture for drop-in visitors.
6. Assign or hire staff who will co-ordinate and recruit volunteers to run programming.
7. Promote the community kitchen to the public.

RESOURCES

Human

- Staff to co-ordinate and recruit volunteers, partner with community organizations and businesses, and manage operations.
- Volunteers to help provide programming, host drop-in hours, and maintain the space.

Financial

- Setting up kitchen with needed supplies and equipment
- Printing educational resources
- Promotion

In-kind

- Food, kitchen utensils, cookware, learning resources, programming

Spatial

- Use of existing kitchen

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- FCSS Department
- Communications Department
- Kitchen Learning Centre provided by the Leduc and District Food Bank Association
- YMCA of Northern Alberta
- Leduc Recreation Centre
- Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator
- Local businesses

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Programs such as classes are running at capacity.
- Community events are well attended.
- Resource materials are regularly restocked and requested.
- Businesses advance to the Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator.
- People utilize drop-in hours.

EDIBLE LANDSCAPING PILOT

DESIRED OUTCOME: Evaluate feasibility of implementing edible landscaping throughout Leduc.

OPPORTUNITY

Edible public landscaping provides increased access to nutritious food and food security. Areas to explore include wildlife considerations, required maintenance, signage and ways to share food knowledge, and locations for edible landscaping such as planter boxes, parks, and boulevards.

STEPS TO COMPLETE

1. Identify areas most suitable for edible landscaping and prepare them with soil amendments.
2. Consider who will be responsible for maintaining landscaping (e.g., City or community groups). If a community-led approach is selected establish partnerships and recruit volunteers.
3. Identify what plant species are most suitable. Assess watering needs, hardiness and level of care required, and which plants are best planted from seed versus being transplanted. Consideration should also be given to aesthetics, especially when planting gateways.
4. Develop an educational and communications campaign to inform people where edible landscaping is the city. Create an digital map of edible landscaping.
5. Create plant labels and QR codes that tell people what the plant is, when it is ready for harvest, how to eat/prepare it.
6. Recruit potential sponsors to "adopt a fruit tree".
7. Plant edible landscaping and install signage with plant labels and sponsorship acknowledgment.
8. Encourage harvesting with restraint so all residents can enjoy the produce.
9. Survey community after harvest to understand the level of awareness and interest in continuing with the approach, and to assess lessons learned for following years, if applicable.

RESOURCES

Human

- Plant and maintain landscaping
- Develop and disseminate education program
- Monitor project success
- Liaise with community organizations as needed
- Volunteers to help plant spaces and harvest produce

Financial

- Soil amendments, seeds/starter plants
- Signage design and production (e.g., plant ID, QR codes)

In-kind

- Soil, planters, equipment

Spatial

- Public spaces
- Business frontages

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Public Works Department
- Planning & Economic Development Department
- Communications Department
- Community organizations
- Members of the public
- Schools
- Seniors' residences
- Business associations or local businesses

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

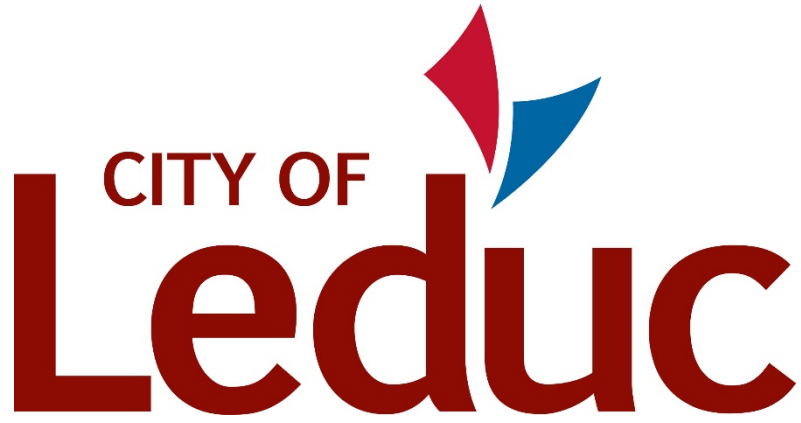
- Positive public response and desire to continue.
- Uptake by local business owners to plant up their store fronts.
- Access to healthy food by those in need and the greater community.
- Spin off projects (e.g., school programs, seniors' residence programs).



APPENDIX C

WHAT WE HEARD

REPORT



URBAN AGRICULTURE PLAN

What We Heard Report - November 2024

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Leduc is committed to supporting urban agriculture and promoting its diversification within the city. As outlined in the Regional Agricultural Master Plan (RAMP), the City of Leduc and all urban member municipalities of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB), are required to adopt an Urban Agriculture Plan.

The Urban Agriculture Plan will provide direction to enhance urban agriculture in Leduc based on local priorities identified through engagement with residents and local agriculture representatives. The plan will outline urban agriculture initiatives that will be supported by the City and implemented with the community.

This report is a summary and analysis of the ideas and insights that were shared during the engagement for the Urban Agriculture Plan. Findings from this engagement will be used in drafting the Urban Agriculture Plan.

WHO WE ENGAGED, WHEN AND HOW

The Project Team engaged with residents, City staff, and local agriculture representatives. To encourage participation, the Project Team reached out to the community in a variety of ways. A summary of the methods used are highlighted below.

Inviting Participation

Invitations to participate were shared in the following ways:

- Advertising the public survey through social media platforms, on the City’s website, and through postcards that were distributed at various locations throughout the city.
- Emailing external stakeholders (e.g., agriculture related businesses) to invite to the external workshop and distribute the follow-up stakeholder survey.
- Phone calls to external stakeholders to encourage participation in the stakeholder survey.

Opportunities to Participate

The Project Team conducted engagement activities from August to November 2024, including the following:

1. **Internal Workshop** – On August 22, 2024, an internal workshop was held with City staff with roles related to urban agriculture. The purpose of the workshop

was to share information about the Urban Agriculture Plan and collaborate with internal departments by gaining an understanding of the current urban agriculture initiatives, identifying opportunities and constraints, and gathering ideas for the Plan. The workshop began with a presentation and was followed by discussions using engaging questions to gather feedback from participants.

2. **Public Survey** – A community survey was launched to gather feedback from the general public on the future urban agriculture in Leduc, potential urban agriculture initiatives, and barriers to participating in urban agriculture. The online survey was open from September 4th to September 25th 2024 and received 76 responses.
3. **External Workshop** – On October 10, 2024, an external workshop was held with local agriculture representatives. The purpose of the workshop was to share information about the Urban Agriculture Plan, collect more in-depth community input, and collaborate with stakeholders to create principles and identify potential urban agriculture initiatives that could be explored in Leduc. The workshop began with a presentation and interactively engaged participants through discussion and brainstorming activities.
4. **Stakeholder Survey** – A stakeholder survey was launched to confirm what was heard in the external workshop and to gain perspective on the economic potential of urban agriculture. The online survey was open from October 22nd to November 18th 2024 and received 3 responses.

WHAT WE ASKED

The engagement focused on developing a vision and principles for the Urban Agriculture Plan as well as identifying which urban agriculture initiatives should be explored in the Plan.

Internal Workshop

Discussion at the internal workshop was prompted with the following themes:

- Community wellness issues that could be addressed in part through urban agriculture, such as food insecurity
- Economic development opportunities with urban agriculture
- Public open spaces that could accommodate urban agricultural activities
- Opportunities to celebrate culture, history and the arts through urban agriculture
- Champions of urban agriculture within the community

- Existing urban agricultural programs such as urban beekeeping, backyard hens, and community gardens
- Operational concerns around implementing urban agriculture initiatives

Public Survey

The public survey consisted of 21 multiple choice questions and 1 open ended question. Many of the multiple choice questions included an 'other' option to allow for specific responses. Themes explored in the public survey included:

- The meaning and importance of urban agriculture
- Types of urban agriculture the City should allow, undertake or incentivize
- Locations for specific types of urban agriculture
- Participation and barriers to participation in urban agriculture
- Ways to educate and share information on urban agriculture
- Food insecurity

For a complete list of the public survey questions and responses, please see Appendix A.

External Workshop

Discussion at the external workshop was prompted with the following themes:

- Aspirations for urban agriculture in the City of Leduc
- Key principles important to achieve aspirations
- Initiatives to achieve principles
- Challenges to overcome

Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder survey consisted of 12 multiple choice questions and 10 open ended questions. Themes explored in the stakeholder survey included:

- Ways the City might support businesses that participate in urban agriculture
- Economic potential of urban agriculture
- Confirming principles identified in the external workshop

For a complete list of the stakeholder survey questions and responses, please see Appendix B.

WHAT WE HEARD

Internal Workshop

The internal workshop explored opportunities and barriers for urban agriculture in Leduc. Participants shared lessons learned from the existing urban agriculture initiatives in the city.

Urban Agriculture Opportunities

Four themes related to urban agriculture opportunities were explored. For each theme, opportunities and initiatives were suggested for consideration in the Urban Agriculture Plan.

1. Economic Development
 - Partnering with local businesses
 - Agritourism and collaborating with Leduc County in this area
 - Rooftop gardens
 - Vertical farming in malls
 - Commercial style greenhouses in industrial areas
 - Converting parking into garden spaces
2. Community Wellbeing
 - Expanding community gardens
 - Donating extra food to food bank
 - Remove barriers for people to grow their own food (low cost of free plots)
 - Partner with food rescue societies to pick extra fruit
3. Education
 - Map of where fruit trees and berry bushes are located
 - QR codes to help people to identify and use food from fruit trees and bushes
 - Education topic: Food sources for bees
 - Workshop on how to care for bees
4. Culture, History, & the Arts
 - Local historic sites (Leduc heritage grain elevator, Dr. Woods house museum, stone barn garden)
 - Highlight traditional agriculture practices of Indigenous peoples

- Partner with Downtown Business Association on edible landscapes (compare old and new photos of downtown)
- Partner and collaborate with existing events (Farmers market, Rib Fest, Rodeo, etc.)
- Marketing campaign about urban agriculture in Leduc
- Support community groups to promote events

Barriers to Urban Agriculture

Participants identified barriers in five key areas that may need to be addressed in the Urban Agriculture Plan. The list of barriers identified is below.

1. Backyard Hens
 - Cost of building a chicken coop
2. Community Gardens
 - At capacity with waitlists
 - Fee for accountability (to ensure plots are used)
 - Theft
3. Urban Beekeeping
 - No uptake in program
 - Bees in high density areas
4. Community Buy-in
 - Businesses may not want to lose parking spaces
 - Residents may not like changes to traditional landscaping
5. Airport
 - Don't want to attract birds in proximity to the airport and flightline

Public Survey

What Urban Agriculture Means

The top 5 most common responses to what does urban agriculture mean to you were:

1. Community Gardens
2. Backyard Gardens
3. Container/ Balcony Gardening
4. Front Yard Gardens
5. Backyard Hens

Similarly, the top 5 types of urban agriculture respondents would like to see in the city were:

1. Community Gardens
2. Backyard Gardens
3. Front Yard Gardens
4. Edible Public Landscaping
5. Container/ Balcony Gardening

Urban Agriculture Initiatives

The survey explored eight potential urban agriculture initiatives that could be part of the Urban Agriculture Plan. All initiatives were supported with more than 50% respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing for the City to permit them. The eight initiatives are listed below in order of the most to least supported.

1. Using public lands for community gardens (i.e., in parks)
2. Edible landscaping in public areas
3. Neighbourhood orchards on public land
4. Incentives to support value-added agriculture businesses
5. Program to support people to replace their front lawns with edible landscaping, including vegetable gardens
6. Indoor community food growing space for personal year-round local food production
7. Leasing vacant publicly owned land for growing produce for commercial purposes
8. Converting residential yards into small market gardens to grow and sell produce off-site

Education & Awareness

The top 5 urban agriculture topics respondents were interested in learning about are:

1. Home Gardening
2. Growing fruit bearing trees and bushes
3. Edible Native Plants and foraging
4. Food Preservation (pickling, canning, jams etc.)
5. Beekeeping

Respondents were interested in learning about urban agriculture through a website, webinars/video tutorials, and in-person workshops.

Barriers to Urban Agriculture

The top 3 reasons respondents do not grow their own food or participate in the backyard hen and bee keeping programs are listed below.

Growing their own food – Time, access to space, and lack of knowledge
Backyard Hen Program – Lack of interest, time, and lack of knowledge
Backyard Bee Keeping Program – Lack of knowledge, lack of interest, and time

Food Insecurity

9.5% of respondents have experienced food insecurity and 38.1% of respondents know someone who has experienced food insecurity in the City of Leduc.

External Workshop

Through discussion and brainstorming with the external workshop participants, the following outcomes arose:

1. Sense of what ‘urban agriculture’ meant to the participants;
2. Four guiding principles for urban agriculture in Leduc; and
3. Brainstorm of possible barriers to doing urban agriculture in Leduc.

These three outcomes are expanded upon below.

What Urban Agriculture Means

The word cloud below is a visual representation of the words and phrases used by participants to describe what urban agriculture means to them.



Four Guiding Principles

The four guiding principles developed are listed below. For each guiding principle, a number of potential activities or projects were considered to help implement the principle.

1. Food Accessibility & Affordability
 - Community fridge
 - Community food kiosk at community gardens
 - Information access and delivery improvements
2. Education, Awareness & Skill Development
 - Workshops on how to prepare/process/store food
 - Networking opportunities to share knowledge
 - Work with local schools/elders
 - Create knowledge bank (digital)
3. Community Wellbeing
 - Support community connections
 - Remove access barriers
 - Host events that bring people together
 - Support culturally appropriate food
4. Food Economy
 - Explore value-added opportunities
 - Develop community kitchens or processing centres

Perceived Barriers

The workshop participants discussed a number of potential barriers that could be grouped into the following main categories:

1. Financial and Resource Barriers
 - Budgets
 - Low income
 - Space/cost of backyard hen startup
 - Access to resources
 - Time
2. Liability and Risk Management
 - Real/perceived liability
 - Bees – insurance liability requirements
 - Industry pushback on small-scale urban agriculture (avian flu, pest/disease control)
3. Regulation and Policy Challenges
 - Regulatory barriers
 - Managing soil resources

- Alignment with Parks, Open Space & Trails master plan
 - CN Railway proximity guidelines
4. Communication and Knowledge Sharing
 - Communication efficacy
 - Knowledge dissemination
 5. Perspectives and Vision
 - Long-term perspectives vs. short-term perspectives
 - Perspectives on what is aesthetic, i.e., front yard gardens vs. lawns

Stakeholder Survey

Further to the external workshop held October 10, 2024, the City issued a follow up survey to stakeholders who were either unable to attend the workshop or who represent businesses in the community that may be connected to urban agriculture in some manner. The survey included questions about the economic potential of urban agriculture as well as questions related to the outcomes of the external workshop. It was sent to 50 people.

The responses generally support the outcomes of the external workshop and provided insight into the perceived opportunities and challenges related to urban agriculture for local businesses in the following key areas:

1. Logistics and Operations
 - Logistical challenges
 - Short growing season and reduced yields
 - Extend the season using greenhouses and improve yields
 - Turn waste into resources through partnerships
2. Community Wellbeing
 - Grow edible landscaping and public fruit trees to help feed people
 - Leverage existing service clubs and social programs to create more opportunities
3. Marketing and Partnerships
 - Advertising expenses
 - Networking and partnerships
 - Group advertising and cross-promotion
 - Expand regional market/marketing
 - Capitalize on proximity to traveling public from airport

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Findings from this engagement, along with best practice research will be used to draft the Urban Agriculture Plan. The Plan will be submitted to the EMRB to review for conformity with the RAMP. Lastly, the Plan will be shared with Council.

The Plan is expected to be finalized in Q1 of 2025. Once the Urban Agriculture Plan is complete it will be posted on the City's website at <https://www.leduc.ca/uap>.

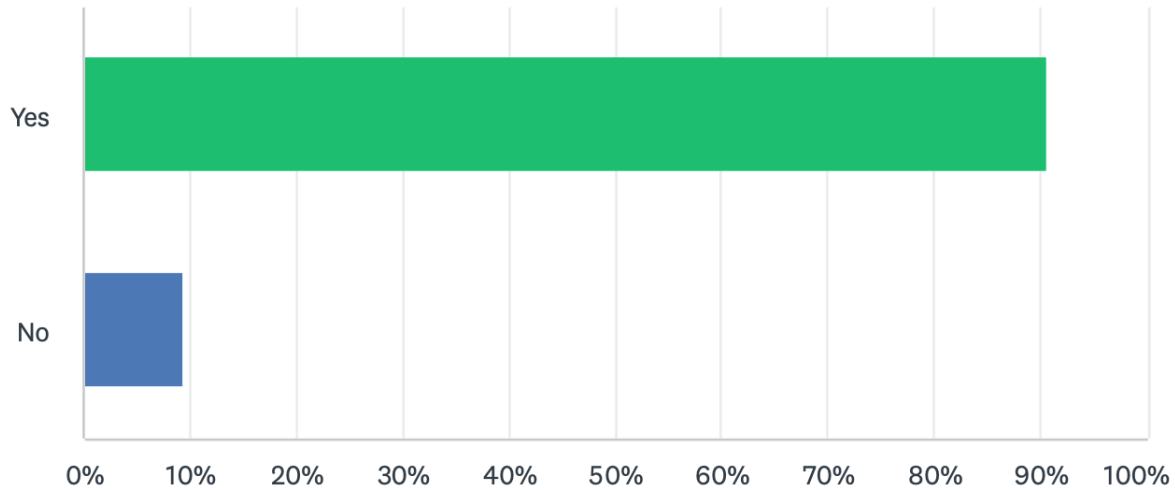
We thank all residents and community members who contributed their time participating and commenting on urban agriculture in Leduc.

APPENDIX A – PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Demographics

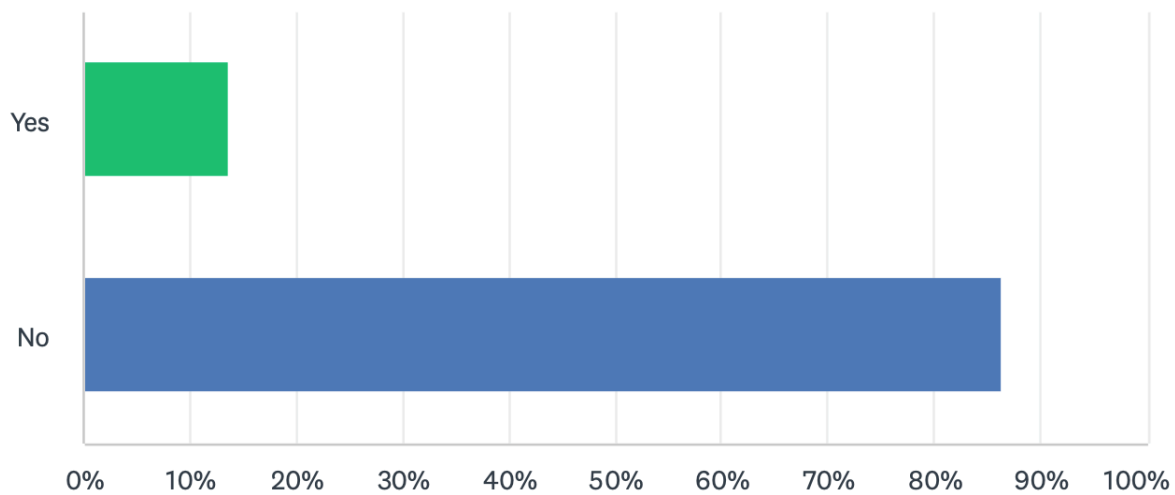
Do you live in the City of Leduc?

The majority (90.5%) of respondents live in the City of Leduc.



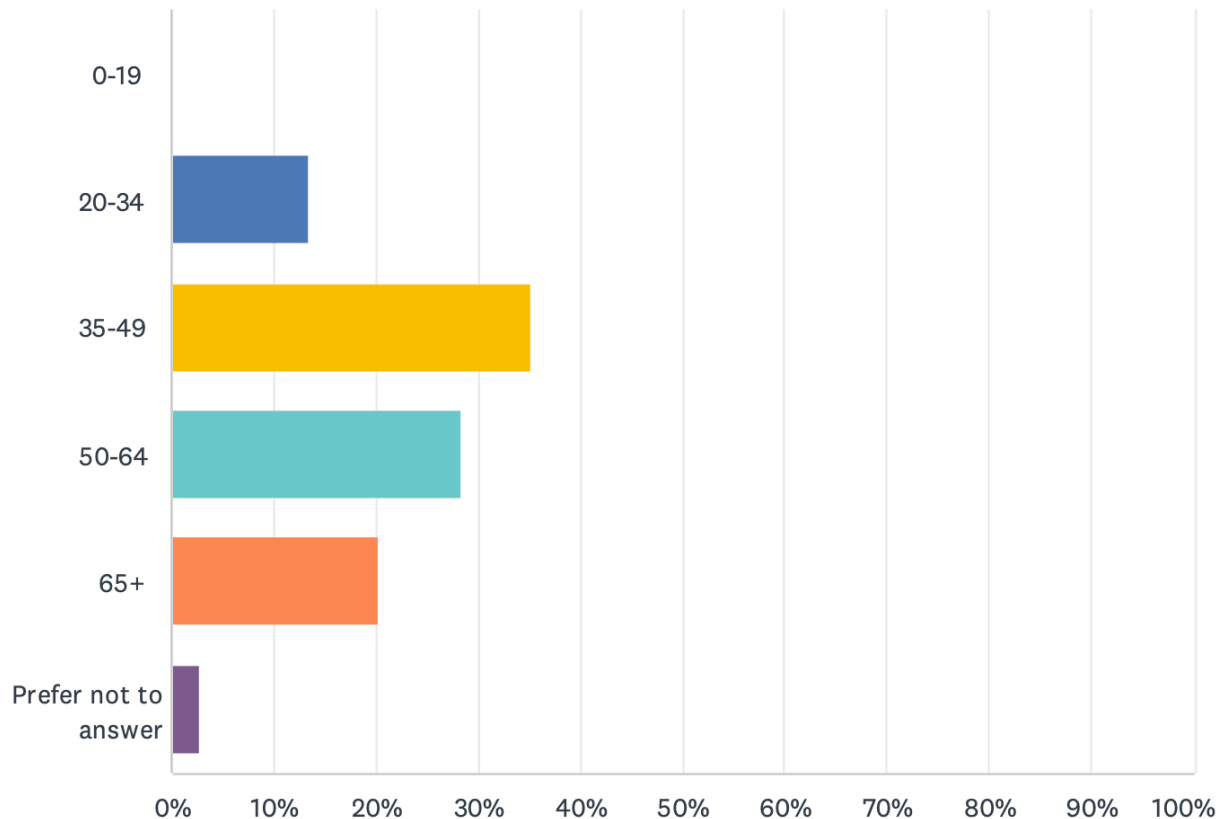
Do you own or operate a business in the City of Leduc?

13.7% of respondents operate a business in the City of Leduc.



What is your age?

Respondents aged 35-49 years of age accounted for 35.1% of responses. The second largest demographic were those aged 50-64 years (28.4%). Followed by the 65+ age group making up 20.3% of responses. 13.5% were from the 20-34 age group. No responses were received by those 19 and under. 2.7% preferred not to answer.



Meaning of Urban Agriculture

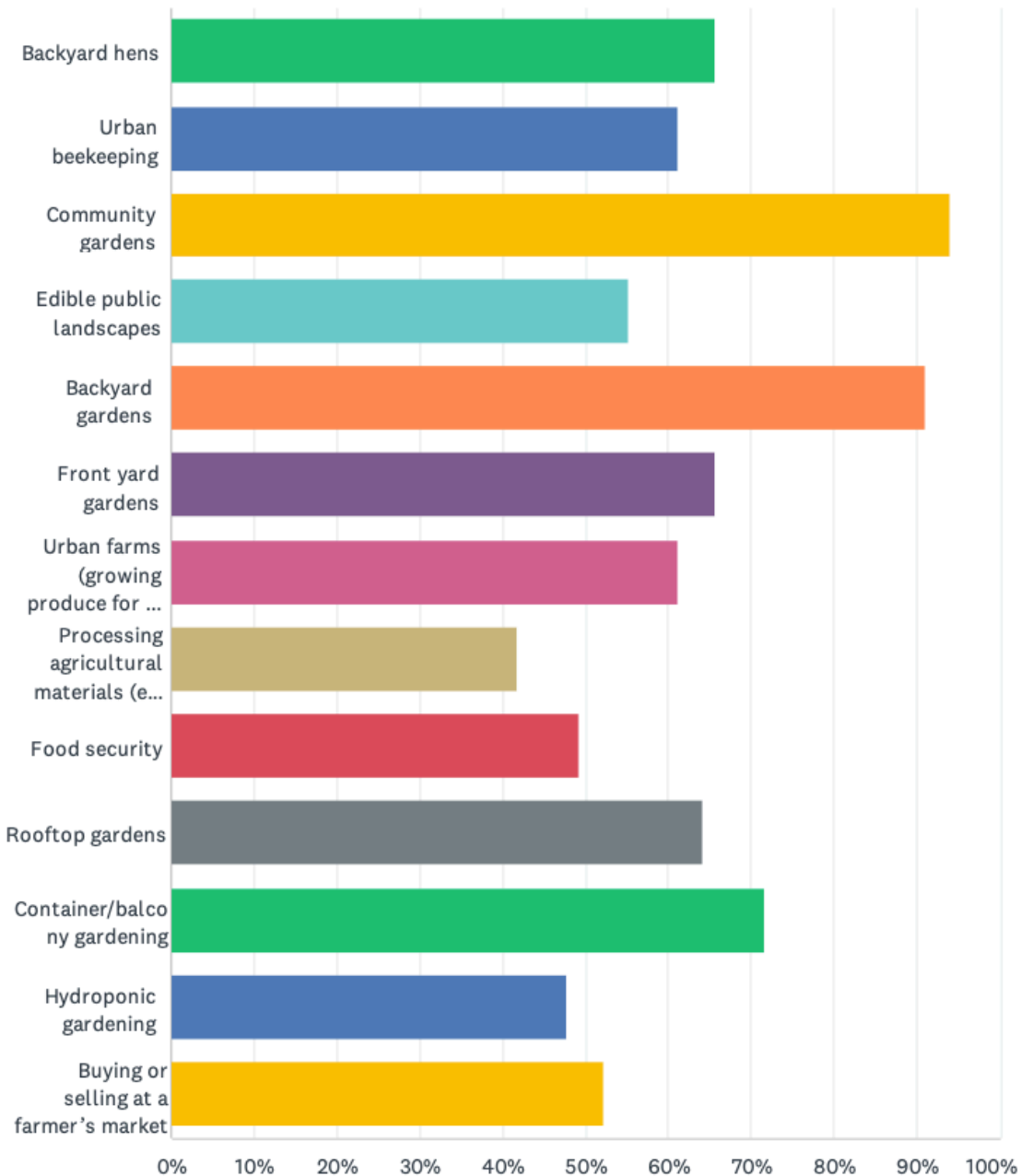
What does urban agriculture mean to you? (Check all that apply)

The following list shows what respondents selected as what urban agriculture means to them in the order of most to least selected:

1. Community Gardens – 94%
2. Backyard Gardens – 91%
3. Container/Balcony Gardening – 71.6%
4. Front Yard Gardens – 65.7%
5. Backyard Hens – 65.7%
6. Rooftop gardens – 64.2%

7. Urban Beekeeping – 61.2%
8. Urban Farms (growing produce for use beyond personal consumption to sell for income generation) – 61.2%
9. Edible Public Landscapes – 55.2%
10. Buying or selling at a farmer’s market – 52.2%
11. Food Security – 49.3%
12. Hydroponic Gardening – 47.8%
13. Processing Agricultural Materials – 41.8%

One response was submitted under other which said involving youth.



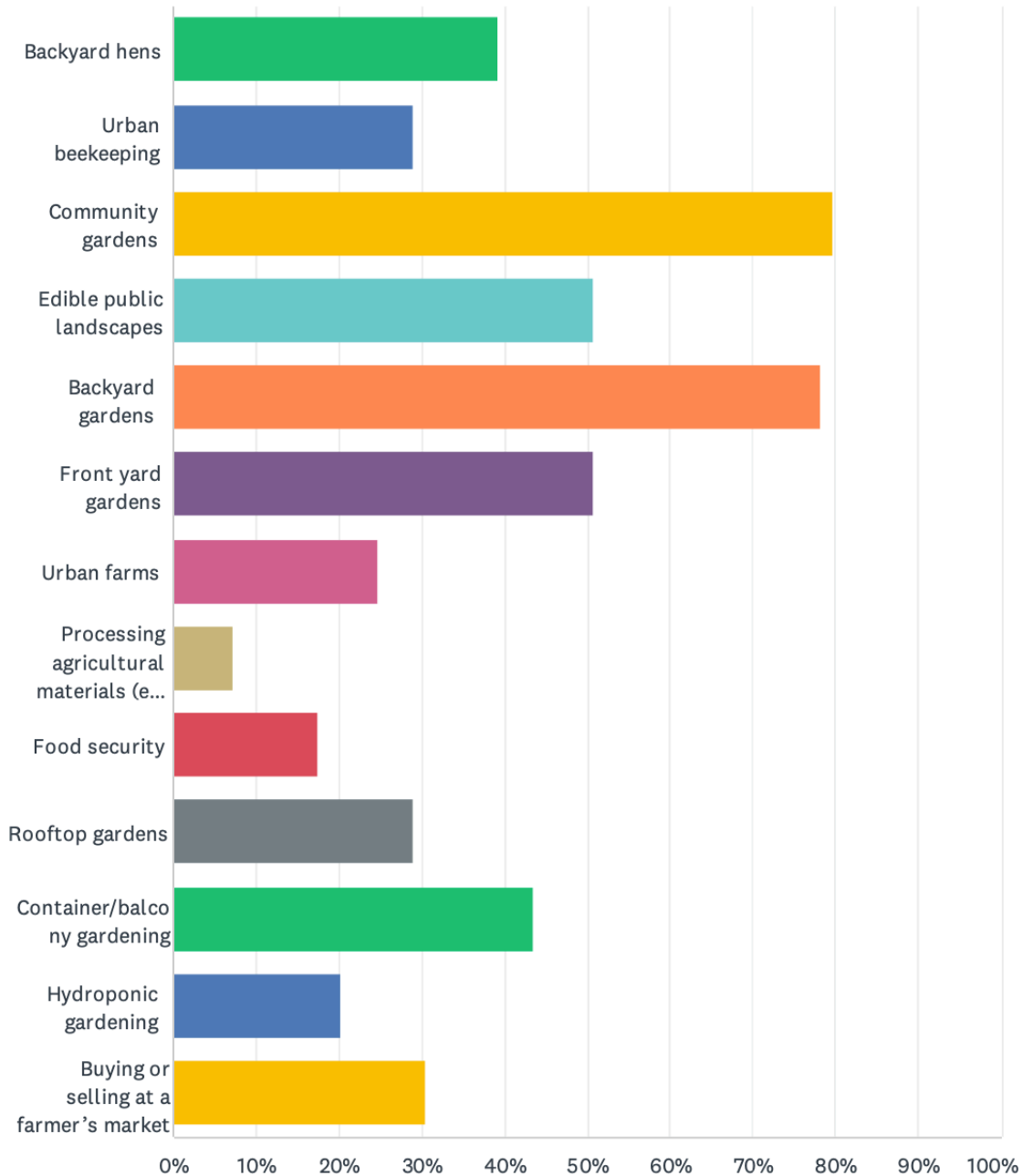
Please choose the top five forms of urban agriculture you would like to see in the City?

The following list shows the order of most to least selected forms of urban agriculture respondents chose they would like to see in the City:

1. Community Gardens – 79.7%
2. Backyard Gardens – 78.3%
3. Front Yard Gardens – 50.7%
4. Edible Public Landscapes – 50.7%
5. Container/Balcony Gardening – 43.5%
6. Backyard Hens – 39.3%
7. Buying or selling at a farmer's market – 30.4%
8. Rooftop Gardens – 29%
9. Urban Beekeeping – 29%
10. Urban Farms – 24.6%
11. Hydroponic Gardening – 20.3%
12. Food Security – 17.4%
13. Processing Agricultural Materials (e.g. beef to beef jerky e, honey/jams, wheat to flour, etc.) – 7.3%

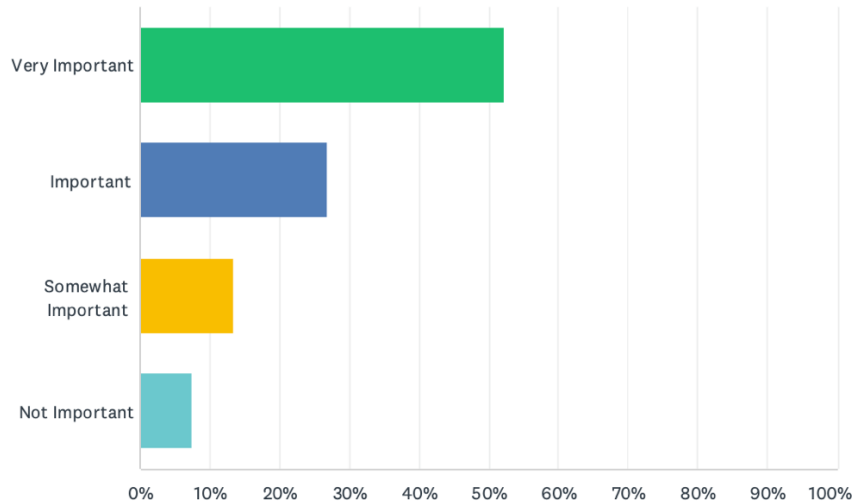
The following two responses were submitted under other:

- Absolutely NONE. Agriculture belongs in the country
- Fruit tree forests



How important is urban agriculture to you?

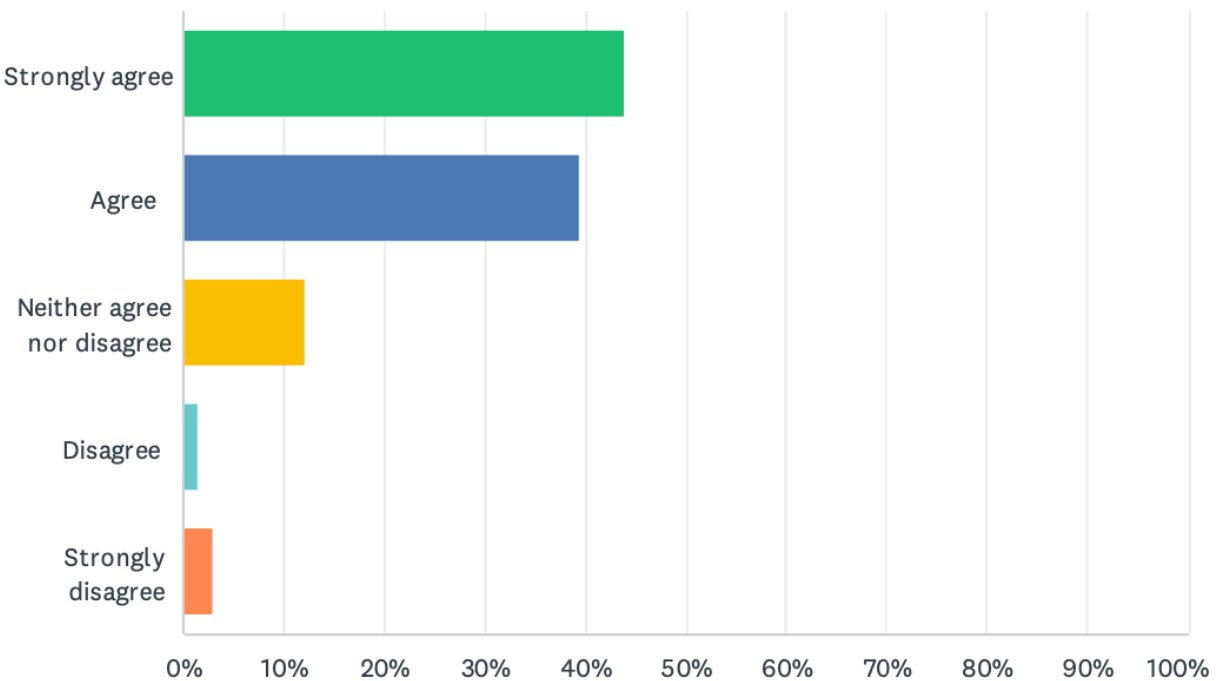
Majority of respondents (52.2%) indicated urban agriculture is very important to them, 26.9% indicated it is important to them, 13.4% believe it is somewhat important and 7.5% indicated it is not important to them.



Exploring Potential Urban Agriculture Initiatives

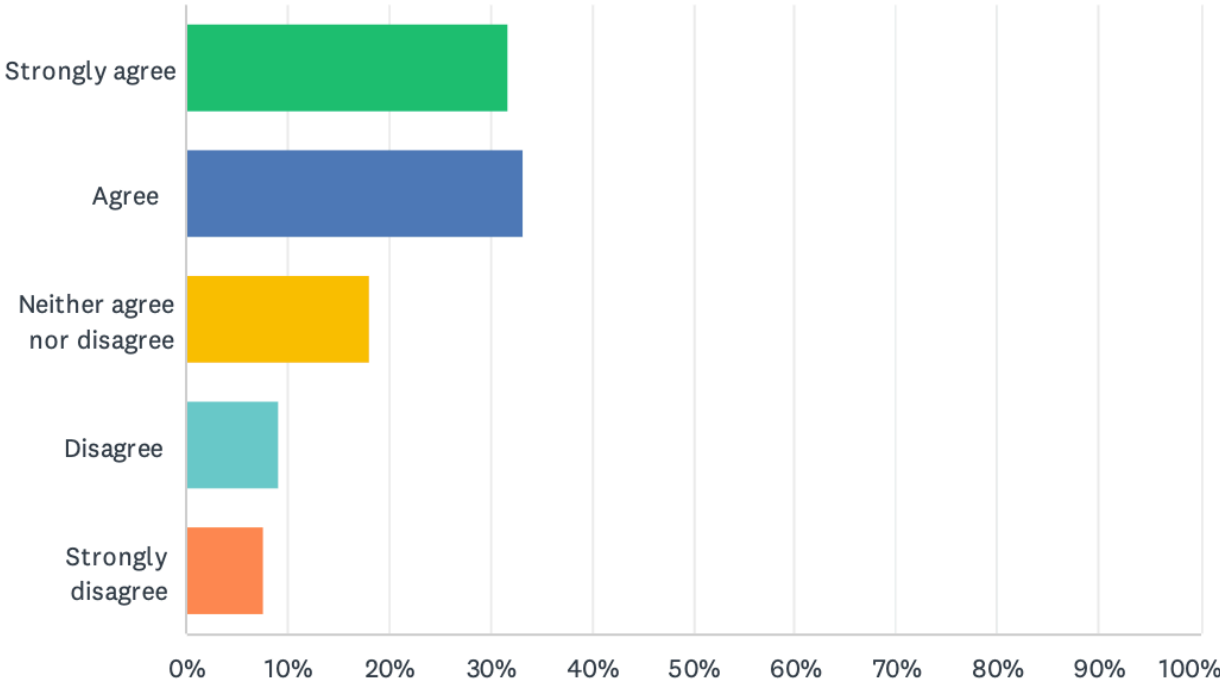
The City should allow public lands to be used for community gardens (i.e., in parks)

Most respondents either strongly agree (43.9%) or agree (39.4%), while 12.1% neither agree nor disagree. 1.5% disagree and 3% strongly disagree.



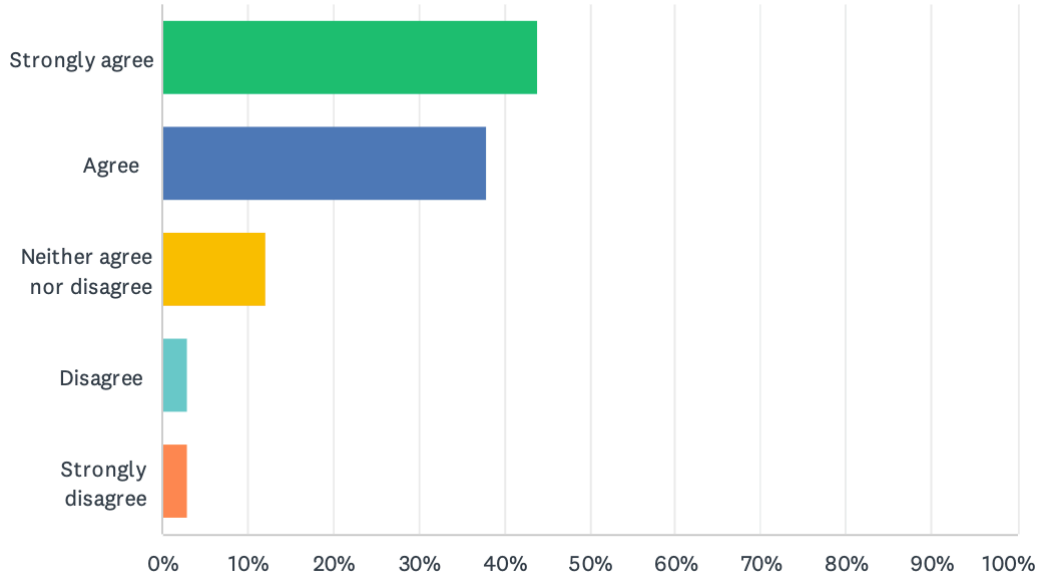
The City should create a program to support people to replace their front lawns with edible landscaping, including vegetable gardens.

Respondents mainly supported this statement with 31.8% strongly agreeing and 33.3% agreeing. 18.2% neither agreed or disagreed, while 9.1% disagreed and 7.6% strongly disagreed.



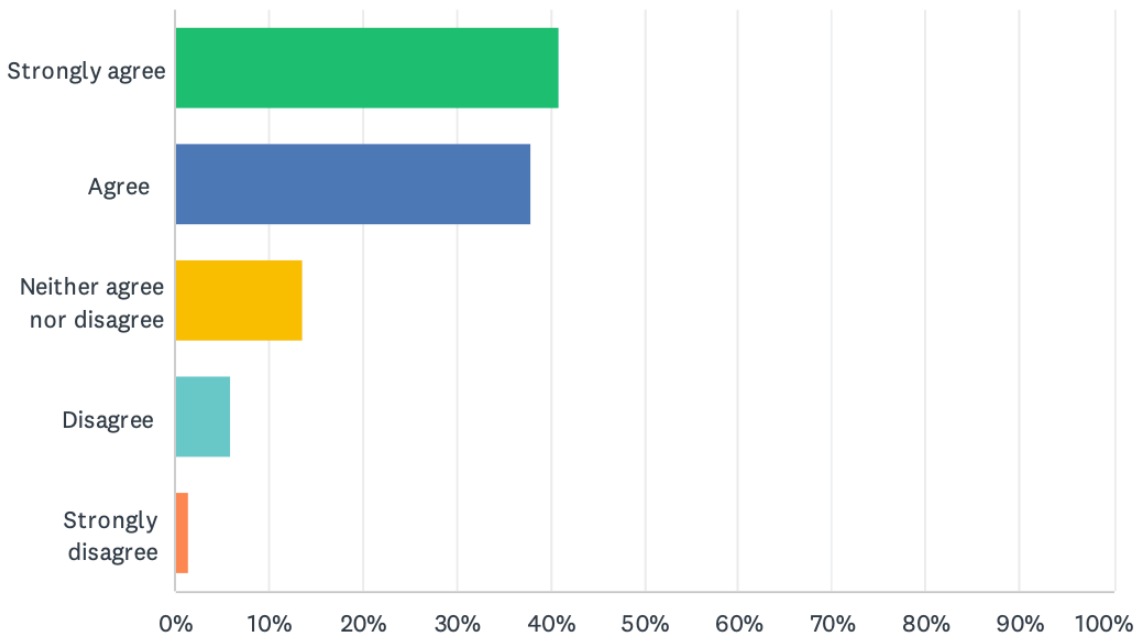
The City should allow edible landscaping in public areas such as berry bushes, fruit-bearing trees, or annual vegetables.

There was strong support for this initiative with 43.9% strongly agreeing and 37.9% agreeing. 12.1% were neutral, neither agreeing or disagreeing and 6% expressed opposition, split evenly between 3% disagreeing and 3% strongly disagreeing.



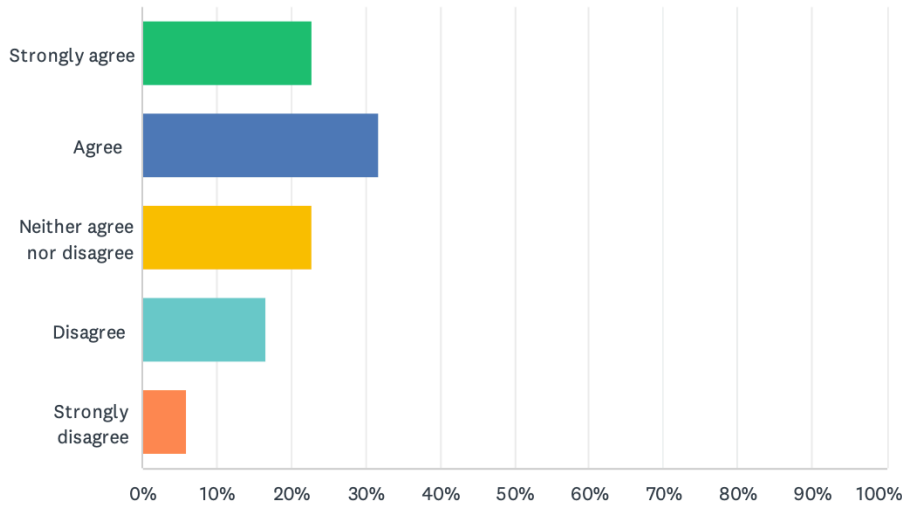
The City should plant neighbourhood orchards on public land for dedicated tree fruit production and fruit processing. (i.e. a collection of fruit trees shared by the community in a publicly accessible area)

This initiative received significant support with 40.9% strongly agreeing and 37.9% agreeing. 13.6% did not agree or disagree. 6.1% of respondents disagree and 1.5% strongly disagree.



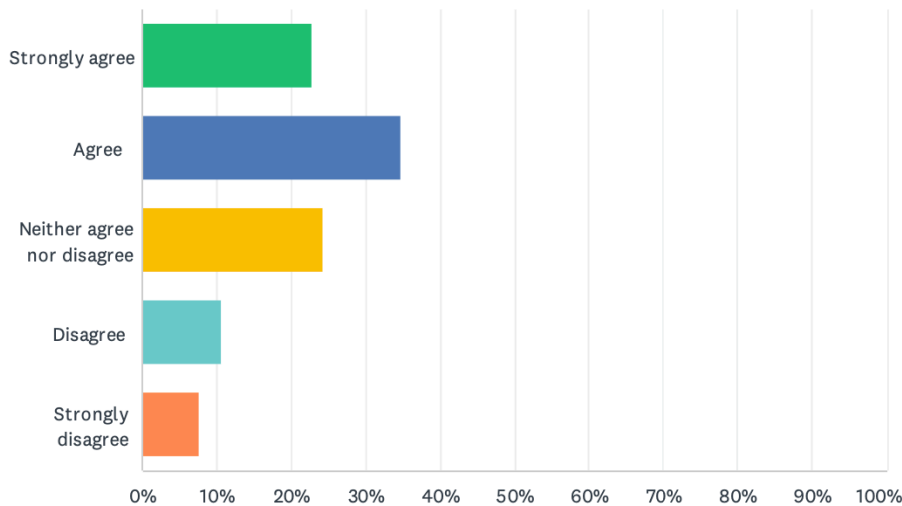
The City should allow people to convert their residential yards into small market gardens to grow and sell produce off-site.

This initiative was generally supported with 22.7% of respondents in strong agreement, 31.8% in agreement. 22.7% neither agree nor disagree. 16.7% disagree and 6.1% strongly disagree.



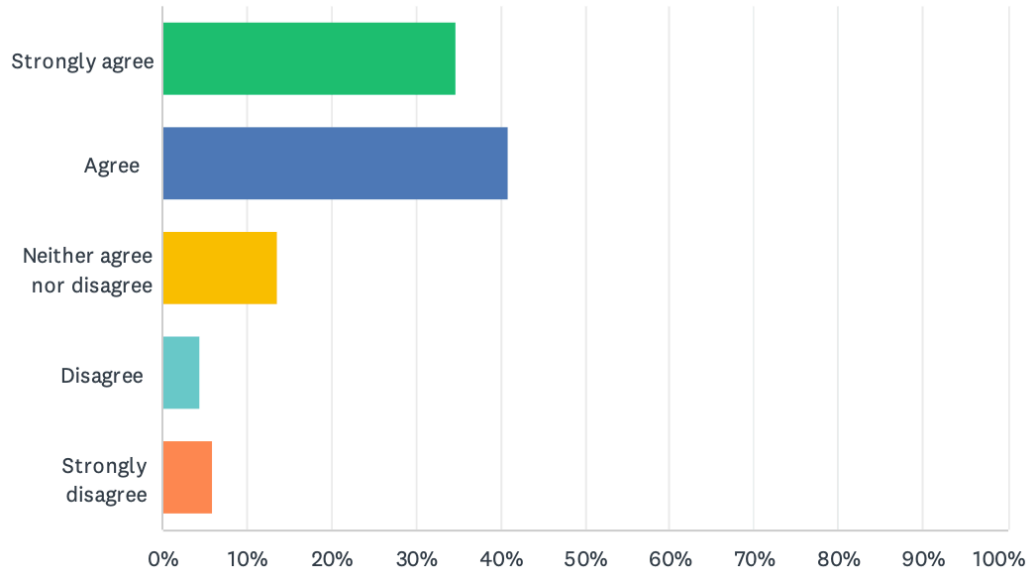
The City should consider leasing vacant publicly owned land to be used for growing produce for commercial purposes.

This initiative was generally supported with 22.7% of respondents in strong agreement, 34.9% in agreement. 24.2% neither agree nor disagree. 10.6% disagree and 7.6% strongly disagree.



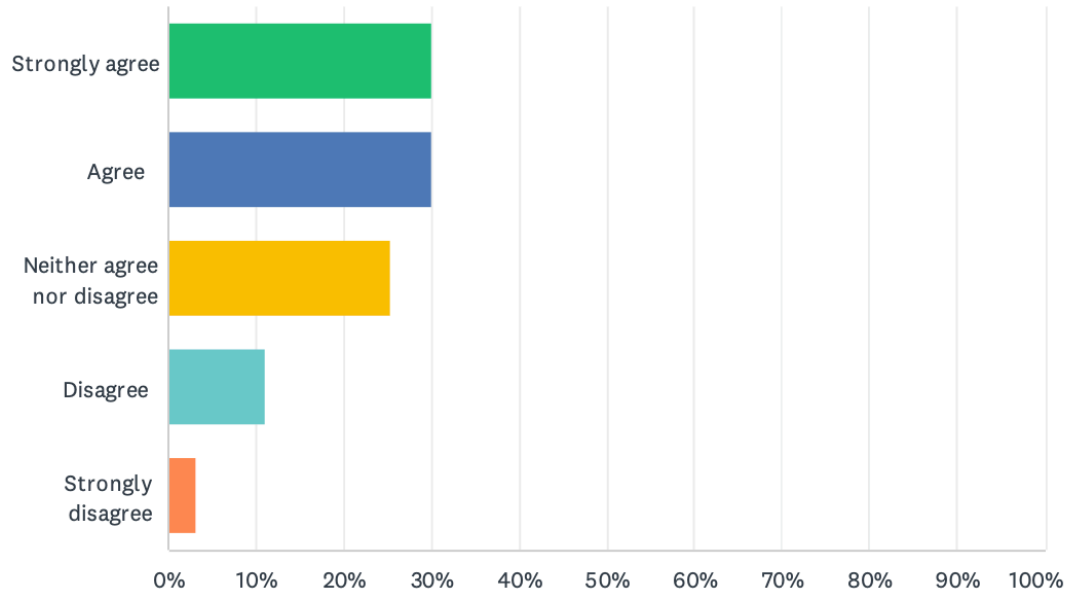
The City should create incentives to support value-added agriculture businesses. For example: craft breweries, distillery, bakery or deli using local grains or meats and cheese.

This initiative was largely supported with 34.9% and 40.9% of respondents strongly agreeing and agreeing respectively. 13.6% were impartial and did not agree or disagree. 4.6% and 6.1% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree respectively.



To what extent would you agree with the following: The City should create an indoor community food growing space (hydroponic or aquaponic growing setups) for personal year-round local food production.

This initiative was supported by respondents with 30.2% strongly agreeing and 30.2% agreeing. 25.4% were impartial and did not agree or disagree. 11.1% and 3.2% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree respectively.



Barriers to Urban Agriculture

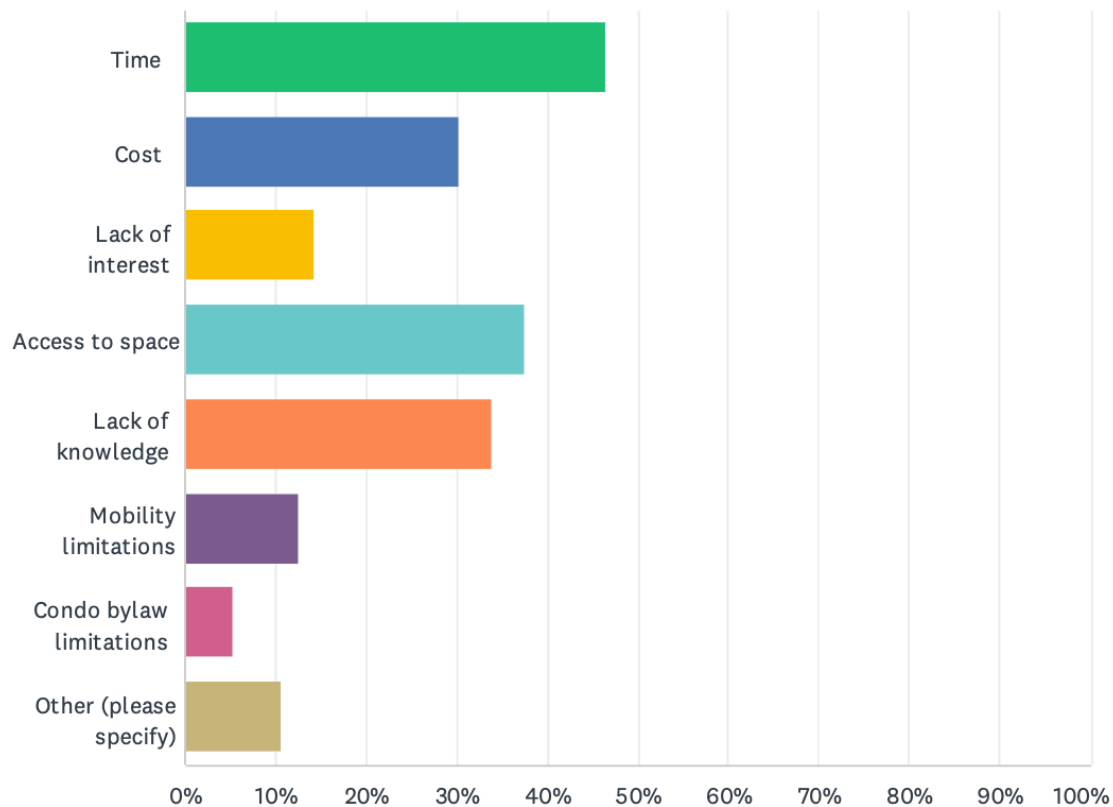
If you do not grow some of your own food, what are the barriers to doing so? (Check all that apply)

The following list shows the order of most commonly selected barriers to respondents growing their own food.

1. Time – 46.4%
2. Access to Space – 37.5%
3. Lack of Knowledge – 33.9%
4. Cost – 30.4%
5. Lack of Interest – 14.3%
6. Mobility Limitations – 12.5%
7. Condo Bylaw Limitations – 5.4%

The following responses were submitted under other:

- I do grow my own food
- Apartment balcony space and light limitations
- Seed germination is a problem for many gardeners lately .. why? .. that's a good question
- Live in an apartment
- I do grow a lot of my food
- I own a farm as well I grow a lot of food there



The City has a Backyard Hens program, what would stop you from participating? (Check all that apply)

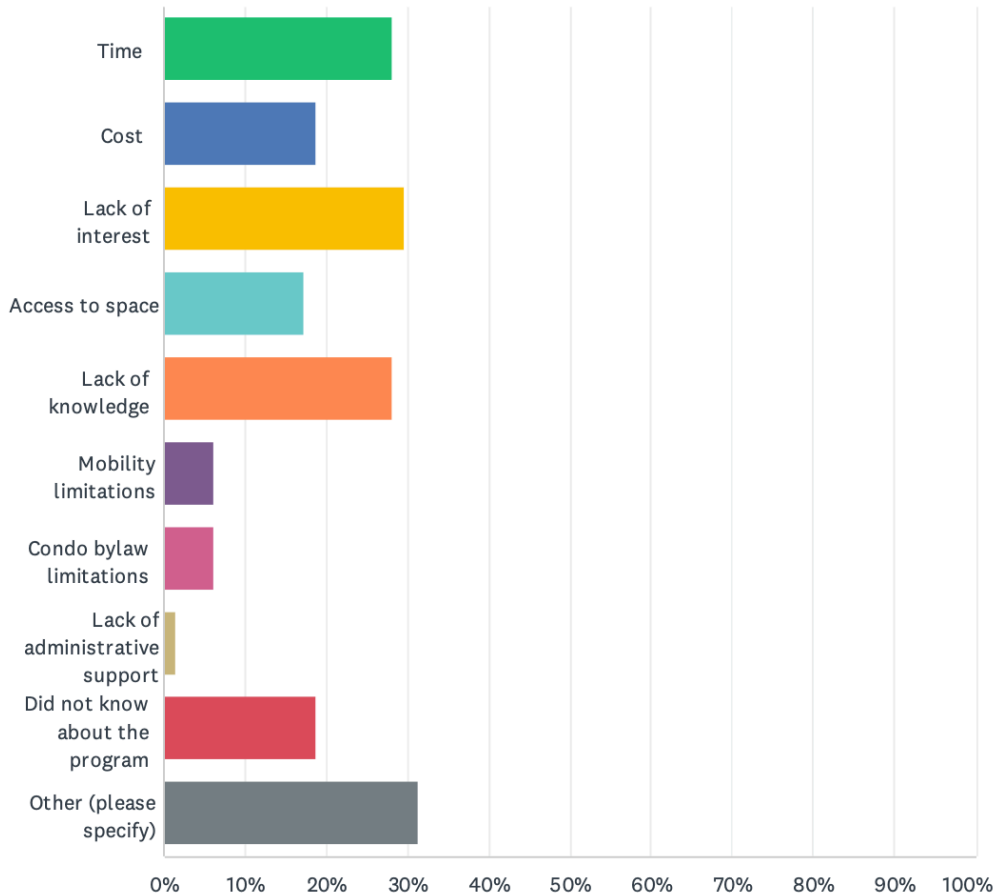
The following list shows the order of most commonly selected barriers to respondents participating in the Backyard Hens program.

1. Lack of Interest – 29.7%
2. Time – 28.1%
3. Lack of Knowledge – 28.1%
4. Cost – 18.8%
5. Didn't know about the program – 18.8%
6. Access to Space – 17.2%
7. Mobility Limitations – 6.3%
8. Condo Bylaw Limitations – 6.3%
9. Lack of Administrative Support – 1.6%

The following responses were submitted under other:

- Housing chickens etc. in the winter

- This would become another problem. People start out with good intentions, then we would have unwanted chickens.
- Vacation
- Neighbor permission — if I am responsible, take the required courses, etc, I should be able to have backyard hens. I grew up around chickens all my life. I should not require their permission if the city approves my application. If they can do drugs, I can have hens.
- Live in apartment and don't like chickens in the city
- trailer park rented land agreement/limitations
- I hate birds of any kind
- Loud and smelly
- Not appropriate for densely populated residential areas. Attracts coyotes.
- Livestock of any nature does not belong in the city limits and should be fully restricted. This is a severe invasion of enjoyment and privacy of personal properties (the neighbors who have to put up with the smell and sounds).
- The application process and the red tape to do so
- Probably not a good combination with our dog
- Unable to meet fencing criteria in current neighborhood
- Live in an apartment
- Pet ownership
- If raised for meat, who will kill them for me?
- Allergies
- I do not believe in backyard chickens and I would NEVER want to live by one!
- The regulations for this program are so onerous that most people interested don't proceed
- Chickens are evil and stinky



The City has a Backyard Bee Keeping program, what would stop you from participating? (Check all that apply)

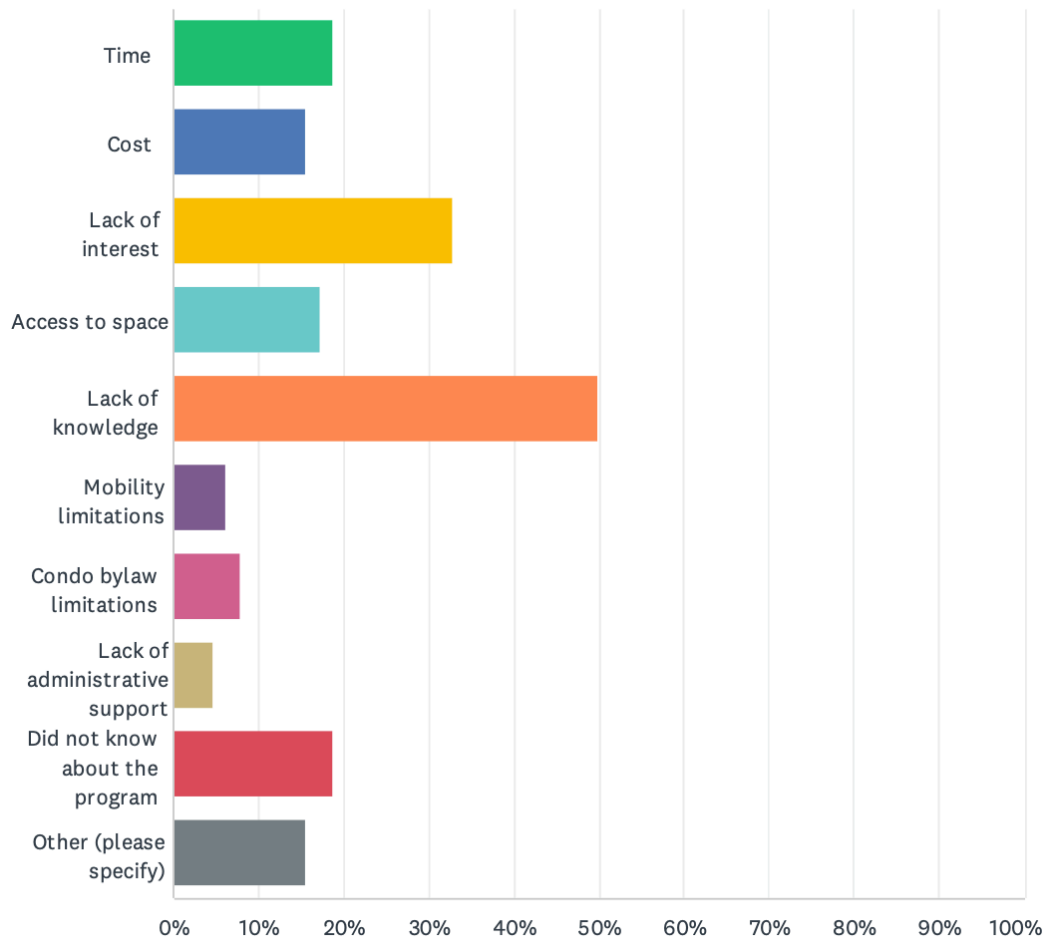
The following list shows the order of most commonly selected barriers to respondents participating in the Backyard Bee Keeping program.

1. Lack of Knowledge – 50%
2. Lack of Interest – 32.8%
3. Time – 18.8%
4. Didn't know about the program – 18.8%
5. Access to Space – 17.2%
6. Cost – 15.6%
7. Condo Bylaw Limitations – 7.8%
8. Mobility Limitations – 6.3%
9. Lack of Administrative Support – 4.7%

The following responses were submitted under other:

- Allergic to bees

- Fear of bees
- getting sued, dealing with neighbors and surrounding people
- trailer park rented land agreement/limitations
- death
- Fear of being stung and having bees around children.
- criteria in current neighborhood
- pet ownership
- I'm scared I might feel stung
- Bee keepers are better in the country side - do not need them in the city



Education & Awareness

If the City offered urban agriculture educational workshops or material, which of the following topics would you be interested in learning about. (Check all that apply)

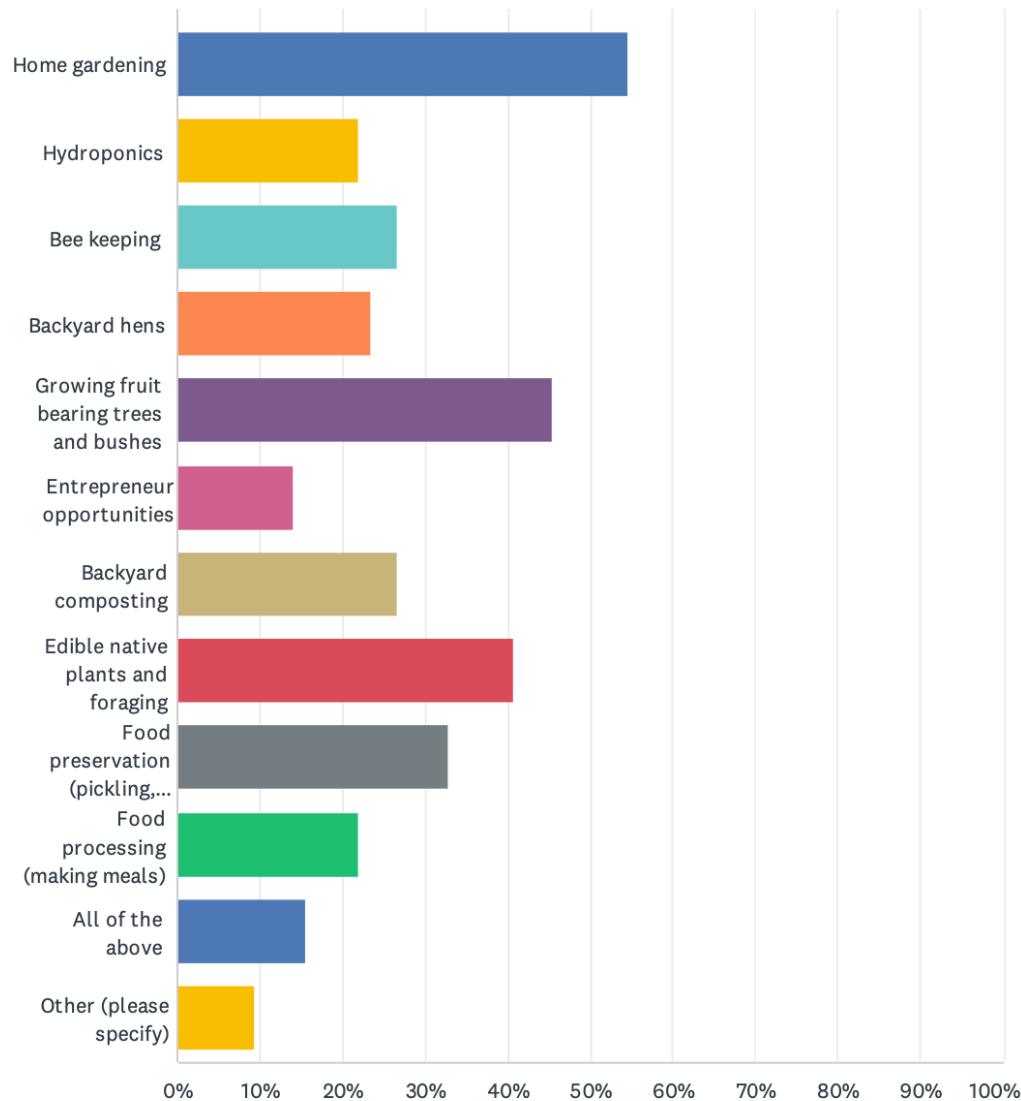
Respondents were interested in learning about urban agriculture in the following order:

1. Home Gardening – 54.7%
2. Growing fruit bearing trees and bushes – 45.3%
3. Edible Native Plants and foraging – 40.6%
4. Food preservation (pickling, canning, jams etc.) – 32.8%
5. Beekeeping – 26.6%
6. Backyard Composting – 26.6%
7. Backyard Hens – 23.4%
8. Hydroponics – 21.9%
9. Food Processing (making meals) – 21.9%
10. Entrepreneur Opportunities – 14.1%

Additionally, 15.6% wanted to learn about all options.

The following responses were submitted under other:

- Outdoor cooking
- Not interested
- Waste of time and money, use the internet
- None
- Apartment food growing
- None of the above



Select the top three ways you would like to learn more about urban agriculture?

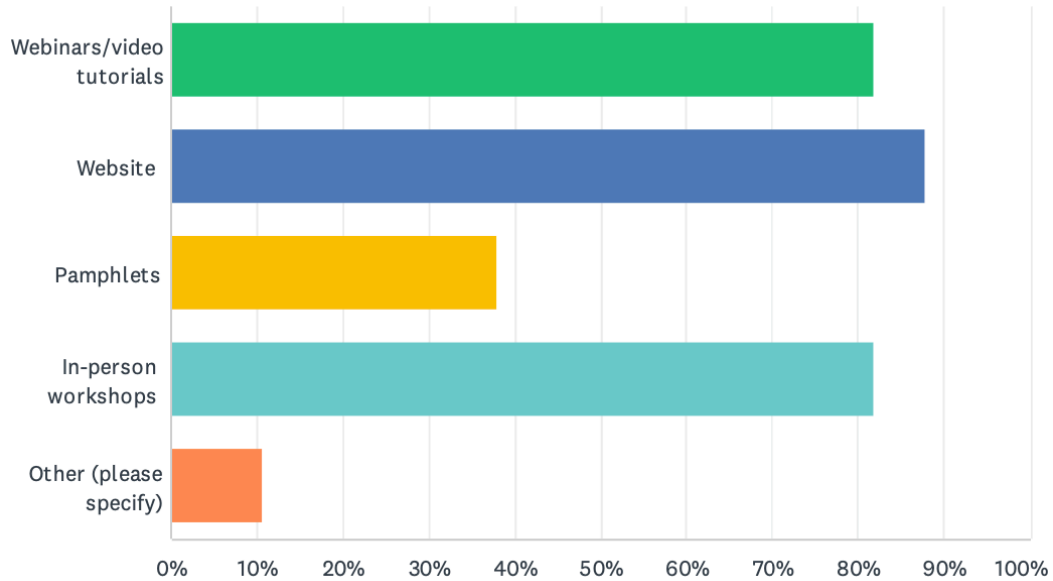
Respondents were interested in learning about urban agriculture through the following methods:

1. Website – 87.9%
2. Webinars/ Video Tutorials – 81.8%
3. In-person Workshops – 81.8%
4. Pamphlets – 37.9%

The following responses were submitted under other:

- Touring successful operations

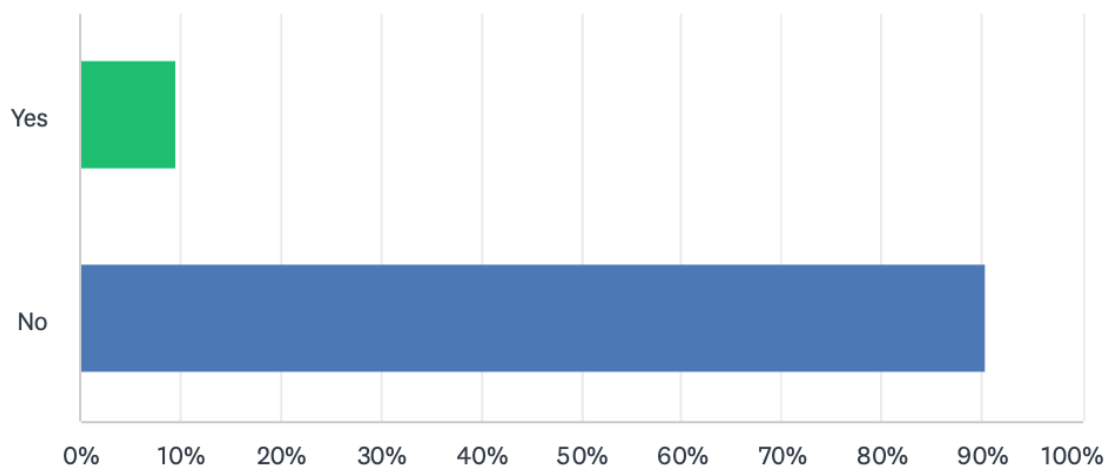
- Flyers
- Internet
- The only interest I have is the City of Leduc not spending tax dollars on this/these programs
- Hands on
- None of the above
- Clubs for sharing knowledge and building community



Food Insecurity

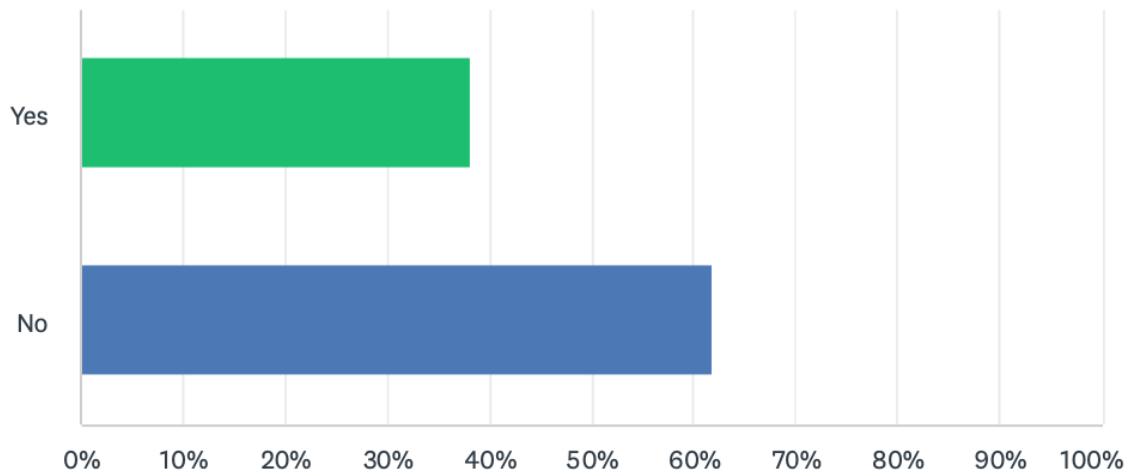
Have you or your household experienced food insecurity?

9.5% of respondents have experienced food insecurity.



Has someone you know personally and who lives in the City of Leduc experienced food insecurity?

38.1% of respondents know someone who has experienced food insecurity in the City of Leduc.



Do you have any other comments on urban agriculture within the City?

Below is a list of all other comments:

- I walk past the city garden plots almost daily, I have noticed a few plots are well maintained, the majority however appear abandoned after a few weeks and interest is lost.
- A few of us had asked the City of Leduc in 2013/2014 to have the space for an urban garden, (like in Telford) in each area of Leduc, ex: Robinson, West Haven etc. The reply that was given was if they have enough land in the area they would consider it. It is now 2024 & still nothing has been done. Thank you for looking into this again. I feel the community requires either a community garden or more back yard space to grow some food for our own use.
- If public lands are to be leased for commercial purpose and to create a profit, it should lower our taxes at a 1:1 ratio.
- I really hope the community gardens at Lede Park are up and running again next year. Hopefully after some weed control and raking. I didn't have a garden there but know so many that do. It is such a necessary piece to a vibrant and healthy community culture.
- There has to be complete cooperation with the city, along with KNOWLEDGEABLE persons to support this. The city needs more support and more education. As well, the City needs to provide more support for the community gardens. They have been neglected for years - for example: weedy

gardens and pesty gardens have not been plowed up. The soil needs to be enriched from year to year i.e. fallowing every other year, planting nitrogen enriched cover crops, and letting livestock winter on these gardens. The soil needs nutrients and management, not just garden after garden every year. There are chemical free nutrient programs, and the City is not doing these.

- The current community gardens need much better management. The 2024 year has the gardens shut down. All I have seen this year, is the area was left all spring to weed growth. Finally it was tilled. Now it requires tilling again to remove nutrient robbing weeds. What needs to be done is have a rotation between gardens, fallow the soil, then rotate between grass/alfalfa. It could be fenced so livestock could be introduced in the grassed area providing additional soil health. The city needs to follow their own rules. Unkept gardens should be plowed under so their weeds don't become a problem for other gardeners.
- I love that these questions are being asked and wish you all the best as you try to implement great ideas.
- I'd love to see more ways that we can be more sustainable as residents. I think this is a fabulous idea. I'd love backyard hens and gardening. I'd also like to know better ways to store food we grow like an alternative to root cellars. All this would be great but I hope it wouldn't increase taxes too much. Also, schools should have gardens that students look after. Each class would have their own garden and either kids could go home with food they grow or the cafeteria uses it or kids are taught how to cook healthy meals.
- No chickens or other "farm" animals.
- Whatever the choices the city undertakes, it needs to be sustainable— meaning large enough to provide those who may actually need the food. not just being able to pick one cup of berries from an outdoor space one month of the year. And those who are accessing should also be responsible to maintain the areas. maybe the city could use their resources for purchase power?? water barrels, metal raised garden boxes, appropriate fruit trees and berry bushes suitable for our zone.
- For the above question #21 make it a program so that you learn about the growing process and help out with the maintenance of the grow space so it is not just ransacked by those who would take all for nothing, as we have seen in the community garden plots
- Check out landusekn.ca/resource/growing-insights-module-3-planning-governance In 2015, FRI, Hinton, produced a four part MOCC (open course) on Urban Agriculture in Alberta. Still a great resource for planners.
- The generations 100 years ago knew more than the present generations. Knowledge has been lost .. Family structures have changed .. Everyone wants instant gratification, ex: Fast Food Restaurants. Urban Community Gardens at some point may have to be Fenced with a Lock and Key. It is expensive to buy Seeds and the amount of Seeds one gets per Package is hideous, and there is no guarantee that the Seeds will Germinate .. which for some odd reason has been happening the last few years .. why?? You tell me?? And when one has to

continue to replant .. well, the growing season is limited as to when one can reap the benefits, before the plants are killed by the coming Frost. The amount of money I have paid for Seeds and what I have actually Reaped is discouraging.

- The city needs to stay in their lane, urban agriculture is to be an activity of interest and not a social program.
- This is not the intended use of property taxes paid within the City of Leduc. There is far too much wasteful spending already. If individuals want to have a garden in their yards, there is nothing stopping them currently. The keeping of chickens or other livestock will sharply increase the use of Bylaw services for complaints and quite possibly introduction of legal challenges.
- Weed control needs to be part of any plan.
- Keep going
- Until this survey I had no idea that the hen and bee keeping programs were available. Having said that as a dog owner neither would be practical. (I'm quite sure cat owners would have the same problems.)
- Huge emphasis on support/incentivize the small local businesses and farmers. Grow our farmers markets into a family friendly event on Main Street. Encourage community sellers
- I think apartment buildings should have spaces outdoors to grow together like a co-op
- Nothing should stop urban agriculture. it is good for all
- This all sounds so wonderful, I really hope to see much of this come to fruition. Having fresh food grown instead of grass would be great to see. I think community members would likely volunteer to help if given the opportunity. I would!
- As a teacher, we would love the chance to partner with the City to involve the youth at our school. We have a mobile greenhouse project that we are working on, and would love to have a community garden space and greenhouse at our school!
- Re open community gardens
- Citizens who grow their own veggies and fruits, and City owned land with fruit and veggies, should be able to donate excess to the Food Bank, or donated to some group who would process (jams, frozen veggies) and give to Food Bank.
- I just moved to Leduc last November. I am so impressed with your focus on providing and maintaining green spaces. Well done!
- I think lawns are a waste of space and gardening food should be encouraged on private and public space
- Indoor community food growing would be very cool to see. Gathering people to share knowledge about their own setups or offer in home help would be good too.
- I strongly dislike the idea of turning parkland into agricultural land (including what you've done with Doris Smith Park. It's horrible! Now you want to take away more parkland to turn into farms? Don't!

- The City of Leduc needs to advertise more regarding home hen/bee production, home gardening, etc. As property owners, we need to have easy access to info regarding urban agriculture opportunities within the city.
- Green spaces are an under utilized area that could be made more useful and inviting by planting permaculture food forests. I live just off of grassy nook park and I would love to help transform some of that into a food forest or be more involved in making that a reality.
- Hens are a lot of trouble and sanitation and disease are big problems with them. And who would monitor the flocks and protect fowl and people from bird flu?

APPENDIX B – STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

As a local business, what role, if any, could urban agriculture play in your current or future business plans?

- We currently partner with local farmers to grow produce for the business as they play a vital role in the success of our business.
- Community garden, interpretive & educational teaching onsite, farming demonstrations
- Food Banks Alberta is a charity organization that helps support a network of food banks across the province with food procurement and distribution. Hydroponics, community gardens, backyard hens, and edible public landscaping are a great way to address food insecurity in the community. A great way to glean or source for the less fortunate.

If your business is already related in some manner to urban agriculture, what barriers, if any, do you experience in reaching a larger market, either regionally or beyond?

- Year round growing conditions (passive solar greenhouse investments in the near future)
- Advertising is very expensive
- Sourcing/procuring locally grown food. Charities don't often have a lot of funds to purchase retail-cost items. By gleaning, picking up extra farmer's goods or even edible public landscaping would be a great way to support local food banks. In particular, if it was on a GIS program for everyone to access; it's been done successfully already in High Level.

Do you see any untapped local or regional opportunities as it relates to urban agriculture part of your business, if applicable?

- Yes we do. we are currently working with local farmers to grow produce year round and working on local investments to create a sustainable growing conditions for farmers.
- More group action for developing tours, advertising, leveraging the airport traffic flow to stay in & explore the area
- Maybe the Industrial sectors of Leduc and in Nisku? There are numerous untapped fields that could be used to set up local gardens. Maybe planting more edible apple trees or cherry trees rather than just poplar or ash? Many

European cities plant fruiting trees in communities for locals to pick and eat. It might be nice to emulate if possible.

What marketing techniques do you use to attract customers to your business as it relates to urban agriculture? (check all that apply)

All respondents use email blasts. Two respondents use Facebook, Instagram, and loyalty programs. One respondent uses X (formerly Twitter), company website, and radio ads. None of the respondents use TikTok, newspapers, coffee shop newsletters, or mailouts.

What areas do you focus your marketing? (check all that apply)

Two respondents focus Province wide while one respondent focuses on Leduc.

Is agri-tourism an aspect of your existing or proposed future business (including expansion of an existing business)? If yes, what sort of agri-tourism are you planning to incorporate into your business?

Two respondents do incorporate agri-tourism. One participates in farmers markets and advertising U-pick opportunities for local farmers. One hosts multiple events.

Do you use/sell locally grown produce or value-added products in your establishment?

Two respondents sell locally grown produce or value-added products.

What challenges exist within the supply chain? Do you see a role for the City of Leduc to help resolve those challenges?

- Logistics is probably our biggest challenge along with growing conditions for local growers to help increase yields.
- We serve food banks on a large scale, so although our local members accept farmer's market vegetables, etc., unless it is in large quantities to distribute equitably, we typically direct small- scale donations to locals. However, one partnership is looking to donate 10 pallets of fresh microgreens weekly, and distributing fresh across the province is logistical challenge we have never faced before. Is it possible for the City of Leduc to participate in this project or help support?

If you are currently involved in agriculture, what risks/opportunities does your operation experience because of being located within a city?

- Risk - logistics - Leduc considered out of city limits (Edmonton) which in turn increases cost of goods. Opportunity - we are working very hard to become a zero waste facility and lots of local partnerships with farmers, businesses and customers to help fill this void.
- Seasonality of business

What partnership opportunities, if any, do you think may exist between the City of Leduc and community organizations to support or promote urban agriculture?

- Community gardens, recycling round up programs once a month, creating a sustainable green initiative to share with fellow citizens
- Help develop collaborative tours with affordable transportation and group advertising efforts
- Funding opportunities, volunteering, social well-being projects, community/school engagements, sponsor and donor recognitions/stewardships, etc.

What partnership opportunities, if any, do you think may exist between community organizations to support or promote urban agriculture?

- Community gardens
- Service clubs can play an active role in promotion of urban agriculture and agritourism projects as fundraisers in collaboration with businesses
- Social programs and schools may work together to start and care for community gardens, food banks are largely able to handle donations and turn them around to physically give to clients or process into meals for them. Those accessing social welfare may also be involved by working and caring for the gardens under supervision. Or help plant fruiting trees/edible landscaping to create employment opportunities. I'm not sure if I'm answering this correctly, but hopefully it helps!

Food Accessibility & Affordability is related to outcomes such as having a wide range of affordable local food options and encouraging local food production, distribution and use. Do you agree or disagree that the Urban Agriculture Plan should include Food Accessibility & Affordability as a principle?

All respondents agreed.

Education & Skill Development is related to outcomes such as people feeling confident in identifying safe foods to eat and people having the skills needed to participate in urban agriculture. Do you agree or disagree that the Urban Agriculture Plan should include Education & Skill Development as a principle?

All respondents agreed.

Community Wellbeing is related to outcomes such as eating healthy locally produced food and increased community urban agriculture events and initiatives. Do you agree or disagree that the Urban Agriculture Plan should include Community Wellbeing as a principle?

All respondents agreed.

Strong Local Food Economy is related to outcomes such as businesses using locally produced foods and opportunities for businesses to expand services or products related to urban agriculture. Do you agree or disagree that the Urban Agriculture Plan should include Strong Local Food Economy as a principle?

All respondents agreed.

Would you be interested in participating in urban agriculture initiatives as a participant, sponsor, or in-kind contributor?

Two respondents indicated they would be interested in participating and one would be interested in being a sponsor.

If you do not participate, what would increase your interest in participating in urban agriculture initiatives?

One respondent indicated partnership opportunities would increase their interest in participating. One respondent indicated they would like to sponsor and participate.

Would you be interested in leading any urban agriculture initiatives, such as offering food preparation classes or in-store tours of locally grown and available produce to groups?

Two respondents indicated they would be interested in leading an urban agriculture initiative.

In your experience dealing with the City of Leduc for permits or licenses related to your business, have you encountered policies or regulations that are barriers to your business? If so, please describe below.

Two respondents indicated they have not experienced any policy or regulation barriers.

In what ways could the City of Leduc better support your business as it relates to urban agriculture and food commercialization opportunities?

All respondents thought the City could better support by their business by offering grant opportunities for local urban agricultural pursuits. Two respondents indicated networking opportunities, making changes to restrictive bylaws, and maintaining a directory of producers/retailers/restauranteurs that support urban agriculture in and around Leduc would be ways the City could better support by their business.