

#### 4.5 “Growing in the City” – Part 1: Urban Food Production on City-Owned Lands

Committee received a report dated February 11, 2016, regarding updated policies and guidelines to support urban food production in the public realm.

Committee discussed:

- The practicality and appropriateness of having a City staff member present when trees are planted by residents.
- The policies that will be in place for deciding how people, who may not have an opportunity for a community garden in their neighbourhood, may have the possibility to be involved in a community garden in another neighbourhood.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Council:

1. Adopt the revised Community Gardens Policy (2016);
2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production;
3. Endorse a new Urban Food Tree Stewardship pilot program;
4. Adopt the revised Boulevard Gardening Guidelines, and instruct staff to prepare associated bylaw amendments.

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that recommendation number one (#1) be amended as follows

1. Adopt the revised Community Gardens Policy (2016), **subject to refinement of eligibility criteria in consultation with neighbourhood gardening groups, that balances the objective of equitable access to gardening opportunities for all city residents with the value of neighbourhood-based gardening for building community and sense of place;**

Committee discussed:

- Whether this proposed amendment will create barriers for those who wish to be involved in community gardens.

On the amendment:  
DEFEATED 16/COTW

For: Councillor Isitt

Against: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Loveday, Madoff, Thornton-Joe, and Young

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that recommendation number three (#3) be amended as follows:

3. Endorse a new Urban Food Tree Stewardship pilot program, **with planting undertaken as a joint initiative involving city staff and residents;**

Committee discussed:

- Whether having a City staff member present for planting is important.

On the amendment:  
CARRIED 16/COTW

For: Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Madoff, and Thornton-Joe  
Against: Mayor Helps and Councillor Young

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that recommendation number two (#2) be amended as follows:

2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production, **referred to staff for further refinement, recognizing opportunities for expanding food-bearing plant species in most City parks; and report back to council with revised map;**

On the amendment:  
DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY 16/COTW

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, that recommendation number two (#2) be amended as follows:

2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production, **and report back to council with a revised map;**

On the amendment:  
Motion failed due to no seconder

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that recommendation number two (#2) be amended as follows:

2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production, **and report back to council with revised map on an annual basis;**

On the amendment:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 16/COTW

*Mayor Helps withdrew from the meeting at 11:19 a.m. and returned at 11:21 a.m.*

*Councillor Madoff presided as Acting Mayor during her absence.*

**Main motion as amended:**  
That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Community Gardens Policy (2016);
2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production and report back to Council with revised map on an annual basis;
3. Endorse a new Urban Food Tree Stewardship pilot program, with planting undertaken as a joint initiative involving city staff and residents;

4. Adopt the revised Boulevard Gardening Guidelines, and instruct staff to prepare associated bylaw amendments.

Main motion as amended:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 16/COTW

*Councillor Coleman withdrew from the meeting at 11:23 a.m. and returned at 12:55*

#### 4.6 “Growing in the City” – Part 2: Regulatory Amendments to Support Small-Scale Commercial Urban Farming

Committee received a report dated February 12, 2016, presenting a series of amendments to City regulations to better support small-scale commercial urban agriculture.

Committee discussed:

- What restrictions and permissions would be involved for buildings that wish to have a greenhouse installed on the roof.

*Councillor Isitt withdrew from the meeting at 11:48 a.m. and returned at 11:50 a.m.*

- The provincial guidelines that are in place in regards to organic farming and whether prohibiting the use of pesticides is appropriate.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Council direct staff to:

1. Prepare a *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* amendment to:
  - a. Add "commercial agriculture" as a defined use to include the production of fruits, vegetables, flowers, fibre, seeds, nuts, seedlings, herbs, eggs and honey;
  - b. Allow the production of compost and soil amendments for retail purposes in industrial zones only;
  - c. Exclude products regulated by the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act* from the definition of commercial urban agriculture;
  - d. Permit commercial urban agriculture in all zones, provided it is not noxious or offensive to neighbours or the general public by reason of emitting unreasonable levels of odour, noise or artificial lighting;
  - e. Remove the reference to urban agriculture as a home occupation;
  - f. Defining farm stand as a container which holds, shelves or otherwise displays products of commercial agriculture for retail purposes outdoors
  - g. Allow partially enclosed farm stands up to 1.85 m<sup>2</sup> and 3.35 m in height in all zones;
  - h. Permit farm stands in front yards only, set back at least 0.6 m from the lot line;
  - i. Permit farm stands to sell raw, unprocessed plant products, eggs and honey only
  - j. Require that farm stand products be grown on-site;
  - k. Permit the sale of products of commercial agriculture in all zones, regardless of whether retail use is permitted, provided it is done at a farm stand (or in accordance with another permitted use)
  - l. Require stands to be removed if not in use for more than seven days;
  - m. Limit the hours of operation of a farm stand to between 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday, and from 10 am - 8 pm on a Sunday or holiday;
  - n. Allow no more than one farm stand per property;
  - o. Define greenhouse as a glass or clear translucent structure used for the cultivation or protection of plants;



- p. Exempt rooftop greenhouses from the calculation of total floor area, height or storeys;
  - q. Do not permit rooftop greenhouses in low-density residential zones or on multi-unit developments with fewer than four units;
  - r. Specify that a rooftop greenhouse must not exceed 3.35 m in height and 28 m<sup>2</sup> or 50% of the building's rooftop area, whichever is less.
2. Prepare a *Business Licence Bylaw* amendment to:
    - a. Require a business licence for commercial urban agriculture for off-site retail purposes;
    - b. Require a business licence for on-site farm stand sales
    - c. Offer the option of a three-month farm stand business licence for \$25.00 or a year-long licence for \$100.00;
    - d. Permit the loading of commercial urban agriculture products into a delivery truck one time per day, between 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday; and between 10 am and 8 pm on Sunday or a holiday.
  3. Prepare an *Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw* to:
    - a. Amend policy 17.10 to clarify that urban agriculture should be subservient to the density, built form, place character and use objectives in the *Official Community Plan*.
    - b. Exempt commercial and non-commercial urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for the alteration of land, unless the installation is being constructed in association with a building, structure or other landscape features that requires a development permit.
  4. Prepare a *Sign Bylaw* amendment to allow permanent signage for outdoor markets on City property.
  5. Prepare a *Pesticide Regulation Bylaw* to restrict the use of pesticides for commercial urban agriculture use, including on industrial, commercial and institutional properties.
  6. Prepare outreach materials and design examples for food production in multi-unit, mixed-use developments and other types of housing.
  7. Prepare information for applicants on siting, appearance and design considerations to encourage compatibility of commercial urban agriculture operations, including rooftop greenhouses, farm stands and operations on vacant lands, with other land uses.
  8. Prepare information materials to communicate requirements and responsibilities for commercial urban agriculture and farm stands.
  9. Implement a process to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the proposed regulatory changes and report to Council after two years on the effectiveness of the changes, and recommend any adjustments that might be warranted.

Committee discussed:

- The provincial guidelines that are in place in regards to organic farming, and whether prohibiting the use of pesticides is appropriate.

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that recommendation number five (#5) be amended as follows:

5. Prepare a *Pesticide Regulation Bylaw* to **prohibit** the use of pesticides for commercial urban agriculture use, including on industrial, commercial and institutional properties.

On the amendment:  
CARRIED 16/COTW

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Madoff, and Thornton-Joe  
Against: Councillor Young

**Main motion as amended:**

That Council direct staff to:

1. Prepare a *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* amendment to:
  - a. Add "commercial agriculture" as a defined use to include the production of fruits, vegetables, flowers, fibre, seeds, nuts, seedlings, herbs, eggs and honey;
  - b. Allow the production of compost and soil amendments for retail purposes in industrial zones only;
  - c. Exclude products regulated by the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act* from the definition of commercial urban agriculture;
  - d. Permit commercial urban agriculture in all zones, provided it is not noxious or offensive to neighbours or the general public by reason of emitting unreasonable levels of odour, noise or artificial lighting;
  - e. Remove the reference to urban agriculture as a home occupation;
  - f. Defining farm stand as a container which holds, shelves or otherwise displays products of commercial agriculture for retail purposes outdoors
  - g. Allow partially enclosed farm stands up to 1.85 m<sup>2</sup> and 3.35 m in height in all zones;
  - h. Permit farm stands in front yards only, set back at least 0.6 m from the lot line;
  - i. Permit farm stands to sell raw, unprocessed plant products, eggs and honey only
  - j. Require that farm stand products be grown on-site;
  - k. Permit the sale of products of commercial agriculture in all zones, regardless of whether retail use is permitted, provided it is done at a farm stand (or in accordance with another permitted use)
  - l. Require stands to be removed if not in use for more than seven days;
  - m. Limit the hours of operation of a farm stand to between 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday, and from 10 am - 8 pm on a Sunday or holiday;
  - n. Allow no more than one farm stand per property;
  - o. Define greenhouse as a glass or clear translucent structure used for the cultivation or protection of plants;
  - p. Exempt rooftop greenhouses from the calculation of total floor area, height or storeys;
  - q. Do not permit rooftop greenhouses in low-density residential zones or on multi-unit developments with fewer than four units;
  - r. Specify that a rooftop greenhouse must not exceed 3.35 m in height and 28 m<sup>2</sup> or 50% of the building's rooftop area, whichever is less.
2. Prepare a *Business Licence Bylaw* amendment to:

- a. Require a business licence for commercial urban agriculture for off-site retail purposes;
  - b. Require a business licence for on-site farm stand sales
  - c. Offer the option of a three-month farm stand business licence for \$25.00 or a year-long licence for \$100.00;
  - d. Permit the loading of commercial urban agriculture products into a delivery truck one time per day, between 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday; and between 10 am and 8 pm on Sunday or a holiday.
3. Prepare an *Official Community Plan* Amendment Bylaw to:
    - a. Amend policy 17.10 to clarify that urban agriculture should be subservient to the density, built form, place character and use objectives in the *Official Community Plan*.
    - b. Exempt commercial and non-commercial urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for the alteration of land, unless the installation is being constructed in association with a building, structure or other landscape features that requires a development permit.
  4. Prepare a *Sign Bylaw* amendment to allow permanent signage for outdoor markets on City property.
  5. Prepare a *Pesticide Regulation Bylaw* to prohibit the use of pesticides for commercial urban agriculture use, including on industrial, commercial and institutional properties.
  6. Prepare outreach materials and design examples for food production in multi-unit, mixed-use developments and other types of housing.
  7. Prepare information for applicants on siting, appearance and design considerations to encourage compatibility of commercial urban agriculture operations, including rooftop greenhouses, farm stands and operations on vacant lands, with other land uses.
  8. Prepare information materials to communicate requirements and responsibilities for commercial urban agriculture and farm stands.
  9. Implement a process to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the proposed regulatory changes and report to Council after two years on the effectiveness of the changes, and recommend any adjustments that might be warranted.

Main motion as amended:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 16/COTW

## **REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **3. Committee of the Whole – February 25, 2016**

#### **8. “Growing in the City” – Part 1: Urban Food Production on City-Owned Lands:**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Council:

1. Adopt the revised Community Gardens Policy (2016);
2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production and report back to Council with revised map on an annual basis;
3. Endorse a new Urban Food Tree Stewardship pilot program with planting undertaken as a joint initiative involving city staff and residents;
4. Adopt the revised Boulevard Gardening Guidelines, and instruct staff to prepare associated bylaw amendments.

**Carried Unanimously**

## REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

### **3. Committee of the Whole – February 25, 2016**

#### **9. “Growing in the City” – Part 2: Regulatory Amendments to Support Small-Scale Commercial Urban Farming:**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Council direct staff to:

1. Prepare a *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* amendment to:
  - a. Add "commercial agriculture" as a defined use to include the production of fruits, vegetables, flowers, fibre, seeds, nuts, seedlings, herbs, eggs and honey;
  - b. Allow the production of compost and soil amendments for retail purposes in industrial zones only;
  - c. Exclude products regulated by the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act* from the definition of commercial urban agriculture;
  - d. Permit commercial urban agriculture in all zones, provided it is not noxious or offensive to neighbours or the general public by reason of emitting unreasonable levels of odour, noise or artificial lighting;
  - e. Remove the reference to urban agriculture as a home occupation;
  - f. Defining farm stand as a container which holds, shelves or otherwise displays products of commercial agriculture for retail purposes outdoors
  - g. Allow partially enclosed farm stands up to 1.85 m<sup>2</sup> and 3.35 m in height in all zones;
  - h. Permit farm stands in front yards only, set back at least 0.6 m from the lot line;
  - i. Permit farm stands to sell raw, unprocessed plant products, eggs and honey only
  - j. Require that farm stand products be grown on-site;
  - k. Permit the sale of products of commercial agriculture in all zones, regardless of whether retail use is permitted, provided it is done at a farm stand (or in accordance with another permitted use)
  - l. Require stands to be removed if not in use for more than seven days;
  - m. Limit the hours of operation of a farm stand to between 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday, and from 10 am - 8 pm on a Sunday or holiday;
  - n. Allow no more than one farm stand per property;
  - o. Define greenhouse as a glass or clear translucent structure used for the cultivation or protection of plants;
  - p. Exempt rooftop greenhouses from the calculation of total floor area, height or storeys;
  - q. Do not permit rooftop greenhouses in low-density residential zones or on multi-unit developments with fewer than four units;
  - r. Specify that a rooftop greenhouse must not exceed 3.35 m in height and 28 m<sup>2</sup> or 50% of the building's rooftop area, whichever is less.
2. Prepare a *Business Licence Bylaw* amendment to:
  - a. Require a business licence for commercial urban agriculture for off-site retail purposes;
  - b. Require a business licence for on-site farm stand sales
  - c. Offer the option of a three-month farm stand business licence for \$25.00 or a year-long licence for \$100.00;
  - d. Permit the loading of commercial urban agriculture products into a delivery truck one time per day, between 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday; and between 10 am and 8 pm on Sunday or a holiday.
3. Prepare an *Official Community Plan* Amendment Bylaw to:
  - a. Amend policy 17.10 to clarify that urban agriculture should be subservient to the density, built form, place character and use objectives in the *Official Community Plan*.
  - b. Exempt commercial and non-commercial urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for the alteration of land, unless the installation is being constructed in association with a building, structure or other landscape features that requires a development permit.
4. Prepare a *Sign Bylaw* amendment to allow permanent signage for outdoor markets on City property.
5. Prepare a *Pesticide Regulation Bylaw* to prohibit the use of pesticides for commercial urban agriculture use, including on industrial, commercial and institutional properties.

6. Prepare outreach materials and design examples for food production in multi-unit, mixed-use developments and other types of housing.
7. Prepare information for applicants on siting, appearance and design considerations to encourage compatibility of commercial urban agriculture operations, including rooftop greenhouses, farm stands and operations on vacant lands, with other land uses.
8. Prepare information materials to communicate requirements and responsibilities for commercial urban agriculture and farm stands.
9. Implement a process to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the proposed regulatory changes and report to Council after two years on the effectiveness of the changes, and recommend any adjustments that might be warranted.

**Carried Unanimously**



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

**For the Meeting of February 25, 2015**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** February 11, 2016  
**From:** Thomas Soulliere, Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
**Subject:** 'Growing in the City' – Part 1: Urban Food Production on City-owned lands

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Community Gardens Policy (2016);
2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production;
3. Endorse a new Urban Food Tree Stewardship pilot program;
4. Adopt the revised Boulevard Gardening Guidelines, and instruct staff to prepare associated bylaw amendments.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present Council with updated policies and guidelines to support urban food production in the public realm, as part of the 'Growing in the City' project. This includes:

- An updated Community Gardens Policy;
- An inventory of suitable City-owned land for community food growing;
- A pilot program to facilitate an increase in the number of food-bearing trees in City parks; and,
- A final set of Boulevard Gardening Guidelines.

A separate report (Part 2) will provide Council with recommendations relating to City regulations and small-scale commercial urban farming on lands not owned by the City.

In May 2015, Council approved 'Growing in the City', a year-long initiative to update and expand policies and guidelines to support urban food production and boulevard gardening in the City of Victoria. The 'Growing in the City' project is intended to advance several key directives in the 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan and Official Community Plan for a more sustainable local food system.

The City conducted two phases of public engagement to help guide the creation of the recommendations being presented to Council. The first, intended to gauge overall public support for increasing food production in the City, confirmed support for expanding opportunities of all varieties of food production across the City. Based on the feedback received from the first phase of engagement, staff prepared potential revisions to bylaws, guidelines, regulations and policies.



These potential revisions were presented to the public at a draft policy review workshop and open house, and an associated online survey, in December 2015. Results from this phase of engagement indicated a high level of support for all potential revisions presented to Council for consideration in this report. The two engagement reports are attached as Appendix A and Appendix B.

The Community Gardens Policy, originally approved in 2003, outlines the process for the creation and retention of community garden sites on City-owned lands. This includes guidelines for site selection, conditions of use, City resources, and use agreements. A number of revisions are recommended to Council that will improve opportunities for residents to initiate and participate in community gardens. The updated policy is attached as Appendix C.

An inventory of City-owned lands that are suitable for community gardening is attached as Appendix E. The land inventory lists 64 sites throughout the City as potential sites for future community gardening projects. Following Council approval of this inventory, the information will be added to the City's VicMap program for public access.

A new 'Urban Food Tree Stewardship' pilot program is attached as Appendix F. This new program responds to the desire of Victoria residents to increase the number of food-bearing trees planted on public land, as well as the objectives of the Official Community Plan and Urban Forest Master Plan. The 'Urban Food Tree Stewardship' pilot program will enable residents, in partnership with a community organization, to plant and maintain small groupings (5 or fewer) of food-bearing trees in a City-owned park or green space by entering into a maintenance agreement with the City of Victoria.

Finally, a revised version of the Boulevard Gardening Guidelines is attached as Appendix G. This version proposes an adjustment to address concerns identified about safety and maintenance of these gardens.

A final phase of the 'Growing in the City' project is planned for spring 2016, and will include public outreach and education about updated policies, regulations and guidelines, as well as outreach to strengthen partnerships and align program delivery goals with non-profit organizations, key landowners, and other stakeholders.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present Council with updated policies and guidelines to support urban food production in the public realm, as part of the 'Growing in the City' project. This includes:

- An updated Community Gardens Policy;
- An inventory of City-owned land suitable for community gardening;
- A pilot program for increasing the number of food-bearing trees in City parks; and,
- A final set of Boulevard Gardening Guidelines.

A separate report will provide Council with proposed updates to City regulations to better support small-scale commercial urban farming.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Victoria recognizes urban gardening and food production as a valuable community activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, connection to nature,



environmental education, creating healthy and diverse ecosystems, neighbourhood building, and food security.

The 'Growing in the City' project is a year-long initiative to update and expand policies and guidelines for urban food production and boulevard gardening in the City of Victoria. This project is intended to advance several key directives in the Official Community Plan and Strategic Plan towards the City's goals for a more sustainable local food system.

The Official Community Plan (OCP) directs the City to review and develop policy to increase the number of allotment gardens, commons gardens, edible landscapes, food-bearing trees and other types of food production activities, including the following:

- Identify the land types and potential City-held sites where different food production activities might be supported (17.4.1);
- Identify the responsibilities of participants (17.4.2);
- Identify mechanisms to encourage and support food production on City-held lands, other publicly-held lands, and on private lands (17.4.3);
- Identify mechanisms to acquire land for food production purposes, where appropriate (17.4.4); and,
- Work with community groups to develop pilot projects for the planting, maintenance and harvesting of food-bearing trees on suitable City-held lands (17.8).

The 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan seeks to 'Enhance Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems'. The actions related to food production are:

#### 2015 Actions

- Create a micro-grant for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens. (Note: through the 2015 Financial Plan, Council also created a Community Garden Volunteer Grant program, which funds a coordinator for each neighbourhood.)
- Develop long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening including an inventory of City-owned land for food production and improved coordination of food systems resources and initiatives in the city.
- Learn from Vancouver's success in creating a community garden on Davie Street private property and replicate the model on available private properties in Victoria, including downtown.
- Allocate existing resources in Parks and other departments to implement food security initiatives.
- Strengthen the relationship between the City of Victoria and School District 61 in order to maximize the benefit of School lands and facilities.

#### 2016 Actions

- Introduce new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land.

In May 2015, Council approved the 'Growing in the City' project charter and the delivery of six key initiatives:

1. An inventory of City-owned land for community food growing;
2. A review and update of the Community Gardens Policy;
3. Voluntary guidelines for food production in multi-unit, mixed use developments and other types of housing;

4. Guidelines for food-bearing trees on City-held lands;
5. A review of City regulations and policies to explore the opportunity for, and implications of, supporting expanded small-scale commercial urban agriculture; and,
6. A final version of the Boulevard Gardening Guidelines.

## **Overview of Public Engagement**

### Phase 1 (June 2015 – October 2015)

From June 2015 – October 2015, the City conducted the first phase of public engagement for the 'Growing in the City' project. The objective was to gauge public support for a variety of food production opportunities in the City, and to solicit feedback on what is currently successful, what could be improved, and what program areas are currently missing or should be expanded. The engagement consisted of the following opportunities to provide input:

- An online survey with a short and long version;
- 3 pop-up engagement stations at local farmers' markets;
- A "round-table" event with representatives of the Urban Food Table (compiled of local stakeholders); and,
- A series of one-on-one meetings between City Staff and urban food system experts, including food growers, distributors, purchasers, and community gardeners.

The City received over 800 responses to the online survey, and met with more than 30 experts involved in the local food system. The results from the engagement indicated a high level of support for increasing opportunities for food production in the City.

- 98% support for increasing the number of community orchards in Victoria;
- 94% support for increasing the number of boulevard gardens in Victoria; and,
- 91% support for increasing the number of community gardens in the City.

A complete engagement summary from Phase 1 is attached as Appendix A.

### Phase 2 (November 2015 – January 2016)

Based on feedback received through the first phase of engagement, staff prepared potential changes to policies, guidelines and regulations intended to make projects related to food production simpler, faster, and more effective. These included:

- Proposed revisions to the Community Gardens Policy;
- Proposed revisions to the Interim Boulevard Gardening Guidelines;
- Mechanisms for increasing the number of food-bearing trees planted around the City; and,
- Potential adjustments to City regulations in support of commercial food production.

The second phase of public engagement solicited feedback on the potential changes, through:

- A "round-table" meeting with the Urban Food Table;
- A draft policy review workshop and open house; and,
- An online survey.

Over 300 residents participated in the second phase of public engagement. Overall, responses offered a high level of support for the potential changes. Feedback from this round of consultation also informed additional minor revisions to the potential changes that are represented in the final

draft policies included in this report.

A complete engagement summary from Phase 2 is attached as Appendix B.

## ISSUES & ANALYSIS

### Community Gardens Policy

The current Community Gardens Policy was adopted in 2003. The role of the policy is to outline the process for the creation and retention of community garden sites on City-owned lands. This includes guidelines for site selection, conditions of use, City resources, and use agreements. Community gardens in the City of Victoria typically include one or more elements of three categories:

1. Commons Garden: A communal garden area maintained and managed by community volunteers, where any harvest produced is available to the public.
2. Allotment Garden: Individual garden plots that are rented, maintained and harvested by individual member gardeners.
3. Community Orchard: A grove of fruit or nut trees where a community organization is responsible for the care, maintenance and harvesting of trees, with food going to the community.

Based on the initial citizen feedback, potential revisions to the policy were presented to the public in the second phase of public engagement, and the following key revisions have been included in the updated Community Gardens Policy (attached as Appendix C):

1. An expanded definition of 'Community Garden'

The existing Community Gardens Policy defines a community garden as “a plot of land where community volunteers from a non-profit society produce food, flowers, native and ornamental plants, edible berries and food perennials on public or private lands.” Results from public consultation indicated that this definition was not inclusive enough of all types of gardening, including maintaining native and cultural landscapes.

The revised definition expands the types of activities that can be considered a community garden, to better reflect the wide range of activities of interest to the residents of Victoria. The revised definition states:

*For the purposes of this policy, a community garden is a piece of land gardened collectively by members of the community, in partnership with a non-profit society. Community gardening includes, but is not limited to, the following types of activities:*

- Growing annual and perennial food plants, medicinal plants, and flowers
- Growing indigenous, cultural and native plants
- Pollinator gardens and hobby beekeeping
- Permaculture projects
- Fruit and nut trees
- Demonstration farming
- Edible landscaping

Feedback from the public engagement indicated 94% support for this revision as it will create more inclusive opportunities for gardening.

2. Removing the ability to restrict garden membership by neighbourhood of residence.

Under the existing policy, the decision to restrict garden membership to those who live in the neighbourhood is made by the operating non-profit society. Feedback from consultation indicated that restrictions to allotment garden membership by neighbourhood of residence is challenging for residents of dense or smaller neighbourhoods such as Downtown, Harris Green or North and South Jubilee. Results from the land inventory also indicate that City-owned land with gardening potential is not equally distributed throughout neighbourhoods, making it difficult to establish new community gardens equitably across the City.

A new provision in the updated Community Gardens Policy states:

- *Membership in allotment gardens may not be restricted by neighbourhood.*

This new provision is anticipated to make access to allotment garden plots more equitable, and also make it possible for residents to gain access to garden plots in areas of the City they commonly frequent, including near their workplace. The new provision will apply to new projects, and will not impact current operating agreements for existing community gardens. However, when license agreements for existing community gardens come up for renewal, they will be required to amend their operating agreements in alignment with this new provision. City of Victoria residents will continue to be given priority membership.

Results from the public consultation indicated 79% support for this revision. Feedback in support of this change indicated that it would increase gardening opportunities near workplaces, will take pressure off wait-lists, and create more equitable access. Feedback not in support of this change included concerns that gardening outside of the neighbourhood of residence could increase car travel to garden plots and erode sense of community.

### 3. Increased staff support for new community garden projects

Feedback from meetings conducted with stakeholders recommended increased staff support for new garden projects, especially in locating land and conducting public consultation. As per the 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan, a new Food Systems Coordinator position has been added to the staff team. With the addition of this new position, additional support will be available for garden projects:

- Assistance in helping groups find suitable land for new projects, including providing information on City-owned lands that may be suitable for gardening projects, and assisting with connections between community groups, land owners, and other potential partners;
- Working with successful applicants to complete project proposals; and,
- Helping to conduct public consultation for new garden sites on City-owned land.

### 4. A simpler, more streamlined application system for new projects

Feedback from meetings conducted with current community gardeners and other stakeholders indicated that the process for starting new community gardens can be confusing and slow. A more streamlined application process will introduce a new 'Expression of Interest' route, requiring only critical information from project coordinators to begin the process of building a new garden. The new approach will have a single annual intake period, and is anticipated to:

- Simplify the process of getting a new community garden project started;
- Help the City set priority projects each year;
- Expedite the process of having garden projects approved, by having a single reporting period to Council for the necessary land agreements; and,



- Better align new garden projects with the City's annual grant application deadlines.

A date for the Expression of Interest will be set at June 1, 2016 for the first year, to allow garden development for the following growing season. This date will be reassessed once the review of the City's grant program has been completed.

### **Community Gardens on Private Lands: BC Assessment Reclassification**

As directed in the 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan, staff conducted a review of the mechanisms used to encourage community gardens on private lands, including the community garden at Davie Street and Burrard Avenue in Vancouver.

The most effective tool for encouraging community gardens on private lands appears to be through property owners taking advantage of land reclassifications through BC Assessment. In the City of Vancouver, the reclassification of new community gardens from commercial to recreational tax class has encouraged the growth of community gardens on vacant and private lands, including the community garden at Davie Street and Burrard Avenue. Some vacant properties in the City of Victoria are classified as commercial, utility or industrial but others are residential. Should a residential property be reclassified by BC Assessment as recreational, the taxes would increase since the recreational tax rate is higher than the residential. However, commercial, utility or industrial properties would benefit from a reclassification to recreational. Similar to permissive tax exemptions, while an individual property owner may benefit from a reclassification, there is no impact on the overall revenue the City collects from property taxes since the taxes would simply be shifted to other properties within the same tax class.

The City has no direct involvement in this process and no change to existing City of Victoria policy or procedures would be required.

The City of Vancouver is not involved in the development or maintenance of temporary garden spaces on private property. A non-profit organization has formed to work with the community and property owners to build, manage and remove temporary gardens on vacant private lands. Funds to design, build, and remove the gardens are typically paid for by the property owner, using a portion of the tax savings. Issues around tax classification are dealt with between the property owner and BC Assessment.

Further details on this topic are included in Appendix D.

### **Inventory of City-owned Land for Community Gardening**

An inventory of City-owned lands technically suitable for community gardening is attached as Appendix E. The inventory considered all properties owned by the City, including both pervious and impervious surfaces. Drawing on best practices from inventories in other North American cities, sites were assessed based on the following features:

- Existing land issues: Sites leased to others, including those occupied by School District 61 were removed from the inventory. Designated heritage sites, sites with existing land trusts and sites used for other community programming, were included in the inventory, but ranked as unsuitable.
- Physical features: Sites with steep slopes, rocky and uneven surfaces, and designated natural areas/sensitive ecosystems were removed from the inventory.
- Growing conditions: Sites presenting highly unfavourable growing conditions, such as high

exposure to salt spray and wind, were removed from the inventory.

The land inventory located 60 potential sites across the City. These sites have been grouped into four suitability rankings (Ranking #1 being the most suitable):

Ranking #1: Sites with a large amount of open space (more than 1,000 sq.m.)

Ranking #2: Sites with a moderate amount of open space (between 100 sq.m. and 1,000 sq.m.)

Ranking #3: Sites with a small amount of open space (less than 100 sq.m.)

Ranking #4: Sites with a large amount of open space (more than 1,000 sq.m.), but currently used by other community programming (e.g. off-leash areas, sports fields, ball diamonds) or with land trust or heritage designations.

The land inventory is intended to provide guidance in assessing the feasibility of sites for gardening activities; community projects on these sites will still be subject to public consultation. The inventory is not intended to be exclusive, and sites not included in the inventory are not automatically excluded from hosting community gardening activities.

Pending Council approval of this inventory, staff will provide this information to the public through the City's 'VicMap' mapping program.

### **Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program**

Results of public consultation from Phase 1 demonstrated that residents of Victoria support increasing the number of fruit and nut trees planted in the City (93% of survey respondents). Food-bearing trees are seen as an important asset to the City, contributing to community building, food security, enhancement of the urban forest, and provide a source of affordable food production.

Along with the benefits above, food-bearing trees also present certain potential challenges when grown in public spaces. These include:

- Intensive maintenance requirements (annual pruning, regular watering during establishment, collection of harvest during fruit-bearing months, etc.);
- High susceptibility to pests and rodent issues, particularly in relation to fallen fruit;
- Management of collection, ownership and distribution of harvest;
- Allergy concerns (i.e. nut allergies);
- Property or vehicle damage from falling fruit and nuts;
- Trip or slip hazards if fruit falls on pedestrian pathways; and,
- Safe harvesting conditions.

A new 'Urban Food Tree Stewardship' pilot program (attached as Appendix F) has been developed as a tool to expand the number of fruit and nut trees planted around the City, while recognizing and mitigating the associated challenges. This program will enable residents to plant and maintain a small number (five or fewer) of fruit and/or nut trees in a park or open space in their neighbourhood through a simple partnership agreement between a community organization and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities. Plantings of more than five trees and projects with understory plantings will continue to be considered a type of community garden, and will be subject to the terms of the Community Gardens Policy.

This pilot program is aligned with the Urban Forest Master Plan and is intended to increase the number of food-bearing trees in City parks, while partnering with community organizations to provide those trees with the necessary level of care and maintenance. This program also responds to direction from the Official Community Plan to: *Work with community groups to develop pilot*

*projects for the planting, maintenance and harvesting of food-bearing trees on suitable City-held lands (17.8).*

Groups interested in participating in this program would be responsible for the trees for the duration of the life of the tree, including:

- Selecting and purchasing the trees, in consultation with City Parks staff;
- Planting the trees;
- Committing to daily maintenance of the site during fruit bearing months, to ensure all fallen fruit is gathered off the site daily;
- Committing to weekly visits to the site during non-fruit bearing months; and,
- Watering, pruning, weeding, mulching and maintaining the trees, at no cost to the City, including locating a water source.

Community organization and the 'Food Tree Stewards' will be asked to submit a tree location plan for review and approval by staff and canvas immediate neighbours to demonstrate support for the project. Depending on the location and anticipated impact of the project, staff may also choose to conduct additional public consultation, including erecting signage on the site to solicit feedback from park users.

Staff recommend that this program be introduced as a five-year pilot program. This will allow the program to be evaluated annually and at the end of the term. This evaluation will assess the program demand, effectiveness in meeting objectives, and potential improvements to practices and policies.

## **Boulevard Gardening Guidelines**

An updated version of the Boulevard Gardening Guidelines is attached as Appendix G. Results of public consultation indicated that the Interim Boulevard Gardening Guidelines, introduced in September 2014, have been largely effective. Many residents suggested that boulevard gardens provide benefits to their neighbourhood, including adding character, encouraging positive social interactions, providing more space to garden, and making sidewalks more interesting.

The City has received few complaints about boulevard gardens since the introduction of the Interim Guidelines. The primary concern received through public consultation was the need to introduce a mechanism to deal with abandoned or unsafe gardens. In response, a 'Garden Upkeep and Removal' section has been added to the revised version of the guidelines:

*6.2 Garden Maintenance and Upkeep: It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep their boulevard garden well-maintained and operating within the guidelines established by this document. The City of Victoria does not monitor the state of gardens on boulevards, and will respond to issues on a complaint-basis. If you feel that a boulevard garden in your neighbourhood poses a safety risk or has been abandoned, you may first wish to speak with the adjacent homeowner. Complaints about boulevard gardens can be directed to [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca). Homeowners will be notified when a complaint is received about their boulevard garden.*

*If multiple (3 or more) complaints are received by the City in a single calendar year, the homeowner will receive a thirty (30) day written notice to respond and remedy the situation. If the situation persists beyond the 30 day window, the City reserves the right to remove the boulevard garden, at the cost of the homeowner.*

Complaints received under this new clause will be filed with the Parks Division, and assessed by staff. Complaints will be considered valid for abandoned gardens or safety concerns, and not for disagreements about garden aesthetics.

Following adoption of the updated Boulevard Gardening Guidelines, staff will prepare the associated revisions to the City's Streets and Traffic Bylaw and any other required bylaw revisions, for reading at a future Council meeting.

### **Next Steps**

Following the adoption of revised policies and guidelines, a third and final phase of the 'Growing in the City' project will focus on public outreach and engagement. Based on themes emerging from public engagement and direction from the Strategic Plan, the final phase of this project will include:

- Developing educational materials to support new policies and guidelines:
  - Voluntary guidelines for food production in multi-family, mixed-use and other types of housing;
  - A list of recommended food tree species, and tree planting and maintenance guidelines, in support of the Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program;
  - Development of a food program identity, including online forms, educational materials, signage and additional resources.
- Strengthening partnerships and aligning program goals amongst stakeholders:
  - Meeting with large landowners, including School District 61, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, faith-based organizations, and the Province of British Columbia to share information and encourage urban agriculture initiatives in the city;
  - Meeting with non-profit organizations and community groups with urban food agendas, to support networking, capacity-building, partnership development, and program delivery goals.

### **OPTIONS & IMPACTS**

Staff recommend that Council:

1. Adopt the revised Community Gardens Policy (2016);
2. Approve the land inventory of City-owned property for community food production;
3. Endorse a new Urban Food Tree Stewardship pilot program;
4. Adopt the revised Boulevard Gardening Guidelines, and instruct staff to prepare associated bylaw amendments.

#### *2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan*

The recommended option is consistent with Objective 8: Enhance Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems.

#### *Impacts to Financial Plan*

Implementing the policies, guidelines and bylaw revisions outlined above are not anticipated to result in resource implications not already captured within the proposed 2016 – 2020 Financial Plan.



The 2016 – 2020 Financial Plan anticipates grant funding for 6 neighbourhoods through the Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Grant program. The allocation of funds in 2015 was \$6,000 per neighbourhood. The construction of new community gardens in additional neighbourhoods may require increased grant funding in future years.

*Official Community Plan Consistency Statement*

The recommended option is consistent the Chapter 7: Food Systems of the Official Community Plan, which directs the City to review and develop policy to increase the number of allotment gardens, commons gardens, edible landscapes, food-bearing trees and other types of food production activities.


## CONCLUSIONS

The 'Growing in the City' project has affirmed the strong desire of residents to increase opportunities related to food production and food security. The recommendations included in this report, relating to City-owned land, are designed to respond to this desire, by expediting approval timelines, offering greater information-sharing and project support, and broadening the types of projects considered for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Alla Johnson  
Senior Parks Planner  
Parks, Recreation & Facilities

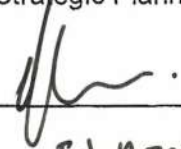
  
Thomas Soulliere  
Director  
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Parks, Recreation & Facilities

  
Katie Hamilton  
Director  
Citizen Engagement & Strategic Planning

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:

  
Feb. 18, 2016

## List of Attachments

Appendix A: Engagement Summary Report (Phase 1)  
Appendix B: Engagement Summary Report (Phase 2)  
Appendix C: Community Gardens Policy (2016)  
Appendix D: BC Assessment Reclassification  
Appendix E: Inventory of City-owned land for community gardening  
Appendix F: Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program  
Appendix G: Boulevard Gardening Guidelines



## PHASE ONE: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REPORT

# Growing in the City

JUNE 15 – OCTOBER 6, 2015

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# Feedback Summary



## Growing in the City

Growing in the City is all about enhancing our local, urban food systems. It's about finding ways to connect more people with space to grow more food, on public and private land. It's about finding ways to encourage small-scale urban agriculture and to begin thinking differently about how we manage some of our City-owned land, so we can work together to build the skills, knowledge and resources needed to produce more food in our beautiful and already delicious city.

The Growing in the City initiative will result in:

- An inventory of City-owned land for food production,
- An updated Community Gardens Policy for public and private land,
- Guidelines for food bearing trees on City-owned lands,
- Voluntary guidelines for food production in multi-unit, mixed use developments and other types of housing,
- Recommendations on how to encourage small scale urban agriculture, and
- A final set of Boulevard Gardening Guidelines.

The first phase of engagement involved reaching out to the community to better understand what is already working, what we need more of and what needs to be done differently. An online survey, with a short and long version, a stakeholder roundtable, three pop-up engagement stations at community markets and one-on-one meetings were used to collect this feedback. A social media campaign, media relations, a print ad, posters and stakeholder updates were used to raise awareness about these engagement opportunities.

## What We Heard

Between June – October 2015, the City conducted the first phase of public engagement. This involved reaching out to the community to gauge support for increasing various types of urban food production activities, to better understand strengths and weaknesses of the City's existing regulatory framework, and to identify emerging issues and topics to be explored.

The first phase of engagement included:

- An online survey with a short and long version
- 175 people attended three pop-up engagement stations at local farmers' markets
- A roundtable event with representatives of the Urban Food Table (compiled of local stakeholders)
- A series of one-on-one meetings between the City and urban food system experts, including food growers, distributors, purchasers, and community gardeners

Overall, the City received over 800 responses to the online surveys, and met with more than 30 experts involved in the local food system. The results from the engagement indicated a high level of support for increasing opportunities for food production in the City, including:

- 98% support for increasing the number of community orchards in Victoria;
- 94% support for increasing the number of boulevard gardens in Victoria;
- 91% support for increasing the number of community gardens in Victoria; and,
- 87% support for having small scale commercial urban agriculture in their neighbourhood.

The top priorities for increasing food production in the City of Victoria were ranked in the following order:

- Everyone has access to healthy, affordable food
- Easy to find places to buy locally grown food
- Utilize vacant lots for growing food
- Educate and involve the community in food growing and harvesting
- Food growing on spaces on public land are open and accessible to all
- Every neighbourhood has a place for community food growing and harvesting
- Aesthetics/tidiness

Several key themes emerged from the first phase of public engagement. By topic area, they are:

### Boulevard Gardens:

- Boulevard gardens are generally seen as positive assets in the City.
- Aesthetics were a primary concern (boulevard gardens can be perceived as being 'messy' or 'unkempt'), and many respondents indicated the need for a mechanism to deal with abandoned gardens.
- Other concerns included possible soil contamination, pest control, and pollution from vehicles and dogs.

### Community Gardens:

- There is support for increasing the number of community gardens in the City, especially in the form of allotment-style gardens (plots rented, grown and harvested by individual member gardeners).
- There is mixed support for locating allotment-style gardens in City parks, with some viewing this as privatization of a public amenity.
- Schoolyards, rooftops, and vacant private lands were commonly mentioned as good locations for allotment gardens.
- Among current community gardeners, there is a need for increased resource support (materials, cost, public facilitation, volunteer labour).

#### Fruit and Nut Trees:

- There is support for increasing the number of food-bearing trees in the City.
- Location of fruit and nut trees is important; pest concerns (deer, wasps), allergy concerns (nuts), and safety while harvesting were key considerations in locating fruit and nut trees.
- Community food trees require mechanisms for ongoing volunteer coordination and pruning / maintenance.
- The need for signage and/or education around existing and future public food trees was a common request, including clarifying how and when existing public food trees could be safely harvested.

#### Small-scale commercial urban farming:

- A majority of survey respondents support small-scale commercial urban farming in their neighbourhood.
- Urban farming currently takes place on vacant residential-zoned lots, rooftops in commercial areas, and in residential yards.
- In the future, farmers would also like to locate on school and church properties, large grassy sites, and in addition to commercial areas, rooftops in industrial zones.
- Urban farmers identified a number of barriers to growing urban farming in the City, including an inability to comply with existing city regulations, development permit requirements for greenhouses and other accessory buildings, bylaw restrictions to commercial on-site sales of produce and animal products, insecurity of land tenure, municipal requirements for aquaponics, and economic viability of small-scale urban farming operations.



# Appendix A

## Round Table #1

On Monday, June 15 the City hosted members of the Urban Food Table and other interested groups for a round table about how to increase local food production in Victoria.

30 participants joined in the conversation that was held at City Hall. Roundtable discussions were hosted about boulevard gardens, commercial urban agriculture, community gardens, and food bearing trees on City held lands.

Highlights from each topic are identified below:



### Boulevard Gardens

- **What's working:** openness of guidelines, community building, attractive, increase interaction with street, increase in number of gardens since guidelines were introduced
- **Barriers:** cost of water, cost of soil testing, deer, cars, dogs, guidelines not open enough to think outside of the box
- **Opportunities:** boulevard gardens for commercial properties, guidelines for how to deal with soil contamination, soil testing options, demonstration gardens, neighbourhood hub for materials, ability to have small greenhouses, education



### Commercial Urban Agriculture

- **What's working:** Oak Bay SPIN farming regulations, backyard chickens, Victoria's reputation to be the City of Food Gardens, Victoria associated with supportive urban ag, sales from Mason Street Farms to restaurants, social enterprise (e.g. value added vinegars), Demitasse has a plot on Sleeping Dog Farm, example of restaurants that want to source/grow local and wild harvest, supportive Mayor and Council, land inventory, OCP
- **Barriers:** Need bylaws reviewed: Greenhouse, farm gate sale, allow commercial sale of urban agriculture products, allow commercial sales from greenhouses, expensive land, non profit status has benefits but takes time, toxicity of soil, need incentives, need access to information about rooftops, spaces available for food production, cost of production much higher in urban areas, need multi-purpose zoning, water is expensive, explore supportive tax models, create local purchasing policy
- **Opportunities:** education, create bylaws that encourage small scale commercial urban ag, connect people who want to farm with people who have land, explore use of school grounds for growing and City land



### Community Gardens

- **What's working:** environmental and social benefits, indigenous food source, connections with staff, natural areas, user agreements and guidelines for maintenance, well managed volunteer base, existing policy
- **Barriers:** water is expensive, all current gardens have waitlists, are restricted to each neighbourhood, some are too far away, volunteer run, need more funding, unclear responsibilities, want commons areas within allotment gardens
- would be great to get leaf mulch from City, would be great to have a central resource centre supported possibly by City: cardboard, soil, plants etc., would be great to have a facilitator to help with new community gardens, would be great to have clearer process for accessing land for gardening, create a five year tax break for private lands, tax cuts for sharing backyards or hosting community garden, information sharing from City on tips for gardening/watering etc., map on website of community gardens, community garden tours, land inventory will help, interpretive signs, wild food walks, sustainable wild harvesting, need more of a focus on food gardens and not ornamental, soil testing, changing language so more inclusive, make it a part of development approvals, zoning for agricultural uses



### Food Bearing Trees on City Held Lands

- **What's working:** fencing at Bamfield park working to keep deer out, good that City is allowing access, grant good but not enough
- **Barriers:** not a lot happening, unclear about who can harvest what, when, safety, sightlines and signage, need long term funding not just for implementation, midnight harvesting vs equal sharing, harvesting vs clean up, volunteer burnout
- **Opportunities:** label trees, need education and awareness, permaculture approach for under planting, design for biodiversity, soil health, indigenous trees and berries, goal create community space, create an inventory of existing fruit and nut trees, need a model for how to manage harvest, % of replacement trees being edible, pollinator system, need boulevard vs park trees, replace horse chestnuts with edible chestnuts, shift ornamental areas to edible areas, placemaking- community ownership, City initiative not City ideas- resident ideas, map community gardens, orchards and boulevards, consult with residents and association when replanting, adopt a tree program, potential for grafting into existing trees

To read the complete summary of feedback from this event, please refer to Appendix A: Round Table Discussion.



## Pop Up Engagement Stations



Growing in the City pop-up engagement stations were held at James Bay Market, Moss Street Market and the Oaklands Community Market. In total 175 people joined in to share ideas about how to get more food growing in Victoria. Some of the common ideas within the following four themes included:

### How to Support Urban Farmers

- Encourage gardens instead of lawns
- Consider subsidies: reduce costs for water or soil, tax breaks
- Improve distribution/availability of local products
- Yard share, knowledge sharing

### Community Gardens

- Interest in seeing more community and commons gardens
- Look at public and private land: ie condos, rooftop gardens great idea
- Consider underutilized areas: some areas in parks, sometimes playgrounds, maybe schools
- Not sure I want gardens in every park
- OK in parks, as long as there is room for other activities
- Convenient locations: make it easy
- Tool sharing co-op
- Water rate reductions for gardeners, subsidies for those who grow

### Fruit and Nut Trees

- General support
- Food forests please
- Plant fruit and nut trees instead of ornamental
- One request for a popsicle tree (3yr old)
- Support for them in parks, on some boulevards
- Educational signage: what to eat when
- Need to coordinate harvests: Harvest days for fruit trees

### Boulevard Gardens

- More boulevard gardens please!
- Don't mind as long as it is maintained
- Important to have safe boulevards
- Consider pollution problem/ find safe space to grow, ok in the middle of a park
- Boulevard garden ok in residential neighbourhoods, not in high traffic areas

## Surveys



A short and long survey were available. 421 participants completed the long survey and 388 completed the short version. The following summary includes highlights from questions that were asked in both surveys. The number of responses from both surveys have been combined for this summary.

### 1. Which neighbourhood do you live in?

#### Neighbourhood

Victoria West	58
Burnside Gorge	34
Hillside/Quadra	59
Oaklands	49
Fernwood	81
North/South Jubilee	32
North Park	17
Rockland	14
Gonzales	14
Fairfield	108
James Bay	104
Harris Green	8
Downtown	34
Other	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>

### 2. Do you support having boulevard gardens in your neighbourhood?

Yes	693	92%
No	58	8%

### 3. Do you support increasing the number of allotment gardens in Victoria?

Yes	684	94%
No	45	6%

### 4. Do you support increasing the number commons gardens in Victoria?

Yes	654	91%
No	61	9%

### 5. Do you support increasing the number of community orchards in Victoria?

Yes	703	98%
No	17	2%

6. Where do you think it's appropriate to have allotment gardens?

**City Parks**

Appropriate	477	67%
Inappropriate	196	28%
No opinion	36	5%

**City Facilities**

Appropriate	598	83%
Inappropriate	82	11%
No opinion	40	6%

**Closed Streets**

Appropriate	619	88%
Inappropriate	29	4%
No opinion	57	8%

**Other Public Land**

Appropriate	633	88%
Inappropriate	54	8%
No opinion	29	4%

**Utility Corridors**

Appropriate	536	77%
Inappropriate	72	10%
No opinion	91	13%

**Industrial Areas**

Appropriate	536	77%
Inappropriate	72	10%
No opinion	91	13%

**Commercial Areas**

Appropriate	511	74%
Inappropriate	103	15%
No opinion	73	11%

**Residential Areas**

Appropriate	661	92%
Inappropriate	28	4%
No opinion	73	4%

7. What kinds of community gardening activities do you think are appropriate in City Parks?

Community orchards	Appropriate 95%	Inappropriate 4%
Edible landscapes	Appropriate 93%	Inappropriate 5%
Harvesting wild plants	Appropriate 90%	Inappropriate 7%
Bee-keeping	Appropriate 82%	Inappropriate 13%
Commons gardens	Appropriate 80%	Inappropriate 16%
Demonstration Farming	Appropriate 79%	Inappropriate 13%
Allotment gardens	Appropriate 58%	Inappropriate 36%

8. Where do you think it is appropriate to plan fruit and nut trees on City Lands?

City-owned facilities	Appropriate 97%
Parks	Appropriate 93%
Boulevards	Appropriate 91%
Plazas	Appropriate 88%
Playgrounds	Appropriate 76%

9. Would you support small-scale commercial urban agriculture in your neighbourhood?

Yes 87% No 6%

10. What types of garden structures/activities that support small-scale urban agriculture do you feel are appropriate?

**Strong support:**

Greenhouses	90% support
Tool sheds	88% support
Farm stands with onsite sales	87% support
Compost	86% support
Production facilities	76% support

**Some support/some concerns:**

Fertilizer use	46% support	37% don't support
Motorized gardening equipment	41% support	45% don't support

11. What are the top priorities for increasing food production in the City of Victoria?

Ranked in order: (Alia please double check)

- Everyone has access to healthy, affordable food
- Easy to find places to buy locally grown food
- Utilize vacant lots for growing food
- Educate and involve the community in food growing and harvesting
- Food growing on spaces on public land are open and accessible to all
- Every neighbourhood has a place for community food growing and harvesting
- Aesthetics/tidiness















12. How did you hear about this survey?

Facebook	47%
Word of mouth	20%
Neighbourhood association	14%
City of Victoria website	11%
Twitter	5%
Posters or other signage	2%
Local media	1%

## Surveys

### September 3 Growing in the City Short Version

#### 1. Which neighbourhood do you live in?

Response	Count	
<b>Victoria West</b>	22 5.9%	
<b>Burnside</b>	14 3.8%	
<b>Hillside/Quadra</b>	26 7.0%	
<b>Oaklands</b>	18 4.8%	
<b>Fernwood</b>	36 9.7%	
<b>North and South Jubilee</b>	16 4.3%	
<b>North Park</b>	9 2.4%	
<b>Rockland</b>	6 1.6%	
<b>Gonzales</b>	4 1.1%	
<b>Fairfield</b>	48 12.9%	
<b>James Bay</b>	54 14.5%	
<b>Harris Green</b>	4 1.1%	
<b>Downtown</b>	16 4.3%	
<a href="#"><u>Outside the City of Victoria. Where?</u></a>	99 26.6%	
<i>Total: 372</i>		

Saanich

Gorge Tillicum area

Vancouver

Langford

Maple Ridge

1 of 54

METROUS
Langford
Saanich
millstream
royal Oak
royal oak
Cordova Bay
Saanich
Saanich - mt Tolmie area
Admirals/Gorge
Central Saanich
Cordova Bay
Gordon Head
Esquimalt
Gorge-Tillicum
Saanichton
Quadra and Cloverdale
Tillicum/gorge
Langford
Saanich/Cadboro Bay
saanich
View Royal
Esquimalt
Esquimalt
Esquimalt
View Royal

Saanich

Sidney

Burnside/Harriet. Victoria is across the street.

Langford

Saanich

Colwood

Duncan

East sooke

Gordon Head

Metchosin

Sidney

Saanich

metchosin

Esquimalt

Cordova Bay

north stanch

Interurban and Wilkinson

Saabich Gordon head

Esquimalt

View Royal

Esquimalt/Vic West

Westshore

saanich

Langford

Saanich

Esquimalt

Saanich
Colwood
Mt Evelyn
Central Saanich
oak bay
View Royal
saanich
Saanich
Saanich
saanich
Saanich
Shelbourne, Saanich.
Vancouver - relocating to Victoria within 1-9 months.
Langford
Sidney
Westshore
Saanich
View Royal
Esquimalt
Langford
Langford
saanichton
View Royal
Langford
langford
Saanich



Saanich

Gorge Tillicum

Esquimalt

Gordon Head

Saanich

esquimalt

Saanich / Quadra/Cloverdale

View Royal

Saanich - Cedar Hill

Gorge

Tillicum Road -Burnside area

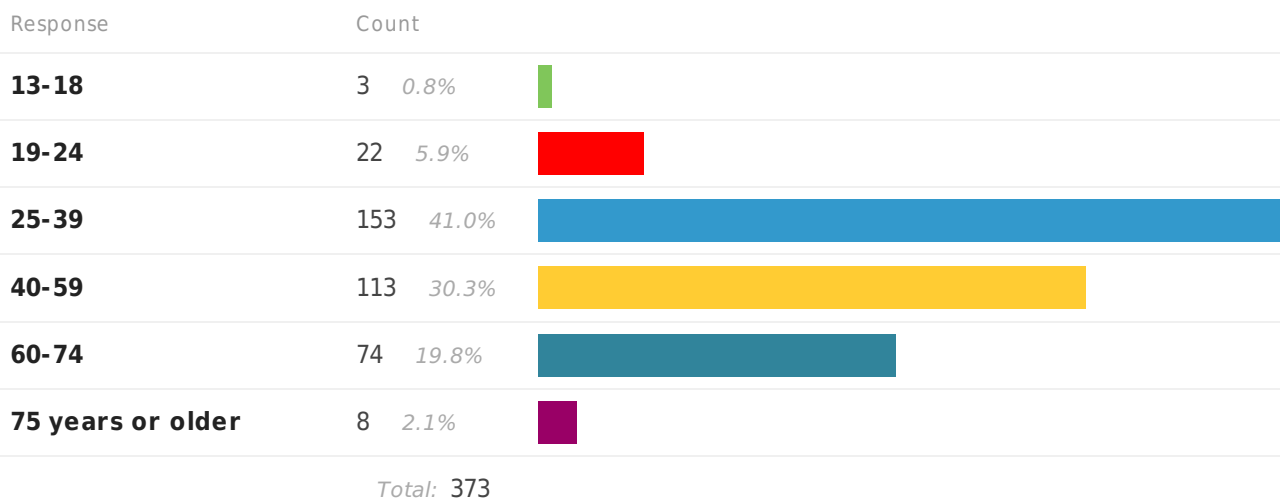
Oak Bay

Oak Bay

Gorge

Oak bay

## 2. What is your age?



3. Do you support having boulevard gardens in your neighbourhood?

Response	Count		
Yes	323	92.3%	<div></div>
No	27	7.7%	<div></div>
Total: 350			

If no, why don't you support boulevard gardens?

Response	Count
17 responses	

Gardens often look messy, safety concerns, it's public property people can plant on their own property

Maintenance is a concern of mine.

messy; people are infringing on public space with private hobbies; end up with weeds, revert to grass  
maintenance please (green means green)

Lack of boulevard, creates discrimination between neighbourhood unless more boulevards are created

I rent in a large property and had to get rid of my veg garden and change my floral garden because of the deer. There is no plan to eliminate the deer and I think it is stupid to provide veg for them and then at that put deer at risk for encouraging them to forage off the street. Also, the gardens I have seen in my neighbourhood look ill kept.

What's the point - the deer will chew it up!!

It will probably change the environment for plants and animals. Unless limited kind of plants are allowed.

Existing ones are not well maintained. It would have to be a yr round commitment.

Too messy and hard to control look/maintenance

Most housing is single family residence with enough space to garden. Gardens are difficult to keep attractive under the best conditions. Most are unsightly. Who wants to eat food grown beside city traffic lanes? Who wants to garden beside city traffic lanes? It sounds good idealistically but will likely appeal to very few people who will find it difficult to maintain. Aspiring gardners should be matched up with home owners willing to donate yard space for a share of the crop. The streets are messy enough already.

They are often unkempt

See ny email sent parks dept.

I am concerned about fumes on the fruit/vegetables..and dog feces.

Cannot be properly controlled or regulated.

exhaust aswell as accessibility

my answer is yes but the poll does not work

am concerned about debris and long-term affect, potential abandonemnet of the garden

If yes, why do you support boulevard gardens?

Response	Count
306 responses	
extra space would be great	
I think it would be great to see that land used for food production although I have concerns that it could look very messy if not maintained.	
Excellent use of land - provides nutritious food and learning opportunities. I don't own land, but I would love to be able to walk down the street and point out to my young kids different types of plants that are growing nutritious food	
It would attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. It provides food for the grower. It is a wonderful way to involve kids in gardening. Provides opportunities to work with neighbors on common goal. Visual appeal.	
Efficient use of land, very cool idea :) Unfortunately some people take advantage of other's hard work and take food from boulevard gardens without permission.	
Because boulevards are completely under-utilized and would make excellent veggie gardens. It is a shame that often boulevards don't even have fruit trees, just (often) ugly flowering trees.	
They are a more effective use of land, they can be visually appealing, it should help save tax dollars if homeowners take care of them	
Because it turns the space into something worthwhile	
Local food sources help combat pollution, global warming and keep food affordable	
I support boulevard gardens when they allow people to expand their gardens (it is strange when people create a boulevard garden before working on their front/back gardens!).	
Provides opportunities for gardeners, produces food and other useful plants, provides pollen etc. for bees and other insects, beautifies neighbourhoods, connects community, and plants clean the air.	
A whole bunch of reasons, listed in the Interim Guidelines themselves: "Boulevard gardens can create more beautiful, interesting and diverse streets, add character to neighbourhoods...increase feelings of community pride...increasing ecological diversity and providing bird, butterfly and pollinator habitats...community building, traffic calming, and healthier living...improve the availability of fresh, local, and sustainable food sources"	
Food security, community building, connection to the food we eat, Food not Lawns!	
Makes walking more interesting	

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could be a good use of land which is now, generally, quite tatty.

Making effective and productive use of space.

It is a better use of the space than grass/turf, more attractive, offers habitat and community building

It helps the appearance, food production, promote soil ecosystem, promote neighbourhood participation and conversations which make a very good neighbourhood to live in.

they could add beauty, increase biodiversity, and provide food

Residents should be able to utilize underused space and maximize their food production potential; provides improved green infrastructure capability; increases esthetic value

Why waste our water on a lawn? Why not grow good instead?

Can enhance the street.

a good use of space, food protection, opportunities for education including sustainability and healthy living

Bolsters Food Security and Makes the City Pretty. Win Win.

Making the boulevards useful for the community, sharing how food is grown and meeting neighbours which leads to civic discussions and food sourcing. Also to show children and young people where our food comes from and to discuss a healthy diet. The gardens are more than growing food, they are about the community health.

To make our land as productive as possible.

I'm very familiar with them from Vancouver. The improve neighbourhoods.

community involvement, more green space, food for the community, attract pollinator, increase landscape complexity

grass and cement are a waste of space. we should use the areas to grow locally and sustainably

Beautiful, productive, free up food production space.. generally they are better maintained than many yards

To me, most lawns seem like a silly waste of space. Grow food, flowers, fruit trees etc. Good for the environment, good for people.

Grass boulevards are a waste of time, water and energy for no gain. Plant food, flowers, fruit and nut trees instead.

Great use of land that isn't being used for anything but grass

As long as owner, or tenant with permission of owner, tends to boulevard garden then there is a chance that boulevard will be better maintained than currently if the case

Develops neighbourhood connections; source of food; reduces dependence on imported foods.

already have one: free organic food: met the neighbours.

Grass is a waste of space. Boulevard gardening improves community bonds , increases food security and biodiversity in the city.

This is a better option than parkland to provide access to gardening space for those lacking such access now.

They provide spaces and opportunities for growth and nurturing for people physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually far more than grass or gravel.

I love seeing the little gardens popping up everywhere! Much more attractive than ugly dead grass. And not wasting so much energy on the city mowing those spaces

People need food. People don't need grass.

They help make the city beautiful.

Why not? Makes sense to let people use land to grow food. Better vegetables than grass

The more diversity of plant life, the better - good for birds, bees, insects, butterflies and general beauty.

Lawns offer little, food gardens offer a lot!

Grass does nothing for us but look good. Good feeds people. I rather have fresh local food grown outside my home than have grass

Aesthetics, biodiversity (ie. Habitat for pollinators, other fauna), natural space for urban dwellers to engage with

grow your own food! help people eat healthy.. be more sustainable, teach kids to love the earth

I support any increase of green space, especially kmthuse that might produce food

I support any increase of green space, especially ones that can produce food.

grow food!

Provides access for forage for people who know how to

I appreciate green and life

Grow food not lawns

increased livability, food security and community interaction

more use of green space

It seems that the choices are concrete/asphalt (expensive, ugly, cold), grass (nonproductive, high maintenance, high water need) or food (productive/colourful, educational, community awareness)

They provide way more diversity and useful function than grass.

Build community, helps neighbours get to know each other, gardens are more attractive and interesting than grass, encourages people to grow their own food and share food in their community, educational for children

In most cases, boulevards as they are currently maintained are wasteful and not particularly attractive. In my personal case, it is the only area with full sunlight for most of the day due to the fact that the neighbouring yard to the south has 10+ metre trees that block most of the sun.

Rain runoff, and beautiful!

Its an efficient and appropriate use of the land.

beautiful

They enhance spaces and make unused spaces meaningful

Everything is so expensive, it is the next gen we are supporting, encouraging to self reliant and healthier. It is not an "old" way of living, it is gonna be pretty soon the only way to make end meet.

Why not?! What a great way to use otherwise wasted space? Delicious food and beautiful aesthetic of the plants, all in one.

They are so much more interesting than grass to look at!

Grow food not lawns!

Increases civic resilience

great use of space, creates community gathering and adds to the feeling of nature around you

More green spaces are good environmentally and aesthetically

People should grow food not grass

Promotes green space; promotes interaction with neighbours; increases local food production; beautification; no lawn to tend

I support boulevard gardens because the alternative (just grass) is wasteful and unappealing.

local access to food, productive use of land

They encourage pollinators and are way more sustainable then grass.

Esthetic appeal, access to food for all, and increasing awareness about local food production



Community gardens are great activities and shared resources — a sign of a healthy community.

Why not? Makes growing food more visible. Uses otherwise unused space.

Because it is wasted space, but it has to be insured that the boulevard gardens are safe to work in from cars, and that in places where people park by the curb they don't trample the gardens getting to the side walk.

Affordable food, beautification.

Enhances aesthetic of neighbourhood, good for pollinators, uses less water than grass if proper plants are used for site conditions

Beauty and health

food sustainability ... grass costs too much

Expanded food and flower growing space. Encourages neighbourly connections.

Beautiful and useful.

i support growing your own food, and having the space and ability to do it. i believe in being sustainable

Beautiful to behold, good for air quality and quality of life. Even better if they produce edibles!

On many streets they provide an opportunity to use land for food production and planting in general rather than a grass area and people have a choice.

Great use of space for producing local food

Water conservation vs lawn, civic/neighbourhood pride, appearance

Food sustainability. And they're much more attractive than the non-city-maintained boulevards in Vic West.

They can be beautiful.

Productive use of land

We need an emergency food source and generally a supplementary one.

Useful

They are a way to grow food conveniently on otherwise underutilized space.

Wonderful initiative that encourages better use of wasted space

Food security, community engagement, productive use of land

Food security for everyone

Anything is better than grass. I love gardens

more garden space!

I would like to see more food production here

Better than grass.

They are just as attractive as flowers and small trees, while providing food at the same time.

Growing more food locally is better for us and for the environment

I think we should utilize the space to help those in need and give apartment residents the opportunity to grow food as well as home owners

Green is beautiful

The more green-space, parkland, wildland, the better. Anything to resist, minimize, reverse humans' encroachment into nature is a good thing.

in addition to producing food, boulevard gardens improve neighbourhood mentality and well being

While nicely watered grass looks great, we need to be thinking about more than just looks.

They are a better use of space than grass, they provide local food and learning opportunities, as well as ecological benefits (more productive green space for animals and insects).

Cuz

They look better and are more environmentally friendly; like to see land used productively

They make the city a happier place to live in! They beautiful, support ecological diversity, and can potentially provide us with food!

Food should be grown where ever we can, helps grow communities closer

I think most garden spaces should have food plants instead of landscape plants .

They are beautiful and a nice addition to a normal street

People can access food if they want to.

I enjoy nature in the city! I need a break from brick!

Not only do they allow people to provide their families with inexpensive, nutritious food, it is also a visual aid to help educate people about possibilities.

Bringing communities closer together, and providing food for those in need. Plus the added nutrients in the producer rather than imported foods.

Better than bad dead grass everywhere. Saw it work well in Winnipeg where I just moved from.

Grow more food!

Gardens will be such a great use of space and provide so much

Promoting local foods and community

Beautifies the streetscape, supports local food production, great for bees and humans alike.

They're productive, attractive, creates greater community feel and ownership

Esthetically beautiful, makes me feel connected to neighbours, more local food resilience.

food, sustainability, makes more sense than watering grass. community, sharing

Looks nice, makes people happy, can grow food > food security

Beautiful, social (cuz' neighbours chat about what is growing) and healthy/tasty!

Garden access for all

Because the land can be put to better use than just lawns

Narrow spaces without other public use

I support more gardens anywhere, more nature in town would be awesome

Food security is a serious issue for Victoria and all of Vancouver Island. Not only do boulevard gardens provide local food, they help bring awareness to food security issues and the health of our lands.

Boulevards are by definition open to all and therefore perfect for developing our "sharing culture ". Let's plant foods that require no cooking and are familiar to most. This way passers by can harvest what we homeowners wish to share.

Local and sustainable food makes sense

It adds appeal

I love that the land is being offered to home owners, which in many cases is used by the home owner to give back to neighbours and those who pass their home. It's an introduction to landscaping, gardening, horticulture to beginners and a great way to promote encouraging an activity that will only bring the community closer together.

They bring the community together and employ otherwise wasted land for everyone's use.

More space to grow food. Encourages interaction with neighbours. Food security for Vancouver Island is improved. Greater awareness of ecological practices. Opening conversations about permaculture

Report prepared by: City of Victoria, Growing in the City

better use of land. Boulevards are environmentally unfriendly.

Food security, beautification, and community growth

I love gardening. We live in an apartment and will not be able to buy a home in the near future but I want to do more than a few flowers in a pot on our balcony. The love and pride of growing your own produce is passed on from one generation to the next through fun and working together. If a proved this will also bring more neighbors together, encouraging a stronger sense of community.

It makes the city greener and more appealing especially to those living in the area

Being in touch with where your food comes from is so important. It creates an appreciation for food production, and creates ownership of your street and your community.

The more food gardens the better. I would rather see full food gardens then lawns.

Builds community, gets ride of grass which is a waste of water and maintenance. Gets people out walking and nibbling. This leads to an engaged community and a sense of identity for a neighbourhood

Not only would gardens bring beauty to the area, but it would also give people the opportunity to contribute to the community.

They are attractive and a good use of otherwise unused space.

They are productive, gorgeous to look at, make use of available land and every one is different!

GROWING FOOD

I have always wanted to grow my own tomato's, strawberry's and raspberry's but because I live in a apartment I have had no place to do this.

every arable piece of land should be used

beautification! we need to get back to reality which is with mother nature. The world needs more home-grown food, sustainable options to know where our food is coming from

We need to grow food not grass.

Better use of land than grass and trees. If done properly it's probably healthier for the environment as a whole and could provide a good source of food. Allows people without much yard space with an opportunity to grow their own food.

They look pretty cool, and are a nice idea for alterable public space. Though I'm dubious about the people that grow vegetables in theirs.

It will help to beatify the city, using nature.

Less Water wasted on useless grass, more food

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They support community gathering

Wasted space and costs the city to maintain

the only reason i support he boulevard gardens is to try to quiet the lobbyists. This is such a low priority for my taxdollars

Beautifies the city scape and protects the soils

The land is being productive and providing value..

A much better use for what is normally just a strip of grass

They are interesting to look at and they provide a good food source.

i think it would be good to grow food and plants that attract beneficial insects anywhere we can

less lawn and more food the better

Except for those boulevards which are shaded by the canopies, occupied by the roots of trees or occupy homes of other hungry creatures that might also appreciate fresh greens, they might be well managed to provide a valuable source of fresh food for human residents, other people and fellow creatures such as deer, mice or rats, birds, raccoons etc., increase humidity, generate more oxygen, provide shade and enhance street scapes.

Grow food .

Support local food development, biodiversity, beautification

unused space except for doggy business!

Iseful food sources as long as they are well maintained.

Grass is wasted space. Gardens make food and are beautiful. They also make people more aware of issues like food security, and where our food comes from.

edible gardens including flowers beat grass in looks and use ...as long as they are maintained

-habitat for pollinators and other beneficial native species -relieves the pressure allotment garden waiting lists -reduces wasteful maintenance of grass by fossil fuel-powered City mowers -reduces the amount of money the City has to spend on maintenance of grass -makes the city more interesting, vibrant and resilient

Its great minimally used space to grow food.

I think growing our own food is the cheapest, healthiest and most environmentally friendly way to go.

In their current state (lawns) they are wasted space. The charge for the city to maintain them is unfair since it is expensive and neglected.

I support enhancing urban food production, especially when it benefits people facing food insecurity

Beneficial to all and the eco systems.

grow food not lawns, cost more to manage a grass boulevard or flowers than gardens.

Any green space should be used to grow our own food. It is the way of the future. Sort of back in the day when people grew their own food in their backyards but in a more modern way now as most people don't have backyards anymore.

They are attractive as well as useful and I think it gives people a better sense of community working towards beauty and sustainability.

Beneficial use of wasted land; develops food self-sufficiency

Food supply and esthetics greener the better

We need more diversity to attract and shelter birds and insects, and less grass or concrete.

Grass is an anachronism, and except for parks, is a useless waste of land - land that could be used in pragmatic and holistic ways.

They take up less resources than grass. You don't have to use as much water or mow them. And then you can eat it. Even if it's just some low growing thyme, oregano and mint ground covers. This is edible, evergreen, and looks better than grass in the Summer.

We can eat food; we can't eat grass. And they are beautiful!

the land is wasted with grass; let property owners use it to feed and beautify the neighbourhood in which they live

nice to see grass or flowers

beautiful, productive, space for apt. dwellers to garden, food source

great opportunity to promote a more self sustaining culture in the community. promotes healthy diets and spending time outdoors. gives people who may not have the space or resources to garden otherwise the opportunity to learn and be responsible about where their food comes from

looks great plus allows easy community involvement

Frankly, grass is a waste of space and not native.

Its beautiful & inspiring

NOT ENOUGH LAND IS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS SO WHY NOT USE WHAT IS ALREADY THERE

It would increase the available space for urban food production, provided that they are maintained and kept tidy.

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community grown produce is way more efficient than shopping food in. I'd much rather buy local than otherwise.

Why grow & water grass when that land can be used to grow food

Anything to make my neighbourhood even more beautiful and unique is great.

encourages people to grow their own food..grass is a waste of space, water and time

Because I like them

Increase food sustainability and security, increase community social interaction, provide fresh, local, healthy produce to enhance health and well being

to beautify the street, add dimension

The more land that is used to grow good and increase the quantity of locally produced the better!

Increased area under cultivation, helps with runoff, and returns moisture to soil.

As long as the soil is clean enough to grow food - amazing!

It would be great to produce veggies, fruit and pollinator plants; great community building activity

better use of boulevard area

A sensible use of space for healthy food production. An imaginative idea

There appears to be a shortage of garden plots so this may be the next best thing

Enhances the neighbourhood appeal and gives residents a chance to develop a sense of pride in their street

Its a good idea to help reduce waste, and honestly get to know some neighbours better. Not to mention some people dont have gardens but they wish to do so.

it's the perfect spot to use, rather than having weeds or grass that noone uses

Food is important, and having access to local food is entirely beneficial

Supports more edible fresh produce, uses less water than grass, great appearance

Feel that watering boulevards for just "green grass" is wasteful.

Pretty, creates pride, if food were grown it would be the ultimate illustration of a local food source

I believe that we should be taking advantage of all spaces to do something productive! Forget the flowers and let's grow some food.



It gives people who don't have enough property in their lot to garden a garden space.

helps the bee population, why have boring grass when you can have a beautiful garden for the whole neighbourhood to enjoy.

First, I already have one. Second, they create beauty, they are places to grow food, they add to a sense of place and community.

They can enhance a neighbourhood, foster community, reduce grass growing areas. Provide food

perfect space for gardening; sense of 'ownership' of the neighbourhood

It encourages community involvement on a level where the individual has creative freedom and use of the community land.

They are beautiful and provide biodiversity for critters. I don't believe they make a significant contribution to our food supply.

Fresh air, opportunities to allow water to be porous into the ground and enter the water table in a concrete world, more opportunities to encourage bees and grow food

I think this is a brilliant idea and it makes good use of land. I also think it will strengthen our community and give a chance for people to help one another.

It is important to learn how to grow food. Sustainability is key and important for local economy

I think we should be growing food on every available piece of urban land that currently has lawn. Reserving some for areas to play and all native species.

any opportunity for growing food is awesome and I haven't seen any that look sloppy or anything so I'm down!

Food security is important

Alot of landlords dont support food gardens on their property. Ive been living in a home for over 5 years and have had to get a community garden plot away from my home. I love the idea of being able to grow my own food. Boulevard gardens are an alternative to not being allowed to have a food garden as well I find it such a waste of valuble space. You cant eat grass amd in this economic climate I think its important to be able to grow some fruit and veggies to offset some of the grocery bill costs! If anything It would support the bees and feed the family;)

In my mind, there are no negatives - it is extra space that can be used productively as a garden.

It makes streets more unique and vibrant. It also better deals with runoff and temperature control.

Anyone who has see lush boulevard gardens in neighbourhood streets(e.g. Portland Ore) would certainly support them

They feel great! Makes the city feel like a home.

fresh food instead of grass appeals as a better use of land

It would be a good use of that space!

I feel it adds interest and beauty to public areas. having usable plantings would be a great way of eating locally rather than always purchasing from distant areas.

I believe it's wasted green space and we don't have much of a yard and I would love to expand my garden and see the area being more useful.

better use of non-developed space. i also support increasing local food security

They can add interest and personality to our neighbourhoods. They can be used to grow food (useful).

builds friendships between neighbours, provides food, improves boulevards

Less lawn, more native vegetation

Can be productive (food) can be beautiful (Native Plants) and I don't like grass!

visual interest, community building, food, neighbourhood resilience

makes our neighbourhood more interesting, learn from other gardeners, grow food on city land

They beautiful roadways and capture rainwater. Depending on the presence and size of street trees, they may also be in open, exposed, sunny situations ideal for growing food crops. A downside in some locations is the possible contamination from years of proximity to vehicle traffic.

prefer to grow food not lawns

expresses thought creativity and variety

We are the City of Garden.....

I'm in favour of replacing grass with more useful plants.

Why grow grass when you can grow food? Also, might save some homeless person from dumpster diving - fresh food instead!

I think it gives people an opportunity to garden where they might not have a space to of their own. Example: apartment blocks etc

We need more food security in this global climate

water is wasted on grass

I like them

Food production, gardening experience, further beautification of neighbourhoods, better land use than grass or tree roots.

Why not? It beautifies, creates habitat, potentially creates food....

Allows a diversity of things to be grown as well as creating a social space. People like talking about what they grow.

It works! We have lots here on San Jose. And there's room for more!

support in effort to silence the lobby group

Because it is almost time to begin to support agriculture within the city. My concern is the lack of space to accommodate both gardening, pedestrians in the limited space before the cars take up the parking and roadway.

Allows people to garden who might otherwise not have space; makes for a varied & interesting streetscape

We need to maximize our food growing potential (though does car exhaust contaminate the produce?)

Good use of space; great stewardship of the land; models an alternative to industrial agriculture; can provide an option for food production for people who don't own property; food gardens are more interesting than grass boulevards

We should be investing as many resources as possible in food production and these boulevards provide the city with an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in this area.

For those short of space on their own property, its an excellent idea. We have 2 in our neighborhood. Also beautifies boulevards.

We should use the available space to produce food, rather than relying exclusively on produce shipped from outside the city.

extra gardening space for property owner or municipality is a win-win!

enables neighborhood relations, less expense for the city maintenance

Vegies flowers etc

We have the capacity then to feed more people, locally and sustainably.

more growing space is super! now the city should replace the ornamental fruit trees with productive ones :)

Growing food in these spaces makes more sense than growing inedible plants. Edibles are often very appealing to the eye, so they serve a dual purpose.

When the street was paved several years ago the city crew left the boulevard in a shambles - just lumps of clay and piles of soil, gravel etc. It was easier to plant a garden since i was expected to care for it!

Food Security, diversity, community building
Opportunity to beautify boring grassy, weedy strips of land. Food! Healthy, local grown food!
Food security, community building, health, biodiversity
I believe that we should be using as much space as possible to grow food for our communities. This type of project can serve to develop stronger connections within communities as well as practically helping to feed members of the community.
More greenery. Small scale food production. Opportunities for citizens to actively claim the spaces they inhabit.
If for nothing else, the beauty of nature
I think it looks beautiful and I love that people can grow food.
more plants - more bees; neighbourhood beautification
It is healthier eating, is charming to see, neighbours can meet (help/ trade with) neighbours, city doesn't have to water trees, saves people money AND gets them out side. Learning opportunity for kids. AND MORE!!!
They are aesthetically pleasing. Neighbours can meet, trade vegetables/flowers (promotes a sense of "community", learning opportunity for children, healthier eating, saves money, gets people out of door and moving, city doesn't have to water trees and SO MUCH MORE!
It both enjoyable to see the diversity of beautiful plants, over grass monocultures, and refreshing to see useful food production.
We have one
Looks great...good use of land
So much space there, just perfect for gardening.
Excellent use of space! Brings community together. Residence take pride and ownership
More food growing the better
Because it allows for further gardening opportunities including food production
Makes streets more beautiful and useful rather than mowing grass
Because there is a lot of growing space for food that goes completely unused
I prefer usable vegetation to purely ornamental
to mv increase local food production

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It promotes sustainability and emphasizes the importance of locally, organically grown food.

Pretty, food, community

Attractive, positive addition to streetscape and encourages more knowledge and encouragement for people to grow more food.

#### 4. Do you support increasing the number of community gardens in Victoria?

Var ab e	Yes	No	
<b>Allotment gardens (for personal use)</b>	324 93.6%	22 6.4%	Total: 346
<b>Commons gardens (anyone can harvest)</b>	304 89.9%	34 10.1%	Total: 338
<b>Community orchards</b>	332 97.9%	7 2.1%	Total: 339

#### 5. Where do you think it is appropriate to have allotment gardens (for personal use)?

Var ab e	Appopr ate	Inapprapr ate	No op n on	
City parks (excluding natural areas)	219 65.2%	94 28.0%	23 6.8%	Total: 336
City facilities ( eg. parkades, community centres)	263 78.3%	49 14.6%	24 7.1%	Total: 336
Closed streets	281 85.9%	11 3.4%	35 10.7%	Total: 327
Other public lands (institutions or provincial)	291 86.9%	31 9.3%	13 3.9%	Total: 335
Utility corridors	251 76.1%	39 11.8%	40 12.1%	Total: 330
Industrial or light industrial areas	206 63.2%	80 24.5%	40 12.3%	Total: 326
Commercial areas	238 72.6%	48 14.6%	42 12.8%	Total: 328
Residential areas	307 91.4%	14 4.2%	15 4.5%	Total: 336
Other (please specify below)	74 51.4%	2 1.4%	68 47.2%	Total: 144
Please include 'other' locations that you think are suitable for allotment gardens here.				
Response	Count			
	89 responses			
vacant lots				
Any vacant residential or commercial lot				
Outside the city in a big old field!				
Rooftop gardens. It would be great to encourage rooftop gardens on new developments.				
Rooftops. Planters placed along one side of wider streets like Rithet Street in James Bay.				
Rooftops				

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rooftops

Not sure what is meant by residential areas. If you mean privately held properties, that is the owners decisions. Let's not try to socially engineer or guilt trip people who like flowers and grass.

rooftops of new buildings - introduce bylaws that require buildings over a certain size (condo/apt buildings), footprint, etc. that requires them to install either gardens or solar panels

rooftops, reclaimed land, removing asphalt and replacing with planters

roof gardens?

All apartment and condo buildings should include garden space for tenants. Church yards. Perhaps the edge of school grounds and the school could participate with their own beds.

Vacant lots

School yards and the school can also be given beds for student participation.

Empty lots

container gardens on flat roofs when possible. Decks and patios.

residents wanting to have a garden of their own should choose their landlord carefully. Many rental buildings have large grassed areas. Others, owning property should use their own land for gardens

rooftops

Incorporated into private developments, similar to how some developers are required to plant trees etc.

help low income families, seniors get started.

Closed rail corridors; galloping goose right of ways (off the trail)

Along the galloping goose trail

Lawns that are not being used.

On top of buildings.

Vacant spaces, rooftops

Roofs

schools, hospitals. I can't think of anywhere that I think would be 'unsuitable', the main factor to consider is whether the site has been contaminated through prior use.

They need to be "off the beaten track" as I've seen people pilfering other people's harvest.

Rooftops



back yards, shared back yards (stop restricting water), some school yards. As for closed streets, PLEASE OPEN THEM

Vacant or underdeveloped lots

Rooftops, schools/education centres, anywhere! Commercial depending on the pollution in the area.

City facilities but not parkades

Anywhere there isn't concrete!!!

Roof tops of commercial buildings. Just about anywhere there is dirt and access!

Anywhere and everywhere

Anywhere feasible to growth and community access!

Anywhere there is not above average soil and air pollution.

roofs, decks,

Privat land, as wanted by property owner, be it rooftop or on land. Strtas ansd apartments can create their own without using public resources

Apartment rooftops.

Roof top gardening

Front lawns, absolutely.

Anywhere that is safe, and where food will not be contaminated by pollution.

Schools

Land donated - loaned - by Victoria residents

schools

People who want allotment gardens should be independent and provide their own lands

Golf courses...lots of land on cedar hill

college and university grounds for students hospital grounds for patients

rooftops, grade school yards, UVic., Camosun College

share a yard

School yards

Any green space even I would like to see some mixed into the manv flower beds across the city.

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How about roof top gardens, there is so much potential for improving our air quality and an ability to produce both food and flowers on top of some of our flat roofs.

Gardening for food should be done on soils that are uncontaminated - or risk contamination - from road and or storm sewer run-off.

rooftops of commercial buildings downtown if structurally sound

school grounds; old railway beds, vacant unused private land temporarily (with approval of the landowner)

anywhere!! why not?

Boulevards.

anywhere there is viable land that is not being used.

school board owned lands

Rooftop gardens

Roofs of public buildings

rooftops

Rooftops, lawns (instead of grass).

Areas where properties residential /commercial that have been not developed for sometime and owners are simply not planning on developing.

More rooftop gardens!

parkade rooftops

what about a small area at a school, or college/university? along the galloping goose trail (not in the areas of heavier bike traffic)

Around Condos..... Nursery home fo Older People, ( appropriate level....)

Specifically schools occupied and those that aren't

schools, colleges, hospital/retirement home grounds--institutions???

private sue of a garden should be fully privately financed, including market rental of land if not privately owned

everywhere

Not sure about city parks

RE the above items: I was going to say no to parks but seeing the list below made me change my mind as I think some of those would be suitable. My concern with most of those listed above is whether the produce would be contaminated by pollution and whether the soil is clean. Otherwise, I would like to see gardens growing everywhere possible and I think we will need them to feed ourselves in the future.

The City could facilitate having private land used as allotment gardens with owner permission.

golf courses

Vic High school board lands

Empty lots, school yarda, rooftops

any underutilized location with sun and no soil toxins (heavy metals from industry).

all areas that are able to support vegetation should be considered.

crown land

Any space that is potentially usable.

The more gardens the better.

School grounds

School yards re: RESIDENTIAL AREAS - in an unused/empty/abandoned lot would be appropriate. If it's in a park- not right in the middle (ruining the park) but around the edges would be good

I am in favour of gardening and food production in all the above areas. My concern around allotment gardens is their availability to all who would like a plot. If enough growing space to meet the demand for individual allotments is available in public parks and the other public areas as outlined above i am all for it. However, to ensure food production for everyone perhaps a mix of allotment and the more collaborative gardens in public places would work best.

Any and all locations, provided the soil is NOT contaminated in Industrial areas, for instance.




6. What kind of community gardening activities do you think are appropriate in City parks (not including designated natural areas)?

Variable	Appropriate	Inappropriate	No opinion	
<b>Allotment gardens (for personal use)</b>	190 57.2%	119 35.8%	23 6.9%	Total: 332
<b>Commons gardens (anyone can harvest)</b>	268 79.8%	52 15.5%	16 4.8%	Total: 336
<b>Community orchards</b>	321 95.8%	10 3.0%	4 1.2%	Total: 335
<b>Community bee-keeping</b>	271 80.2%	50 14.8%	17 5.0%	Total: 338
<b>Demonstration farming</b>	266 80.4%	41 12.4%	24 7.3%	Total: 331
<b>Edible landscapes</b>	318 93.5%	18 5.3%	4 1.2%	Total: 340
<b>Native or wild plants for harvesting</b>	305 90.0%	25 7.4%	9 2.7%	Total: 339

## 7. Where do you think it is appropriate to plant fruit and nut trees on City lands?

Variable	Appropriate	Inappropriate	No opinion	
<b>Parks</b>	307 91.9%	18 5.4%	9 2.7%	Total: 334
<b>City-owned facilities (e.g. community centers)</b>	325 97.3%	2 0.6%	7 2.1%	Total: 334
<b>Playgrounds</b>	248 74.9%	67 20.2%	16 4.8%	Total: 331
<b>Boulevards (street trees)</b>	317 94.3%	12 3.6%	7 2.1%	Total: 336
<b>Plazas</b>	295 88.6%	21 6.3%	17 5.1%	Total: 333

## 8. Would you support small-scale commercial urban agriculture in your neighbourhood?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	297 89.2%	
<b>No</b>	16 4.8%	
<b>Don't know</b>	20 6.0%	
<i>Total: 333</i>		

9. What types of garden structures / activities that support small-scale commercial urban agriculture do you feel are appropriate for use within your neighbourhood?

Var ab e	Appropr ate	Inappropr ate	No Op n on	
<b>Greenhouses</b>	294 89.9%	17 5.2%	16 4.9%	<i>Total: 327</i>
<b>Tool sheds</b>	289 88.1%	19 5.8%	20 6.1%	<i>Total: 328</i>
<b>Farm stands - onsite sales</b>	295 89.7%	21 6.4%	13 4.0%	<i>Total: 329</i>
<b>Production facilities - for jam, preserves etc. produced onsite</b>	272 82.4%	31 9.4%	27 8.2%	<i>Total: 330</i>
<b>Compost - bins or storage</b>	283 85.5%	28 8.5%	20 6.0%	<i>Total: 331</i>
<b>Motorized gardening equipment</b>	141 44.1%	134 41.9%	45 14.1%	<i>Total: 320</i>
<b>Fertilizer use</b>	154 48.4%	114 35.8%	50 15.7%	<i>Total: 318</i>
<b>Other (please specify below)</b>	45 36.3%	13 10.5%	66 53.2%	<i>Total: 124</i>

Please include details about your 'other' structures or activities here.

Response	Count
	73 responses

farm to table restaurants

believe there should be no pesticides used

Chickens, goats, and other small livestock.

Loud noises and strong smells not be allowed. Care should be taken to prevent pests and rodents.

Not sure what is meant by "in your neighbourhood". private land owners already have the right to do all of the above.

Definition of fertilizer use is needed

Special/Seasonal Events and hired help or volunteers at peak times

If there is no alternative to motorized equipment, then limited use could be acceptable; urban agriculture should be organic - compost should be used in place of fertilizers

Pesticides

I am assuming not huge composting. I do worry about rats and now use a composting service because of many rats in neighbourhood. In my experience rat proof composting is not

Fruit arbors for grapes etc. Only natural fertilizers please

Fruit vine arbors.

any structure must pay its own way. Full land costing at max pricing should be charged if on public land

There are 990 farms in the Region. There is NO need for publicly sponsored farms in Victoria.

Organic practices and products for healthier environments and healthier people

Education and community-building events around gardening and food issues. Natural venue for other community events - lectures, workshops, meetings.

Would not support the use of fertilizers/pesticides that would impact or may impact health. Wouldn't support structures/activities that contribute to increase in pests/ noise

pesticide- herbicide use

fertilizer would OK if organic, small mechanical equipment only and used in consideration of surrounding residential areas

All fertilizers or herbicides/fungicides should be regulated and organic

Fertilizer is appropriate depending on the type of fertilizer. That's a bit of a vague and loaded question.

Fruit and veg stands along the galloping goose trail

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Fertilizer use only if it is organic, not toxic.

community outdoor kitchen.

Just wanted to specify, for fertilizer, that organic fertilizers would be more appropriate for use than inorganic, same guidelines for pesticide use

Heavy pesticide or biocide use

I support organic fertilizers, but no chemi-swag

Fertilizer should only be organic. Do not support composting on any commercial scale due to rats.

Aquaponics, growing mushrooms, urban forestry, small animal raising (i.e. chickens or ducks).

Use of pesticides or in organic chemical fertilizers

veg and flower beds, lawns and shade trees all good, for family use on private lots

All of these structures and activities are 'appropriate' as long as they are efficiently and responsible managed and maintained

Get rid of the deer!!!

Motorized gardening tools should be limited to use during specific times only. Chemical fertilizer use should respect bedders zones for neighbours wishing to certify organic. Composted manure as fertilizer or other organic fertilizers are fine.

Question is too broad. Commercial operations could go almost anywhere as long as pays its way. Zoning and property tax issues must be such that residents do not subsidize. Roof top, as in vicNws article are great. No concerns about vehicle oil and dog messes in garden.

Compost bring rats. To many now.

Absolutely no chemicals.

Use of pesticides

I support all organic growing, and education. So funding for demonstration gardens in the schools would be good. There's not much space for greenhouses in Gonzales, however they are fantastic for all-year-round produce production. We have the perfect climate.

schools

Organic only, no pesticides or herbicides

This is a difficult question because I am not sure what is meant. On whose land is the 'farm' to exist? Am concerned about zoning and unintended impacts on others. Plus, am concerned about taxdollars being consumed for private gain.

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Hours placed around the use of motorized gardening equipment. Restrictions placed around the types of fertilizers used and the method of application. Any freestanding structures - e.g. greenhouses, tool sheds and farm stands need to be kept in reasonable and good repair.

i'd like to see no till farming....and absolutely no chemical fertilizers and herbicides allowed

Lets get creative anything can be used...

Synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers should not be allowed.

Herbicide, pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and GMO seeds should be banned from all public agriculture.

Chemical weed killers/pesticides as we are so close to the open water and there are alot of plants and animals that are already under tremendous environmental pressure.

Just a comment: all products should be organic

" How to" demonstrations

Only organic fertilizers such as livestock manure etc. No chemicals that can transfer or affect others in the area.

Natural fertilizer use

Organic fertilizer, grey water systems

For small scale activities (ie I'm assuming no one will be making a living primarily with these activities), it would be nice if food could be grown organically - or at least with zero pesticides.

Motorized gardening equipment during working hours 9 am to 4 pm, weekdays when most residents are mostly at work and not disrupted.

Solar and wind power structures are appropriate.

Only organic, compost if people know how, motorized...too noisy,

Use of pesticides/herbicides.

free food stands (or cheap food stands), like the flower stand at the corner of Caledonia & Vancouver

my comment on this section is that any motorized gardening instruments (presuming lawn mowers, clippers etc are limited to reasonable noise bylaws so the neighbourhoods peace is not disturbed.

chicken coop

Question about production facility. Ok as long as is in indsurtial area

all commercial enterprises should not use pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizer GMO seeds. They also

use as few mechanized devices as possible

Small-scale

Compost would have to be done well and not too smelly; motorized equipment only if very restricted, all fertilizer should be organic and then it's fine to use;

aquaculture! also anything that provides affordable locally grown food to the community.

Aquaponics, chickens (on properties with adequate land)

As long as structures/activities are well-organized and maintained, I believe they should be used in all neighbourhoods. I would strongly encourage partnerships with local gardening/farming organizations (Mason St, Victoria Composting Centre, LifeCycles etc.

my concern with fertilizer use in my neighbourhood is only that it might not be natural fertilizer. Natural fertilizer is all good.

NO pesticides AT ALL- sheds/greenhouses should be small, storage sheds (tools?) shared- not one for each gardener. For "Farm Stands" I am envisioning that someone has, say an apple or fig tree, or too many Zuchinnis....they could sell them at a little "stand".....not unlike a lemon aid stand-size.....not big Farm stands like on the Saanich Peninsula

Any sheds, greenhouses should be small and well kept...perhaps compost bins large enough to be useful but not "over kill". Some NATURAL fertilizer use, but ZERO pesticides..It all would likely depend on the size of the "urban commercial farm" is. Farm stands should be small- an over-sized "lemonaide stand"- NOT huge like on the Saanich Peninsula ( say Oldfield Road) where they are businesses.

Beekeeping, chickens - laying hens

Aquaponics, as they have at Mason St Farm

10. What are the top priorities to consider for increasing food production in the City of Victoria?

Var a b e	Not a p r o r t y	Low p r o r t y	Med u m p r o r t y	H g h p r o r t y	
Every neighbourhood has a place for community food growing and harvesting	20 6.3%	17 5.3%	88 27.7%	193 60.7%	Total: 318
Easy to find places to buy locally grown food	17 5.4%	13 4.1%	61 19.2%	226 71.3%	Total: 317
Everyone has access to healthy, affordable food (better food security)	13 4.0%	6 1.9%	30 9.3%	272 84.7%	Total: 321
Utilize vacant lots for growing food	18 5.6%	10 3.1%	73 22.7%	220 68.5%	Total: 321
Educate and involve the community in food growing and harvesting	19 5.9%	8 2.5%	70 21.9%	223 69.7%	Total: 320
Food growing spaces on public land are open and accessible to all	21 6.6%	17 5.3%	88 27.7%	192 60.4%	Total: 318
Aesthetics/ tidiness	19 5.9%	63 19.7%	119 37.2%	119 37.2%	Total: 320
Other (please specify below)	21 32.3%	3 4.6%	8 12.3%	33 50.8%	Total: 65
Please describe your 'other' priority or priorities here.					
Response	Count				
	67 responses				
good guidance					
Recruiting volunteers to help maintain public gardens					
Everyone has the ability to garden: communal tool sheds, rentable garden equipment at library, help harvesting, etc.					
New developments could be encouraged to provide gardening space, such as hanging gardens, rooftop					

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gardens, window gardens, courtyard gardens, etc.

food production must not be subsidized by the taxpayer. If not economically feasible without grants, don't do it.

More education to get private residents thinking about growing food instead of just having a lawn. Also important to think about rainwater harvesting as drought years will be more common in the future.

We must ensure that the Tragedy of the Commons is not in play. Lobby groups should not be given special treatment or access to public lands.

Encourage the garden lobby to take care of themselves and to purchase their own farms rather than try to take away public lands from common uses

Organic practices and production

Inclusiveness (the most vulnerable, children, seniors), education, making it a community "meeting place" that is safe and beautiful

Need to have strict guidelines wrt aesthetics and tidiness and who can harvest. Given our "homeless/vagrant" issues Downtown and James Bay, we don't want people being able to wander into community gardens and just freeloading as they do elsewhere.

Growing food for restaurant use in the city, helping social enterprises grow to meet demand

Just emphasizing education: diversity of grown food products as well as urban growing techniques.

support urban agriculture non profit organizations

Education is key, community gardens are nice to see but their educational and inspirational effects are going to motivate more people to "grow food, not lawns, live like kings, not like pawns"

security of plots that aren't open for public harvesting (e.g. allotted plots that are paid/memberships)

Locally grown produce grown locally should not have to be forced to be competitively priced as the large chain stores. If we are trying to support families this is a very important factor.

Affordability of locally grown produce, Involvement of Indigenous communities in land use planning

Having a mixture of places for individually run businesses vs. open to the public food growing spaces is key. Diversify!

Many of the cherry trees that do not produce edible fruits should be replaced with trees that do produce food. There are many varieties of plum and cherry trees that have nice blossoms in the spring and also produce fruit in the summer/fall. Aesthetics alone should not trump utilization of food resources and food security.

People and children should have the opportunity to learn how to grow healthy and organic foods to feed

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themselves, their families and those in need

'easy places to buy food', means grocery stores. Which lots are 'vacant'? for how long?

protection from deer, water consumption used for unused food production, proper food rotation composting

Need to control deer, dogs and other animal pests!

I am curious if expanding locations for local food production will increase need to test soil for meters etc before planting.

Get rid of the deer.

Do not think city staff should do this. Rely/support the many nonprofits in the city doing this work.

Must ensure that gardening and commercial food production do not occur in parks. Parks are a trust for all. Public realm must be maintained. As our population increases, more park land will be needed. Use "reclaim" areas for gardening and strips of land not in parks.

Don't make big change in environment for animals

That the produce be organically grown. Worm tea for fertilizer, no chemicals.

Organic food production should be a priority!

Ensuring pesticides are not being used

100% organic food grown in natural compost produced by the City of Victoria

All for using vacant lots for growing food.

beehives

Priority would be for the City not to expend any resources for individual gain. There is enough food production on the peninsula that other food production infrastructure is not needed - especially public dollars.

Knowledge of soil health at proposed sites

Everyone has the opportunity to receive education in food preparation and neighborhoods are supported to have a community kitchen.

we get a compost center up and running in our city asap...I'm surprised a public private partnership hasn't been formed yet between a large farmer like Vantreight or Galey's...also i'd like to see a cutting edge facility that captures the methane and uses it to power buses....I think private investors would be very interested in putting their money into something like this

Community Gardening Association Network with membership requirement for participants.

Allotment gardens should be accessible to everyone, including those who may not be able to afford an annual fee. Disadvantaged populations should be seriously considered and included in any kind of food production initiatives the City undertakes.

For all city gardens be organized and supervised by people who have the knowledge and experience to do so and to teach those of us who don't have a clue.

Emphasis should be on growing for members of the community rather than for commercial activity

Gardeners must take responsibility for keeping their area clean and well maintained

Make food spaces; unobtrusive, small scale, and minimally disruptive to residents (no fertilizer odors, minimize noisy machinery like chippers, and free from transient loitering)

I am concerned with nut plants in public areas we many people have severe nut ergies. at least have all plants clearly labeled

Severley limiting or banning completely the sue of chemical pesticides/herbicides such as Roundup, etc.

it took me four and half years to get an allotment space to grow my own food...obviously with a waiting list that long It must mean people want to grow their own food.

urban food coordinator to oversee + facilitate the continuity and smooth running of community urban food production.

Self Sufficiency- within limits- is important in a community

DON'T ALLOW PRIVATE OR SHARED GARDENS IN OUR BOULEVARDS

A management plan that works

Education - helps kids learn that food doesn't "grow" in boxes in stores.

The phrasing in this question insinuates that the population is not capable of feeding themselves! I believe we do a good job without council's involvement!

Maintain full ban on land application of sewage sludge, so-called 'biosolids,' including derivative products. No exceptions or regulatory loopholes.

Fenced at night some electricity public toilets for the specific area access to water

I feel that there should be allowances for public access and private for those who are providing food for sale or for there own use in circumstances of low income, and families to ensure they have enough food.

Teach children and some adults so they relize how everyone working together and we can all grow our, organic, food.

make sure food is accessible to disabled, elderly, etc.



Priority is to be fair to all. Most of Victoria is densely populated. Food production should be in containers and moveable (except for privately owned gardens) It is important to keep our parks and other public areas available for other uses that serve all of us and not those who belong to garden groups. there are many uses and demands of public lands and will be more in the future. Need to make sure that public lands are not privatised for an individuals gain.

We must begin to educate ourselves and our friends, neighbours and families about the source of our food and the importance of learning to grow, harvest and preserve it. Also, it is imperative that all regardless of their status and ownership of anything participate in these initiative.

I don't know what is meant by "food growing spaces on public land open and accessible...". If it means that some would be doing the gardening and anyone else can come and help themselves, no. Accessible to all - means to those in wheelchairs etc? - not realistic though some could be made that way. Any such food growing should have people sign up to share the work, or to have individual plots, and the produce would be theirs, except that some could be grown communally for certain elders etc who can't grow their own but would appreciate the veggies. Maybe a way could be found for them to participate...research seed varieties, buy a few seed packets, help to keep a work-share list or some such thing.

Food production is sometimes messy but can also be aesthetically pleasing and somewhat tidy. There are different ways to do this and the aesthetics of food production do matter.

There must be a specific community or group who needs this, and who is personally invested.

As much as possible incorporate restoration of native plants and indigenous food systems, e.g. camas meadows

Only NATURAL fertilizers (yes, it will likely have an odor!) and ZERO PESTICIDES!

pesticide and GMO free gardening

#### 11. Do you have any other comments about urban food production in the City of Victoria?

Response

Count

130 responses

love that you're asking about this

Leave it out of city parks and boulevards

We love the herb garden at Fisherman's Wharf! My kids get so excited to go and learn about the plants, pick them and then come home and cook with them. We would LOVE to be able to pick from fruit trees in city parks around the city!

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I am fully in support of it! I wish the prices were a bit lower at some farmers markets as it can be hard to justify purchasing there vs at the supermarket where it is cheaper but less sustainable. I would love more public gardens in Victoria.

Excited to see this in the policy agenda! I hope we can all grow more food.

We also must focus on how to conserve water whilst increasing urban food production.

It would be great if there were more farmers markets. For example, James Bay park at Simcoe and Menzies could be used more than once per week for a farmers market. Encouraging Rooftop gardens would be great, especially on apartment buildings and office buildings. France has recently passed a by-law requiring new structures to provide for rooftop gardens. Also, there are lots of people with property who are unable to garden, and many other people who want to garden. We could set up a way for these people to connect. Property owners could get 1/3 of the gardeners' produce for allowing them to use part of their yard and water.

City of Victoria, keep up the good work!

No

I love what the CoV is doing to promote urban agriculture, the need for which will become more critical with climate change. Thank you for creating this survey and giving everyone a chance to voice their opinions. Even though I live in Metchosis, I am a huge proponent of UA and am would love to see more of it around the city! Well done on all your work on this. PS: there was no 'other' category for #12 - this survey was posted in a discussion forum for Gaia Education students and alums.

It's already great, but we need to amp it up to be ahead of the game.

Completely against the private use of public space.

do not allow private use of public park land; allotments are private. Share all, keep parks open to all

North Vancouver

Didn't know the meaning of some questions, e.g. Food growing spaces on public land are open and accessible to all, does it exclude allotment gardens?

I am in a 4-plex with a huge flat roof -the rest of my yard is very shady (lovely big trees) would love info re roof gardening-any local companies that set it up

Not at the moment. I like the direction this appears to be taking.

I don't think playgrounds should grow fruit or nuts just because some children have nut allergies to the nuts we can grow locally (walnuts, hazelnuts) and if fruit is not harvested right away it attracts lots of wasps

The subsidy of taxpayer funding should NOT occur. There has never been a shortage of food in Victoria. Fruit



trees, urban food producing landscaping, equally accessible to all should be the target - the optimal food production in the City that does not give favour to some over others and does not, in any way, privatise public lands

Water for irrigation of the gardens ought to have some special consideration as far as cost!

There is more food production than people realise. Example, Heron Rock Bistro grows herbs in the flower boxes by the tables.

This is an opportunity for this wonderful city to demonstrate having a truly higher standard of living. Thank you.

The City of Victoria and local food advocacy groups need to educate our citizenry about food scarcity and other Southern Vancouver Island food issues, then empower them to be a part of a large scale plan to turn our community spaces into food producing, community building and beautiful havens for people and wildlife..

Farmer's Markets are great - I'm a regular at Moss Street and it's now year round which is great! Have more Farmers' Markets in all communities - encourage groups like City Harvest to participate. The goal should be to have every child in a City school be able to tell you where an apple, or a carrot, or .... really comes from. i.e. not "the supermarket"!!

I support having a designated food eco district to grow food in the city for public and restaurants

We have the perfect climate for this!! We should do more! It should be MUCH more available.

I would like to see more locally grown food be accessible in all major neighborhoods. I only know of two markets that sell local produce and they're nowhere near me.

excellent that you care

Less talk, more growing....of course with parameters , which of course, take time to develop

Fruit and nut trees should be planted with respect of knowledge of heritage trees and trees adaptive to climate change. Indigenous plants should be incorporated whenever possible and more attention should be paid towards weeds. Many things we pull out as weeds are more nutritious than things we grow. More education needed around this. Perhaps more empty lots could be growing weeds.

Important to support the organizations that are already doing work around urban agriculture, such as LifeCycles Project, Food Eco District and Compost Education Center

I hope Victoria takes a true West Coast approach to this and makes a move for The People and one small move against Big Ag, the monoculture farming technique, low quality food

Yea! Absolutely needed.

I think that urban food production is very important in Victoria and the island as a whole. I believe we should be educating and promoting the growing of local food as times are changing. California (where much of our

fresh produce is grown) is in a severe drought and salinization state and produce prices are increasing. Also the environmental impact of transporting food from US or other countries in the world to Canada is detrimental. What happens if/when we don't have access to these international food suppliers? People have lost touch with how food is grown and processed and need to re-learn how to grow their own food and work together in their communities to become as self sustaining as possible.

need to get a map out showing where we can harvest the food!

Urban food production is important to low income families as well as senior citizens. pricing should reflect that commitment to them.

this is a priority in general and would be best if it involves education and youth

We need to catch up to modern mentalities and start adoption g permaculture practices into our garden planning. It will save money in the long run and add to our soil health.

Ensure the zoning/zoning process for certain types of food production are appropriate/attainable; ensure that issues like compost smell, tidiness, illegal plants, etc. are appropriately covered in rules/regulations and that there are consequences for poor behaviour/lack of action

Allotment gardens (private ownership) are inappropriate for public held land

Please consider balance of seasonal water requirements in final recommendations.

Consider a condition of new apartment housing to provide a "green space" for residents so they can garden.

Community trees in parks and along the streets are preferable to private allotments. Money and scarcity of plots should not be a barrier for people getting nutrition. Also, larger orchards on the outskirts of town could be maintained by volunteer labour and school groups.

There is a very active food security/urban agriculture movement in Vic West. It still needs support to grow, though.

If gardens are grown in parks, they should be accessible to public

I am concerned about the way that the urban food production policies that the City is pursuing may be compromised or contradicted by other city development goals. For instance, in my neighbourhood of North Park, it's my understanding that the Bosa development could compromise Mason St. City Farm's ability to grow food by shading them out part of the year. It's very frustrating to see the City make a big fuss about supporting community food and small scale urban agriculture, while simultaneously enthusiastically supporting a project that would undercut one of our City's BEST CURRENT example of small scale urban agriculture. It seems totally ridiculous. We not only need to encourage the creation of food projects we also need to \*protect\* and \*support\* what is already successfully demonstrating urban food production.

question 9 - organic fertilizer appropriate, inorganic fertilizer inappropriate; also I feel strongly that city parks should provide as much habitat as possible for the wild plants traditionally harvested by the Lekwungen and

WISAMFC Beonle

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## Public Input

Just do it.

I'm happy to see Victoria trying to grow more food locally and I would be happy to help out in any initiatives if possible.

I believe that Victoria is years behind in our agricultural development. We live on a beautiful coast with a fantastic growing climate. We are wasting land and resources. I feel that all tall buildings should have wind generators on the roof tops as well as solar panels. Every apartment building should have gardens for people to grow food and or flowers. Working with the earth is very important to our physical and mental state. With the growing cost of living and the stagnant wages, peoples stress levels are in the rise, so anything we can do to help out mental and physical health is important.

It should be up to individual property owners whether they want to grow food or not, it isn't something the taxpayer should have to finance, and it isn't something to sacrifice our scarce parks land for.

education programs are important so residence know the best way to grow food without wasting water and other resources

We should support it in any way we can, and teach others and encourage local production.

I think it is very idealistic but hope those who are willing to do the gardening work succeed and do not see their efforts ruined.

I'd love to see less ornamental and more fruit & veggies!

Where can I sign up to help get the project(s) going?

I live on Herald Street and there are few quality grocery stores, inadequate parks, and definitely no gardens around. Gardens and communal green spaces are VERY important to me.

this is vitally important. People are becoming so distanced from the realities of food production and it needs to become part of everyday life again.

No

Check out what the city of Winnipeg is doing with all this.

It should be available to all! Especially folks free harvesting fort those who cant afford to buy local produce

Probably not a good idea to have fruit and nut trees in playground in case of food allergies among children. Also need to watch that community gardens don't become hangouts for, as one of my neighbours Brewers to them, "unoccupied men" who drink and smoke in the gardens making them uninviating and even unsafe for local residents and children. This was a problem with the (now razed) community garden on Michigan Street in James Bay.

Yes!! This morning, I just lost my bean garden to the deer! They belong in the forest, not in the middle a city.

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Ms Helps told me she would look after it in her campaign!!

Need to have plan for neglected backyards/community garden space. Do not want my tax dollars paying for city staff to revitalize. Plots should be connected to people.

Some of the questions assume low intelligence or understanding about food production. Not so. residents generally understand the issues and do not need to be educated

Maintenance need to be thought through. Time, energy commitment huge.

I support urban food production but would not like to see an increase in pesticide and fungicide use in urban areas. I feel it is important to support organic food production with workshops, educational classes and information sharing.

Would like to see more of it, especially on vacant lands and on school property.

We have all the expertise, public support and perfect climate -- it's a fantastic initiative. Also nutritious foodstuffs in the supermarkets are now too expensive for the average single person, pensioner or family budget.

I support this in every way!

With increasing climate change and the ever increasing price of imported fresh food, it just makes good sense to make full use of our climate to grow food year round in easily accessible places.

I think education is key. I'm interested in growing food both indoors and outdoors in my residence (I'm in a condo with a balcony) as well as participating in some group work and harvesting but I have very limited experience.

Urban food production should be available to those who struggle to put food on the table and those who are homeless. I would dearly love to start a community garden in my town. Unfortunately everyone I have spoken to loves the idea but are not willing to get on board. I know of three places that are willing to do something like a community garden but it's on school property. Not everyone that I've talked to is willing to get a working with children card. This is because I live in a low income area. It's a shame because I'm really passionate about getting a community garden set up.

The survey is somewhat worrisome. It is one sided when looking at parks and other public lands. The survey seems to be slanted towards giving individuals a form of property right to public lands. Parks should be for the public, the common good, not for self-selecting gardeners or farmers who want special rights to use our public spaces/land.

Don't forget that vertical gardening is a possibility where soil is poor or where land is limited.

I think Victoria is ahead of other communities in BC - which is great and it should continue being a vanguard.

We dug up our front yard and put in a garden..veggies and fruit trees...I'd like to see this everywhere in our city

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Let's keep moving toward greater participation in the global movement ( backward? ) to better food and greater food self-sufficiency!

It is good that this issue is seen as an important one to discuss and to hopefully implement

Disappointingly, there is no mention of First Nations in this survey and how they will be consulted, included and considered in this initiative. Creating areas for traditional harvesting and growing of medicines, berries and other foods should be a top priority alongside, if not above, commercial urban farming.

I think it's great

I think urban food production would be best in low traffic non industrial areas to avoid pollution of the harvest. I also think that specific people/companies should be responsible for watering and maintaining the urban food areas so they don't become unsightly, die, or are abandoned. If these products are sold they should be more affordable than fruit/veges/jams and nuts sold in the stores.

grow food not lawns

Make it as affordable or free if possible so that no one in our city goes hungry. Taking care of our own citizens and neighbours.

A collecting and distribution site for extras to the homeless

I said playgrounds would be an inappropriate spot for fruit/nut trees due to possible allergies or choking hazards with little kids. Big fruit would be fine but I would be concerned about cherries, due to the pit, and nuts are probably not a good idea just cause kids might pick them up and put them in their mouth and they might be allergic.

I am grateful that the City is promoting this discussion, and the growth of urban food production.

keep it small scale; don't allow it to become a impediment to other uses of parks (like sports, recreations, playgrounds, etc)

I fully support the idea of urban food production as long as the cost to the consumer is in line with a regular store and not over the top due to trendiness and the farmer having a \$1 000 000 3 bedroom home while I as a consumer have to struggle to make ends meet

The park at linden and chapman would be perfect for community garden. I have never seen the grassy area used. Great location in a great neighborhood

I am pleased that the city is pursuing this initiative.

Good to know there is some interest in these activities.

Perhaps it should be started in one neighborhood to see what might work and not work...

There are so many positive results from urban food production it should be highly publicised and promoted.

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There are so many positive results from urban food production it should be highly publicised and promoted.

very excited for what the future will bring with this! My main concern would be some taking advantage of the community gardens and harvesting too much rather than allowing others to have the opportunity as well.

It isn't necessary. There is no shortage of healthy inexpensive vegetables at our local stores and markets.

Consider appropriate pricing of water. I think water for food gardening should be considered different from water for washing cars or watering lawns.

Yes I do

urban agriculture is a shift that will likely bring some "growing pains", but these are well worth it. access to food is human right, in my view, Food security is a real concern that needs to be addressed by all levels of government.

I tried to get the city to let us plant fruit trees on boulevards in the "70's" to no avail. Thank you for trying.

We need a sustainable local food supply supplemented by solar powered greenhouses in the winter months

This idea makes me love Victoria even more. The ones behind this are radical, forward thinking, kind souls and I am very grateful that this is happening.

Please please do as much as possible.

I think its a great idea to build upon.

Love the questions you're asking.

It seems you are focused on chaos! We do not need city hall involved in our 'gardens'! Funding 'volunteers' with taxpayer dollars to further the interests of a few is not ethical!

This is a priority for regional resilience. Vancouver Island used to grow 40% of our own food. Let's do that and more.

Perhaps fruit and nut trees should be considered separate categories, given the risk of contact for people with nut allergies. I would hate to see the city exposed to liability.

We have to help feed the poor.....the lonely are not so alone anymore, they like to help

We need to ensure we're also planting to entice pollinators.

I think it is a way to empower those with less. If someone can make the effort to garden they will be able to feed themselves and others, feel proud and also take some of the pressure off food banks.

Stop wasting spaces that could feed one or two families.

I love and support the Mason St Farm and am concerned about the proposed development on the St Andrews property, since they have expressed that it will shadow their farm and have an impact on their food

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growth

chickens!

I know rooftop gardening can work in some situations. There's some in that green development in Vic. West. Perhaps more opportunities can be identified.

The costs have not been asked about in this survey. And the alternate use cost which might be forgone. I would like to see the city costs for the allotment gardens, meaning land cost and water supply and staff administrative time. I think it must be very high.

Great that city is actively pursuing this.

I'm aware of a community garden in Vancouver that has a combination of individual and shared plots. Every member is responsible for some part of the shared area and all can pick from it. In addition there are group work days to deal with common areas. It seems to work well. Part of the delight of individually owned plots is the freedom to do different things, do them in your own way, experiment, delight in all the variety of ways people garden. I think this would be lost in a more communal arrangement, though I like sharing. Maybe there needs to be room for both. Larger items, like fruit trees or berry patches, are hard to have in individual plots. I am glad the City is taking this initiative. So many people want to garden and can't, and it will be more and more necessary. I think anything that would help change the culture of front yards being lawns and flowers to front yards having veggie gardens (as well as backyards if sunny enough) would be good. though I'd love to see a lot more lawns dug up for gardens!

Move forward with this.

This is extremely important for sustainability and creating a resilient community. Not only because of the food production itself, but because of the culture change that future generations will take away from observing this as they grow up here.

property owners who have fruit trees or other edibles on their property that they are not using should have to register with Life Cycles to have their produce picked and made of use by the community instead of being wasted.

well done for considering these points

I would like to commend the city of Victoria on the progress they/we have made with regard to urban gardening/farming. Keep up this important work and thank you for issuing this survey.

Needs to be accessible (8yrs & 80 yrs old concept), rather than resulting out of a specific policy, there must be a specific group or community showing there is a need for this. Buy-in and sustainable food production will only be achieved if ppl are personally invested in a project.

The more the better. We need to start somewhere but there is SO much that can be done in Victoria.

Thank you for making this a priority! I think it's fantastic. Let's get kids involved as well. Keep up the good

#### WORK!

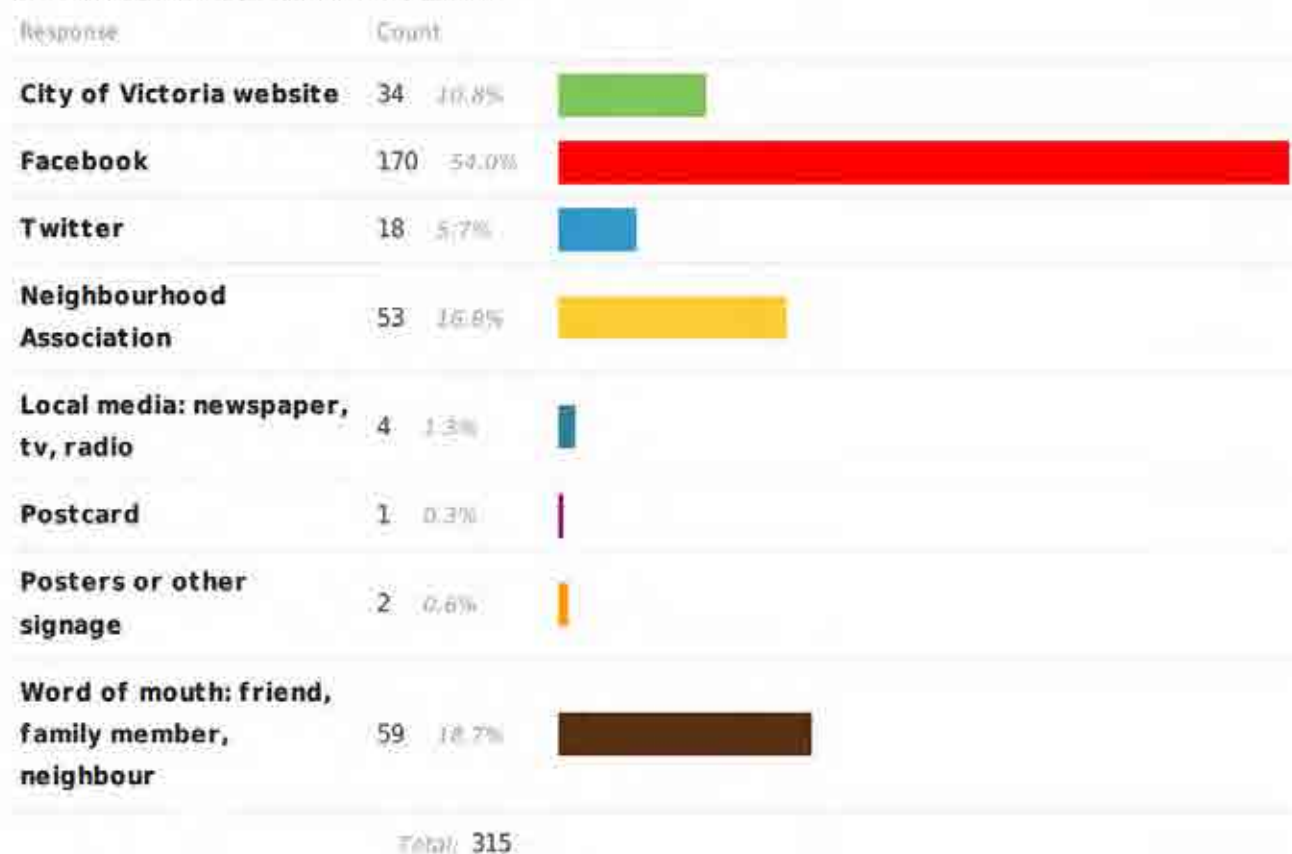
We need it. Fresh food is vital for health. Food Security is of paramount importance. It also is aesthetically pleasing, calming and charming to see growing things!

Deer. They will eat it. All

I think everywhere should have edible landscapes and encouragement to grow food that the people are in control of

I'm from Ontario and it's really happening there where I lived (Perth, ON) and here we have such a more favourable climate, we should be growing LOTS of food. I'm living in an apartment now and I've been here for 2 years on the waiting list for the James Bay Community Garden.

#### 12. How did you hear about this survey?



If you would like to be added to our email list to hear about upcoming news related to 'Growing in the City', please include your email address here. Your email will not be shared publicly and will only be used to contact you about updates for this project.

















Count.

## Personal information

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## September 3 Growing in the City Long

### 1. Which neighbourhood do you live in?

Response	Count	
<b>Victoria West</b>	36 8.7%	
<b>Burnside</b>	20 4.8%	
<b>Hillside/Quadra</b>	33 8.0%	
<b>Oaklands</b>	31 7.5%	
<b>Fernwood</b>	45 10.9%	
<b>North and South Jubilee</b>	16 3.9%	
<b>North Park</b>	8 1.9%	
<b>Rockland</b>	8 1.9%	
<b>Gonzales</b>	10 2.4%	
<b>Fairfield</b>	60 14.5%	
<b>James Bay</b>	50 12.1%	
<b>Harris Green</b>	4 1.0%	
<b>Downtown</b>	18 4.3%	
<a href="#"><u>Outside City of Victoria. Where?</u></a>	75 18.1%	
Total: 414		

Camosun neighbourhood, Saanich
Oak Bay
North Saanich
Saanich
Saanich

Saanich
Saanich
Saanich
Oak Bay
View Royal
South saanich
Saanich
Toronto
Saanich
gordon head
saanich
North Saanich
Esquimalt
Saanich
Sooke
Metchosin, previously Highlands, before that North Park
Saanich - right on the border of Victoria
Saanich
Sidney
Esquimalt
Gorge at Admirals
Esquimalt
saanich
Colwood
Saanich
Esquimalt (on Vic West border)
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esquimalt
varied
Courtenay
Saanich near uvic
central saanich
Toronto, but moving to Victoria next year
Oak Bay
Langford
Cadboro Bay in Saanich till I just moved to Sooke this month
Gordon Head
Mt Evelyn Victoria
Gordon Head
Cadboro Bay
Saanich
Saanich
Saanich
Gordon Head
North Saanich
Saanich
Saanich
Saanich
saanich - a couple blocks from oaklands
View Royal
Langford
Cloverdale, Saanich
Saanich

Cadboro Bay

metchsotin

Gorge/Tillicum

Gorge Tillicum, Saanich

East Saanich

Esquimalt

Esquimalt - is this really considered outside Victoria 3km west?

Sidney

Esquimalt

Brentwood bay

Saanich

central Saanich

brentwood bay

Maplewood in Saanich

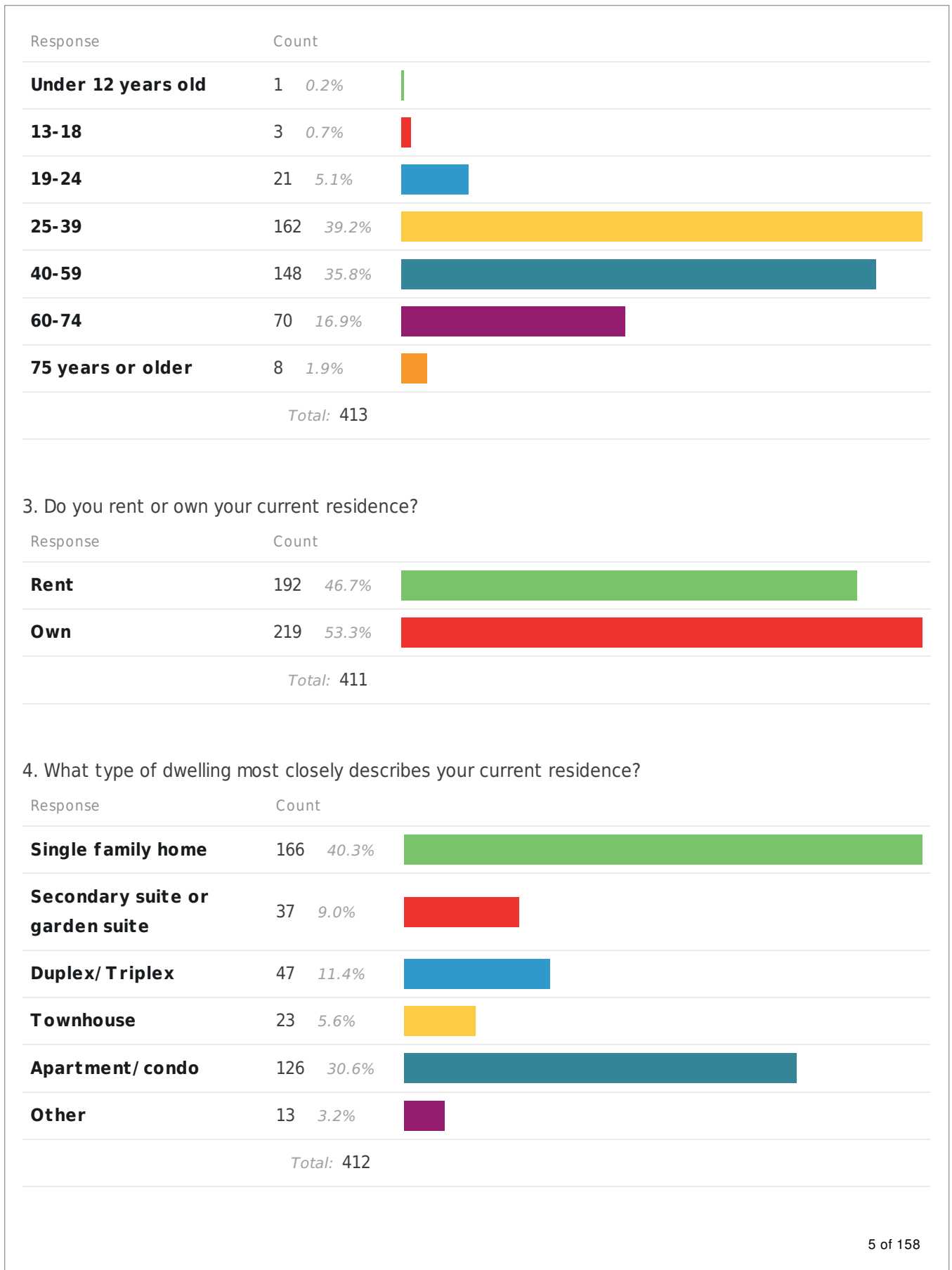
Oak Bay

westshore

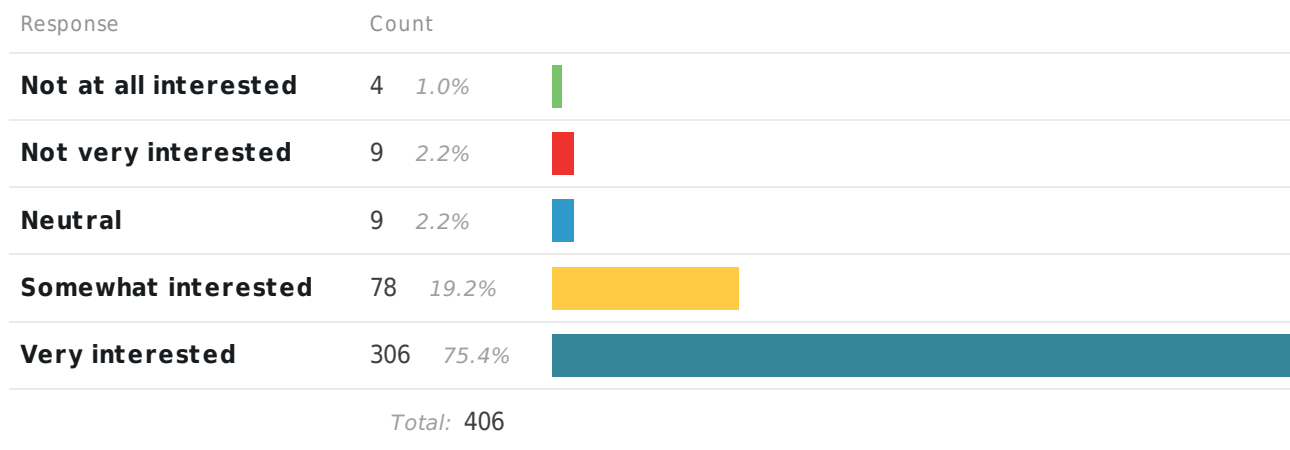
Royal Oak

Gordon Head

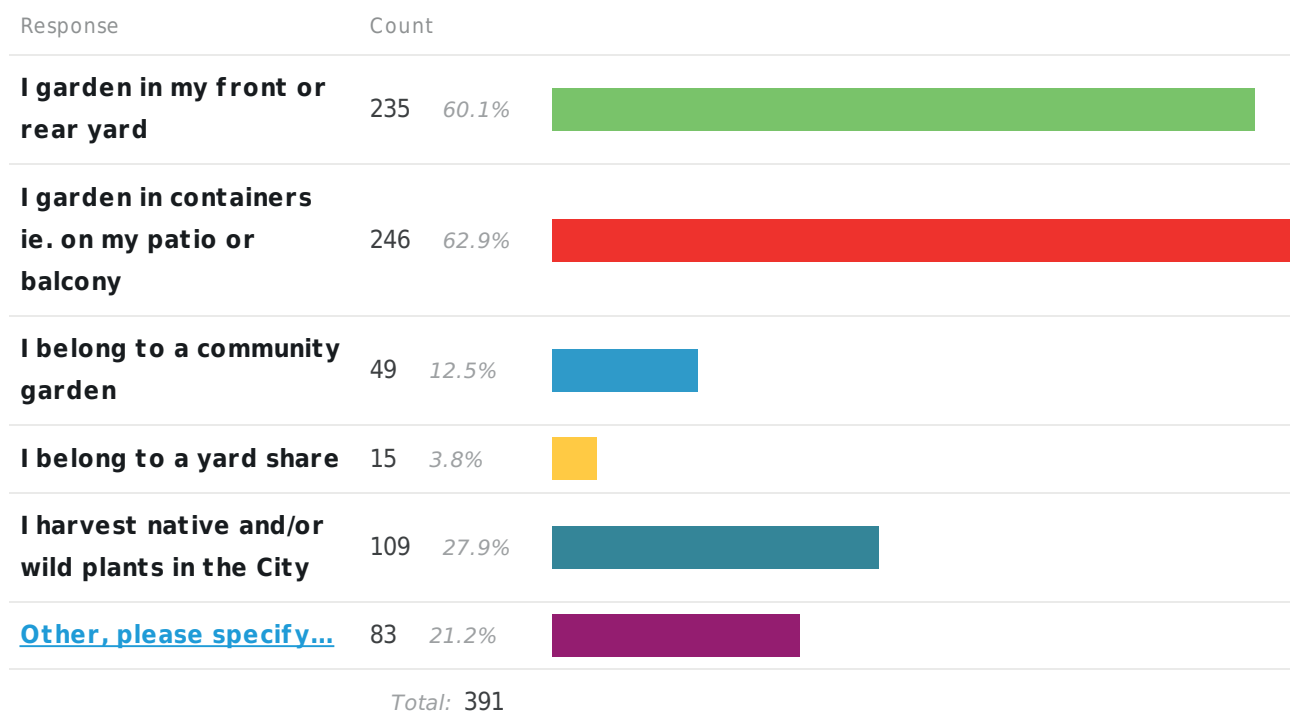
2. What is your age?



## 5. How would you describe your interest in growing food?



## 6. What kinds of food growing activities do you currently do? (select all that apply)



Balcony used for flowering plants, not food production

Not really a garden but I have herbs on my balcony.

none

City Harvest Co-operative - Multi site urban farming social enterprise

I am on the waitlist for a community garden plot. I occasionally volunteer on a farm or harvest food outside of the city.
I garden in the front and back yards
Hunting, Fishing, Fermentation.
none
Recreational property in Sooke
I am currently enrolled in Gaia's/RRU's Organic Land Care program
have boulevard garden
I helped to creat and maintain a boulevard garden
I boulevard garden, with permission from adjacent homeowner
Do u-pick on the Peninsula
I grow food in my Boulevard
I support local growers, like Mason Street City Farm
6 Rubber Maid Containers, two large planters boxes and other containers
Have herbs and strawberries along with flowers on my patio.
I use my aunt's yard as an allotment - almost a landshare.
I volunteer with Fruit Tree Project via Lifecycles
I have a boulevard garden
none of the above
Boulevard
i grow food for a living
i would like to harvest native/wild plants in the City
I coordinate a community garden and work as a gardener at another garden site.
I share composter/compost with other growers
garden at my girlfriend's place in James Bay
I was going to have a large pot garden on my balcony, but I get so much soot from the traffic and roof, I



decided against it.

I throw seeds around, hoping they'll grow. Also, I worked at Woodwynn Farms for a while and planted fruit seeds around the farm.

i have founded/built community gardens

backyard greenhouse 10 x 20...seed farmer

I help friends with their gardens.

I study at Mason Street Farm

I have no balcony but instead go u-picking and support farmer's markets

I also use my mums garden. She's Burnside

No outdoor space or patio at my home and have been on waiting lists for community gardens for over a year....so no food growing activities.

I keep chickens for eggs.

I'd like to learn more about container gardening

I am the owner/operator of

Personal information

I have a small plot that at my building.

I have a small farm (4 acres)

Help friend with house garden

We keep ducks for eggs

I gather bullwhip kelp to make pickles

Harvest blackberries, plums, cherries, nettles, acorns from public land

Beekeeping

coordinating school garden

beekeeper

I farm

I own and operate a company who's original focus was to grow food for clients on their land. Since we started

Personal information

while we do many other landscape duties in our scope of work we have always held urban agriculture as our

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number one priority.
Developing a community garden area in a housing co-op
None
Run an edible landscaping business, micro-nursery and hobby orchard.
I volunteer at government house vegetable garden.
chickens in my backyard too
I volunteer with lifecycles fruit tree project.
I have a greenhouse.
Volunteer at other gardens
I own and operate a food distribution business.
I food garden in my front, rear and boulevard garden!
I volunteer in 2 community gardens and 1 native plant garden
I grow food for my family on the city boulevard in front of my house.
I grow food on the boulevard in front of our house
Live in a housing cooperative with a committee looking to get our own community garden on our property off going.
apiculture
I help friends start growing food on their property
I garden 12 months of the year
Urban beekeeper so I sow seeds that grow plants good for bees as many places as I can
I garden on the city boulevard and in front of my house
I have a boulevard garden too, with veggies and wildflowers
none
I garden at a family members house
I also grow at a relative's place in Saanich
rent out <b>Personal information</b> for grain production

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I coordinate community-based food security projects/events; encourage neighbours to grow their own; share and trade my food with neighbours and a local business; harvest food from public lands (fruit trees) and from private lands with permission; trade my food for commercial food; grow food on boulevards.

I sometimes share space with neighbours

I grow some food and some bee-attracting flowers on my city-owned boulevard. I have terraced it (it is a steep slope) to help it hold water better.




I coordinate and am a steward for Personal information

I help my sister in her Highlands Garden

Save squash seeds for Seeds of Diversity Canada

I have a rooftop garden

7. Do you currently garden on the boulevard beside your property?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	43 10.8%	
<b>Not now, but I'm planning on planting a boulevard garden</b>	38 9.6%	
<b>No</b>	316 79.6%	
Total: 397		

8. Do you support having boulevard gardens in your neighbourhood?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	370 92.3%	
<b>No</b>	31 7.7%	
Total: 401		

If yes, why?

Response	Count
344 responses	
They add character	
Local food is important, neighbors will get to know each other & will look after & water it.	
Because City does not take care of grass, but must be nicely taken care of garedn areas year rouynd. And must not impede pedestrians or vehicles.	
I think good use could be made of some of the areas but with several conditions. I do have concerns about plots that may be abandoned and about people not following the new policies (e.g., growing plants that infringe on sidewalks or make it harder for car drivers to see pedestrians.	
Great way for people to increase their household growing capacity.	
Beauty, habitat for critters, possible food-source.	
beeter than other alternatives	
I think that boulevard gardens are beautiful and contribute in a significant and important way to our local food economy	
It would be wasted space otherwise	
I think there can be a better use of a boulevard garden rather than just a lawn.	
Seems like a fine use of space if someone wanted to grow something there	
Lawn is an ecological disaster that we simply cannot afford. Wasteful of resources and contributes nothing positive to the environment.	
The cost of living is too high in this city, we need cheap healthy food.	
With safeguards in place they will add to a neighbourhood.	
Agricultural and food-growing lands are vital for a healthy local 'foodshed' and are required for a resilient and sustainable community. The evidence is clear: we NEED local production... Apart from the sustainability aspects, it is a fantastic way to improve the astehtics of our community for FREE, create more habitat for native pollinators, and potentially reinvigorate native plant populations that have been negatively impacted by urbanization: such as the deltoid balsam root - a beautiful red-listed wildflower that is nearly functionally extinct on Vancouver Island but once was so abundant that farmers used it as chicken feed across the Saanich Peninsula.	
More healthy eco-systems and people. Would also support introduction of more native species	

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more healthy eco systems and people. would also support introduction of more native species.

Increases availability of fresh produce for low-income people, increases gardening skills, enhances unique identity of region

They add interest, contribute to food security, and engage neighbors in a shared activity, or at least conversation.

It starts people thinking about their food again, and when it's in their face maybe some interest will even be shown. I think that there may need to be height restrictions. ie. Should we really grow corn there?

good way to better use the space, to introduce more plant diversity that plain monoculture lawns

We should use our neighbourhood space wisely; this is a great way to do it!

If done nicely, could beautify the area

unique opportunity for growing space

They are a great use of space and cities need more urban gardening for food security issues as well as beautiful and good for the wildlife

We are fortunate enough to live in a climate that sustains year-round food production. Any opportunity to produce food should be utilized, including boulevards. However, with the proviso that the boulevard gardening be maintained in a tidy manner. How to "police" that? I have no idea!

This is a form of recreation as well as a positive contribution to food security.

Improves access without infringing on park space.

It's a good use of land and its public presence encourages community

I think turning a boulevard into a garden is an efficient use of space

food security, ecological sustainability and community building

First, I prefer to see either flowers or food rather than grass which is a waste of space. I believe it gets people out and talking to their neighbours and contributes to community feeling.

I like the idea of the sense of community. Seeing your neighbours outdoors, and allowing people to feel more invested in their surroundings.

Food security

the Boulevards are in poor condition and this allows people to maintain them and benefit from that maintenance. It is also a fantastic way to meet your neighbours.

Looks better and more interesting, plus one tends to take better care of a garden

Unused space

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Grass is space

It adds beauty and also provides local food for local people.

The more food the better

Grass is useless. Food is useful.

I support growing food & pollinator friendly plants over grass. It provides people an opportunity to grow their own food as well as add colour, character and plant diversity to their dwelling. It also provides renters with creative ways to garden. In some cases it can be unsightly, but it doesn't take much to return it to it's grass state. Tried and failed boulevard gardens are more beautiful and colourful than manicured grass.

Boulevards are wasted space, could be used for useful food production!

Growing a crop of something as easy as potatoes on boulevards would produce considerable food and cut back on maintenance of grass

Why not use the space for something useful

Why not? The space is there and if people want to use it to grow food rather than grass, go for it. My only concern is that I personally don't want the added responsibility of having a boulevard garden. My garden is large. I grow vegetables - any flowers that are already there and that can survive stay, but I'm not spending money on something I can't eat. So, boulevard gardening is great as long as it's optional.

Beacuse it may cut down on the lobbying. Isn't that a terrible reason?

More local food self-sufficiency. Fewer food miles. Sets example for the neighbourhood on what is possible in local food production. Gets rid of useless grass.

It looks nicer, it's productive/useful, it's better looking in times of drought, better for pollinators, and for some people it's the only land they have access to.

Having blvd gardens would expand the growing space for human foods. If native species are chosen for these gardens it could also provide food and habitat for insects, birds, etc.

It enhance the biodiversity and improve the aesthetic of the area.

Because grass is useless really, turning boulevards into food producing land is just smart.

It is usable space. Gardens grow food, provide pollinator habitat, and look nicer than grass (especially dead and dry in the summer).

increases gardening space and makes water use to water this section more productive.

builds community

I think growing food in our city is one of the most important things we can do to improve food security and to take care of our space!

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They add beauty and productive green space to the community, they contribute to whole streets, they keep people connected to their communities outside of their own homes & yards

I love having Boulevard gardens because it adds to the beauty of the street, gives something people to look at and gives neighbours a reason to talk to each other

Boulevard gardens are a great way to increase biodiversity within the city, beautiful a neighbourhood, and feed local residents with healthy food.

they promote food security, beautif neighbourhoods, and make people happy

Makes use of land to grow food, builds community, and adds to the beauty of the area

More interesting green space within the city

get people outside, where they can reconnect with their community over food!

It is a good use of underused space.

They are beautiful, celebrate our relationship to the environment, and bring joy to those who love the artistry of the garden.

Because it makes the boulevards more interesting and adds to the quirkiness of our city

it is making better use of a growing area--i am not a fan of grass because of the upkeep

increases wildlife, beautifies, increased food production

It's wasted land as grass. Victoria is so dry in the summer it just turns in to crispy yellow grass. Also for many they don't have any (or have little) land to grow food. This would help increase access to land.

They add a beautiful aesthetic and provide opportunity for those who do not have land to grow their own food.

Uniqueness of each garden, creativity, public access to freshly grown food, nature awareness for children, good use of greenspace, promotes idea of urban farming and regional food security

We should be growing more food, and watering less grass

Public opinion is strongly tied to visibility—we tend to flock together. So, a giant and productive garden in the backyard that no one can see and no one knows about is not going to create social proof that Victorians support gardening. Boulevard and front yard gardens do provide social proof.

it's way more useful than just grass

They already exist and for the most part are well kept. They expand the availability of food growing area.

Grass is an unproductive use of land and most boulevards are grassed. As food security is becoming an

issue I think that boulevards should be accessible to people who want to grow food.

Because it's an under-utilized perfectly good growing space

Food is so expensive, this will help the whole community.

They are not only beautiful, they provide provide food, they are not just water sinks like grass, they produce food for us!

why not :)

Great use of space

I personally can't have a boulevard garden on Hillside Ave as there are none on my block, but I would support my neighbors of the quieter streets to have them.

Great community and neighbourhood building spaces

food is good, grass is grass

they are beautiful and they lead to neighbourliness!

Because using the space for frivolous unused lawns is a waste.

Let's make use of our gardening space. We don't need grass.

Flowers can be planted or any plant. The plants create a physical barrier and an air barrier between pedestrians and vehicles.

Gardens increase biodiversity and food security, and are more interesting and require less water for yield of useful products than grass.

fruit trees make the most sense to promote, and salal and local plants - more food production and more healthy environment for insects and birds

They're a healthier green space. They provide food. They teach future generations about the importance of farming. And they make me feel like I live in a hip city.

beauty. function. diversity.

bioremediation for bug diversity

They beautify the space, are beneficial to bees/birds.

The more diversity, the better! And, it creates community.

Wonderful idea that enhances the beauty an eco systems around us

For food security, less cost to city(maintaining it ), self sufficiency for gardener, much nicer looking then plain grass

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## grass

because food security and Eco diversity are more important than grass

Everyone should be in support of gardening, you're creating life!

Beauty, building community and feeding people healthy food.

Might provide more sustenance for bees. And deer.

Aesthetics, food production, pride in neighbourhood,

good in a land use way, but heavy traffic areas would contaminate the food

the more space used for growing food the better. boulevards are an under-utilized space in the city.

Boulavard gardens add food security, increase a sense of neighbourhood and add beauty to our surroundings as well as providing space for pollinators.

Growing food locally is better for us, for the environment, and for food security. It makes a statement and shows others that you can grow food anywhere.

It's a good use of space

Because my balcony doesn't have shade for good spinach, and it would be nice to have more space to garden!

I live in a neighbourhood where there are a number of beoulevard gardens. Even though I'm not in a position to do one myself right now, I love walking past them every morning on the way to work and seeing what's growing. It's a very pleasurable sight! Grow more food if you can, when you can, where you can!

They add life and vitality to my community.

Because grass is boring and serves no use

increased access to food for all; looks better than lawn; shares growing techniques to others; don't have access to enough backyard space

Boulevard gardening for food production. I don't like the look of the native gardens - lots of weeds and messy looking.

we need more gardens and less lawns, be more self-sufficient

They are beautiful and functional. I'd rather have city water used to feed food crops than grass

I hate grass, it's useless in a lot of areas and a lot of work.

Helps to foster a sense of community, adds some variety and colour rather than just grass, possibility to have shared plots of herbs that again can help foster a sense of community

Increase access to healthy food

food security

people take ownership, flowers attract bees

encourages food production and food sharing. educational for children and others

Eco friendly...better than grass

It's not something that needs to be disallowed, no reason the option shouldn't be there goes

To grow food and beautify, and to make downtown more livable, community-minded and attractive

Food security is a major problem for the island we need to grow as much of our own food as possible

Looks diverse and interesting, local food doesn't get much more local! Food security, fun, not flat boring grass...

Boulevard gardens are an opportunity for more growing space for people who want to garden; every boulevard garden I have seen is better than grass; in our case, the boulevard gets more sun than most of our yard.

There's often more sun there than in yards that have houses on 3 or 4 sides.

Everyone should have access to fruits and vegetables

They are a fun and frugal use of arable land.

It enhances the neighbourhood

Simply for enjoyment

I think all available space could be used for food growing. I cannot grow on my boulevard because the dog uses that space

I enjoy the diversity. Boulevard gardens also make a community seem more cared about by the residents.

I'd be happy to share the excess 'fruits' and 'veggies' of my labour!

Great use of space

I like the interesting aesthetic and support making more productive use of City land for food production provides more green space for growing.

I support them because they are perfect spaces to create bountiful and beautiful gardens.

Growing food is so wonderful and fulfilling, really creates sense of community

Local produce will save on grocery costs and reduce the footprint of pollution from trucking out of province items to the island

improves the look of a neighbourhood, promotes neighbours and others connecting, gardeners are always talking with each other over their gardens, asking questions, sharing knowledge

We should encourage and educate people about the benefits of growing food locally, and boulevards are an underutilized space.

The land is easily accessed, usually now grows grass or weeds, and could easily be used for food with some tender loving care.

Its a productive way to use green space and it provides a great way to educate people on gardening..ANY WHERE!

why not? lets grow wherever and however we can. houses & pavement = no food. dirt = food

More oppertunitus to grow flowers/food and beautification.

It provides an opportunity for people without a yard to grow their own food.

boulevard gardens are an effective use of space, they add to a sense of community in neighborhoods and anything that encourage folks to be outside and connect to the food they are eating is a good idea.

I live in a farming area but I strongly believe in growing food on the island. Any spare land that can be used for edible landscaping is a great idea.

So many reasons! In short, creating sustainable community led projects like this helps us depend less on imported foods, which often have traveled thousands of km, omitting harmful greenhouse gasses.

More growing area to produce more food, esp. for people who live in apts.

Boulevards offer a huge amount of cumulative space for gardening. They're ideal for fruit trees as trees are desired on most streets already. They are highly accessible for passersby to harvest. They contribute to beautification and placemaking in a neighbourhood, connecting neighbours with each other and with their own environment. It is a highly visible demonstration and symbol of support for local food, which helps to get more people interested. Even boulevards, traffic circles etc. that are contaminated or in busy roads are excellent places for growing plants for important pollinator habitat, or even growing plants for fibre.

They show allow residents to show respect for their neighbourhood.

For food, public education, water/gas conservation, beauty, originality (personal expression), security.

Beer use of land. Productive, more natural, better for the environment & it gives people a place to grow food & get outdoors & be more healthy

because it is a productive use of the land, however because of the various widths of boulevards throughout the city I believe the suggested guidelines are too prescriptive and restrictive with respect to setback

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amount etc.

**Personal information** brings such joy to passers by. I also miss the garden I tended before downsizing.

Positive use of space!

Encourages people to learn how to grow their own food...feeds people who need it...looks great

More plants = smells good, better air, slows down dogs and toddlers from running into road, even if I don't eat the food growing there.

They are amazing! The food is technically everyone's, nothing better than grabbing a handful of plums, cherries or raspberries on the walk home.

Grass is not a valuable thing to grow, it consumes resources and provides nothing (i.e. parasitic). Conversely, growing food takes roughly the same energy but has a valuable return.

Because why not!?

Food production, beautifies streets, brings neighbours together

Make use of space; create sense of community.

Food security, community, health

some people do not have backyard and they would be interested in growing food

Creates diversity, allows beautification of the streets, allows some food production.

Community enrichment and bonding. Hopefully a way to come together and give back to the community in some way (providing the food is harvested by the hungry and not destroyed)

It's better than grass.

I believe that grass on boulevards is useless, and the space, and subsequent water for grass, would be better used to grow native and food-bearing plants.

Why not? People invested in their area will take care of it

There is limited space to garden, it is a great way to encourage more food being grown in the city

brilliant way for neighbourhoods to build community by creating edible landscapes

It is important to have boulevard gardens to bring communities together. It is important to grow food to help out those in need. It's also the best way to meet your neighbours and to share knowledge. Once established it's a good way to teach future generations the meaning of community and share with those who have different backgrounds.

They are often unused space which could support both animals and food consumption within victoria.

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Better use of land, visibility of food growth, beautifying neighbourhood

It looks lovely, it helps neighbours meet each other, kids like it.

A much more productive use of space while still adding beauty to the city

Because the use of Boulevards for grass is silly when it could be used to grow food.

I like the idea of growing more herbs and frsh produce. However I would want to know there is an easily accessible water supply and a way for dogs not to be able to access these areas.

As long as they remain under the control of the owner, it is fine. Personally, I do not want someone else gardening in my boulevard space

better use of the space; looks better than grass; creates more humanness to the streets

Huge supporter of local food

Good for food self-sufficiency, use of otherwise underused space

It would be more attractive than the grass - which isn't always well maintained. Also, other plants (e.g. lavender, sage) are more drought resistant than grass.

Boulevard gardens make good use of an otherwise empty urban space. It's great to see neighbors growing food and flowers.

any way to increase the places food can grow is a plus. also I think they are real community builders.

I have wanted to do this for years.

could beautify area

for food security

I think they add colour, interest and individuality to a street.

In addition to beautifying the neighbourhood, boulevard gardens are a great use of this land.

beutification, ecosystem services

More interesting, can provide food, could be less work than grass.

We need to be growing food everywhere. And be talking about it. VI island needs more food independence

Certainly looks better than just grass. More importantly, it adds garden able space.

French intensive or bio-intensive gardening can contribute significantly to people's food security.

I ride my bike to work past a number of boulevard gardens on Empress Avenue. My observation is that

these gardens have given neighbours a chance to create stronger community ties as well as opportunities to provide food for themselves and to demonstrate to their families and to the broader community (like myself) the beauties and benefits of boulevard gardening. I have also watched boulevard gardening grow over the years on Haultain St.

Good to grow more vegetables.

great use of land that is otherwise unused

seems like a good use of the space as long as the soil is not contaminated.

I think using the space to produce food allows folks to grow healthy food who might not otherwise be able to is a great idea. I do have some concerns but I think that on the whole they add to the community.

Supports more people to garden and grow food.

Amount of food produced may not be a lot, but important for community-building. Reclaiming public space!

Grass is nice to look at, but otherwise pointless!

greater access to food growing space, they look beautiful, less monocropped lawn

better than lawns.

It is just common sense - but it must be cared for, not neglected after being developed.

More aesthetically pleasing. Supports and encourages wildlife, including bees. Feeds people. Encourages neighbours to interact and get to know each other.

I like the creative and beautiful examples that I have seen.

Space put to good use. If cared for.

All available land should be put to good use.

Why not? if the space is there it might as well be used for something useful. grass just takes up water - and we know that water is precious in these increasingly long dry summers.

A no brainer. Food security issues, and beauty improves the neighbourhood.

better than grass - but not for food!

Really - what's the point of grass, it does nothing to enhance the infrastructure of a community. My grandfather gardened the boulevard in the depression to feed the family, so it's not a new thing. Not only does it build self reliance it's a pretty communal thing - you can talk to folks walking by and get to know them.

1. They provide growing space for food 2. They provide new opportunities to connect with neighbours. 3. They look more interesting than grass.

— — — — —

To beautify the area and provide food for my family or others

I think that gardens can be both aesthetically pleasing as well as practical for feeding neighbourhoods

Really anything positive that gets people beautifying their neighbourhoods is awesome

How much more 'local' can you get

sustainable and local method

Practical use of land.

Grow food not lawns. Grow plants not pollution.

beautification, natural & cheap street-calming, food production, reduce urban heat

wasted space if not used

Better use of space that is underutilized

It is a wonderful way to keep a vibrant real neighbourhood, to interact and share

Short list- a matter of practicality! The space looked awful as 90% weeds and I wanted more space for food and ornamentals

because I feel it is a great use of the space and it is also more affordable than having to buy produce

Lovely to look at and provide food for sharing

Because it just makes sense! Access to fresh organic food is very important to me

why not? it makes more sense from a food security and aesthetics standpoint

Done well, they are beautiful. I garden drought-tolerant ornamentals and natives on boulevard.

In the place of underused grass, they provide food, promote pollination and enrich community life.

The boulevard is perfect for growing food, but we can't digest grass. Hence, the food we can digestst.

Yes, but their maintenance must be enforced, or it'll be an overgrown/undergrown mess.

There is no such thing as too many gardens.

Any piece of land in the City which can grow food for us is going to be essential in the future, and now.

Beautiful! Character

would rather see food than grass

Encourages community involvement and beautification on a personal level to be shared by all

I have the idea of having a garden in a more urban setting. It helps the city feel more green while still

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I love the idea of having a garden in a more urban setting. It helps me feel more green while still enjoying an urban setting.

As long as they are not untidy a boulevard garden makes good use of unused space

They are lovely to drive by..especially the ones that are cared for and are growing food/flowers! They create a special neighbourly feeling.

excellent idea, we need the extra local food and we can teach children

Lawns are a waste of space and water. If every bit of land on the ground, and rooftops was farmed, the amount of food which could be produced, as well as the health and beauty, community of cities would increase exponentially.

It's an effective use of space

they integrate spaces and enhance community interaction, share responsibility with the city

I think any time we loose grass and grow food or native plants our community, and our birds/wild life prospere -it is a good thing for everyone.

Green is good. Beautification, oxygenation and food - all good things!

More growing space, to create a sense of community abundance would most likely create a larger sense of generosity, and encourage healthier eating thoroughly Victoria.

Food here is more of a novelty than a major source of food, but allows people to see food growing, a very important and often not seen part of food production.

It will encourage more self sufficient growing in neighborhoods, create less waste,improve the health of Victoria residents

It's a good use of land and beautifies the area

I like making better use of otherwise waste land

food access

everypne should have someplace to grow plants. It is good for the earth, good for communities and good for the children to see

I'm for growing food where ever we can!

Food security

I think they're an awesome initiative that allows people who otherwise wouldn't have yard space to garden!

What we 'invest in', we care for

Just makes sense on our street - no sidewalks



just makes sense on our street...no sidewalks.

It's common sense to make productive use of otherwise unproductive city owned land.

Makes the neighbourhood a friendlier space and reduces people leaving garbage and abandoned furniture

It's better to grow food and flowers than grass. It's beautiful, interesting and in the case of food, feeds people.

I support efforts to beautify an area or produce food. Especially on side streets with less vehicle traffic.

Gardens are so much better than grass! Food production, beautification, bee/butterfly/wildlife habitat. Community building.

We should be using all available land for growing food. Because of drought in other places, food is going to become more and more valuable and very expensive for families.

Food security, connecting to neighbours

It's productive land, going to waste. Also, it can help build community and a sense of sharing

they make use of poorly used space and add diversity and interest to the street while often also providing food for people or bees and other bugs or both

Boulevard gardens connect people and create community. I have met so many people in my community because of my boulevard garden. Gardens connect people.

selecting plants that would tolerate and capture car exhaust emissions

Add beauty, good use of unused space

It is a better use of the land and that public area will be maintained

More locally grown food is a good thing.

Grass is a waste of time, we should be using that space productively.

It makes the sidewalks more pleasant and vibrant and encourages neighbours to get to know one another, as they are out on the streets. Some boulevard gardeners have areas where the public can harvest, which is great!

good to use the space for something other than dead grass or weeds

It adds beauty

It gets the best sun exposure.

I am happy to support this so long as the boulevard gardens are well-kept.

More productive use of land; increased greening effect; more local food production

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it enhances my street, gives food to me and neighbours, cleans the air, helps me meet my neighbours

allows more people to grow plants or food, raises the profile of growing food, where food comes from, creates conversation resulting in sharing information, education

Growing our own food is a large part of our lives.

To provide more vegetation both edible and decorative

Food can beautify just like flowers

They make neighbourhoods more interesting when well done. But do have some concerns.

Boulevards on residential streets provide much needed land for food production, build positive relationships between neighbours and community, provide plant diversity to support healthy eco-systems, create beautiful streets.

more activity on the street, better than weeds, less for city to maintain

Why not? Growing useful plants contributes to the community and can look as attractive as ornamental plants.

Attractive, different, unique, fun

i support flower gardens on the boulevard, too close to toxins for vegetables and fruit

Food sustainability

Might as well use the land for something, and if done correctly (mixed with herbs/flowers) they can be beautiful.

Because currently the grass becomes a community free cycle pile. It looks unsightly

Food sustainability. Access. Local.

When done well they add beauty and further a sense of community

Boulevard gardens add green space to city streets & can be a source of food and even community building - witness the success of the Haultain Commons. In cities, like Portland Oregon, where boulevard gardening is encouraged, neighbourhood streets are lined with greenery of all sorts & the neighbourhood and the City benefit accordingly.

there are plants in the boulevard already, why not focus on edible plants?

Because why just grow grass. I likely will not incorporate edibles but want to have the boulevard be bee nourishing.

Better use of space, not just ornamental grass that uses up water. Also makes it feel like a community.

More opportunity to grow food

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## More opportunity to grow food

When maintained they are an attractive addition, and likely more ecologically diverse than monocrop of grass.

Makes good use of land

An opportunity for people to reconnect with their food source.

The boulevard gardens that I have seen are well maintained and visually interesting. I think we should be using all available space to grow food in the interest of food security

Good use of land

They make the neighbourhood look better and give food to bees

It makes more sense to use that land for something purposeful. And it would cut down on city workers having to maintain them. I would like to see a clause be incorporated that if a homeowner/landlord plants a garden on the boulevard then they will be held liable for cost of upkeep etc.

To attract and support bees, for the food, and for the contribution to the neighbourhood feeling of community.

The more plants the better!!!! They are beautiful!! 1

Why waste space and water when we can grow useful things?

It makes the area more beautiful and is a more efficient use of space. All non-native landscaping should be edible or medicinal or beneficial in some way!

Wonderful to be able to harvest food in my neighbourhood; would be community builder - get to know my neighbours

Boulevard gardens can be a good way to increase space for growing food in the city.

Great use of green space. Adds to neighbourhood appeal. Lots of edible greens can come from small spaces.

They are a great idea, will save people \$\$\$ and vegetables are vital for health

They are fun and enable passers-by to learn more about what food looks like. And it's a good use of space.

Food is integral to life. Growing food connects people to nature and to each other.

The more food grown the better.

Grass is wasted space, I like the idea of using the land to grow food

Because I believe food plants are aesthetically pleasing as well as beneficial for humans and insects; also, food gardens make a lot more sense than turf or lawn

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Food gardens make a lot more sense than lawn or lawn.

Food is essential to life. Growing food connects people to nature and each other!

More space for more food production.

It's a way to make the streets beautiful and unique!

we should all be trying to grow more of our own food

Good utilization of otherwise wasted space.

Better than grass. Good learning experience/ community involvement for kids

They beautify the city and provide free food ... win win

add character, could grow food or beautiful flowers

I fully support this initiative to grow one's own food We all of us need to do what we can to be somewhat self-reliant with our food

adds beauty & a certain ambience to the neighbourhood

it give people the opportunity they may not have to raise their own food

local food

food security

sustainability, food security, more interesting to look at than grass, facilitates connections within a community.

Do we?

I think gardening on the Boulevard is practical!

City doesn't maintain them and they are perfect spaces to grow due to amount of sunlight

food security & access to healthy food is important for all walks of life

because enough of brown grass

If no, why?

Response

Count

33 responses

Public space is public space, and most streets have very narrow boulevards in our neighbourhood

They impede the view of drivers- difficult to see children And animals cross street. Left untended (of which I see lots of examples) they get weedy, are a catchment for leaves and trash.

Am concerned about unkempt boulevard space - especially in winter

too much of a heat island

Concern about gardens attracting rats to neighbourhood

Not for food purposes. Proximity to vehicle traffic makes me wonder what kind of pollution food produced on boulevards would be subject to

Specifically, food probably shouldn't be grown beside the streets. But flowers should bee!!

The potential danger in letting non-city workers work so close to the street. Also, these boulevards provide community appearance cohesiveness.

In theory I support it, but in practice most of them look neither well designed or well maintained and are a huge mismanaged eye sore.

Unless there can be some way to keep them maintained, they turn into an overgrown weed lot. I have seen this in my neighbourhood and on Haultain Street. People always have good intentions to start with, but then stop paying attention and the lots turn into a disaster.

I do not think people will look after them properly/ plus watering problems/animals

Doesn't look good

They are an eye sore. They make the houses look like hippy dumps.

Gardens take work and too many hippies will plant then forget about their vegetables once they hear about a new cause/crusade to join.

i think the lots are large enough in our neighbourhood to allow people to grow food in other parts of their yard, I also have a concern over blocking site lines to the sidewalk and roadways. I am however in favour of them in other neighbourhoods where the lot sizes are smaller and where renters and secondary suites are more common.

Food can be contaminated from fumes from traffic and soil lead levels may be an issue

We have a community garden across the road from me. Also I don't think I'd want to eat anything that would constantly being urinated on by the dogs walked on my street.

could be problematic if gardeners irresponsible

It attracts pests and pollution from vehicles.

I don't want to see a mess and although some people may be tidy, all are not. Boulevard gardening will be too difficult and expensive for the city to supervise/

Boulevard gardens are a lot of work to maintain and if are left uncared for result in weeds, harbour pests and look terrible.

They are not maintained

My dog now makes use of the boulevard. Do you want us (dogowners) to have them use the roads? I have seen beautiful boulevard gardening, and messes. This will be an expensive program for the City to monitor

I am not keen on gardening food plants on boulevards for safety reasons.

Car exhaust. We have so many spaces we can use to harden that aren't used or are underused, I don't think we need to use boulevards

Boulevards are too narrow and gardening on them would impede access from car to sidewalk. They tend to look messy and leave no room for those walking their dogs.

I love fresh veg, but I foresee problems with ownership and continuous care of this type of publicly accessible enterprise. Vandalism is bound to happen, and the resulting mess will likely end up on the city expense sheet.

I think that a lot of boulevard gardens are messy. I like the look of green tidy boulevards that give a cohesion to the city, not a free-for-all hodgepodge of vegetables and invasive weeds.

some people worry about the look of a garden if it becomes neglected; am concerned about parked car access; auto pollutants








It detracts from the overall street scape for virtually no increase in food production. If boulevard are gardened, the gardeners ought to pay a proportionate tax on the land as to the adjacent property and a market rent to the city. Only the rich homeowners will benefit from this scheme.

who maintains them? everybody volunteers but the novelty wears off

need to be maintained for safety, longer term check ups

whenever there is new ownership/renters the blvd garden goes unattended, creates conflict with vehicle passengers exiting cars, concerned about dogs and cats using area for a toilet, lots of deer in the neighbourhood

9. What comments below reflect your thoughts about boulevard gardens? (select all that apply)

Response	Count	
<b>I think boulevard gardens are beautiful and make streets more interesting.</b>	345 86.0%	
<b>I think boulevard gardens look messy/unkept.</b>	29 7.2%	
<b>I am concerned about the possible toxicity levels in soil next to roadways.</b>	154 38.4%	
<b>I am concerned about long-term maintenance of boulevard gardens.</b>	139 34.7%	
<b>I want to garden on a boulevard but am not a property owner.</b>	109 27.2%	
<b>I have no strong feelings about boulevard gardens.</b>	18 4.5%	
<b><a href="#">Other, please specify...</a></b>	67 16.7%	
<i>Total: 401</i>		
I support them		
Some may look beautiful. Others may look messy.		
They impede traffic views.		
A good, but very small step in increasing urban food production. Let's start farming something bigger!		
Adds to health and wellbeing of citizens. I can show it off to visitors to Victoria.		
Need to be aware of health risks from urine/feces deposited by dogs on or near food plants		

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I hope the era of grass and waste are coming to an end

I don't think I would grow food on a busy road, but flowers would be fine.

Some boulevards are too shaded to be of much use.

I am concerned about problems with dogs dedicating on gardens

It helps connecting neighbors together. Many people stop and talk with me, while I am taking care of the garden :-)

Worried about deers eating the plants, being attracted to the gardens so would be on the roadways more  
my landlord would not support this type of activity around my current rental property. It was hard enough to get permission for a couple food plants at the front of our house, and a small compost at the back.

It makes sense to grow food instead of grass where space allows

They welcome children to think about nature and gardening.

There are no boulevards (or sidewalks) on my street

Toxic concern is mainly big roadways.

Fungus gardens would probably be a good way to refertilize and heal any toxicity.

I wonder who will be responsible to cleaning unkempt gardens

They're so awesome for people, I'd love it if there were places for people in apartments to garden too!

I never know if the food growing is private or free to pick.

Boulevard gardens are fine with shrubs/grasses/some flowers - but no vegetables and they would have to be watered and cared for daily.

public often leaves garbage (cigarette butts!) in the growing spaces.

I think boulevard areas are a possible site for gardens.

We don't have a boulevard to garden on.

I think toxicity concerns are valid but can be effectively addressed. I think maintenance is probably the biggest issue - Victoria has a high renter population and even though I highly support boulevard gardens, I have seen some get totally neglected when people move on.

I would not grow anything in a boulevard garden that was intended for consumption; dog pee.

There are far too many great reasons to do these! We should at least look into them seriously and think of positive legislation surrounding these



boulevard gardens can have kinnick-kninnick or other low-water & low-maintenance plants

More cherry trees on boulevards please!

I am concerned that boulevard gardens will result in more dog use of my property, instead of the boulevard.

I worry about willful destruction, but have faith in humanity. I also love having trees along the road, so either way Victoria is still beautiful.

I have safety concerns about the intersection of roads sidewalks and plants on the boulevard. Cars being the obvious danger and blocked sight lines for the drivers of those cars.

Must make it easy for maintenance - access to manure, water etc.

as a tenant I don't know if I need the owner's permission to use the boulevard or not..

Dogs urinating all over my potential food.

It can attract pests.

Boulevard grades can be wonderful or a mess ... Just like any other garden.

I'm not sure who is responsible for boulevard gardens... what if they are abandoned? I think this could be a great way to educate the public about growing food. Community garden groups could help increase knowledge and help people grow more productive gardens in the space. At times when the gardens aren't taken care of properly they can look unkempt.

Only concern is some gardens not being kept up

It is important that these gardens are maintained.

Concerns regarding invasive plants & pests

We need to be ready for the harder time coming.

The containment of the gardens and exposure to air and soil pollution should be a serious consideration in this type of garden.

Often there's a lot of enthusiasm to start with, but there seems a lack of commitment to keep up the maintenance, watering , weeding and planting. There has to be some prior information and a group to carry it through.

Don't think of growing food due to proximity to street

Next to roadways unsuitable for food may be prioritized for plants important for pollinators.

Positive environmental impacts

why not?

Responsibility/ownership on a year-to-year basis - accountability - guidelines in force

Intently moved from Fernwood where I had been growing a boulevard garden for at least 5 years. I now live in James Bay in a condo building and plan do container gardening on my deck. If I had a boulevard here, I would be growing food and bee friendly herbs on it.

I want to Boulevard garden but there is no blvd outside my place

I think the city should encourage permanent plantings (berry bushes, perennial vegetables and flowers) as these are more sustainable and lower maintenance and will go a long way to address neighbour concerns.

when theyre maintained theyre wonderful but sometimes they do look messy when not cared for

I remember the days when the City watered the boulevards at night...Victoria looked a lot more lush then.

boulevard gardens can bring the community closer together.

This is a silly silly concept.

Although I know it can work, don't think boulevards are the best place for food gardens. Would rather see boulevards used more for ornamental/pollinator gardens & food gardens go elsewhere. Boulevards tend to have tree canopy & roots; are exposed to deer (& human) snacking; tend to get cig butts, beer cans & worse deposited; water often has to be carried, esp if you don't live right by - in short, they are not the easiest place to grow food. Would prefer to see apts encouraged to provide garden spaces for tenants, roof gardening & parking lot conversion, etc for food.

Provide a community building opportunity, land to those who may not have access, and plant diversity to support healthy eco-systems. Misconception of high soil toxicity on boulevards should not be a limiting factor to city policy. Toxicity potentially is less than alongside residential houses (paint residues) - soil testing/remediation is a easy solution.

I think that there needs to be support for boulevard gardening for those who do not own property.

Vandalism.

I would like to see fruit tree, bees and chicken coops as part of boulevard gardens in some neighbourhoods

I only grow flowers right next to the sidewalk because of concerns about car-sourced toxins and dog pee. But I grow food from about a metre away and further.

who are the gardens grown for...people in that neighborhood or anyone walking by

They will encourage a sense of community, neighbour meeting neighbour etc.....

I think that I would prefer to plant flowers for their beauty rather than food to avoid exhaust from cars and possibility of dogs peeing in the garden

## 10. Are there any areas of the City of Victoria that you think should not allow boulevard gardening?

Response

Count

223 responses

where visibility is a concern- traffic, etc

Heavy traffic areas, due to pollution.

All areas where boulevards are narrow (i.e. less than at least five meters in width)

any place too close to corners (could block vision). Any place with narrow sidewalks that already making walking/passing difficult.

All areas

no

no

Downtown and in high pedestrian traffic areas.

Not sure as I am unfamiliar with all of the boulevards. Our own street is rather quiet and gardening could be done here quite safely.

There are ZERO good reasons to prevent boulevard gardening. There are good reasons to REGULATE it and EDUCATE the public about best practises - but any concern that is brought forward to prevent it can be addressed through adequate information and regulation.

No

No.

Directly downtown might be a bit congested. But all surrounding areas should be fair game.

No

Should have a size threshold of 2 cars ( **Personal information**)

no

No, however some issues of placement, these are addressed in the interim guide published by the city.

Stay out of parks. Marginal public areas such as boulevards or small parcels of unused land could be used but not our beautiful parks.

no - try it anywhere it's possible

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highway junctions, increased danger factor for workers and it will congest traffic when work needs to be done

Perhaps some highly visible downtown boulevards where no one has clear control (e.g. Pandora)

parks and busy roadways

I guess my only concern might be if plants sprawl onto sidewalk it could be difficult for mobility impaired.

No

there should be some practicality when it comes to any city policy. For instance I would not be excited to see them in beacon hill park, but I do like seeing them in Centennial Square. the two spaces have different uses. beacon hill is a piece of art and I feel it should be preserved (I also think they should put the roads back to their original configuration)

Each site advantage/disadvantage must be weighed individually

NO

I think if there are areas where there are know contaminants in the soil it should be disclosed. I also think there needs to be regulations surrounding plant height in areas where visibility would be an issue.

Gardens should not be planted within several meters of busy intersections and plants should be kept to reasonable height

no

No.

In the downtown area, blvd gardens should probably be limited to plants that humans won't consume.

No, but contaminated sites should be identify and no edible plants should be harvested in these areas.

Anywhere with known or likely soil contamination.

no

downtown, as high traffic

Potential toxic sites (perhaps where gas stations have been abandoned) if it is for food growth.

nope, I think we should plant every available space. If it's not suitable for food production then plant for other uses such as natural dye sources, winter tracery, pressed flowers, etc

no

no

None
real busy roads
There should be no food production near contaminated or toxic sites, but gardens can help purify the air and soil.
No
busy roadways and high traffic commercial areas - safety concerns
Areas which are being rehabilitated due to toxic spills etc.
high vehicle-traffic areas
By very high traffic areas without soil testing
Major routes. Industrial centres. Homes that do not want it.
No, turn everything into a garden. HAHAHA.
Absolutely not, unless there is a known concern about toxicity, in which case it should be addressed and gardening then permitted.
no
No
No
No.
No...but haven't given it a whole lot of thought.
Any area that has an established appearance. Likewise, if gardening is permitted there should be rules about what can be planted, so everything maintains that cohesive look.
any street or corner that could be considered an high accident zone, thinking re children and wildlife
no
no
No
Any contaminated soil or risk areas, and any with sensitive environments.
No way! Have it everywhere!
No

no. though i think free testing should be done

Can't think of any.

No

all, and why is Esquimalt not considered outside of Victoria?

We might need to be careful with boulevards on busy streets that might attract deer and so create a traffic hazard.

perhaps the downtown core should be exempt.

no

Not specifically as long as they are well maintained.

where there is limited curb parking, I think the gardens might get stomped on or cause hazards with people pulling over where they shouldn't

no

No, whether it's appropriate or not is adequately governed by common sense

NO

See my comment above. If there is a way to enforce the maintenance of the gardens, then fine, lets grow on them. But how do you enforce maintenance?

No

If there are big problems with pollution, growing unhealthy food

Yes - down Pandora Ave - people throw their garbage around all down the street - it is a mess most of the time. Keep the vegetable gardening to some front lawns instead., but having strict rules.

No

Areas with tiny strips for boulevards. Areas with highly contaminated soils (until remediated).

no

no

Perhaps boulevards alongside apartment buildings as it could be hard to determine who would be responsible for ongoing upkeep

no

Busy streets such as Douglas and Johnson, Blanshard already has these in place so that would be a good location, especially for greeting tourists coming in from BC ferries into town!

no

All areas

No. Anywhere would be fine as long as it didn't obstruct traffic.

Areas next to highways.

I can't really think of any specifically.

everywhere we can. rooftops, patio gardens, flower pots, borders of parks...

The entire city should not have boulevard gardens.

Maybe busy thoroughfares for safety reasons.

Downtown core (not enough room).

No

No

No. the more the better! Check out Portland, it's on every street!

No.

None I can think of - I couldn't imagine why.

No

No

Areas where a majority of residents do not support them.

downtown city core might be difficult to keep clean

Downtown. I guarantee the boulevard gardens will look messy and unkept. People lose interest in anything that requires work or effort.

I think if boulevard gardening is not appropriate in an area we'd better re-think the Pattern Language of that area. (Book on Pattern Language by Alexander, et al.)

Main streets without permanent parking or bike lane separation from traffic should not have boulevard gardens for safety reasons.

No

Again. I think some boulevard gardening is ok but there needs to be regular intermittent grassy areas for

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dog walkers and their dogs to avoid private property use for this business.

Perhaps not without some form of general education? Even a letter in the mailbox stating FAQ information etc. and contact info for more information?

Heavy/fast traffic areas

No, even if areas have contamination, gardens can and should be used for bioremediation

The only areas I would not have gardens in are industrial areas and on highways.

No, even brownfield and greyfield sites should be used to show how certain plants and fungi can remediate soils and ecosystems

Rockland

I think that this is not the best approach to increasing food production in the city

no

Areas that are known to have wastes in their soils due to previous land usage of that property

No

High traffic areas. Keeping it to residential neighborhoods would be optimal

no

Anywhere too close to downtown, stores or shopping. Also, not in Beacon Hill Park. I would also like to add that the Park is no longer accessible to handicap people.

Downtown or near highways

no

The entire City of Victoria.

I don't think boulevard gardens should be in high traffic or high industry areas as it would pollute the food.

no

No. Should be allowed in all areas of the City.

no

I can think of no reason why boulevard gardening should not be allowed.

Don't know

no

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not that I can think of

Downtown

no

There needs to be a commitment that the areas are maintained.

Decorative gardens can go anywhere, but people probably should not harvest food from high traffic streets.

No.

wherever it might not be safe - not too close to traffic

Anywhere that a sidewalk would be impaired to mobility assisted transport

No

All areas of city should do it, it would put our city on the map for innovative thinking.

Streets with heavier levels of traffic perhaps - just for safety as well as the possible effects of exhaust, etc.

No, but should include a "block" consensus so that those who do not support can still have their voices heard & feel respected

Nope - the legislative lawn SHOULD become a big community garden and farm

blvd gardens on high-volume arterials should only be planted & maintained by City staff for safety

X

no

I think the city is on the right track to make sure sight lines for corner properties especially are considered

none over others

no.

don't see any reason to if residents are willing to care for it

Heavy traffic areas

No.

No, that would be discriminatory. Scrap the expensive hanging baskets of annuals downtown and plant perennials, shrubs and food!

Anyplace toxic should not be used for food-growing until soil remediation has been completed.

The downtown/tourist areas should be kept well maintained and manicured by city staff. They are probably not suited for boulevard gardening.

Lanes that are too narrow to accommodate the boulevards as well as bike, pedestrians, and vehicles safely.

Yes, perhaps main thoroughfares where transit goes and heavy traffic. Keep to residential areas and quiet places

high industrial areas perhaps

Not really

Very main streets: 'Harris Green' or anywhere that could block sight lines at corners of busy streets, etc...

No

no

Downtown

Arterial roads, areas of heavy parking.

if emergency vehicles are prohibited from ready access to a property, for safety reasons. Plant type suitability for location is also a pertinent aspect.

Nope

Rockland

No

Those next to highly travelled routes (toxicity) - separate food gardens from aesthetic considerations

No

Road centres such as along Esquimalt road- too dangerous, I worry about the safety of the City crews

None.

I think you would have to be careful of heavy traffic areas.

I really just stay around my neighbour hood and rarely even go downtown

everywhere or at least anywhere people or groups in the community have an interest in planting and caring for them

no

any

I think there should be some grassy space left between boulevard gardens

downtown areas

No.

If it blocks or impedes pedestrian safety by high growing items blocking visibility.

Areas where there are issues such as public urination, etc. in existence would be poor location choices. Secondly, in certain areas (Fairfield/Gonzales, for example) deer are highly present already so I would suggest that there would need to be measures put in place to enclose the gardens or perhaps other ideas to keep them from being attracted to the boulevards for their own and drivers' safety.

Everywhere.

locations when tested indicate a high level of toxicity

no.

downtown - altho decorative/flowering plants would be OK, NOT food, due to auto emissions, possible vandalism, garbage etc

no

Industrial regions or near main arteries

there should be a moratorium on any future paved parking lots on vancouver island

Where structures/plants may block visibility at intersections (esp of kids on sidewalks) or totally block passenger-side access to parked cars, esp for mobility-impaired & kids. Basically, only where it affects safety.

Main arterial streets.

on busy street- safety issue

No.

No

No

no. perhaps on busy roads they should not come to the sidewalk (as it might impede pedestrians)

No.

Downtown core. Boulevard gardening is best in residential neighbourhood said where pride of property lends to required upkeep.

within boulevards that contain fire hydrants

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Areas of heavy auto traffic or pedestrian traffic.

No

Downtown core (only for veggies for harvesting but pollinators flowers are fine)

no

certain residential neighbourhoods may veto the idea

Inner harbour and surrounding area

NO

no

No

No

Nope - I'd love to see them everywhere!

Nope, it should be permitted everywhere, provided the city ensures the responsible home owner upkeeps the land.

no

no

no

no

no

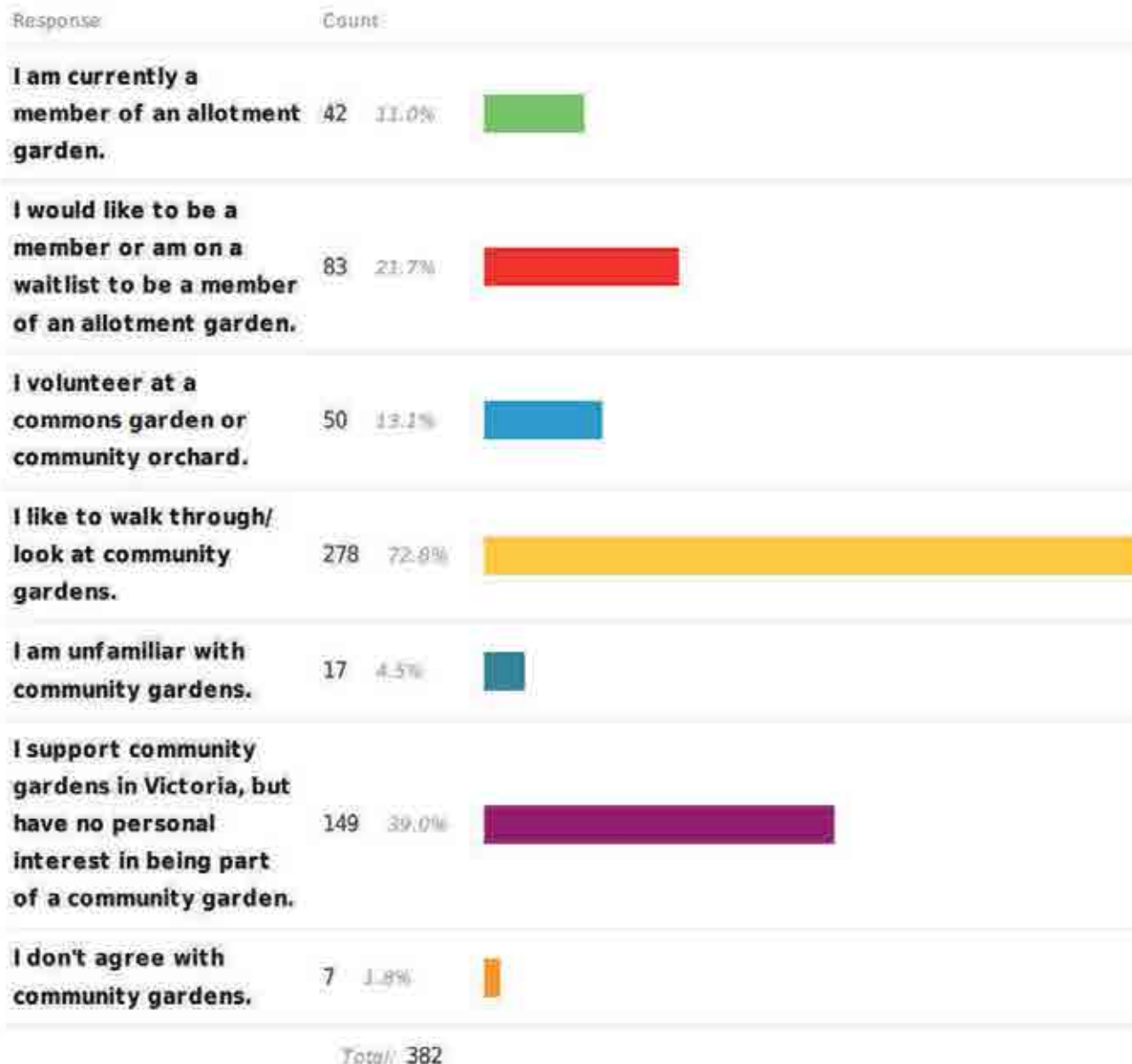
downtown core

No that's just silly talk

no

No everywhere is good

11. Please select all that apply.



12. Do you support increasing the number of community gardens in the City of Victoria?

Variable	Yes	No	
Allotment gardens (gardens for personal use)	360 94.0%	23 6.0%	Total: 383
Commons gardens	350 92.8%	27 7.2%	Total: 377
Community orchards	371 97.4%	10 2.6%	Total: 381



13. Where do you think it is appropriate to have allotment gardens (community gardens for personal use)

Variable	Appropriate	Inappropriate	No Opinion	
<b>City parks (excluding natural areas)</b>	258 69.2%	102 27.3%	13 3.5%	Total: 373
<b>City facilities ( eg. parkades, community centers)</b>	335 87.2%	33 8.6%	16 4.2%	Total: 384
<b>Closed streets</b>	338 89.4%	18 4.6%	22 5.6%	Total: 378
<b>Other public lands (institutional or provincial)</b>	342 89.8%	23 6.0%	16 4.2%	Total: 381
<b>Utility corridors</b>	285 77.2%	33 8.9%	51 13.6%	Total: 369
<b>Industrial or light industrial areas</b>	229 64.0%	83 23.2%	46 12.8%	Total: 358
<b>Commercial areas</b>	273 76.0%	55 15.3%	31 8.6%	Total: 359
<b>Residential areas</b>	354 83.4%	14 3.7%	11 2.9%	Total: 379
<b>Other (please include details below)</b>	83 56.5%	6 4.1%	57 39.0%	Total: 146

Please describe your 'other' location, from the question above.

Response	Count
	101 responses

vacant lots

what does closed streets mean/ meaning ho here would gaden be sited? Also, if use commercall or other areas, the allotments space should be rented out at a cost reccob=vbery including land value rate.

City Parkland should NEVER be allocated to allotment gardens. Public land should not be "privatized"

For any marked "appropriate" above, there would have to be many conditions, possibly different for

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different locations.

narrow some streets, put planters down one side; utilize rooftops

I would not like to see park land currently well used for another purpose (eg, skate park, off leash dog area, softball field) to be relocated (or worse, stopped) to because of a community garden or public planting area.

Rooftops

Rooftops, Public Trails,

Roof tops?

Anywhere that is not currently being enjoyed by community members.

Rooftops of Apartments/Condos

Not sure what is meant by "residential areas". Already mention public lands, so do you mean other people's private property? Surely City will not be interfering with private property !

philanthropy - homeowners offering land in a long term lease format

roofs

Rooftop gardens

Private lands that go unused and unoccupied for too long should be considered; use it or lose it

School yards when school has been closed or land a business owner wishes to donate issue is with water use

This is under institutional, but specifically school district lands. In our neighbourhood of Hillside Quadra we have no allotment gardens. The area behind the Vancouver Island School of Art would be ideal. There is already a community herb garden there, but plenty of extra space.

roof tops are overlooked as a wonderful opportunity for gardening, beekeeping, quiet spaces

I chose "Inappropriate" to city parks only because I believe Commons or Community food forests are better suited. Roof tops? I would really support initiatives that encourage downtown residents to have a garden plot.

Roof tops. All new buildings in Victoria and communities should have roof top gardens

areas like the Fernwood Compost Centre - it's residential, but "soft" residential as part of it backs onto parking lots and Vic High.

Attached to public institutions like seniors' residences, schools, church lands - gardens help integrate different types of populations, provide learning and teaching opportunities.

Vacant lots would be great.

For "industrial" it really depends on the type of industry whether or not it would be safe to produce food nearby.

Apartment building lawn areas. Would make a more useful use of the land than a lawn.

A corner of South Park in James Bay would be perfect for relocating the Michigan Street Community Garden, especially because it is near the elementary school.

roof tops

roof tops

Rooftops of government buildings

building rooftops or walls

on the grounds of hospitals and colleges/university

However I don't agree with using any parkland with first nations significance or significant biodiversity

Excepting ecological reserves, areas of FN significance, industrial areas where toxins may be a problem.

Depending on edibility levels or toxicity levels, some areas could be flowers and some areas could be food. I think city parks should be kept as flowers because people who sleep there could pee in the garden.

Roofs that lend themselves to gardening; vacant lots, including unused parking lots

orchards in city parks could work if designated to specific areas and for public education i.e. tied to schools. Fruits trees like an 'apple-walk' dotting along the whole inner harbour/gorge.

schools

Roofs; well basically anywhere anything can be grown things should be grown

Rooftops

Rooftops of community buildings if applicable

This is in regards to commercial areas. It's going to depend on what is being produced/done in the commercial area. All areas need green space but I wouldn't want to eat anything that came from David or Rockbay streets

anywhere you can plant produce trees, especially parking lots, good for shading the cars too.

Vacant lots - how about striking some deals with owners of the land - unkempt land attracts dumping and also might mean weeds that spread to other gardens on the street. Keeping it cultivated would benefit everyone I think.

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traffic circles and boulevards downtown such as the new one at start of johnson street bridge

vacant lots; unused open space; portable gardens (bins on wheels) could be used while sites are vacant; then gardens moved to other locations

Vacant lots or similar properties still awaiting development

To beautify areas such as the Pandora corridor which are unfortunate locations for homeless/drug users nearby our building.

anywhere there's usable soil

empty lots.

I strongly support the creation of policies that encourage more rooftop gardens. There is a lot of useable roof space downtown, and not a lot of other free space for gardens.

School grounds. School is out when gardens are most active, so a partnership could be arranged. I look with envy at the school on Hillside between Blanshard and Quadra and think: water and deer fencing...

There are sometimes big stretches of grass as road allowances near intersections in Saanich that would make good orchard locations, might be some in Victoria.

literally anywhere grass would be grown (especially considering the resources required to maintain grass, i.e. regular mowing)

I don't think we should have closed streets in Victoria.

Wherever an invasive species can take over if left unchecked, ie no containment

private backyards, rooftops

city owned rooftops, parkades

shared gardens on personal property

It is not up to the city to decide if property owners, be it residential or commercial, garden or do not garden

Pretty much anywhere (aside from dog parks and play parks). Most grass is useless and a waste of valuable resources to maintain.

I would support a percentage tax reduction for unused properties that offered themselves for community gardens for a minimum number of years (say, two or three).

Wherever people will tend and use them.

I live in a highrise rental apartment building. I am interested in working with my fellow tenants to develop a community garden on the land where our building is situated. There is support for this idea from the building

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managers. I believe that community gardens in apartment buildings provide more than food for people on the lower end of the income scale, they would also provide opportunities for tenants to create stronger community bonds and to enhance the value of the land.

garden space offered up by homeowners

Industrial/light industrial (and everywhere really) needs to have appropriate soil testing conducted

Just a word of caution on man of these, particularly Industrial or light industrial areas - must ensure these areas are not contaminated.

Land leased from apartment buildings, places of worship, schools, etc.

Sports fields could be converted to gardens. I regularly walk by ball fields that are never used. I've seen one game being played in 3 years whereas a garden grows even when you sleep.

I think the city of Victoria should find land where gardens and tiny homes can exist.

Allotment garden plots should be mobile and could be placed in unused places (NOT PARKS). The soil quality of the area is irrelevant as plants should be in containers.

Everywhere!!!

The legislative lawns. The big space behind Vic High School in Fernwood.

rooftops

categories have not been defined. For example, by commercial do you mean the flower boxes some restaurants now use for herbs? Perhaps commercial and industrial should decide what they want to do without interference from the City and public funding/resources.

rooftops

I do not think any kind of community garden is appropriate in city parks.

I think that wherever land is available that local people will actively use and maintain for gardening without impinging upon their neighbours is appropriate. People everywhere need to eat!

All public schools should have community gardens. Centennial Park next to City Hall should definitely have its own garden project.

As far as city parks are concerned, I think we have to be careful of this. I could see some of the smaller parkettes being turned over completely (if no trees, and enough sun) or partially to Allotment Gardens and orchards.

Any type of area near downtown, we had the chance to have a plot in the Carey Road gardens, but due to the potential drive every day to water etc, couldn't accept the responsibility regretfully. In Europe almost every person who lives in the city in an apartment or condo has a bit of land just out of the city all year round

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for life. I remember visiting these mini garden/orchard/farms of my relatives as a child, it made so much sense.

Underutilized space at community association places (up Burnside Gorge zoom unity association could have a community garden right beside their place.

Schools

Living walls and rooftop gardens are great ideas as well as city buses having greenroofs

Close to a transit route

Many apartment parking lots are half empty...

Roof gardens on commercial and multi-unit housing developments.

Parking lots- along the margins.

Rooftops

N/A

Requires healthy location

can't see any area that should be excluded when Victoria has food banks

Temporary/mobile community gardens can be placed on public/private lands awaiting development. This has been very successful in other cities - Vancouver.

There is a great deal of public land (both school district & municipal) currently (and for sometime) vacant & unused in Victoria. I would strongly recommend opening some of this property to use for community gardens. The waiting lists for garden space are always long & many potential gardeners never get the opportunity to garden because of the lack of space. Vacant land should be put to use.

On roof tops

Depends on the circumstance in residential area.....how about school yards?

Schools! Every school should have some allotment gardens. There are some vegetables that could be grown and harvested during the school year, like cresses, oca, purple sprouting broccoli, garlic, etc.

where ever we can put them!

anywhere there is unused space

BC Housing Town housing

schools - joint community/students

14. What kind of community gardening activities do you think are appropriate in City parks (not including designated natural areas)?

Variable	Appropriate	Inappropriate	No opinion	
<b>Allotment gardens (for personal use)</b>	220 58.7%	135 36.0%	20 5.3%	Total: 375
<b>Commons gardens (anyone can harvest)</b>	306 80.7%	63 16.6%	10 2.6%	Total: 379
<b>Community orchards</b>	358 94.5%	15 4.0%	6 1.6%	Total: 379
<b>Community bee-keeping</b>	315 84.0%	43 11.5%	17 4.5%	Total: 375
<b>Demonstration farming</b>	295 78.5%	53 14.1%	28 7.4%	Total: 376
<b>Edible landscaping</b>	353 93.1%	17 4.5%	9 2.4%	Total: 379
<b>Native or wild plants for harvesting</b>	342 90.5%	22 5.8%	14 3.7%	Total: 378

15. If community gardens are located in City parks and other public spaces, what are the top priorities to consider for their design?

Variable	Not a priority	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	
<b>Maintain public access</b>	12 3.2%	16 4.2%	97 25.6%	254 67.0%	Total: 379
<b>Include educational opportunities for the community</b>	19 5.0%	21 5.5%	130 34.2%	210 55.3%	Total: 380
<b>Aesthetics/tidiness</b>	13 3.4%	48 12.7%	159 42.1%	158 41.8%	Total: 378
<b>Turnover of plots/ lengths of lease agreements</b>	25 6.7%	77 20.5%	182 48.5%	91 24.3%	Total: 375
<b>Fencing to protect from theft of harvest and deer</b>	40 10.7%	46 12.3%	128 34.3%	159 42.6%	Total: 373
<b>Other (please specify below)</b>	28 32.9%	0 0.0%	5 5.9%	52 61.2%	Total: 85

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## Other top priority, from above question.

Response

Count

97 responses

Must not use our parks for private lease use. Our population density is increasing. We will need more space for everyone to enjoy.

Community/allotment gardens should NEVER be located in City parks. Why should the vast majority give up parkland for the few squatters who want to grab this property at everyone else's expense.

Tidiness goes beyond, to proper use of composting, etc. to prevent incursion of mice, rats, seagulls, etc. Regarding "theft of harvest": If a community - not allotment - garden, it supposed to be "harvested, right?

intentionally building relationships between neighbours in a way that allows neighbours to identify common interests and increase their ability to take action on issues that affect them.

Public spaces should not be allocated or leased to individuals. Parks are for everyone and shouldn't be leased to individuals.

n/a

Adequate funding and information. Perhaps the City could create a "food map" like Campbell River Created in 2014 - <http://foodmap.campbellriver.ca/land?&PHPSESSID=6b94da8d1bca067eb9a086bbbddee283>

This question is flawed. "turnover of plots" seems to refer to allotments. But I already said I was opposed to private plots in a public park.

water access

no one should be denied access to public lands. In other words, allotment gardens are wrong on public parkland and NO fencing or other disincentive to public access should be in parks.

public access

not only educate the community but activities that make them involved, like an event where children get to plant their own bean plant in the community garden

turning underused public space into productive public foodways

Costs such as water for irrigation, monitoring and maintenance by city staff should be borne by users not taxpayers

There is a balance that needs to be sought between public access on public land and damage from vandalism, deer etc.

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some parks are appropriate for this and some are not so I would hope that we use some prudence in deciding where there are. for instance the apple orchard in Gower Park is totally appropriate.

Not all parks merit community gardens. Each neighbourhood should have a say in whether a public park is taken over for a private use like food and ornamental gardening

My question would be which parks are being considered? Parks are there for everyone, and as a person with a private garden, I'm lucky as I have my own space to grow plants and spend time. Parks are great especially for apartment dwellers, or others without their own gardens. If the community gardens take over existing space for all to enjoy the parks, I think it would be better to find other lands on which to place the gardens.

Should not in any way restrict access or use for the average person and their families.

Access to water, access to other inputs like soil, compost, signage explaining the way the garden is organized

Support from the City!

Access to water

Consultation and agreement from all stakeholders, especially Friends of the Park societies.

If there is an allotment garden, I would like to have fence between individual gardens, so it is clear whose garden it is.

watering should adhere to local water conservation rules and use rainwater collections when possible; addition of bees or other pollinating insects; priority to low income people and families; free or low cost how-to gardening program to encourage gardening and healthy eating

First Nations involvement

Flexibility; suitability as habitat for birds and insects

appropriate vegetation/trees for specific area/climate - i.e.: promote foundation of trees that form base of garden, in case garden is fallow one season or another. Also - orchards could be themed for fun - like an elder tree orchard, or an apple orchard, or a plum orchard, Each orchard would showcase heirloom varieties of trees.

What would theft be? Anyone can harvest from a community garden, right?

educational / informational signage re: value of community gardens, names of edible plants etc...

Safety, eg. Keeping bee hives etc safe so people allergic can still enjoy the parks.

Gardens should be accessible to anyone and everyone



need review of upkeep with loss of lease if not maintained. (this is a lovely but we are so far beyond carrying capacity for the island that I want these gardens for bees. We can't feed the ever increasing number of humans on Vanisland with allotment gardens.)

Growing organically, without chemical fertilizers

Appearance

Water consumption needs to be monitored.

i say deer fencing is a medium priority, theft is not. annoying they were lumped together.

owner/leasee should need to maintain, weed, water, etc. the city could service plots with watering system to ensure responsible use of water resources. manage weed spread and foreign/invasive plants.

If located in City Parks, please use only underused or unused spaces. I'd hate to lose parkland that's designated for all of us to use

the question about fencing for protection from deer not theft

Gardens should have composting that is well maintained to improve the soil

sustainability, proximity of water, allotment of tax resources for maintenance

Long term maintenance and management. This always seems to be the hardest part. The City should dedicate a long term budget to pay a community garden coordinator and financially support the work of volunteer groups. Burnout and unpredictability is a problem if all the work falls on volunteers. Part of the garden coordinator's job should be to ensure proper education (workshops & signage), so people know when and how to harvest from commons gardens, and how to preserve/store it.

Commitment to maintain

Keeping them clean and making sure garbage isn't dumped in/on/near them would be a top priority.

promote volunteer opportunities and access to growing space for people without a commitment so there's more kinds of ways to be involved. Apple-picking days announced ahead of time, eh?

Not sure it is appropriate to have community gardens in our parks.

If you are to include beekeeping the bees would need to be maintained by a knowledgeable beekeeper in a fenced area. Uvic has such an arrangement. There is a liability issue with bees which you would need to investigate thoroughly, but is completely doable.

They must be the right kind of plants/trees for the location, in terms of public access, harvest-ability, sun, soil etc.

Managing deer. They have been a major hinderance to growing food in the city for the past six years.

Maintain and increase accessibility for dogs and dog owners. Concerned that dog-friendly space is already

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#### vanishing in the CRD

A small percentage of the park dedicated to community gardens - especially for private use. And more appropriate in parks that are currently 'open space' e.g. Topaz than in those already well landscaped e.g. Stadacona.

#### water access

I do not support allotment or general community gardens in park areas. The herb garden at Fisherman's works well whereas larger community gardens, especially those requiring fencing, take away public space. My kids want park area to play with frisbees and to generally play in open space areas. Do NOT take this away. Private or individual special access to public land should not occur in parks.

#### security of land use, area is not redeveloped after a few years

Ensuring they are being used and that there is a demonstrated need for them.

Depends on the type of garden. I think maintaining public access is very important for a community garden but an allotment garden may require fencing or some other form of protection from theft.

If there were both allotment gardens and commons gardens in parks, people could get confused about who is allowed to harvest what. It would need to be clear!

I don't think allotment gardens for personal use would be appropriate - these are public spaces and should remain such

#### long term maintenance

Questions already imply loss of public land. Am concerned that parkland will be lost. There are thousands of bees already in James bay. Is there a known shortage? If not, then why would city support more? Parents with kids and people with allergies could be quite concerned.

#### Aesthetics/tidiness

Enough talk - get in done. Along with Solar Power Centres. Roof gardens. And help for the home owner to get his done!

#### year round food

#### Deer over theft as high priority

Fencing means loss of public park land. Deer fencing means 6-7 foot high fencing. The City would be spending all kinds of money for a few people to be able to grow their own tomatoes. Financially would be better if City had a food bank in each community/seniors centre!

I do not support community gardens in public parks.

Low cost for access to ensure that all community members regardless of income level have the opportunity.

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low cost or access to ensure that all community members regardless of income level have the opportunity to try food gardening.

If in a larger city garden, I think it would have to be either an orchard or common garden, but the smaller 'parkettes' could be turned to allotment gardens.

Paid allotments should not be in City parks - it should be accessible to all

sensitivity to rare ecosystems. And indigenous food aspects for local peoples taking a role in sustainability practices in Garry oak ecosystems and other natural area considerations.

consult with neighbours

Design/layout - learn from/appreciate community gardens in other countries with a temperate climate

With reference to theft, deer...let the gardeners deal with that.

It may go without saying that the City should implement policies prohibiting use of pesticides and herbicides in community gardens.

Public, not private ownership

Incorporate aesthetic borders. No communal composters. Fences that prevent deer/rabbits can be chosen wisely when needed to not obstruct views, and they will still be a deterrent to theft even while being publically accessible. The public and tourists love to wander through community gardens and see and talk to gardeners in action.

Public safety; environmental protection; soil health; sustainability; water management

those awarded plots should be obliged to care for their gardens and if they're neglected they should be passed on to those on the wait-list

If community gardens are to be located in City parks (which I object to), then fencing would block access to parts of these parks which are now available to all. Not a good idea.

N/A

I am not a fan of commons gardens and community orchards. I think that city parks are for the use of everyone, and that no one should be able to grow food in these places put aside for all to enjoy. I resent that an area of Porter Park in Fairfield is being used for these purpose all ready.

General knowledge of the implications to require turnover of lots is low in the genreal public

plots for residents of immediate community ONLY

Fencing to prevent destruction from humans

That the gardens be designed and operated in a way that minimizes harm to wildlife, especially in parks.



Organic practises. On site composting for healthy soil building. Include community harvest areas. Aesthetics is subjective, there is some opinion that food gardens are ugly - policy to control aesthetics must be clearly written to outline what defines 'tidiness' (weed and garbage free, plots planted all year to prevent bare soil).

The reason I recommend the use of vacant school board & city property for allotment purposes is that, by their very nature allotment gardens are not common spaces, ie they are private spaces for individuals to garden. So, I am not in favor of turning public space into private space in this manner. Thus, the recommended use of vacant lots that are not in use either public ally or privately at the moment. What is appropriate for public space, like a park are common uses like fruit tree commons or berry & wild plant harvesting like that that goes on in Spring Ridge Commons.

do not allow comercial growers

Funding support the develop and coordination of community gardens and other food based activities

Fencing to protect from deer and dogs, but should allow people to access, visit, and harvest. If it's on public land, everyone should be able to harvest.

I personally don't think community gardens should be located in the city parks or other public spaces. Don't people have their own yards and balconies??

only NATURAL fertilizers and NO PESTICIDES AT ALL

All city parks have challenges with homeless people and nighttime partiers, but in food gardens it's important to not have excrement that can contaminate veggies with e-coli. Also, discarded hypodermic needles could be a serious problem for people digging through soil and plant waste. The foliage and cover of a beautiful garden space is unfortunately also good cover for other activities. Consult with SpringRidge Commons if you haven't already - they've had challenges keeping their garden safe. But, they manage lots of urban gardens on vacant land in Vancouver, so it must be manageable somehow.

fencing to prevent the homeless from abusing the gardens. we had a huge problem at the Michigan St Gardens In James Bay

have an onsite person once regular schedule to answer questions give advice

no comments

## 16. Do you have any additional comments about community gardens in the City of Victoria?

Response

Count

156 responses

Find partners- vacant lots hospitals etc

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Community gardens (meaning allotment, but not orchard) should be sited in areas which would not normally be used by the general public, little corners here and there. the Niagara location is really good. Other possibilities could be "new" land reclaimed from industrial or paved streets. Important to encourage private gardens with new developments and existing private properties (apartments etc)

Yes, no use of public parkland for community/allotment gardens under any circumstances.

I do have concerns about private use of public lands. Possibly allotment-type gardens could be limited and the fees paid could be high enough have some into community orchards.

I'd like to learn more about watering and use of fertilizers and herbicides. Seattle's model appears to be working well.

It would be nice to see an approach to food production that includes oversight by professional farmers. Increased yields due to comprehensive crop planning could fund the staffing, get more food to participants, and fill those gaps in volunteer continuity that lead to poorly managed, unattractive sites.

Go for it! I'm particularly keen to see more fruit and nut trees! (although with nut trees I think we need to take into account allergies)

terms community and allotment gardens are used interchangeably in the survey - therefore survey is flawed

Victoria has limited open green spaces. These spaces shouldn't be parceled off to individuals. Kids need places to run and play too.

n/a

Allotment gardens should not be allowed in public parks.

No private use should be allowed in public parks. Parks are commons and should be shared.

This is forward thinking Victoria.

They offer a way to engage citizens and contribute to food security.

more spaces should be converted into green space, into food producing space.....don't convert park space into allotments for example..... they're already multi use and don't need more hardscape

Apple and pear and plum trees throughout would be preferred. throughout meaning one or two within 2 blocks.

I am VERY disappointed that the Fairfield neighbourhood has NO allotment gardening!

please look into expanding onto rooftops, victoria has many relatively low-rise flat roof building in and around its downtown sector

not nearly enough of them



Should be in keeping with historical buildings - many cities have a botanical garden or kitchen garden associated with a historical landmark which you can view with your entry - the produce is then sold at local farm markets

Please work with the school district on this, as they sit on some of the most usable land areas.

Community gardens build community, which empowers neighbourhoods and adds to liveability. They are for the people, not the profit-motivated developer. They encourage local interaction, interdependence and preservation of greenspace - all attributes that will make our increasingly urbanized lives more balanced and happy

When I was a **Personal information** I lived in James Bay. I had the privilege of visiting the community garden across from the community center on a regular basis, and it became a valuable place for gathering information and observing plantings and asking questions. From there, I was able to transfer the information to my own home and grow food for my family. Now I am working towards growing a little bit more for my family & community, as well as participating in our local food forest in Fairfield. So I support these initiatives and am excited to learn that there is more attention being paid to our food system.

We need more of them, but I'd prefer them to be in presently under-utilized land rather than in existing parks. Parks are not under-utilized land, they are a vitally important component to a healthy city.

Save our Parks. leave parks for all, no special interest groups having higher level of rights in our parks

We need many more of them. Many communities provide no access to community plots, wait lists to existing gardens are consistently long - the demand is there. New community gardens could benefit from organizational advice from existing gardens, so a formal mechanism should exist to provide it. We need a City food security coordinator to work with neighbourhood associations to establish new community gardens, and with all the city departments that can help.

It is very hard to find good information - every website is poorly designed, there's no connection between ANY of them, there are no labels (funds and time), and it's hard to know where they are unless you're already involved with one.

I think that it is important to include at least one zone with native edible species in a community garden located in a park. This could be created in collaboration with local First Nations who are interested in doing long-term propagation of native food plants such as camas.

Thank you for moving forward this initiative. All Victoria citizens will greatly benefit from it.

I believe that public parks should always be open to the public and be based on community initiatives. Allotments are also good, but should not be exclusionary. If allotments are on public land, I believe they should be accessible to the public (even if the public is not supposed to harvest) and there should be community initiatives around them (such as orchards/nut trees/food forests)

no

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I fully support this initiative

I think the City should take every available opportunity to engage community members with outdoor spaces and not just for the sake of food production. Projects like the email-a-tree service go a long way to keep folks connected with the spaces around them and take an active role in community stewardship.

[http://www.citylab.com/tech/2015/07/when-you-give-a-tree-an-email-address/398219/#disqus\\_thread](http://www.citylab.com/tech/2015/07/when-you-give-a-tree-an-email-address/398219/#disqus_thread)

Community gardens are incredible and we not have enough in this city.

There should be more opportunities for people of all economic levels to participate in the growing and eating of healthy food.

Encourage the owners of the 1970s rental buildings and condos with large lots to turn some of their lawn or parking space into gardens.

They are beautiful, very important for building a sense of community, critical if the City pursues dense multi-family housing developments.

Commons gardens and allotment gardens can exist in the same area! It is good to have a variety of opportunities for gardening to be accessible to the widest range of skills and abilities and comfort levels. Above all Indigenous knowledge needs to be a priority. Consultation with first nations should be held to see what level of knowledge sharing peoples would be comfortable with.

Just that they are wonderful and the addition of spaces and educational opportunities would greatly benefit or area.

Community gardens on public lands, like boulevard gardens, need to be very inclusive and welcoming to everyone. I understand the desire by individual allotment holders to reap their own harvest, but certain plots or crops should be for open harvest.

In addition to increasing gardening, markets are at a crossroads. It is great to meet your farmer, but if you have an extra ten pounds of carrots from your backyard, it is not worth it to rent a table at a farmer's market. We need ways to sell our surplus. And I bet large-scale farmers would appreciate having infrastructure that would allow them to farm, instead of working the cash table at their market stall. Furthermore, if Victoria is going to be serious about agriculture (and other forms of solar energy harvesting), we are going to have to develop a more nuanced tree policy than Trees are Good. Trees need to be treated as the strategic parts of our urban infrastructure that they are; we do not live in the forest, we live in a city. Poorly sited trees greatly reduce the ability to grow food, generate electricity, and heat water.

prioritize nearness to social housing/low income housing projects and community centres

Needs a paid position for management.

I think it's a great idea. I saw a video on tedtalks and thought this would be great for our city



compost needs to be monitored more closely - a local community centre with a garden received compost that had a needle/syringe and a shoe in it.

Great idea to pursue this further.

I appreciate the survey! Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. I eat herbs and I'd love to have herbs everywhere! Basic herbs like peppermint and rosemary. Fruit trees, especially Sea Buckthorn, need to be meticulously trained to provide public access otherwise the branches get overgrown and the tree takes more space than they need.

Go for it!

have more green roof and vertical garden incentives.

Fencing for deer not theft from people. I also am not necessarily opposed to personal use on park land but would need to see detailed plans to know if it is appropriate. In my opinion it makes more sense to make use of land that is idle (boulevard, flower gardens etc).

Do it! Include rooftop greenhouse options, too; more green on the roofs, less power needed to cool in the summer.

There is a huge demand and even just to visit they are a huge community asset!

I love them!

who is paying for all this?

Bring them on!

They need to look kept, and we still need green space for running around. Food needs to be harvested at appropriate times and not left to rot

I'm so happy you are looking into this more! Yay Victoria! I love my city just a little bit more than I already did. :)

Great idea! What about more rooftop gardens?

If it's a community garden it should be open to the community. Allotment gardens or those that you rent should be in less public areas.

I hope this food can be used by the disenfranchised, and maybe even give them jobs in upkeep.

I like the idea. I would like plot design samples and resources, like a "plot starter kit" with garden plan, seeds etc, to make it easy to startup.

water?????? droughts buddy

Would be great to have food go to low income and food insecure people (seniors, homeless, poor).

Establish one community garden at a time - In a suitable area, to see who things go., but have a list of possible areas so the next community garden can be established. Having one person as a site manager is very important.

I'd like to see more education around growing food in public spaces to ensure that the land and the space is treated with respect - appropriate food crops grown, appropriate access, respectful interaction with the public

A system of incentives for private owners of vacant lots and undeveloped properties if the owners would allow them to be used short term for community gardens could prove beneficial.

This is really great that Victoria is taking this action, I wish Esquimalt was

Relying on rainwater and cycling the water for use to minimize waste and usage of the drinking water supply

Common gardens maintained by neighbourhood organizations are not the right approach. Allotments work better to maximize the use of the space. If there need to be common gardens, they should be owned and maintained by the city.

I think they are a great idea, and there should be more of them for the growing population that lives in apartment and condo buildings in the city

Deer populations might have to be controlled.

I would like to see more of them.

lets be a leader-city and go all out. go big or go home

People being allowed to grow flowers as well as vegetables I

Would love to see more of them!

I am particularly excited about having more food forests in the city. I strongly urge the City to look into collaborating with the local experts in permaculture design and edible landscaping to provide more places for people to come and harvest. This work should be done in consultation with the local shelters, street community and the current micro-housing initiative. Let's work to ensure that these spaces are welcoming, safe, and relevant to EVERYONE in our city - including families, seniors, and the homeless.

This is a must-have in Victoria - one of the best growing areas in Canada. Food security is about to become an unprecedented issue in this area.

I wonder if intensive planting affects the health of boulevard trees

If car exhaust is so toxic we can't grow dwarf apple trees along our roads, we're doing our roads wrong.

Work tourism into the community garden system. Really adds to the charm of the city, our reputation, and increase visitation, thus generating revenue.

Turn Beacon Hill park into a space for growing food (there is a precedent  
<http://www.beaconhillparkhistory.org/contents/chapter12.htm>)

Not sure it is appropriate to have city gardens in our parks.

Thank you for considering this as an alternative to grass. We will be even more of a destination for garden lovers!

Yes, the city should provide a streamlined process and template for proposing a new community garden

I have been involved in community gardens in Victoria for years although I am no longer involved I think they can be huge boost to the vitality of the city.

As we can see this summer, climate change is coming and there will likely continue to be water shortages. Using available land for growing food is a good use of this land.

I don't like the idea of them in city parks because we are lacking in park space esp in Victoria - the clear green space is at a premium as there is so little of it and high density living which means more people in less space. I think care should also be taken in ensuring that urban wildlife is also considered in this plan scheme - it's not always all about the people. We rely on an ecosystem to sustain and the environment.

More please, waitlists are long. I waited 5 years.

Community gardens can become a financial and other resource drain on the City. People who do not own space to garden should approach their landlords or stratas about creating space or move to another lot where garden space is available.

They should not be allowed in City parks. They will attract pests.

GO FOOD GO!

I garden at a community garden that is (mis)managed by the  
**Personal Information**

Brilliant idea. Community bee keeping is also an amazing idea. I think education about growing food and providing the opportunity to eat healthy, local fruits and veggie would greatly increase the well-being of our community.

much more of all of the above!

Since so many people in Victoria live in multi-family buildings, community gardening is quite important!

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Since so many people in Victoria live in inner city buildings, community gardening is quite important.

Problems to solve: Irrigation, and distribution. Some community gardens suffer because participants go on vacation in the Summer exactly when harvest happens. How do we prevent wastage?

I think it is a great idea - oversight required to ensure no infestation type plants grown (like say mint) that take over everything

Community gardens, a the untended spirit garden proved, can become a make work project. City should not support private gain gardening. Anyone who wants to garden for themselves should get access to private lands (rent a plot/area)

The management of community gardens is extremely important. I live next to a Community Garden and it is not a happy place - I believe due to poor management. The result is an unkempt, sad, weed bearing, underutilized garden. The proper management and coordination is key to the success of a community garden. May be helpful if there was a community garden "resource" guide/program to help the nonprofit organizations manage their gardens, organize events etc.

We need more community gardens as soon as possible!

Fantastic - get them going now!

No

the use of London Plane trees in redfern park has seriously impaired my ability to grow food in my garden.

Clearly I am deeply in favour of encouraging and participating in growing and encouraging growing of food in the city- I do believe, however, that the city will have to have an action plan for deer population control as food gardens are a favourite with deer (I am a professional landscaper in town and have much experience seeing food crops are an absolute favourite for deer!)

Some work, some don't. The herb garden at Fishermans park works well. And City staff monitor it and care for it.

I think it's an excellent and important move to protect and encourage local food production. The rapid rate of development in our city points to a need to establish growing spaces now while there is still a possibility to acquire space.

Please do not allow any community gardens in public parks.

There are so many expert gardeners in this city, especially older and retired citizens, who could volunteer mentor younger less experienced gardeners. This could help defray costs while bringing generations together!

More of them, please, as soon as possible. Harder times are coming; we need to learn how to share

Definitely would love to see beekeeping and orchards as they are an important part of the cycle of keeping things growing

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We have several in our neighborhood, and when my babies get older I hope to become more involved. They bring our community together, are beautiful and offer yummy foods! I am very proud of our neighborhood

Personal food production really should be a basic skill for all humans. It's probably only a recent thing that we are mostly solely dependent on the supplies of a grocery store or market for the main sustenance of our lives. It's only through education, awareness, and support of government initiatives that will help people realize this is an important thing to support and practice in our daily lives. I thought this was the garden city? Also, the community that can be enhanced through projects like this is likely huge and positive. But I agree, the only way to get the support of people against it for potential untidiness or plot abandonment issues is some sort of oversight or organization which works to prevent this in an organized cooperative way.

I answered inappropriate to City Parks and facilities for allotment gardens (paid personal use) because I feel these are more appropriate for Commons Gardens or Community orchards instead of paid personal use - everyone should be able to access City gardens.

**Personal information** and I have a great deal of practical experience in public gardening, edible landscaping and creating community gardens. Please feel free to get in touch, would be interested in passing along some of my experiences **Personal information**

Encouraging businesses to grow their own herbs or vegetable right on their rooftop (if accessible) stressing the important environmental impacts and cost cuts on their business

I know that it is frustrating to have animals steal your food, but this is their land too. Also if another human being is stealing food then we obviously need more gardens accessible to our poor/homeless populations

Absolutely no harvesting from native plants. A: they don't produce a lot of fruit. B. Birds are in desperate need of food and habitat. C. Have **Personal information**, which is supposed to be for citizens but my hope is that the food remains for birds. It's not possible to produce enough food from native plants. **Personal information** and with my own yard where I keep that food for birds. Especially as Victoria permits cats to be unlicensed and free-roaming, we need to do what we can to help birds.

Involve children of school age - encourage input from local teachers known to be "green thumbs"; there are several.

There seems to be lots of demand.

Thank you for supporting and encouraging the use of city lands to grow food!

Any possibility of having school /city partnerships so kids can learn to garden?

I am fully supportive.

Victoria only has 5 allotment gardens and they all have huge waitlists. Gardening is the #1 past time of Canadians and as we increase urban density we lose greenspace and yards. We need to provide

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opportunities for Victorians to interact more with nature--it's not just about sitting on a bench and observing the birds! Whether they are seniors who have downsized, families with children want access to an educational plot, or those who value food security and fresh organic food. This is a municipal issue because it concerns land use. Too many people hear the word "park" and think it means a wild protected area, or that land is somehow being lost. As a society we already provide public land and spaces for citizens to play sports (fields, tennis courts, lawn bowling), climb play equipment, walk dogs, swim at pools, etc. Gardening is a very healthy hobby that not only provides food, but it provides exercise, community-building and networks.

I think the emphasis should be in neighbourhoods with families who are of low income, particularly single moms.

watering.....how, what, and where from, who?

I strongly oppose community gardens in parks, especially allotment gardening. It is ridiculous to take public spaces and give them to individuals, and I do not want to see fences in our parks, which I use daily.

I think community gardens are best located in specific areas like vacant lots or on private property, rather than in public areas, where they will likely disrupt public access or create extra expense on an already overburdened City budget.

I think it is time we tried to grow our own food rather than rely on import that increase the carbon footprint.

I am concerned about effectively privatizing public space by the rental of allotment plots in city parks, however, I think allotments are an important service to provide as this can be the only way for apartment dwellers to garden. I think this needs to be balanced very carefully.

Please make this a priority. We have an excess of manicured gardens and this is not a good use of water.

we need more

perhaps not all parks would be suitable for hosting allotment gardens; however in JBay, Irving Park has been devoid of flowering plants that were removed several years ago, and lacks interest. I support allotment gardens close to the JB New Horizons where there is wind protection, and sufficient sunlight for growing food. Put the displaced Michigan St gardens there!

This is a gross use of public space by a very few people and should not be permitted and if permitted an exceptionally high tax and rent should be charged by the city to compensate the rest of the taxpayers.

There needs to be more public information available to general public

looking forward to a firm date when these can be introduced

Found it hard to answer Q15, as see big distinction between use of designated parkland and other areas. Have no problem with allotments in, say vacant lot in industrial area being fenced & locked at night, but think it is important to keep public access to parkland. Also left foraging question unticked because that one is so

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complicated - depends on what is being foraged and how - with many of these things success (or otherwise) will be in how well the details are thought through and needs of various users of public land weighed against each other.

Allotment gardens should be administered by community-based organization. New high density developments should be required to include either personal food growing space or community growing space - this should be as important as parking spaces.

They're a good idea, they allow low income families to enjoy fresh vegetables that perhaps they grew. they also allow for learning opportunities, and bring communities together in a wholesome way.

What about Spring Ridge Commons? It is the first food forest on the west coast. A highly innovative idea that has flourished in Fernwood for a dozen years or more, largely in spite of, rather than with the support of, the City. I would recommend that the City recognize Spring Ridge Commons as a valuable resource & acknowledge the amazing volunteers who have keep it alive over the years. The best way to do this would be to reduce the water rate now paid by the Commons lessees from industrial to residential. Give this wonderful Common garden a break!!

Need to ban lawn watering all together to encourage eatable landscapes

ensure that you are working collectively with community organizations. They are you biggest resource.

We have them in Vic West, and they really add to the sense of community. We work in them together, celebrate the seasons in them together, and harvest in them together. It's good.

There should be more of them

Who is paying for the continual upkeep? one more thing for taxpayers! Keep up with the grass and lovely flowers which is what attracted us to this lovely city in the first place.

Only those that work the garden/s can harvest its bounty-UNLESS AS A GROUP they decide otherwise.

I love the idea of having more community garnerers in Victoria. Many people want to grow their own food but don't know where to start, and are motivated by seeing gardens in action. We have so much unused land that could be put to better use, and gardening and growing food is satisfying and fun!

We should also have rooftop greenhouses like in Montreal!

fantastic idea

I believe that more beehives should be permitted. However, city parks may not be the best venue due to vandalism and safety concerns

I am so glad Victoria is putting emphases on garden for food, and for the whole community to have a chance to enjoy raising food

We need more!



Good idea to have this questionnaire. Hope it's widespread - like in mailboxes in selected streets & addresses (random distribution in mailboxes)

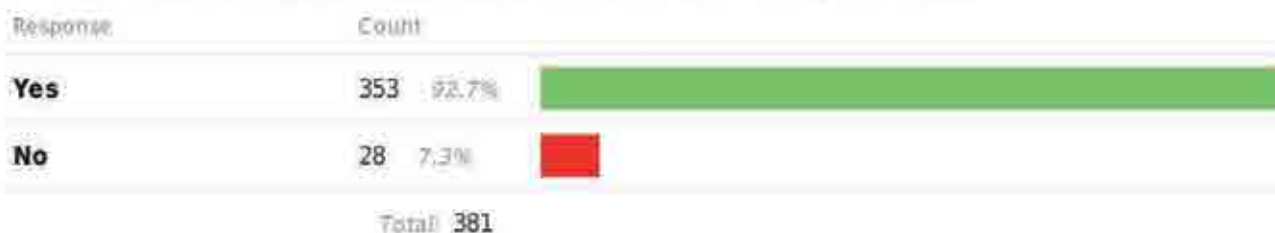
We live in bc housing and have a gardener come every 6-10 days

I am not in favour of community gardens, I prefer allotment gardens where individuals have to make a commitment and take responsibility

Growing "crop" areas for supply ie. same food grown in large number in one spot

I love Mason St farm - their project is really inspiring

#### 17. Do you think the City should plant more fruit and nut trees on public lands?



#### If yes, why?

Response	Count
319 responses	

we need more food in our city

Local food tastes better.

Sidney has pear and apple trees here and there and anyone can pick. A great positive contribution. I have my doubts about nut trees and whether they would actually be harvested.

This is the only use that should be provided. Appropriate selection should ensure that shade still exists

Good idea - in moderation. Needs to be a way to ensure any windfall fruit is quickly cleaned up.

Trees grow well here, why not grow food, rather than horse chestnuts or acorns?

It will increase food security particularly if matched with outreach and engagement programs for harvesting and processing. It will create a stronger local identity and civic pride. It will create relationships, trust and social capital which will lead to better governance. Local hyper-fresh Food tastes better!

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as long as not more expensive and fruit is harvested - potential dangers as people climb to harvest higher up fruit

To provide more food for people.

To increase local food production rather than just having ornamental trees

I don't really care. But if it isn't costly, why not?

Nut trees are an excellent food source. My street has Italian chestnuts which we harvest in the fall. The trees do not receive sufficient watering/care during the summer so the nuts tend to be smaller, but still delicious!

We need cheap healthy food.

To create a healthy local foodshed and bolster the resiliency and sustainability of our community. What's more, these could create business opportunities.

I would collect them at least some of the time. But they should be labelled as edibles.

Availability of more local produce; use of underutilized land; demonstration of varieties and landscaping techniques

Educational opportunities, food security, interest.

It's a source of food for people and local wildlife.

It's crazy that we don't have nut and fruit producing trees by the hundreds and that the fruit tree project does not have core funding so that it doesn't have to struggle just to exist.....the city parks dept should be supporting and partnering with the fruit tree project so that food producing trees are properly picked and processed.

We should use our public lands efficiently to feed everyone, including the homeless.

apple, pear and plum trees which are easily harvested should be available to all, but not directly by sidewalks and roads such that the fruit fall is bothersome and messy.

To encourage public participation in harvest and create educational opportunities about local food bearing trees.

for food security reasons. So we can grow more of our own food. Fruit and nut trees in public areas act as educational tools to let the general public know what is possible.

Why not?

Both human and animals benefit

All trees in public areas are good, fruit and nut trees have the bonus of food.

Public land belongs to the public and such plantings make food available to any members of the public.

because there wont be anything more important that you could occupy that space with than a fruit or nut tree

Isn't it strange that horse chestnuts are fine, but not the human-edible kind?

Provide dual use in some areas

I support edible nuts rather than horse chesnuts. Fruit tree type and location has to be considered in regards to possible neglected harvests, or a system such as Lifecycle organisation collecting harvests. A friend of mine proposed this to city in 1988, so it is about time.

The question is, why not. Trees that make food are a GREAT idea.

I enjoy harvesting for from the local environment.

It could be messy, granted, but the need to build a culture that values local food sourcing and eliminating food waste trumps the messiness that transitioning to that forward thinking approach will entail in the short term

Make better use of a public resource

Why not? Free fruit on the go

Granted cleanup and safety are possible issues (nut allergies, bees, falling fruit,etc), but in saying that it could make the area more beautiful and make healthy and nutritional foods more accessible for the public to enjoy.

More food!

Food is a good idea, increases local food security, and improves access to good food for those who might not be able to afford it otherwise.

Public trees provide a very democratic source of healthy food. Children learn plant recognition and respect for nature through watching and waiting for delicious berries to ripen. In addition to increasing our city's food security, these plants encourage individuals to participate in their surroundings. With concerns of global warming, it seems irresponsible to continue planting trees and shrubs that require irrigation and fertilizer only for beauty's sake. We need to plant thinking of food security, which of course includes planting for our bees and other pollinators too.

Why have non productive trees when we could be easily feeding people?

It makes sense for Vancouver Island to grow more food on public land and fruit and nut trees would certainly be part of that but my concern would be the upkeep and maintenance of trees. The city would need a person in charge of harvest time in order to protect trees from damage and to distribut fruit fairly

Some fruit trees would be really good. Ones that anyone can pick fruit. Tree care should be by City Staff.

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Access to free food for the homeless and general populace. Beautification. Increase local nutrition levels.

Why not? They're great for pollinators, birds, other wildlife, and us. They're beautiful.

Having access to free local healthy foods is an asset to the citizens of Victoria. These trees can be both beautiful and life-sustaining.

There are easy and accessible food sources.

extra, local food source

They are versatile, relatively low maintenance and provide food. They are accessible to all and there will be relatively few conflicts as no one can claim ownership as they do not require planting or maintenance in the same way an annual vegetable garden does. They are also excellent and bountiful food crops that can be worked into local ecological considerations, such as planting trees for carbon offset, beautification, and shade to protect from the urban heat island effect.

It's more self-sustainable for a community or city to have access to local food.

sense of community

Increases food security, education and aesthetic

It's an easy form of food security.

Anything we can do to help with the production of local food is welcomed by me.

To provide more opportunities for the harvest of local food by residents and organizations such as food banks.

Increase food security and build community through harvest and pruning programs.

It makes sense to grow food where possible.

You can't eat grass!

we have a large population of transient people. why not allow them to feed themselves this way?!

Urban trees are good for the health of communities. Why not get some free food for people and wildlife as well.

People must understand that food does originate in a plastic box, but is grown and tended, as part of the cycle of life.

It's good use of land rather than the priority being just "a pretty site"

Increase wildlife, beauty, food production, air quality

I think most people are separated from their food and aren't aware of what fruit trees even look like. I also

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think this would help with children's understanding of food. This food could also be used to help feed the large homeless population that Victoria has.

for food security reasons and access to fresh, nutritious food for all residents. . . . And because it just makes sense. If you are going to plant a tree, why not make it a food producing one!!!?

Our urban forest is such a wonderful asset. I understand concern over messes from unharvested fruits and nuts, but we in the horse chestnut zone can tell you that the messes are already here! Love the idea of the nut crops being edible, and the flowering trees bearing fruit. Helps the birds and bees as well as the people. I feel sure that urban harvesting initiatives could be successfully coordinated with to ensure public fruits and nuts are harvested

We can eat what they produce while they purify our air. It will probably attract more animals as well.

Why would you pass up an opportunity to grow food? I think all street trees (properly sited, as per my last comment) should grow food.

may as well have the trees produce food rather than just being ornamental

I would sooner use money from the "Community Chest" to provide food and aesthetics, rather than just aesthetics

Helps with greenhouse gases. Helps with overall wellness of citizens with more green space. Helps to grow food. I am concerned about nut trees as many people myself included are allergic to nut trees and nut tree pollen.

Yes but, more energy needs to go to existing fruit and nut tree gleaning organizations. Existing food trees need to be renovated and protected.

Fruit only

Surface level, they are beautiful and utilitarian. However, we are approaching a world where climate change can and will dramatically change our food systems. Lets prepare locally for this changes, empower our communities and work together!

Increase exposure of food at its source to the public

Don't see enough

They are easier to maintain than community gardens/allotment plots, when planted with a complimentary understory could add more habitat/food for pollinators, and can be collectively harvested but lots of people. So it's not just one plot for one person.

more local food = good

yummy!! :)

It provides a plentiful and local source of nutritious food

it provides a plentiful and local source of nutritious food

They're welcoming, and the animals in the city will have A BEAUTIFUL space to hang out and live around rather than eating from our compost bins. They're also so beautiful. Makez me teary thinking of all that beauty. Yellow plums! Those are my favourite. They're small trees and poop out a lot of yummy plums.

They provide food for a wide variety of living creatures (including humans), contribute to biodiversity, encourage people to become more aware of healthy foods

easy to care for, good for environment, easy to harvest, share and make use of.

They're delicious

Why not?

Good for people and animals.

Fresh fruit and nuts planted to be harvested will go a long way towards food security.

We need to nurture more nature. The planet is dying, we need to restore its natural Eco systems.

Food from trees could go to food banks.

as our city expands its important our landscaping is dual purpose- visually pleasing and fruitful!

Beautiful and delicious, good for small animals and bugs

Why not? They're productive and would bring communities together in caring for them.

Bees will like that.

They can be a valuable source of food as well as educational, raise awareness. Time to shift the concept of food from "store" to "land" and

Not only for human consumption but also our animal population

why not, that would be a happy way to proceed, in all health, eco, economic ways

more food sovereignty = better

I don't think they should be the only type of trees planted on public lands - diversity is a good thing. Fruit and nut trees add to our food security and sense of community, add beauty to the city and add diversity in plantings.

The fruit is healthier, fresher, lowers our dependence on fossil fuels from imported fruits, provides food locally for us and for wildlife.

The more the merrier! I think the availability of public fruit is awesome!

Feed the needy, and the passerby's, teach children that food is for everyone, and that growing trees is

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healthy., engage the community to access to food issues.

Because they serve a dual purpose of being pleasing to the eye and producing food

Fruit bearing trees could be harvested by the public.

Self sufficiency, promote accessible, healthy eating instead of vending machines.

Excellent source of protein

Good for everyone, including wildlife.

Working in tandem with Lifecycles and other organizations we could make good use of the fruit/nuts produced. Also many nut and fruit trees are attractive and are good for wildlife.

Provide access to healthy food

It's a way to feed people who are food insecure with healthy food. it exposes people to food they may not buy. it's food for the bees.

I love picking fruit straight from the tree. So delicious and free!

encourage families to pick apples, plums etc. sense of community. many renters cant grow fruit or afford to buy. if people want to harvest, why not grow them?! there will be trees regardless, so they could be productive trees

Feed the hungry!

socialism

To produce food and build community, to beautify and to increase greenery

Food security, shows people where food comes from, useful.

Public fruit and nut trees offer fresh, nutritious, free food to anyone with the time and ability to gather it. This is a boon to everyone, both those who benefit directly and those who simply live in a community with these values.

Free food

Provides food. Teaches about where foods come from. Can be harvested by volunteers to augment food banks.

It enhances the neighbourhoods and benefits the environment

To enjoy free fresh foods

Not everyone has a fruit or nut tree in their yard and many do not have access to fresh fruit. It is becoming increasing important for Islanders to grow our own and support ourselves in terms of food security.

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Victoria is known for its flower baskets. Why not be known for fruits and veggies and nuts too. We sure could get some better press from these kinds of 'nuts'....LOL

Why not?

I support increased food production on City land

Because of the taste and the educational benefits

supermarket prices are getting crazy expensive plus the quality is often poor & who knows what chemicals are used in the industrial production

Accessibility to fresh local produce for anyone in need of it

If new trees are planted, why not use trees that produce edible fruits or nuts. Variety is important for the urban forest.

This sounds like a beautiful and community building concept

for community use

Street trees are visually pleasing and increase property value as well as provide a sense of community to a city, so why not make them trees that function as a food source also. They also provide opportunities for education through pruning and harvesting.

more fruit & nut trees = more food.

Give people with limited growing space/income access to fruit and nuts.

They're beautiful and provide food for people and wildlife.

Way more useful than planting magnolias which I've seen in residential areas

Why not!

More native trees please. Helps the insects

Trees can provide shade, esthetics, and food

Perennial foods like these provide a more nutritious and diverse diet. Having a variety of species beyond traditional annuals extends the food harvest through most of the year. Over time, these plants will require less maintenance and will be more drought resistant than annuals. A study by Clark and Nicholas ("Introducing Food Forestry" in Landscape Ecology Journal, 2013) is an excellent resource on species and how urban food forests can contribute to food security in concrete ways. For example, they showed that 108% of the recommended daily fruit intake for the entire population of Burlington, Vermont could be met by planting fruit trees on public lands!

So that we can harvest and eat them.

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I'm also a fan of native trees - but if other trees will be planted, why not increase the community's ability to feed ourselves communally and cheaply?

More trees whatever the species are a good idea

It is the right thing to do. It would avail everyone with access to good healthy food, particularly if higher protein/fat nut trees are considered, however there would have to be enough to keep ahead of the rodents

Harvest festivals! Have to be wary of fruit types due to need to use dormant oil, attracting wasps. Planting olive trees would be cool -- a gift to generations

Sustainable use of land

Esthetics and practical use for people who need food

People eat food. Grow food. If people take the food, it gets eaten. Not growing food is being a bad steward of the land.

Aside from dogwoods and several other stunningly beautiful decorative trees, threatened species/ecosystems, and trees for animal habitat, why plant a regular tree when we could generate food for the community?

Food is a need and therefore citizens have a right it (at little-to-no cost).

Food security and sovereignty, which are dangerously lacking on the island

Food security. Harvest could supply food banks or low income families.

food security; increase sense of community.

Food security

I see a lot of people harvesting these fruits

Education of the population on what can be grown here, a shift towards sustainable local food production/consumption is an example of the way this city cares about its future

Having access to healthy and affordable food is important.

For food security, it is an asset to plant food-bearing trees where the upkeep and maintenance is not more than an ornamental tree.

Well excess can go to food banks. Why not plant real plums rather than ornamental etc.

So that more people can access fruit and nuts, and to ensure that we have a more resilient local food system in case of emergencies.

why plant ornamentals, when food bearing trees are beautiful as well as productive?

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They allow everyone to interact with food and free access to healthy food for all.

Access to more fresh fruit for people who live in the city!

As long the right ones are chosen, I think it is a good idea.

A good idea in parks but they would need to be fenced

so that there can be more food to harvest

This will help everyone in the city have access to more local, healthy, and cheap food options. Local food means less transport costs and less gasoline burned. Low income families will be healthier if they can access cheap, healthy food. Everyone loves nuts and they are expensive!

The opportunity to have trees that look both beautiful and feed us and little critters around is invaluable.

Only if the fruit/nuts will be donated to local food banks

grow more edibles

More local food, jobs

Why not? It would be fun to stroll and pick fruit. Some might supplement their diet. Or create businesses.

To help combat food insecurity

Fresh fruits and nuts available to everyone.

food source, why not?

A few apple, plum, pear trees would be an asset. Sidney has some. I have doubts about value of nut trees as most will not be harvested. We must NOT create make work projects. Also, do not need many fruit trees on boulevards/parks. Shade, large canopy, trees are so important.

because it is reduntantly obvious for moral, ethical and environmental reasons to promote urban food production

If managed by a society to harvest the fruit/nuts, the produce can be donated to local charities for use.

It is a good use of public land and increases food production in the city.

It provides free food to people, and can be low maintenance.

I agree with planting fruits and nuts on public lands as long as it is reasonably priced and well maintained. Rotting fruit is messy, and encourages insects and animals.

public access to food, food resiliancy and security

more interesting, provide food, we become more sustainable, provide shade

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We are utterly dependant on imports. It's ridiculous. We need to be more self sustaining. Why are we importing from california? If we ever our ferries, we're screwed.

This will become more important over the next couple of decades. Better to get a jump on it now.

Strategic planning is crucial. Design with the end in mind. Tall fruit trees can be difficult to maintain and harvest. The grey squirrels get most of the nuts, except for Chinese Chestnuts which should be Victoria's official nut tree. There is a great stand on Marlborough Street. They are just as nice as horse chestnuts, same mess, but with edible, roastable sweet nuts. As for other fruit trees, I would caution the ubiquitous planting of semi-dwarf and tall fruit trees, because people say they'll harvest, but there are already tons that can be picked with Lifecycles' Program. Strategic plantings in parks are probably better than huge, unkept, unharvested trees on busy streets.

food security and to model growth of food trees to residents

Like good food accessible to everyone

fruit trees are a great use of urban space. food collected can be donated to homeless shelters

it would be great to increase food security in this way.

Lets make the space useful. We have so much space that could provide for so many. Fruit and nut trees can be beautiful and the food that they produce could allow us to provide nutritious food to those who may not otherwise get it. I also think it would be brilliant for kids. Again - education.

Make public space useful!

No reason not to! I would love to see native fruit and nut trees

food security!

Shade and food!

For additional food production

To support our local food system, help feed people who may not have access to fresh foods, normalize food production in urban areas.

Food for wildlife and people.

It makes sense. It is a food source on land that should have trees anyway. It is beautiful, including when trees flower.

Functionality mostly. Victoria has a lot of beautiful trees. Why not have some that are fruit trees?

It would produce food for anyone to harvest.

\* qualified use. Having fruit trees that have rotten unharvested fruit anywhere could create problems

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A qualified yes. Having fruit trees that have fallen unharvested fruit everywhere could create problems.

Teaming up with LifeCycles or another organization like that could help.

food!

More trees are good in general, trees that feed us even better.

Why not have a tree that does something?

Appl, plum and pear trees would be appreciated by any/all residents if located in good locations where they would not create road or sidewalk mess but still be accessible.

More edible produce for all to enjoy

To provide food for everyone, especially low income or homeless people.

Provides both beautiful trees for the public to look at as well as practical for public to harvest

Food is always needed by everyone in the community

sustainable

We need trees. Perhaps some of those with an unhealthy diet, lack of money, might actually be able to get much needed fruits and nuts

If the City can afford it, adding another food source that looks beautiful is valuable.

can be harvested.

Our climate supports growing more food locally and we should be making every effort to do so

For sustainable harvesting, support our local food banks

Fruit trees and shrubs which anyone can take fruit from would be good. Not everywhere - just the odd one. Do not know about nut trees

because we have too many starving people and families.

citizens could harvest and share the produce

why not? fruit trees provide food and are aesthetically pleasing

Maintained properly, they are charming and useful.

To combat alienation from and ignorance of natural food production and to supply healthy, locally produced food in our lovely mild climate!

As above, we need to learn how to share food.

Because it's still aesthetically pleasing, but with tasty fruits! Some thought has to be given to mess though.



fruits probably aren't appropriate over sidewalks, for example.

Fruit trees can grow here successfully so there is no reason not to. Nut trees should be consulted with communities so something isn't planted right on the doorstep of someone who is very allergic.

Again, it's very important for people to access fruit and nuts for nourishment: the costs of commercial food are getting impossible for some people.

Um, to eat fruit and nuts of course!

great to have more access to fruit

Lets encourage foraging and sharing of food! I would like to see us get back to old ways of providing for ourselves in any way possible

The trees are beautiful and would be enjoyed by many.

Productive use of otherwise useless land. Need to make sure fruit gets harvested though

Food security, and they are often attractive...

we need them

Trees need to be planted all the time, fruit/but trees are wonderful as long as the yeild isn't wasted as you see with so many residential fruit trees.

Long term edible plants and a greener city

food

I think that it will help lower the cost of living to people that are willing to go and pick them, also adds beauty, feeds wildlife. Loss of grass always a positive to me.

They both support us in local food and local wildlife

A city should provide for it's citizens. Any extra means of people accessing vitamin rich foods, and nut proteins would be a blessing.

Excellent use of land that will already have trees on it.

Great for reducing environmental impacts a city has on the earth as well as keeping the diets of Victoria residents healthier. This ca also have a beneficial impact for bees

It would be a good way to make locally grown food easily accessible

anywhere it can! Beacon Hill and other Parks would be ideal. Definitely a long residential boulevards and median. Maybe not a long busy corner doors, with concerns of fruit causing traffic issues.

Why not

The more trees we have, the cleaner the air. If we are planting more trees they might as well provide additional benefits.

Because this is years in discussion, nuts bear great food value, they add other capital (ie, other benefits to the environment). I have been listening to "arguments for" nut trees since 2003!

Because I would love access to free fruit and nuts at parks, I feel food is a basic right and everyone should have access to it. It would go a long way to helping feed our homeless population.

I think it's important to have diverse plantings around the city - including fruit and nut trees.

I'm not opposed to fruit tree graftin on existing boulevard trees, though it may only benefit the racoons.

It becomes a fun community activity that everyone can engage in!

Let's shrink the gap b/w food on the plate and where food is grown. Partnerships possible b/w many non-profits and the public.

Useful as well as ornamental.

Makes more practical use of land that would otherwise remain uncultivated or fallow. Teaches our community how to grow our own food and feed ourselves. Creates a better sense of community when we work together to create something good for everyone! Revitalizes an almost lost agrarian lifestyle of growing food, saving seeds, feeding families, learning important life skills to pass onto our children and future generations.

We need to feed people and it is educational for people to see food growing.

For the food, aesthetic qualities, and contributions to a healthier built and ecological environment.

I value dual purpose landscaping and I like foraging for wild food.

Food sustainability, enjoyment of fruit/nuts.

Really, although they are beautiful, what do Japanese cherry blossom trees give us? I think in the future, we should certainly give thought to nut and fruit trees so that food can be distributed eg. food bank.

Food security

An excellent source of good public food, and beautiful besides!

a great use of space to grow food for the community (schools, homeless shelters, etc); city could work with community groups to share the responsibilities of tree care and harvest

great food for people, bees and bugs. Our food defines our health.

access for all including homeless persons

Why not? if we're going to have trees, make them useful as well as beautiful

any more if we're going to have trees, make them useful as well as beautiful

These could be harvested by community groups and distributed to shelters, food banks or community residents

Low maintenance and high yield of food

It is best to use land productively.

They are easy to maintain and provide a great way for the community to access fresh food.

More shade, and a food source

To help feed the homeless

because they produce food?

I would love to take the kids to parks, for example, and have a snack right off the tree.

Increased access to good food

makes sense to use public land to feed the public. Homeless people included. I think places that help the homeless (coolaid, our place etc) can do alot more in letting people know where there is food to harvest, and when to harvest it.

for plant diversity and public education and access

most are unattractive

the benefits vastly outweigh the negative aspects.

7-10 servings of fruit required for humans and nuts = 25% protein required daily

Yes, with reservations.

Food bearing trees contribute more socially, economically and environmentally than ornamental trees.

Public access to healthy foods, sustainable communities

I would be strategic for where these are planted -- and how many.

Fruit and nut trees not only feed humans, but wildlife as well. the only downside might be the mess from fruit trees.

Again they add beauty, provide more access to locally grown food, create community and help foster a sense of ownership for citizens

Why not plant trees from which we can harvest food?

this would add to Victoria's food security.



Why not - people can pick the fruit. Not sure about nut trees, considering those with life-threatening allergies.

Gets people outside doing something positive, learning about plants and caring for the city.

If yes, fruit must not be allowed to spoil!

It would provide food for people.

I think public land is a great place to grow publicly available food and increase food security of the city

Turn landscaping into food

It opens the ability for people to harvest local fruit and nuts, creates a sense of community (because normally fruit and nuts are ready to harvest at specific time bring people together to harvest) and it creates more food security than non fruit and nut bearing trees

Because it's free food, it's a great way to promote sustainable living, local foods and bringing light to agriculture

Food trees are more resistant to drought than non-wood fruit plants once they have mature root systems established. They can help our community have locally derived healthy food even in drought years.

It would be amazing to have more food trees to harvest from, and teach our children about.

If actually harvested, they are a double gift.

The more food we grow, the more we can feed our community!

dwarf fruit trees would be nice so that people would be able to access the fruit without climbing the trees

As long as these trees would not require much maintenance, they would be a good source of food for communities

food source, important to expand sources. much can be gained from the smallest areas.

Free food (the chance to grab a few nuts or a piece of fruit!) may encourage people to walk more (say to work)...added nutrients to aid health, save a bit of \$\$ and really- GROWING THINGS, the bounty of the earth is a wonderful thing to see!

Yes, but... only in certain locations, see my "no" comments.

Food sources are important. but I have to admit my neighbors ignore their plum trees and the sidewalks are a mess.

Because if you are going to have trees you might as well be able to eat their fruit!

Since the city already plants and maintains trees on public lands, some may as well be able to be harvested.

People can eat fruit and nuts; people cannot eat ornamentals.

More food production for all to glean from.

They look beautiful and provide food for anyone!

children are no longer knowledgeable about where food comes from

Increase our readily available food sources.

make these expensive products available as an added benefit to taxpayers and everyone else - but please, grow organically and non-GMO. Can get fresh food that has not been irradiate

in order to provide some food for those who are in need, also to allow everyone to become more self-reliant

the more the better

better than diseased and messy elm trees or other "ornamental" trees

We need local affordable food

local food

Once again - food sources are valuable- also the City needs more trees planted closer together (within reason) for SHADE

Why not?

I love eating healthy food especially since I can't afford it often

If no, why?

Response

Count

36 responses

If society were the sort to share equally, it may work. There's a saying: We do not value that we do not pay for. I am more inclined to support an initiative based on work share.

Nut trees are problematic - people simply do not harvest them and fallen nuts are really a problem.

We have a plum tree on our front yard planted years ago by the city. The tree is not tended by the city, and is overgrown. The plums aren't really good eating plums - small and mostly pits. They are basically a mess at precisely this time of year. I heard an interview on CBC with a councillor about the city planting apple trees

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etc. along neighbourhood boulevards. The counsellor did admit that this proposal would require the neighbourhood to "buy into" the plan because they would be required to do maintenance of the trees - pruning, picking, etc. I don't know that this is realistic. Perhaps the person living there now is into it. If they sell, and the next owner doesn't want to maintain the trees, they become a problem rather than an asset.

Am very leary about requests for nut trees. Most people will not use them and they may become a nuisance once the nuts fall

Not nuts. There are too many people with nut allergies.

May make a mess if no one is harvesting.

They do take up space. Unless they are gorgeously taken care of the trees get messy. ALTHOUGH the messiness provides a great space for small animals to live.

Humans will demand action on the wasps who come to eat fallen fruit.

Only if a specific group were responsible for maintaining the fruit at not additional cost to taxpayers. I would not like to see over ripe fruit falling from trees and causing an increased rodent problem.

I think it would draw more animals and people wouldn't actually harvest from them as often.

Close to where I live, there is a large pear tree in a park. The fruit falls on the ground and rots, and no one picks it up. The problem with fruit orchards is what to do with the windfalls? I think nut trees are fine since they don't make a mess.

Fruit trees are fine, but have to be maintained, pruned each year. Who is going to do that?

already enough trees in the city

The city has real issues it should be dealing with. Not planting gardens and fruit trees.

I already see rotting fruit on the ground everywhere I walk. Having more fruit trees will just feed the birds and raccoons. Again, people are lazy and hippies lose interest very fast.

They are messy, attract and encourage wildlife, usually non-native, they require more maintenance so would cost more.

Fruit and nut trees should be a part of community gardens. Councils have a lot to maintain, ideally it should be up to those who are a part of a community garden so they can be a teaching aide.

Not a good idea for boulevards - nuisance of dropped fruit on road and side walk also attracting deer. Not a good idea for parks re attracting deer.

Some places are okay but children play in parks and fruit can draw stinging insects and also many children are allergic to nuts.

Need to be aware of need for urban forest including large canopy trees. Need a balance.



We aren't harvesting our commercial crops adequately yet. We need to support small-scale commercial producers

high water demand

I don't think we/the city has the resources to properly maintain and coordinate fruit and nut trees.

X

Must site the trees such that the fruit does not fall on sidewalks and roads. Don't know if nut trees are worthwhile as likely will not be harvested. If City has to harvest, then that would be costly, it might be cheaper to buy the nuts, if they are needed.

However, fruit and nut trees are inherently messy (sidewalks etc.)

do need to make sure there is a process for harvesting and be realistic about what will be harvested (not just eaten by other wildlife - ie I can't harvest any walnuts from our walnut tree because the squirrels eat them.

They do attract wildlife and can be messy over parked cars, pedestrian sidewalks..so appropriate placement is key.

I have two kinds of nut trees on my property and the only ones who benefit are the squirrels which are not native to this area. I would doubt very much that many would benefit from boulevard nut trees.

Victoria already has a plethora of fruit trees that go unpicked every year. If this fruit is in high demand, then programs that harvest it from existing trees should be expanded, so that people become more aware of the option of having their trees picked, rather than the fruit wasted. Planting more on public land is unnecessary.

It is bad enough having persons tenting in the public parks now. Why give them more incentive to stay there?

May need to look at squirrel control

Who is benefitting? Certainly NOT THE TAXPAYER

take a walk down View street when the ornamental cherries fall. Filthy sidewalk, squished into the pavement. Does the City sweep and pick up daily....NO

I don't think it's a good idea to plant fruit and nut trees on most boulevards, where dropped fruit can be a problem. Since the introduction of the grey squirrel in Victoria in the 1990's most nut trees in this city are cleaned out by squirrels so I wouldn't bother planting any - you need to net them if you want to keep your harvest. Fruit trees should only be planted where dropped, rotting fruit is not going to cause a problem, and can be easily accessed. There are plenty of mature fruit trees in the city that already go unharvested so I think it would be better to focus on supporting existing programs that harvest and process these trees. Also, fruit trees require much maintenance to stay productive and when left on their own often produce smaller or pest-ridden fruit. It sounds like a good idea to plant more fruit trees, so a pilot project of a well-maintained

urban orchard might be a good idea, but planting fruit trees on boulevards is probably not a good idea. If you haven't spoken to **Personal information**, talk to him about these issues.

messy and no guarantee that people will harvest the fruit more attractive to animals aka deer

#### 18. Where do you think it is appropriate to plant fruit and nut trees on City lands?

Variable	Appropriate	Inappropriate	No opinion	
<b>Parks</b>	351 93.4%	19 5.1%	6 1.6%	Total: 376
<b>City-owned facilities (e.g. community centers)</b>	371 97.4%	7 1.8%	3 0.8%	Total: 381
<b>Playgrounds</b>	292 77.5%	62 16.4%	23 6.1%	Total: 377
<b>Boulevards (street trees)</b>	329 87.5%	36 9.6%	11 2.9%	Total: 376
<b>Plazas</b>	329 87.7%	26 6.9%	20 5.3%	Total: 375

#### 19. Do you have any additional comments about fruit and nut trees in the City of Victoria?

Response Count  
168 responses

need to plant where fruit is easy and safe to harvest

Although I said yes to all of the names=d locations, that doesnot mean I think they should be everywhere. We need the large canopy trees and decorative trees.

Fruit and nut trees are okay, if appropriately selected, and planted in the right areas, as above.

It wouldn't hurt to train city workers in care of fruit trees with an eye to productivity. Lifecycles fruit tree project.

The park at Chapman and Linden is beautiful and underutilized. It could be a great location for a few trees.

There shoudl be consideration of mess and maintenance if the neighbours aren't willing.

Recommend doing trees that don't attract coons, mice and rats. We have enough of those already.

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Please start planting more!

no

Turkey has orange trees that line its streets. But they are sour to the point that they are inedible. Tasty varieties would be key to winning support of unsupportive people.

Partnership with groups like Lifecycles (with appropriate funding) would be necessary to help ensure the fruit/nuts were utilized.

If planted in Boulevards/Plazas, the canopy of the tree should be considered. Not only will the tree's drop fruit but they will also grow to be very large. Maybe get trees grafted on small rootstock. Will there be someone responsible for harvesting these trees? Or will they be open for public harvesting? Lifecycles would be awesome to get involved in this project.

Planting fruit and nut trees in unsupervised areas could lead to rodent infestations. Planted areas must be supervised.

These are critical, perennial food plants for local food security - we need more of them in our area!

please plant them anywhere you can find a location

Imagine a City with an abundance of food plants, greater food security, and less grass!

Long term agreements should be in place prior for how to market fruit

I have marked boulevards as appropriate, but obviously type of fruit/nut is critical, I don't think most people would be enthused about plums falling on their cars.

Let's rock some orchards!

I know someone who has a heritage apple tree in the back yard. The fruit falls and rots. In the meantime she goes to the store and buys what? Apples. This is insanity. We need to show kids that apples come from trees, not the grocery store. We need to find our way back to a sane place where local food sources are husbanded, valued and promoted

Walk before you run, try a few before you try a lot.

My only concern is that we didn't end up with rotting fruit on the ground that bees and wasps are attracted to, or bring considerate to persons with allergies (eg peanuts).

Consider traffic disruptions caused by fruit-gathering pedestrians for boulevard-planted fruit trees.

I think that there needs to be an educational component to edible plantings, especially if they are being planted where children will graze. I imagine markings or plant ID tags that let us be sure that the plant is edible, or planting on school grounds where classrooms can learn to recognize the edible plants.

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.



Fernwood Community Centre has planted fruit trees - we shall see how things work for them.

Maintenance will be an issue. On lands where City already maintains the urban forest, there should be no additional burden. Where such trees are located on non-City land, there need to be covenants with property owners regarding upkeep.

No.

Link up with local horticulture programs and Lifecycles for help with maintaining these trees (e.g. pruning, thinning of fruits).

The only issue would be who is responsible for cleaning up the windfall

Again, I would be concerned with soil contamination.

no

no

I already harvest hazelnuts from a street tree. It would be great to have more diverse options for urban foraging.

A pruning and harvest program could use volunteers (compensated with fruit and training and grafts) and paid members of the homeless communities.

more, more, more!

Use volunteers or community groups to pick the fruit for need causes. Like the Fruit Tree project that Life Cycles organizes.

Again, before touching our parks, do extensive consultation with all stakeholders.

Consult with local First Nations about what they would like to see

city should coordinate some harvest, if everything is not picked by residents. City should allocate some fallen fruit clean up... . Perhaps farmers may want fallen fruit for livestock? Or can be used for composter.

Please plant one on my boulevard if the pretty cherry trees ever die :)

We need to make sure they're being harvested, not going to waste. LifeCycles could help.

Hurry up.

The allergy issue is very important to me and I am wondering about liability if someone accidentally ingests a nut grown on City property. There are less allergies to fruit so I am more in favour of fruit trees.

A harvesting program for these trees would be good to ensure the food doesn't go to waste. Food could be provided to local food banks or other food providers to low-income persons and/or people could sign up to adopt a tree for a season and be responsible for care and harvest - this would obviously need an

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agreement as well as support for it to work out well.

Only in parks that are thoroughly non-wild or those without first nations significance

Success depends on harvest; otherwise, you get an annual mess.

Get some bonsai experts in and learn about maintaining the trees at a height where they will grow up like a fat cylinder rather than a mushroom so the branches don't fan and punch outwardly.

The greater variety the better

I worry about unsupervised children eating fruit and nut trees in playgrounds. Mostly because of allergies, but also because we try to teach our children not to eat strange food.

there needs to be a clear harvest plan - likely would need to be 3rd party

lots please

If we're going to use tax dollars to maintain trees, why not have them give back to the people? It seems that a contract to life cycles could ensure that shelters have an abundance of city produced produce!

The city is already paying a lot of money to manage gardens; why not make at least some of that time worth it? Imagine how many low-income people could be fed. Imagine the teaching opportunities for schools.

Trees are wonderful, especially ones that produce fruit!

Wasps will be a problem resulting in increased public demand that they be killed. Some allergic person will have a reaction to a sting and sue the City. Serious.

I think nuts would be most appropriate since fruit could be costly to keep tidy.

any where you would plant a regular tree or bush, a food tree could be there instead, or alternating. Lined up along perimeters, not affecting primary use of land ie park. Vandalism will have to be seriously considered, and the penalties thereof.

It would be ok if it's done right.

Nuts often need to be shelled and/or roasted so they're not as accessible. Fruit is easily accessible and would be such a bonus for the homeless population as well as the general public. My only concern is about harvesting. If the trees are large and need ladders will they be provided? Who can harvest, when and how much? Will things be over harvested or the opposite with the fruit being under utilized and left to rot? Things to consider.

Who would maintain these trees? Is the public covered under city-wide insurance in case of injury?

Not all parents are going to watch their little ones closely enough to ensure that nuts aren't going in mouths so playground planting could be a Hazard

This is very exciting, do it!

Although I have indicated that playgrounds are appropriate I would be worried about fruit trees if they are not maintained well - rotting fruit on the ground attracts wasps and that might be dangerous for kids.

main concern is the fruit that falls and doesn't get harvested. if there could be an organization that ensures fruits/nuts are harvested then that would help. like an urban garden committee of volunteers? dead fruit makes a mess, and draws in pesky animals

Only plant them if you are going to fund maintenance. Leaving it up to volunteers can be a disaster.

I'm not sure what plazas are - these questions would be better if they had a map or pictures

I heartily welcome this idea.

no

Some trees can be messy (drop dark fruit) for cars, so boulevard and parking lot locations need to be carefully considered.

As boulevard trees die or fall from wind storms, etc, they could be replaced with fruit or nut trees

Plans would have to be in place to ensure harvesting as a lot of windfall could be messy.

Yes Yes Yes

these trees could pose problems on boulevards as they might be a hazard of people tripping on nuts and some fruits can be messy.

I would love to see this happen in Victoria. I think it would encourage people to do the same on their properties.

I like eating the fruit off the street trees.

more more more

Still hav flowering boulevard trees as well.

My only concern would be regarding having these near playgrounds. There will likely be many bees and wasps once the fruit ripens, and having these trees near playgrounds could result in many stings, and in worse case scenarios, allergic reactions.

Not on the boulevard please. They make a real mess - ex. Vancouver & View plum trees

The argument that they will be "too messy" dropping fruits on the street doesn't make any sense considering that we currently have ornamental cherries, horse chestnuts, and many other inedible fruit trees already dropping stuff on our sidewalks. Why wouldn't we at least make sure this bounty is edible!

A system needs to be designed to inform people of their locations and the timing of the potential harvests

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(in general)

Obviously a concern would be who can harvest the fruit/would there be interest in harvesting/would the city ensure that the food was harvested?

I think harvesting and cleaning up under these trees is good work for city employees, just like mowing our grass.

Delicious!

The number of people mowing grass in the summer could be reduced and those same people could be made responsible for picking the fruit from trees (to prevent mess around the space from falling fruit).

It may be appropriate to have fruit/ nut trees at community centres only if volunteers are required to maintain and harvest the trees.

Any way to ensure that people who are allergic are well informed of the nature and whereabouts of the trees, so that they can be avoided if necessary?

Again, lots of design considerations here for harvestability and safety, would be good to see some guilds and permaculture designs to minimize energy use and maximize output.

Would like to see more planted trees as fruit trees as a priority

Perennial edibles are great asset to any property. They need to be managed and will require more maintenance than conventional street trees of our urban forest.

There are pluses and minuses here - providing nutritious food is good but there will be issues around vandalism, over harvesting, trees becoming damaged and those d.... deer

I would not wish to see mature trees already established replaced to make way for fruit trees - if no trees exist in a boulevard etc then yes please plant the fruit and nut trees.

They can be beautiful if maintained. Have concerns that the City will not allocate adequate funds to maintain them properly

very important to ensure fallen fruit is not wasted, or any on the trees/shrubs - or attracts rodents

Not all types of fruit and nut trees in boulevards. Careful location in playgrounds (as fruit attracts wasps). Messy fruit in places e.g. parks where the mess doesn't matter as much.

yum

If a tree isn't being harvested by its neighbours, call in the volunteers at the Fruit Tree Project. They do a great job of redistributing fresh food in the city!

Don't plant too many.

get planting!

Asap please

Espalier and dwarf trees, while not as drought tolerant, can be great for ease of harvest and pruning. The fruit tends to be more efficiently used. We should support existing fruit tree gleaning programs before planting more fruit trees, unless they are right beside a community center, community kitchen or some other social setting where there is a genuine and documented need/desire.

Nut allergies? Must use signs

some additional public education or coordination might be needed to make sure the fruit and nuts are harvested.

There could be little plaques or signs which provide information about what type of tree it is. What requirements it has. How long it has been there, etc.

They would need to be harvested and fallen fruit removed to ensure wasps are kept at minimum

I imagine harvesting would be the main issue. Is it responsibility of city staff? Volunteers (ie LifeCycles)? It could be a really big job.

map it out!

Do not think nuts would be harvested and will create walking hazard, so suggest a few fruit trees.

I think these trees/shrubs should make up the bulk of what is planted in the city.

Again, how does the city intend to manage pests to ensure that they do not migrate to commercial producers

I have mixed feelings. If there are the resources to properly maintain and coordinate fruit and nut trees then it should be done.

Do it!

take out useless London Plane trees in Redfern park which have seriously restricted my ability to grow food for my family and replace with nut trees.

Wonderful ideas, great use of property

I think strong consideration to only small and easy to pick varieties of fruit and nut trees.

Need to be careful where put them, and don't want whole City to be an orchard. Still need the tall shade trees.

No community orchards on public land unless the trees are HARVESTED by the public.

If fruit/nut trees are planted on city boulevards in residential areas they the locals need to know how/when to

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prune the trees and how/when to harvest, water, etc. Tree choice and siting would, of course, be a complex undertaking. A trial garden is an idea to start and gain public confidence/curiosity.

Now would be the time to plant many, as fruit & nut trees take a while to mature and produce robustly

There needs to be groups who will pick the fruit and nuts, and offer them to the public in, say farmers markets, or on the street.

I don't think all trees should be fruit trees, but they should be available as an option. Other types of trees are also important and serve other important purposes. Do need to be careful to make sure the fruit and nuts are actively harvested and not just feeding and attracting other "unwanted" wildlife

Such a good idea.

I support fruit and nut trees pretty much everywhere as long as there is a plan in place to harvest the fruit see above.

People may feel safer eating fruit from boulevard trees etc if there could be some testing of the effect on growing in polluted areas, etc. I think it's because people are unsure if it's safe to eat. But on the other hand most people still eat conventionally grown food so it shouldn't matter to them too much?

love it! It would help to include educational materials or species labels near new & existing trees to help people identify that the fruit the trees bear is in fact edible

Just do it.

Boulevards are not as good a choice as spoiled fruit can create a great mess, however a program to harvest the fruit/nuts is operated in conjunction it becomes more feasible.

Opportunistic "re-canopying" of new plantings of appropriate species of fruit and nuts please, pronto!

I've seen some interesting guerilla fruit grafting in my neighbourhood, but would rather see a planned approach.

Again, there are many well-informed, experienced people locally. If local government will take the lead, many groups and individuals will step up to the plate.

I would rather my tax dollars go to support and maintain orchards of all types on city property rather than growing and watering grass and decorative trees.

An opportunity to get people engaged in harvesting, preserving, and caring for more trees.

Publish an online/paper map that shows where they are! That way urban foragers will take care of the harvesting. If large trees are chosen then register them with lifecycles for harvesting. Inventories will ensure the fruit is picked. Also include other edible landscaping in this category (i.e. berry bushes)

Nut trees can be planted anywhere. Fruit trees may require some community organization to ensure the fruit

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gets picked. For both, we need signage to let people know that fruit/nuts are EDIBLE and AVAILABLE for picking. I see fruit in people's YARDS going unpicked because they don't know they are edible!

the new orchard at the fernwood community centre is a wonderful addition to the neighbourhood i'd love to see more like it and see the harvest used in the community

mindful of allergies to nuts...especially children

We already harvest from the plum trees.

people worry about us old folks falling over nuts and apples and such that fall on the sidewalks. that is poppycock! We all fall on whatever when we are unsteady and /or too proud to use a cane, or walkers etc. You can not protect us completely...we do not need so much mollycoddling. we DO need encouragement to use our canes, elbow crutches, walkers and to be watchfull when we walk. As to the blind? Well they do well maneuvering under neath buckeye trees all over the city so I am sure they are capable of handling cherry trees etc. also!

Question of who will maintain - some will criticize and complain of mess, public liability

This will yield very low production and severely compromise the city landscape.

Am in favour if they are managed organically, the city has the resources to maintain them (my boulevard tree has gone from annual maintence to about once every three years, which I have been told is due to lack of resources), esp since if the aim is to produce food they will need fairly labour-intensive management. Also wonder if arrangements will be made to harvest and/or if people will be willing to live with the mess/smell/animal attracting issues. (I am, but many people aren't! My local bus shelter has a fruiting tree over it & people are always complaining about the mess, wasps, & smell.)

Boulevard tree replacement should first consider fruit tree planting in partnership with the resident and/or community group.

Picking and upkeep is a problem. Distribution of produce

No, perhaps you could also make a partnership with Lifecycles for fruit tree harvesting each year so that nothing goes to waste

if planted on private property or boulevards some agreement with owner of home should be in place (i.e. they must request one) to ensure the fruit is harvested

these fruit and nut trees should be for public consumption and not comercial ventures.

Question 18 was answered in regard to fruit trees but not nut trees. See previous comment.

Nut trees may not be appropriate in playgrounds due to the incidence of nut allergies

Community orchards should be planted by individual communities who would pay and care for them if they are to reap the benefits. Watering will become a serious issue

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Boulevard fruit should be up to the home owner the plant as unharvest fruit will fall on side walks and roads

I think fruit and nut trees need to be planted where children (nut allergies) aren't likely to have free access to them

They need to be harvested, if planted. The example set by the city with the plums littering sidewalks (with accompanying wasps) does not bode well.

Aren't downtown Victoria streets dirty enough...YES

There MAY be a mess (from dropped fruit)....birds MAY eat it....but it will be good for the soul to see harvestable things growing

Like I said in the above comment (17 - no) there are many practical issues with fruit trees that make them inappropriate for many locations. However, designated orchard areas managed by tree experts could be a good idea in some spots.

As above. The sticky sidewalks are a hazard and just plain annoying

In order to be safe and educational and fully environmentally conscious, the trees should be maintained organically (no chemical sprays).

An ideal location for fruit and nut trees is the green space at the corner of Sumas st and Manchester st.

They should be planted in areas that are easy for people to pick the fruit. Near streets would NOT be a good idea cause all the fruit would just fall to the ground and get crushed by cars and mess up the roads. You want to plant them where people will be able to pick the fruit and use it.

yes, grow everything organic and non-GMO

Look forward to seeing this initiative be successful and to have more and more fruit and nut trees

should be more we have a climate that supports all most year round growing

yum!

see above

no comments



Due to fruit drop it is important to consider maintenance and safety. Ingested or slipped on.

it makes for a thriving city, that is healthy

20. Do you currently grow any agricultural products for sale? (e.g. fruit or vegetables, seeds, seedlings, flowers)

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Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	19 5.1%	
<b>No</b>	356 94.9%	
Total: 375		

If yes, where do you sell your products?

Response	Count
25 responses	

To restaurants and small stores, through our CSA box program, and at the Oaklands Market.

I do not sell, but share my produce with neighbours and friends.

#### Personal information

Mostly through work and once day sale per year.

This is my first season, I'll be selling by subscription and at farmers' markets.

private market sales, small box program

to friends - - barter system, not actual sale.

through my business and out of my home

From home

Craft markets, online and a few local stores

Through friends family and at work

Barter and gift with friends/family/neighbors. Money ain't a thang.

Word of mouth ( honey so it does not spoil and is I have the luxury of not needing to sell as soon as I harvest)

farmers markets

To my clients, in the past I have sold them at the Moss street market.

We sell perennial edible plants at our micro-nursery / forest gardens in North Saanich.

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I grew Garlic to supply my food distribution business last year.

My 9 year old son has small "business" sells eggs and guinea pigs

we have a balcony, so seeds, flowers and any vegetables are not enough for sale, and not even to feed us  
!

on-line

a few years ago I sold at a corner store

The extras I grow I share with neighbours and friends and sometimes trade for commercial food  
(bread/pizza).

Not yet, but I may sell some seeds online through Etsy in the future, or sell garlic to friends and family. (Right  
now I just give everything away)

I trade with people

but I might in the future

21. Where do you think small-scale commercial urban farming is appropriate?

Variable	Appropriate	Inappropriate	No opinion	
<b>City parks (excluding natural areas)</b>	116 23.0%	202 57.4%	34 9.7%	Total: 352
<b>City facilities (eg. parkades, community centers)</b>	209 58.7%	126 35.4%	21 5.9%	Total: 356
<b>Closed streets</b>	246 68.1%	76 21.1%	39 10.8%	Total: 361
<b>Other public lands (institutional or provincial)</b>	251 69.9%	72 20.1%	36 10.0%	Total: 359
<b>Utility corridors</b>	231 63.3%	64 18.1%	59 16.7%	Total: 354
<b>Industrial or light industrial areas</b>	232 65.4%	87 24.5%	36 10.1%	Total: 355
<b>Commercial areas</b>	274 76.5%	56 15.6%	28 7.8%	Total: 358
<b>Residential areas</b>	283 79.1%	51 14.2%	24 6.7%	Total: 358
<b>Other (please describe below)</b>	41 52.6%	5 6.4%	32 41.0%	Total: 78

'Other' location, from above question.

Response	Count
	64 responses

Again, any commercial gardening should be self-supporting and full land value charged, Land is the city's scarcest resource and the highest and best value for lands should be obtained (meaning high social value when parklands involved) and highest economic value when commercial/industrial involved)

Roof space!!!

Only on derelict and reclaimed lands.

Personal information

Rooftops

roofs!

rooftops

School yards or church property not being used and historic sites which would have had garden eg St Anns

We have a fine example of Mason Street City Farm, growing produce for local hotels and restaurants, right in the heart of the city of Victoria. It has been operating for 25 years and recently expanded. It now covers four city lots on 1000 block of Mason and includes an aquaponics component. It is a treasure and points to the future. Will we choose to allow Bosa to develop St Andrews School site as currently proposed, or will we demand a development plan that does not maximize the footprint for the developer and sacrifice the shoulder growing season for the farm to the north of it? I hope the city has the courage to require a plan that does not jeopardize Mason Street City Farm

Vancouver has this kind of activity in side yards and boulevards, replicate it I suggest.  
and there are several on that street.

Personal  
information

roof tops.

The Mason Street Farm is a good example of where a commercial urban farm can work.

Urban farms on residential or city lands could cause major problems. Problems would include distortion of the market/pricing; uneven retail treatment of growers;

If individuals are producing food/plants etc for profit it should be on land owned by them. Public lands are for public use.

Apartment building lawns and parking space.

By permit and extensive consultation with neighbourhoods and other stakeholders.

I'm sorry but I don't know what "closed streets" mean

Roof tops

The City of Edmonton allows market farms on empty city lots where farmers rent the land. I am in favour of ventures such as these in the City. I am not in favour of using public land in for profit ventures.

I would like to see this free for either all or the individual who is allotted the space.

building rooftops or walls

In the case of residential areas residents should have priority

Skyscraper greenhouse. (maybe not a skyscraper, but like 2 or 5 stories of FARM! How safely possible is that?) The job opportunities, too! Also, we could add a thing to income assistance that requires or encourages applicants to volunteer to maintain these gardens and there would be training workshops for the

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encourages applicants to volunteer to maintain these gardens and there would be training workshops for the applicants to learn appropriate care techniques.

school board lands

Downtown rooftops. Heck, rooftops anywhere that are properly load-bearing.

Rooftops

Everywhere!

I'm undecided on this one. Concerns include for-profit use monopolizing available space. On the other hand, a profit incentive might mean better or more consistent care of the gardens. Either way, a MUST would be no use of toxins!!

People should have their own land to profit from. If money is to be made from city land it should go back into city coffers.

Do you mean people can plant on public properties for free then harvest and reap the benefits? Or will immoral people think they can harvest on public lands and sell produce? Perhaps commercial farming needs commercial properties or the lines of ownership or entitlement get very blurry.

If it's for commercial production the businessperson should not be allowed to use public land

Private property with a lease.

I don't agree that public spaces should be used for individual profit.

Commercial for-profit activities should not use publicly held lands in most cases.

Vacant lots could again be appropriate

Rooftops of any building in the city which meets specific structural and safety requirements.

empty lots:

Rooftops!

Private land only

access could be given for aquaculture production of food.

I assume there would be a fee for this type of commercial enterprise that would benefit the community at large or the program?

Not sure where you would put this as I have to think about the idea of some profiting from public land

Privately owned land. Any profits made utilizing city land should belong to the city.

the question not asked, is how to classify and tax urban farming operations. Urban farming would be fine as

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long as there is NO subsidy in the way of public land or funding. Additionally, urban farming should not create noise or odour impacts for neighbours

Obviously the area/soil where food is grown must be "safe" and food handlers trained in safe food handling.

More local ORGANIC farms less pollution - less transporting in of produce

As with garden question, City should let commercial/industrial decide what they want to do. Too much in the way of City resources being consumed by this.

commercial areas or public lands (not parks) where the leaseholders work with the community.

I am wary of giving public park land over to commercial producers of food even on a small scale. A better choice, I think would be to help support co-ops so could purchase/rent/lease plots of non-park land for the production of food for profit.

Land that can be reclaimed after having a derelict building or other issues.

bare/empty lots of land, that have remained empty for months and years.

roofs

My back yard !

Building roof tops!

Graveyards

I think that anyone who "farms" on closed streets or utility corridors should pay a fee for the privilege, just like rural farmers have to pay taxes.

local markets; easiest for customers to access

Temporary small scale agriculture is appropriate for public/private undeveloped lands.

roof tops

on any land not being utilized for produce that is safe and can be leased. Government has NO place in this

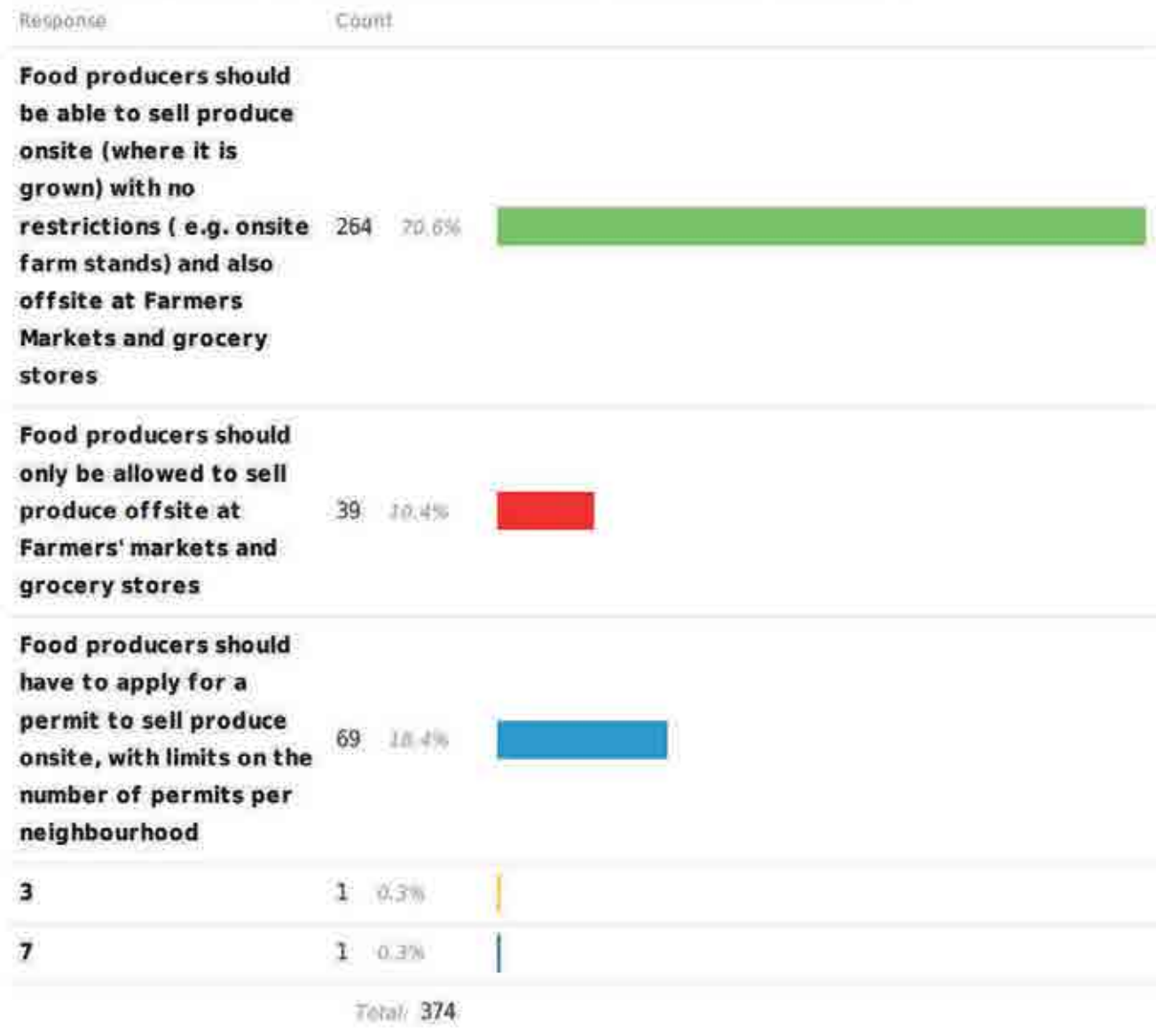
on school (District 61) property and on roof tops (this includes ensuring there is a policy to be able to sell produce that is grown on roof tops in the downtown core)

Move to the country, buy a house with a yard or a piece of property. Living in the City is just that...CITY!!!!

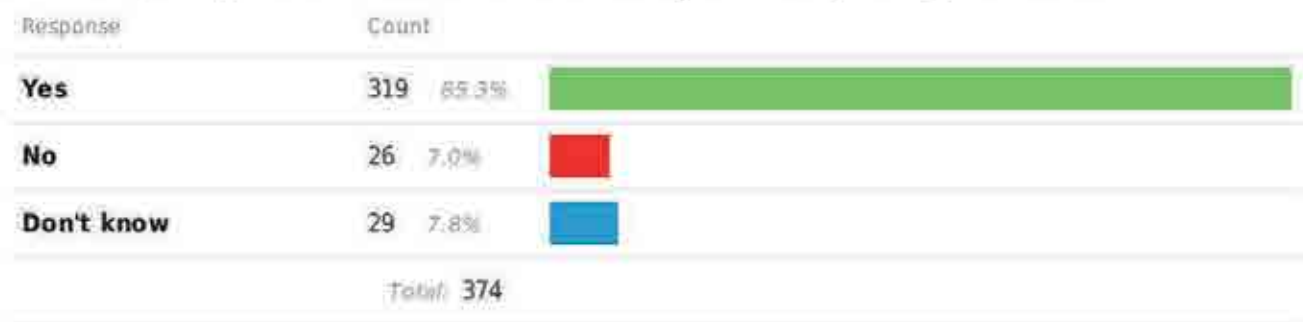
Would depend on the size of the "operation" in residential areas

Rooftops

## 22. Where do you think local food producers should be allowed to sell their produce?



## 23. Would you support small-scale commercial urban agriculture in your neighbourhood?



24. What restrictions, if any, would you want to see in place for small-scale commercial urban farming businesses in your neighbourhood? (e.g. parking, size, noise, hours of operation, etc.)

Response

Count

243 responses

wtrwt

noise, pesticide use

hours of operation; no use of chemicals allowed (pesticides and herbicides)

No commercial farming on public land and no produce from community gardens on public land should be sold - excess should go to charity.

This activity does not fit into the densely populated area of the City, where I live. It should simply be restricted.

All of the e.g. would be important in many neighbourhood.

Size, eg: # of hives, noise, hours, restrictions placed on neighbours because of production, eg: can't go outside on certain days because of angry bees, I am dictated what time of (legal) products I can use in my garden because of neighbouring bees.

Parking, lights, odour, and noise: specific guidelines should be established for acceptable levels. Managing any effluent, and prohibiting use of toxins/petrochemical based fertilizers. I would like to see the development of an "Urban Agricultural" zoning, CRD wide. A well managed farm needs some variation from the standard residential zoning, but not much, and should be able to be a pleasant neighbour. The solutions for the typical complaints are found in better management, not in ceasing operations.

None but please be sure that you allow the urban agriculturalists to sell wholesale to restaurants, etc.

My concern would be with increased vehicle traffic on bikeways.

All of the above.

All of the above, but also water, chemicals, usage of fertilizer and manure runoff. I think this would be too hard to regulate and maintain public safety.

set hours of sale and some parking restrictions.

Follow the guidelines that Nanaimo put out:

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/assets/Departments/Current-Planning/Publications-and-Forms/UrbanFoodFardens.pdf>

commercial operations don't belong in residential areas

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Parking, noise, hours of operation

Restrict the use of pesticides/herbicides completely. Organic practices to help show the community how abundant growing without chemicals is.

don't want increased traffic which is a problem for the producer

Hours of operation

All restrictions noted above. Noise, hours of operation, NO motorized equipment.

Unsure. Perhaps it is best to let an operation proceed and see what issues arise, or examine previous cases from other cities.

can't think of any

The activities should be limited by the same noise, hours, etc. bylaws as all other residences and commercial operations. They need to be a complementary activity not one that conflicts with residential neighbourhoods.

Work must be done by hand, soil and land quality assessment required, requirement to maintain some soil quality, pesticide free, use of own garden space first

I would start with no restrictions and see if problems occur. Although a lot of people garden I do not anticipate a stampede of producers in the City of Victoria. If parking and noise became a problem there are already bylaws that can be used.

No pesticides. Respectful hours of operation in residential neighbourhoods.

noise, smell, hours of operation.

None. We're not talking big-box store style of inconvenience here. You can't farm at night. You don't need large machinery on small-scale farms

Again walk before you run, try a few and build a history of lessons learned.

Noise and parking are concerns for sure, along with potential pollution either from the environment to the farm, or from the farm out (eg soil run off into creek water).

noise, hours of operation

I need to think more about this question...

Parking and noise restrictions

A designated area for parking and limited daytime hours

Hours of operation and noise restrictions

Parking size noise hours of operation are all issues that have to be closely considered

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almost all restrictions, All listed in your listing and more

Organic production only. Minimum of 2 parking spaces. Noise restrictions after before 8 am and after 9 or 10 pm.

Nothing other than food/bike traffic (parking in Victoria is already a bit of a hassle).

Type of animals

Limiting size if noise, parking etc. become issues. My feeling is that they would not, as a small-scale producer cannot produce enough to grow to an unmanageable size. I'd would say take a wait and see approach to whether people take up commercial operations and how they fare. Regulate if problems arise.

hrs of operation between 8am - 10pm

hours of operation

Parking regulations (for street parking and residential access) and hours for noise. Ensuring there is responsible clean up as well.

For any commercial operation in publicly owned land, there would need to be some sort of harvest sharing with the community - distributed to food banks, community and seniors' centres, etc. Partnering with a program like grow-a-row would be great.

hours of operations and a permit. Parking should never be an issue made to any type of business

For developing industries I think it is appropriate to have as little regulation as possible. Regulations should only be added if they are deemed necessary as the industry develops.

Noise, hours of operation, and products used

noise, hours of operation, odours

parking - preference for walkable & bikeable set ups, limit mechanized production, limit size of lands

None. I am sure the noise wouldn't be any worse than people that mow their useless lawns constantly and use leaf blowers.

Same restrictions as there are for in-home business.

I think that they should pay rent for the right to grow on valuable city land

May differ per neighborhood. If there are permits priority should be given to First Nations.

similar restrictions to garage sales

No real concerns, farmers aren't usually rowdy or overly busy



Noise during working hours only (of machinery), and they should be organic

all I really care about it that they are well maintained and tidy

As long as the farms are within the structure of the neighbourhood - ie confined to a city lot within a neighbourhood - I am in favour.

I think there should be restrictions on size (what is 'small scale') and parking requirements.

I would be concerned about increased car traffic and parking but would get over it if I could walk out my door and buy fresh food.

I think that instead of individual farmstands there should be a centralized local produce vendor for each neighbourhood

Don't want more traffic, noise, spraying of chemicals, offensive smells.

Too confusing for me to think of for you.

The farming itself should be no more restricted than ordinary home gardening. Sales should be restricted to the same hours of operation as other businesses in the area.

none

Parking, noise and size as it relates to products used. I would be less concerned with size if organic farming but would worry about spraying if my neighbour was commercially farming in his yard.

Hours of operation and parking for sure.

Noise and traffic are a concern, of course, but I'd rather have some extra traffic and a food farm next to me than not.

Keeping with normal neighbourhood life.

None that I can think of

No raising animals. Humans need to move to plant based diet. Even the UN has said that. No stinky fertilizers. No machinery.

New concept to me, haven't thought this one through. See comments above.

They should be observing all bylaws about sounds, as well as a permit. Permits should be easy to get, but still required.

adhering to water regulations, parking, noise, pesticide use restrictions or bans, hours, hiring locally, tax breaks

Use of pesticides and other products

parking, noise, hours of operation

Restriction on hours of operation.

Parking is an issue regardless of where it is. Access to bike parking at all garden sites would be a huge positive. Hours of operation should conform to local noise bylaws. I think size should be determined by the piece of land being used and construction of any buildings (ie; sheds) would have to be permit aquired construction and also conform to land use restrictions for size and placement. Watering is a huge concern for all gardens and shouldn't be any different than other agricultural watering allowances except for maybe by size.

No taking over everyone else by one business, everyone should have a chance to sell.

parking, use of pesticides/herbicides, noise

n/a

noise restrictions, it needs to have minimal impact on the community

Hours of operation and pesticide use.

Definitely respect the neighbors with reasonable hours, parking spots for customers would be nice but my guss is that nearby neighbors will be primary customers. must declare clearly if chemicals are used (eg what k\nd of fertilizers). random inspection for use of harsh pesticides.

hours of operation

keep it small

no pesticides

Parking is a huge issue on small streets, and if the business results in increased traffic on the street, this will become disruptive to neighbours.

Not sure, but those are all things I'd be concerned about

Hours of operation, noise/exhaust from machinery.

All - (parking, size, noise, hours of operation)

Noise, parking, pesticide use, GMO use, should all be restricted to protect residents of the area.

Hours of operation and noise

noise and hours of operation

Limit the number of chickens to a low level and no cattle. Manure needs to be dealt with so the smell and waste is not negatively affecting the neighbours

Hours of operation and hours in which noisy machinery could be used should be restricted to normal business hours ... Maybe sales till 9 pm but machinery only till 6 pm and not on Sundays

parking, noise and hours of operations restrictions would be necessary, neighbourhood is residential primary.

commercial urban agriculture should be a minimum of 5000 square feet. This is the size that allows for urban agriculture to be monetarily sustainable. Any person wishing to conduct urban agriculture must have a comprehensive business plan.

organic production only

Adapt to the environmental conditions - unfavorable weather/temperature, then do not try to artificially catalyze the growth or use excessive water when there is a drought

parking, size, noise, hours of operation

Similar noise and hours of operation as per local by-laws should apply.

Noise and parking restrictions would apply and hours of operation would have to conform with the specific neighbourhood..

Parking

noise, lighting at night

Type of animals eg cows:

none.

Limitations on hours you are allowed to use any loud equipment

Some noise restrictions would be important. I would want to see them restricted to organic methods only. Also, tight control to ensure that no pollution is ending up in our waterways, and that water use is responsibly designed for drought considerations.

None

Organic methods only - certification will be impossible, but there should be no broadcast spraying of insecticides or chemical fertilizers.

Hours of operation should be restricted & I think parking & trafficking c would be a problem

Integrated pest management, deer especially....

Noise...

size, maintenance

Existing business laws cover parking, noise, hours of operation pretty well. I like seeing roadside stands in



Spanish neighbourhoods, mostly selling flowers.

Follow noise/nuisance bylaws already in place

farmers should have to adhere to a set of practices which are environmentally friendly, i.e. 'organic' but in essence they should be required to work together to adhere to a set of principals (i.e. to be an urban farmer you should have to be part of a club/union with the other city farmers. This may require a new department at city call and will require absolute transparency)

Noise and waste considerations

Small scale only

I would like to see it regulated. The location would determine if it was appropriate to have this type of operation in the first place.

If anything, please no 'pushy selling' or trying to outdo the other guy for your business.

22. Y real answer is that they should be able to sell on site, with a permit if it is public land and off site. That option was not given

should be restrictions on numbers on larger agriculture animals

I think government house would make an excellent location for such an operation.

parking is obviously an issue - and presumably food safety may be an issue

well, I would not want pesticides to be used

size of the production, making sure composting is done properly so there are not vermin, normal business hours 8am-9pm. Vehicles arriving in area compliant with speed limits. Motorized gardening equipment usage minimal. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides not allowed.

I think given the choice I made above for licencing of small urban growers - I would definitely want to have some restrictions around the when, how, access etc for this group - likely city restrictions

Urban farming is not appropriate in a residential area at all.

zero use of any non-organic methods used; in any aspect

I absolutely do NOT want this in my community so I would want total restrictions.

I'm not keen on farm animals in the city. I imagine a greenhouse in a backyard, or Mason Street Farm type operation at maximum. Not willing to live with excess noise and traffic. No excess water use and runoff.

Wouldn't noise come under the existing noise bylaw?

Once a limit per neighbourhood is applied a commercial value and rights would be created for those who have the licence/permit. Special treatment for special people. Don't do it.

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Off-street parking. No sales in the evening. Limit noise in the evening.

There should be restrictions regarding maintenance and noise.

Regulations pertinent to each neighbourhood.

No noisy machinery before 8pm, after 6pm. Be considerate of parking trucks, etc in re: to neighbours.

Let's do it first--when we run into problems, we can have a structure in place for dealing with problems.

I think the distribution of farm lands needs to be fair and equitable and that big businesses should not participate in this program. Employees of private companies who work on these gardens should be paid decent wages. Gardening must be required to follow organic principles.

hours of operation

I don't think commercial/for profit activities are appropriate use of land owned by the public. otherwise i would think there could be regulations as for any other type of business. I don't know enough about those regulations to comment.

remain true to the area that the business is taking place in. If in a quiet local neighbourhood it should remain fairly discreet like a roadside food stand or a welcome sign that informs people that they may enter during certain hours. Late night selling may not be appropriate.

Noise, size, pesticide use.

Noise restrictions

specific parking/loading zone spot(s) depending on size.

Not sure - it would depend on the level of activity.

Parking, noise, hours of operation. Pesticide use should be curtailed and regulated

Restrict on-site sales to commercial streets or major thoroughfares, not on quiet residential streets.

hours of operation, noise

Mostly size restriction.

Wow, I think really safety is a big concern here. If people get sick from food sold, we will run into legal trouble as a community. There needs to be a proper plan in place to deal with this potential issue.

People buying from a stand don't stay long so other than no sales in the night, I'm not fussed.

1. size limited to approx. 1/2 square city block 2. daytime hours of operation 3. noise covenant for approx. 9 pm - 8 am 3. street parking not to interfere with parking for other businesses residences on the street

parking (safety needs to be thought of)

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parking, zoning, noise, etc. etc. etc.

I don't feel I have enough knowledge in this area to comment. Parking I would imagine is an important priority

Food-safety certification

My main concern is that the operators adhere to food quality standards. There aren't many food safety concerns with fresh produce however in order to encourage urban farming I believe that minimum standards should be met in order to get a "Permit".

ORGANIC - no poisons such as round-up

locating them in areas that are accessible by active & alternative modes of transportation / areas where water is easily accessible

parking, reasonable hours of operation.

None

Similar to roadside restrictions in more rural municipalities

should not be permitted to apply for property tax reductions. Once one is permitted, then whole neighbourhood would have right - cannot restrict numbers. Lobbying would continue and continue.

size, hours of operation

size and hours of operation

no restrictions.

I think the key is to limit the scale to something quite small. This minimises issues of parking and noise.

I prefer a protocol for resolving conflict, rather than rules which may have unnecessary specificity

In residential areas concessions may have to be made around having a pleasing living environment. Too much traffic or smelly animals/crop amendments would be a concern.

Just good farming practices like no pesticides

would need to be kept truly "small-scale"

size with parking considerations when larger..a license also with larger. Guidelines for sellers and buyers and maps

Hours of operation being reasonable, but really it probably in a reality wouldn't be a giant impact.

not in public parks

noise and hours -NO rosters, meat animals, slaughter on site ect.

I think permits to control noise, hours of operation, parking etc are all reasonable also for enforcing health.

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I think permits to control noise, hours of operation, parking etc are all reasonable - also for enforcing health and safety standards

Noise,

Some level of security, keeping produce free of vandalism, theft. Also part-time employment for caretakers hired from within the neighbourhood.

Food safety practices laws/inspections

Some sort of restrictions on parking, size, and hours of operation so as not to be disruptive to the neighborhood

Common sense and friendly negotiations with my residential neighbours.

Area taken up by vendors, noise level, keeping it to just farming no other companies

Size

Consult with neighbours. Participants making dedicated commitments.

Noise

parking, traffic, hours, noise, water availability, number people involved

Noise,

Prohibit use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides in City sanctioned community gardens. Implement Noise restrictions consistent with other city bylaws. I'm

Noise, smell, no pesticides/ herbicide use, hours of operation, traffic restrictions on machinery

Parking.

Mainly for size and amount of business. Over a certain threshold a business licence should be required.

Not necessary to provide parking spaces for cars.

No little children looking after sales

Hours of operation; use of chemicals

If they're situated on public land, the harvest should be used for the community's benefit, not personal profit

size noise hours parking

I don't want them here at all

No activity before 9 am or after 9 pm.

This is a business and as such should be treated as any other business

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There would have to be proper parking regulations - no cars parked constantly in front of properties

We have problems parking on our street now on Saturdays due to the Moss Street Market. I do not want any more "farm" business in my neighbour.

make sure immediate neighbours are ok with the this activity

parking considerations, size of operation, hours, noise

They should not be permitted in an urban area. Stupid idea which could only work in very limited areas.

All of the above

no restrictions, why are you requesting to impede capitalism?

I am in a residential neighbourhood, so to follow the same rules that apply to everyone else in regard to noise, # of chickens, types of sprays used, etc.

One parking space (encourages walk-by small stands), size limit of 20sqft, limit to 4 days per week and 4 hours per day.

sell only what they produce

Requirement for water efficiency performance standards

In my neighbourhood no one has that much property so i don't see a large scale business as a possibility, mostly it would be front yard stands selling eggs, goats milk, flowers.

Concern about parking and noise - don't have solutions, just concerns....

Parking. Noise.

I guess I'd like to see set hours of operation if farm equipment/machinery were used to respect current noise bylaws.

I hope we are talking about small scale organic urban farming like that done by Mason St. City Farm, not some agri-business version there-of.

As long as it doesn't take over neighbouring properties, all is well.

Parking and noise would be my only cocerns. However if there enough of them it would be easy for people to walk to them.

Normal business practices and all laws should apply

Similar to other commercial operators, such as corner-grocers,

I think that some restrictions on hours of operation, noise, smell, etc would be appropriate



Hours of operations, permit should only be used if the money gained from the permit goes back into support small-scale commercial producers, there should be a restriction on equipment that requires a permit

they need to be regulated in terms of size, making sure only products grown on site/products of things grown on site are being sold. No "mini super markets"

I don't think for-profit food production should occur on public or park land. But I'm all for it on owned or rented land, where the utilities and water are paid for by the farming business.

size, hours of operation, maintenance would have to be guaranteed

Parking would be an issue. Parking in Cook St Village area is already stretched.

Hours of operation, NO PESTICIDE USE, food safety (refrigeration etc...), Small stands

Same restrictions as other business for larger operations, with some added flexibility because, hey, local food is good for us all. Small-scale front-yard seasonal veggie/flower stands with honour system pay should always be allowed.

I don't know enough about this issue to comment

Similar noise laws to existing residential bylaws, no power equipment before 10am etc. employees should not be able to park in residential parking spots, and existing parking bylaws must be followed.

Hours of operation should not effect local living/sleeping and they would need a permit to sell onsite. Should be kept to the size of one property to maintain "small".

hours of operation, noise

Only if it involved raising of animals. Also strict management of pests (rats)

hours of operation, noise, smells-using thoroughly composted materials and proper composting procedures

I'd like to see what potential sizes thse operations might be proposed. Urban farming is not particularly noisy Evening & weekend hours would be ok

commerical farming is fine so long as it doesn't crowd out the non-commercial private residents' growing crops for their own use

no parking should be the equivalent of a neighbourhood pub people can walk to it, size would depend where, noise level minimal, hours of operation nothing before 9am and after 6pm

parking - hours of operation, daylight hours

Herbacides, pesticides, fertilizers, knowledge of genis of plant

regular business hours, encouraging walking & cycling or time limits on cars & parking

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City oversight is necessary for sure

25. What types of garden structures / activities that support small-scale commercial urban agriculture do you feel are appropriate for use within your neighbourhood?

Variable	Appropriate	Inappropriate	No Opinion	
<b>Greenhouses</b>	330 89.7%	24 6.5%	14 3.8%	Total: 368
<b>Tool sheds</b>	321 87.5%	24 6.5%	22 6.0%	Total: 367
<b>Farm stands - onsite sales</b>	308 83.9%	37 10.1%	22 6.0%	Total: 367
<b>Production facilities - for jam, preserves etc. produced onsite</b>	262 71.0%	74 20.1%	33 8.9%	Total: 369
<b>Compost - bins or storage</b>	318 86.2%	30 8.1%	21 5.7%	Total: 369
<b>Motorized gardening equipment</b>	139 38.9%	168 47.1%	50 14.0%	Total: 357
<b>Fertilizer use</b>	158 44.8%	135 38.2%	60 17.0%	Total: 353
<b>Other (please specify below)</b>	50 46.7%	24 22.4%	33 30.8%	Total: 107

Please include 'other' garden structures here.

Response	Count
	119 responses

Again, the appropriateness relates to private land. None of the above should be on public lands, especially parks.

I have answered this question for activity on "private land", not "public land"

All of the answers above are based on a reasonable Amount of each item.

Aquaponics systems produce washing facilities with recycled greywater systems

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CSA unpacking and repacking sites might be appropriate so we can access more farm fresh food from Metchosin and Stanch

Fertilizer use should be organic

No manure or corresponding runoff.

fruit cages & root cellars

Beehives

pesticides/herbicide usage

The question is general, but eh Impact on a neighbour wouldn't be general, they would be specific.

This list of equipment seems to presume long-term tenure. An urban farmer can use hoop houses, transport machinery and soil amendments from a central site.

waste storage

Raised beds

Water source for users - could be associated with community centers

Fertiliser should be compost or organic only. I would add washing facilities for produce.

Aquaponics, like at Mason Street City Farm

Pesticides / herbicides

For those I selected as no opinion on this page; I would approve as long as regulations and accountability was in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable neighborhood for everyone.

Compost would need to be carefully maintained. Organic fertilizer sure, otherwise no.

Pesticides/herbicides

Monitored organic farming only and esthically pleasing tool sheds. Small scale compost storage and regular city pick up

Compost bins or storage would be okay depending on the size. If the smell or rodent influx makes living near them unbearable, they should not be allowed.

Note noise restrictions mentioned above.

Rather than farm stands, gate sales would be great - they're smaller and don't require a person to be there.

No pesticide or other chemical uses

Any food production happening within city should be organic - no chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers

No toxics. All organic fertilizer and pest control.

Food sharing fridges.

I think there needs to be restrictions on pesticide use.

small livestock - - like chickens and goats to deal with weeds. Bees to pollinate.

By fertilizer, I mean organic methods. I support motorized equipment like tillers, but not tractors. And I wish the city would ban the stupid leaf blowers from use anywhere.

support structures for growing plants and trees such as trellies, lattice etc. For instance someone might want to grow hops for beer brewing. Hops require large supports as they grow quite high. Trellises to espalier fruit trees.

Bee hives, chickens, ducks, rabbit

communal yard waste pick up location or home pick up for those of us who do not have [1] a vehicle to transport this to the current designated locations [2] extra funds to hire someone else to transport yard waste away.

Only fertilizers that will not result in pollution or contamination of water supplies

The only fertilizer used should be compost. While we're here, if people organized their "waste" into recycling and compost we wouldn't have garbage. Although, what about pharmaceuticals? What do we do with those?

Motorized equipment use: appropriate with some restrictions so it isn't a nuisance; fertilizer use: chemical fertilizers discouraged.

pesticide use

Toxic pesticides, and toxic fertilizers.

Would need regulations for use of motorized equipment, noise pollution limits.

fertilizer use, pesticide use, motorized vehicles would all have to be regulated and transparent

Pesticides

Are we talking about tractors? Inappropriate. Tillers? Hand tools motorized? Appropriate. Manure fertilizer or compost? Appropriate. Synthetic or man made fertilizer? Inappropriate. Jam and preserve making can and should be made off site.

organic fertilizer only

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pesticides

fertilizers should be managed somehow. everything listed is okay within reason. limits should apply on how big a greenhouse or tool shed can be. canning and jams etc for sale starts to encroach on food safe requirements. I think the cooking/food prep one could get tricky.

Should be subject to existing bylaws around setbacks, height, etc. so as not to encroach on neighbours.

Noise, light and air pollution are concerns.

fertilizer should be organic only and no use of herbicides or pesticides

Motorized with policies for time/noise considerations

picnic table or places to sit

organic fertilizers only, and no pesticides/herbicides

To clarify, I support the use of very small motorized equipment, ie. to power a compost tea brewer or small aquaponics facility (just no rototillers, etc!). I also only support the use of fertilizer if it is organic (I do NOT support farms using synthetic fertilizers and pesticides in our city)

ONLY ORGANIC FERTILIZERS AND PEST CONTROL - NO SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS!

Specify only organic fertilisers be utilised

My experience with allotment gardening is that some folks would rather build than weed. No building, other than temporary or portable greenhouses, means less work for bylaw...commercial kitchens should be used for food processing.

The location would determine what types would be appropriate.

Mini library, benches, picnic tables or areas to meet and exchange knowledge

Organic fertilizer use

This is a tough one as there will need be a strict policy of how things should look.

I wonder if you can use an incentive program that allows folks to see how their balconies could be used to grow and support food and small insect life - huge numbers of balconies are bare

I would not like to see widespread use of commercial, non-organic fertilizers, excess runoff etc.

I didn't answer to fertilizer use because it depends on whether the fertilizer is organic and what the smell factors are.

pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, and GMO seeds are all inappropriate in Victoria

Again I think it depends on the neighbourhood. Most things can be acceptable in most places depending on

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size. Also time of day and noise level should be a consideration.

I have marked 'no opinion' to all of these, as all of them are very tricky when considering 'commercial' production. It all depends on the level of activity.

Chicken coops, rabbit hutches, trellices, arbours etc.

I think all of the farming must be of an organic variety with proper resting of plots to allow the soil to regain it's nutrient value. As well, I think free workshops for people that want to do this type of farming is necessary so that proper gardening techniques are utilized.

Compost and truly enviro positive choices would get a appropriate vote for me

Soil, mulch bins

Organic fertilizer - NOT heavy doses of nitrates

scale/size is mportant - that is why I have answered no opinion. I have opinion, but depends on size and location

strutures to provide shade

Small motorized equipment like tillers would be fine; after all we allow noisy, polluting gas-fuelled lawn mowers! I think people would object to large agricultural machinery. Again, keeping urban gardens small scale makes this issue moot.

Re: fertilizer use: it would depend upon the kind, the smell and the neighbourhood response. Again, a protocol for conflict resolution would be more important than rules which may be appropriate in some situations but not in others.

Bee hives

Picnic & outdoor meeting spaces

Shade, water resource, sticks for peas/beans/flowers

Natural Fertilizer use

structures would have to follow some codes/bylaws. Production facilities would have to be given guidelines. Organic only.

I think it's important to encourage organic farming, so best would be having a chicken or two running around fertilizing naturally.

Heavy bylaw restriction on animal structures please. Chickens, bees and other animals ought to have rights. We cannot just allow residents to take their products without proper protection from the elements, range of movement, etc.

I would want organic -we are urban farmers, and I HATE fertilizer, it is so bad for kids, animals, food, you name it -seriously toxic stuff -it should not be on our food -or in our soil - I certainly would not want any of my neighbours putting it on their soil, thus is leaching into my soil and my food.

Would like to see fertilizers the non-toxic

Re fertilizer use: NO PESTICIDES ! All organic fertilizers welcome !

Greenhouses may be more appropriate in industrial areas.

Restrict use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. Organic fertilizers and compost okay for feeding gardens.

Aquaculture-use of fish to raise certain vegetables

Comment on the compost-it is appropriate to manage compostable waste onsite but there should be guidelines on what is acceptable. Should use closed, industrial systems. Contrary to some arguments, properly managed compost does not smell, but it can also be neglected and turn into a stinky fly nursery.

Pesticides - should be zero tolerance

chemical fertilizers, pesticide and herbicides should be prohibited in downtown urban farming

rain water retention systems.....water is key.

Fertilizers should only be organic.

The size of the garden and how much the activity impacts the neighbourhood need to be taken into consideration. sometimes the size and activity will be appropriate and sometimes not, depending on the neighbourhood and the neighbours.

definite considerations as to type, quantity and frequency of fertilizer; same for use of motorized equipment and quantity of composting capabilities. If someone is licensed to make jam at home, that's OK, but to me, this means a cottage industry, not requiring major equipment.

Beehives. Chicken coops.

Only organic fertilizer and limit motorized equipment use hours to no weekends and within noise by-law.

Support items like picnic tables and benches

Am thinking here about the innovative "green house" at Mason St. City Farm that is a contained Eco system using fish tanks to fuel vegetable production. Would love to see more of this type of cutting edge use of scarce farming space.

No structures on the boulevards though

Organic. Only as you are too close to other people and property.



## Aquaponics and hydroponics systems

Motorized gardening equipment might be ok if the site was big enough, and hours and pollution didn't impact neighbours. Fertilizer use could be OK if regulated so as not to impact storm sewer inflows into our waterways, and if it didn't interfere with our nice new tertiary distributed sewage sytem.

organic food practices!

I want to clarify that composting must be managed to reduce the bad smell and rodents and fertilizer use- I am against chemical fertilizers not natural ones.

wake up....smell the beans...grow them in the country. Will we get to have farm status on our city lots??

NO PESTICIDES, NATURAL fertilizers ONLY small structures so as not to devalue others' property

Would love to see a few cob structures.

It's important to not use herbicides or pesticides for community gardens. We should all try Togo organic.

water subsidies

benches, fountains, tables/chairs, coffee/snack bar

fertilizer organic only!

organic fertilizer

organic fertilizer only

fertilizer/ organic only

Natural fertilizers

smaller motorized equipment natural/organic fertilizer

pesticide

## 26. Do you have any additional comments about small-scale commercial urban farming in the City of Victoria?

Response

Count

135 responses

As a taxpayer, I know we are already providing heavy subsidy to commubity gardens - any kind. Land costs MUST be worked into any public land arrangements: real land cost

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Must be worked into any public land arrangements. Real land cost

This activity really does not fit into our crowded neighbourhood, and probably most City neighbourhoods

I live in a densely populated neighbourhood. Can't see small-scale commercial urban farms here but may work in some neighbourhoods.

We need access to the organic waste that's being diverted from the landfill. How can we make this happen? It would be a game changer for us if acquisition of raw materials for soil building didn't account for 10%+ of our work hours.

Go for it!

I don't like it.

Locally sourced seed can be used from seed libraries, seedy Saturdays, etc.

Must not be subsidized. If any public funding or land is sought, full pay back and real land value should be charged. The price of land should not be at park-assessed value but at fair market value if the land were to be leased for something else, say a restaurant.

Organic! or at least no pesticides/herbicides

Good business agreements between landowners and urban farmers are win-win. I'd like to see more urban farming on private as well as public land.

If someone wants to have an urban commercial farm set up that includes an on-site selling station I would like them to have to have a permit to sell food

soil quality is an asset - "farmers know how to maintain and have an interest in maintaining quality of the land they own" - If quality is lost due to poor practices on public land we all will lose. There may be some education required for those who wish to do urban farming- consult with professional associations such as Agrologists or others

I think it is a great idea. There may be some pest issues if compost is not handled properly. I would not want to see large piles of open vegetable scraps for instance. Overall as food prices climb, the more local food the better. Another issue is of course water management for irrigation that should be put in guidelines.

I would suggest that the farming practices are limited to organic practices to avoid the neighbouring properties from being affected by noxious chemicals related to farming practices

We need more of it. And we need to protect what we have. That means taking into account farm operations impacted by development. See Bosa St. Andrews School site plan and the shadowing it will cause on Mason Street City Farm

I would love to live in a city that had little market stands here and there for home growers that grow a little bit extra to sell to their neighbours.

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Having thought about this for some time, I have changed my opinion on supposed urban farming. No special treatment or encouragement should be given for several reasons. Down the road, urban gardeners will want special zoning as agriculture to pay less property tax, hence the distortion of taxes may grow. Gardeners think they should get special (lower) water rates, this should not be granted as it creates "special People" with special rights. The idea of quotas per neighbourhood would never stand up if challenged as it creates a monopoly of rights - so wrong. Public largess, be it a subsidy or use of public land/resources, is the same as picking winners and losers among residents. Victoria should have equal rights for all.

Inclusion of chickens or other fowl, bees, small pigs, guinea pigs appropriate.

In places where growing food may not be realistic, or there are concerns about toxins/pollutants/soil quality, growing flowers would be an excellent choice. Many help to return nutrients, make the soil more workable, and you don't eat them so you don't have to worry about getting whatever was in the dirt previously.

I would say that some motorized equipment could be acceptable, but there would need to be limitations placed on their use so there wasn't an ongoing noise and air pollution concern.

I would be wary of large scale composting, that if done improperly, may generate strong smells. I think my biggest issue would be commercial operations becoming big enough to be disruptive. However, I would again say that most small-scale producers would not be in a position to scale-up to a disruptive size. I would also say that public lands should not be commercialized, or only in limited ways.

no

For motorized equipment - regulate times of day for operation / For compost - it would depend on the volume

It would be great to see the city support urban agriculture, and I would hope that programs could be found to support people interested in developing urban farms.

It's already happening, so it's better to pave the way for innovation!

I love the Mason Street farm and would like to see more like it.

Require a permit and consult with all stakeholders before allowing. It really depends on the neighbourhood. James Bay is very dense, so it would be difficult to find suitable sites.

chemical fertilizers should be banned--only compost of all types

There should be a good balance between commons areas and areas for commercial use

We strongly need to support small scale urban farming, both as part of addressing climate change and in supporting food security for the future and during emergency disaster situations

I feel strongly that organic and Eco/ethical standards should be established at the onset for urban farming



Hurry up.

if you have these fruits & vegetables for sale, then you have to worry about theft and prosecuting them who steal it from the gardens... which is why I think it should be free.

love it!

I don't really want a commercial farm because they don't provide a haven for animals. They take up too much space if the public can't access the land. There could be jobs for training, workshops for uneducated newbies, and maybe even watchkeepers for people who would be peeing in the gardens or leaving needles or broken glass. Or even a clean-up crew that combs the gardens every morning.

GREAT idea! What a terrific way to educate kids about where food comes from and to get younger people interested in farming as a career!

Would love to see them happen!

No

It's a lovely hobby while we live in denial of local and planetary carrying capacity.

See above

as long as inspections and regulations are adhered to, can't be any worse that produce from third world countries.

Motorized farm equipment should be restricted to industrial areas in the city

Develop it, promote it, help Victoria become a self-sustaining city!

We have Mason Street Farm in our neighbourhood and it has become not only a place to get fresh produce, but a teaching site.

Use common sense for this.

Small scale is the key phrase here. City lot size not acreage. Keeping that in mind will help set rules and guidelines for usage

needs to be regulated, or a way to report suspected abuse of privilege. im also open to renting my front yard to a perspective urban farmer...

shouldn't add pollution, noise or fertilizers - only natural

I have concerns about people spraying be with non organic pesticides

I would love for livestock to be included in this conversation; if farmstands are approved, I think they should also be allowed to include honey and eggs. I would also love for pygmy goats to be legal in the city, as they are in Portland and Seattle.

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They should be allowed chickens.

Should also allow chickens, mini goats, rabbits and other small animals

smell and type of fertilizer used should be discussed.

The zoning restrictions in the city of Victoria need to be re-worked with allow for commercial urban agricultural to be successful. Right now it costs far to much money and takes far to long to rezone an area downtown Victoria to allow for commercial rooftop agriculture.

Yes Yes Yes

Get on with it

This is also a wonderful idea. I would love to be apply to buy more local produce.

Everything needs to be neat and tidy.

In general we need to prevent any spraying of chemicals. organic fertilizers is ok

I notice that a lot of local farms partner with restaurants, which is great and probably necessary for many farmers to earn a living. But I would like to see more creative risks being taken to support collaboration between commercial farms and the most food-insecure groups in our city, who can't afford to buy local produce.

I only support this if it's done in an organic way - lots of hot composting. Schools should be involved as a source of volunteer labour and a chance to learn about food production.

There should be limits placed on chemical fertilizers/pest control that could affect neighbouring properties.

Island food production is a must. In an ideal situation it would decouple much of our reliance on the mainland. Local food production will also reduce pollution (through reduction of transportation distances). Finally, any local business using local produce should receive a tax incentive (check out that The Cornerstone Cafe, although owned by the Fernwood NRG, an organization working towards local food sovereignty, doesn't use local produce because it's "too expensive")

Sustainability should be a primary concern - recycling nutrients rather than fertilizer inputs

The location would determine if it was appropriate to have this type of operation in the first place.

More information! On how to get started, where, examples of things to plant etc etc!

Urban farms should have agricultural water rates, and be allowed gate sales.

should be have to be pesticide free and carbon neutral

Would rather see community orchards or communal areas over farming businesses at local parks and community centres

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I am all in favour, however, I want to be sure it is done effectively so that we produce good results. We don't want to annoy the tax payers and give urban ag. A bad name. Please contact me as I would like to be a part of the process.

Urban farming does not belong on city-owned or public use land as the public can no longer enjoy the land - it is occupied by one special interest group only. City/public lands must be open to everyone. Also, farms are not appropriate in residential neighborhoods due to potential of noise, odors, traffic

cleanliness, solely organic, some sort of 'policing'

People should not be allowed to profit off city land. Also, city land is for everyone's enjoyment.

Emphasis on 'small' please! Okay if somebody has a small greenhouse. Not okay if big. And avoid activities that lead to noise, air, land, water pollution. Not suitable!

organic fertilizers only

Asap please

Proper compost bins with 1/4" hardware cloth should be promoted to keep rats away, at least to some extent. We need to remember that urban soils are at best very deficient in nutrients and minerals and at worst, contaminated. I would love to see government (municipal, provincial or federal) pay for soil testing to ensure we're eating non-toxic, nutrient-dense. Many people think that because they grow their own food and do so 'organically' that it is of high quality, but in fact, unless you're re-mineralizing and using well made compost, backyard organic gardens can actually yield poor quality food.

I believe this is a significant aspect of food security for Victoria and Vancouver Island and that the community development benefits go beyond food.

As indicated above, defining 'small-scale' will be very difficult.

Environmental impacts need to be considered.

Victoria lots are fairly small, so I can't imagine great impacts from one operation - we should encourage this with little or no red tape, while considering impacts on neighbours only where they are real.

Limit the use of fertilizer and pesticides by providing education on sustainable and organic farming practices.

It's a good idea that must be thought through. It's success will be tied to the community leaders involved with each farm. Who buys their food? It is one thing to grow it. Distribution is another matter. Who decides what crops to grow?

I think small scale urban farming, especially if organic practices are used, is a great idea. If there is an educational component to it, so much the better.

Suggest that commercial agriculture be located on under-utilized land inside the ALR

The question above mentioned Production facilities. If small scale commercial urban farming includes food production/preservation then there definitely needs to be a food safety training component in the plan. There has been talk of a Preserve Safe program through the Ministry of Health that could be appropriate.

Fantastic! We need it. Single family homes should be allowed small-scale urban farming - chickens, food produce - all ORGANIC

It makes sense as we scramble to find alternatives to obtaining food from California.

no

I think as far as structures go, they should continue to have restrictions of size in keeping with footprint of property and scale of the accompanying house structures

I think that this initiative is being driven by a small group of people who want financial support and use of public resources (land). Parks must be protected for all of us (and our pets) to use.

I think it's a positive step

I think the city should prioritise small-scale agricultural production by citizens, families, schools, and community groups before dedicating time and resources to food production for-profit.

I'm not fond of starving; small-scale commercial urban agriculture needs to happen here.

I don't think urban agriculture should be prioritised over residential living. The recent discussion around the urban farm near Pandora ave that blocked the new residential development across from the MacDonald's is problematic. There may come a time when an urban agriculture business conflicts with downtown living; at that point I think residential development should trump small-scale urban agriculture.

Do it!

Clear and visible signage, with information about what is grown, opportunities for volunteers and who to contact.

I think it is a great idea. But noise control and organic practises are important

I don't think most of these are appropriate as long as they are not enormous. A size limit based on size of property might be good to limit scale of farming so that it doesn't get too huge for the property and ruin the esthetics of the neighbourhood

Compost bins would have to have guidelines to prevent rat infestations as much as possible.

I think it should be organic farming. Personally if it's not, will not be buying any produce with synthetic fertilizer/insecticides etc.

I think it's a great idea!

In more suburban (less rural) streets I think permanent farm stands are inappropriate - however temporary

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pop up stands would be fine

Water issues arise. Onsite management of water/ grey water permissions arise. Usage by any commercial operations that effect home owner billing for water are to be considered. Assistance with draft negotiating principles would be helpful for the City to develop with and for homeowners and food growers.

I would prefer it was organic in parks and playgrounds to prevent more chemicals being near our cildrnw

Raises the question of signage, e.g. homeowners being allowed to post "garlic for sale" etc. Perhaps a sign size restriction. I think if a responsible person uses the boulevard to farm, that they should be able to profit from their work, i.e. not just for any passer by to help themselves unless it is designated as such. I know how much work is involved in these things and wouldn't want those involved to not have control over their plots.

Training for potential operators? A case to be made for an organic approach; for permaculture techniques.

Greenhouses could be used to store tools. Personally, I would take my tools home at the end of my gardening day. I have gardened all my life and once the garden is planted I rarely need and thing more than a clipper and my hands to maintain it.

Very glad to see your level of interest- bravo!

I would like to see strong support for organic urban farming in business dealings with growers.

I'd love to see some neighbourhood produce stands--just like in Saanich. I wish question #22 had an option for unlimited stands/selling options but with some restrictions--however, I don't think a permit is necessary for a casual stand that is temporary, irregularly stocked, and not attracting significant traffic.

For-profit urban farming is a bit different from personal-use or communal gardening---I think its good to encourage the use of available spaces including city-owned land that is otherwise unused, but like any business they should be charged rent.

I would love to be able to buy vegetables from a stand at the end of a driveway right in fernwood and possibly even sell some myself. most gardeners find themselves with a bumper crop of something more than they can use personally- why not offer it for sale to others in the community?

Not in residential neighbourhoods

Please, no artificial fertilizers. Use compost that gives back to the soil.

We need an open mind about where, and how large urban ariculture is allowed. A board of ordinary people could help with allowing unusual or problematic urban gardening. Hard and fast rules that are in place forever are counterproductive as well as discouraging and off-putting. Lets stay loosy goosy about this and make decisions that are fluid and can be appropriate to the needs at the time of planting.

Scale is important, plus engagement of nearby residents for their support, with LOTS of education and

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encouragement.

We need them

Again, the success of this will depend on the way it is done, and if the city is prepare to deal with complaints if, for example, compost bins are not managed well or the operation is producing long-term noxious smells or noise at inappropriate hours.

Policy must define 'small-scale' - scale within residential would be smaller than on commercial site,

my property is still considered farmland, yet i am not allowed to sell eggs, goats milk, vegetables, flowers from a stand in my front yard...go figure

Organic. No pesticides or other toxic chemicals.

Again, my understanding is that the City currently does do much to encourage small scale urban farming. In fact, the application of industrial water rates to urban farming operations means that water costs can be prohibitive for starting farmers. Would like to see urban farming encouraged through a scheme that would reward water conservation, through use of mulching etc. with reduced rates. Let's get creative here!

parking lots of public institutions can be repurposed outside of business hours and used to sell food.

Limit noisy, polluting mechanical equipment please.

Engage small-scale commerical urban farmers in the process to ensure it meets their needs

The City of Victoria needs to stop spraying pesticides and herbicides everywhere!!

We need affordable, accessible , food security

I think it's a great idea and we should experiment on a small scale to see what works, then apply it at a larger scale. I don't understand people who are against urban agriculture so I would be interested to hear their reasons for opposing it -- they may have some good points I haven't thought of.

I do not support the use of any pesticides or herbicides.

I don't feel it is appropriate on public lands. Boulevard space and front/backyards which are already expected to be taken care of by the homeowner should be available for use. Small scale commercial farming in residential areas should be subject to the same rules as residential bylaws ie. parking and noise restrictions

must be smell and noise cnterolled, could be neighborhood relaxing areas with tablws, bencges, etc., and MUST BE ORGANIC AND NON GMO

It should be organic , or use of pesticide restricted

each street/block should have & needs to have jurisdiction over what activities occur on that block - majority should rule

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spraying would be a bad thing

## 27. What are the top priorities to consider for increasing food production in the City of Victoria?

Variable	Not a priority	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	
<b>Every neighbourhood has a place for community food growing and harvesting</b>	20 5.4%	27 7.3%	93 25.2%	229 62.1%	Total: 369
<b>Easy to find places to buy locally grown food</b>	8 2.2%	19 5.2%	72 19.7%	267 73.0%	Total: 366
<b>Everyone has access to healthy, affordable food (better food security)</b>	6 1.6%	8 2.2%	44 12.0%	310 84.2%	Total: 368
<b>Utilize vacant lots for growing food</b>	15 4.1%	17 4.6%	85 23.0%	253 68.4%	Total: 370
<b>Educate and involve the community in food growing and harvesting</b>	13 3.5%	27 7.3%	89 24.2%	239 64.9%	Total: 368
<b>Food growing spaces on public land are open and accessible to all</b>	18 4.9%	21 5.7%	106 28.6%	225 60.8%	Total: 370
<b>Aesthetics/ tidiness</b>	20 5.5%	72 19.7%	146 39.9%	128 35.0%	Total: 366
<b>Other (please specify below)</b>	12 21.4%	0 0.0%	7 12.5%	37 66.1%	Total: 56

'Other' top priorities from the above question.

Response	Count
	68 responses

Several of the options above almost imply that the general population is not intelligent and does not already know about these things. We do NOT need another subsidized industry in the City.



Understand that "low productivity" local food production may not be the highest and best use of scarce land, labour and other resources.

Balance among many uses of public space is maintained. Kids need open places to play, people need places to walk, etc. Also, need for public space can change. I can foresee it being difficult to dislodge an allotment or community garden if another need for the space emerges.

Well managed food production spaces.

Information about traditional food sources and native plants is provided.

Grocery stores currently provide much of the points raised, food for anyone and good quality food.

Food type grown suitable for climate , support for local farmers

Ensure that neighbourhoods with high food insecurity have top priority in education and other resources to encourage food growing.

Organic organic organic!

Regarding "Educate and involve the community in food growing and harvesting" - this must be optional. I would hate to live in a neighbourhood that required residents to be involved, or that somehow shamed those that wished not to be involved.

People already have equal access to food in Victoria. Most adults have been exposed to gardening and do NOT need to be educated.

Food growing spaces to supply food banks and other facilities providing service to homeless and low income folks.

Making community efforts beneficial to all members of the community, including low-income earners and homeless.

Municipal processes should support development of opportunities in a timely manner when they arise allowing and supporting harvesting of traditional foods in parks by First Nations communities with historic ties to these areas. Develop a program to reintroduce stewardship and use practices.

creating an industry where farmers can make a living GROWING food, not teaching, lecturing or writing about it

Educational opportunities for young children.

Traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous food systems should be incorporated. In consultation with local First Nations.

Surplus food is harvested and given to food banks and agencies who provide those hungry with food.

Connecting with Indigenous food systems, and knowledge in communities. Affordability of local food.

Guest sheds where someone can stay after they've successfully completed training to take care of the land and the shed. Maybe have the person report in so we can know if they've left, are doing an adequate job, or are not taking care of the place.

Do not charge people for theft, gardens should be accessible to all!

No toxins used in these gardens.

Organic gardening techniques should be encouraged.

community gardens and orchards and small scale farming help to restore a sense of the traditional commons that are integral to healthy, sustainable, socially enriching and compassionate communities.

production of food for homeless/impoverished Victorians

It's not the cities place to promote food production.

Education and long term management!!

Vacant lots owners ought to be given an incentive to use their property for food production, by having to pay a fallow penalty or develop the site

Commitment. Gardening is more than buying seeds; if people get discouraged or lose interest, the neighbourhood is left to deal with the blight. Maybe a bond. To cover re-seeding with grass?

Get some reliable data on how toxic the car exhaust and dirt are in several places!

Develop a plan for the city and have a requirement for application for larger scale enterprizes with local engagement as an application requirement.

On the food growing spaces acessable to all, this depends on the type of food growing if it is commercial or allotment than no, but all people should be able to go through the process to get land tenure for such food growing for their families and as a business.

all organic

Links to social programs e.g., improved mental health, increased social connections

The questions are leading and assume certain things that are not valid. For example, there are many grocery stores throughout the City, hence availability to food already exists and the City does not need to ensure more is available. Also, people are already generally educated in food production and education not needed.

That new initiatives have maintenance budgets.. All projects require on-going maintenance to be successful.

Overall awareness so people can, on their own initiative, grow food for themselves as much as possible.

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Link community-building or commercial food growing to the needs of lower income families, youth, seniors, refugees, public housing residents.

DISTRIBUTION!!! Seriously - you can grow all the food in the world but if there is no place to store it or process it effectively it will rot.

Increasing food literacy and skills. Many people do not know how to prepare fruits and vegetables.

That it NOT become a corporate venture taken over by big business

Let individuals decide. City does not need to get involved. Priority has to be that people who want to garden move to a place where landlord will permit, or to find someone who has property for rent for garden

more allotment opportunities for downtown residents

Allotment gardens (not in parks) provide real and consistent food production for low income people.

Public education will play a huge role, because we're talking about a cultural shift

that food grown on public lands are not sold or used for profit

Education

Compost + Victoria = RATS. Careful, BMP for composting is part of the necessary equation. And pest control issues need consideration as deer are also FOOD. Hmm. More thoughts needed...

Consult with neighbours. Aesthetics are important. Foot traffic passing love to look at people's gardens.

Training for future mentors/leaders - long-term view.

Teach and support organic farming is top priority for me.

Please start where the need is greatest.

food grown should not be wasted but directed to those in need in the community

Encourage incorporation of tenant's plots in new developments and explore ways of encouraging conversion of some existing apt lawns to allotment areas for tenants. It doesn't all have to be done on city land and there is evidence that the closer allotments are to the gardener's residence, the more likely they are to succeed & keep growing, esp. beginners.

I have rated aesthetics/tidiness as medium priority because it is subjective, and therefore difficult to define. City policy must not be sensitive to the conception that food gardens are ugly, attitudes must change.

we could ensure healthy food for all (including low income and homeless) our place, mustard seed, food banks.

some of all food produced should be allotted for food banks and shelters.



## Organic only

Find ways to enable community organization to do the work, support with small grants and good food policy to ensure producers and community groups can sell produce for long term sustainability

Just again that the city needs to stop spraying herbicides and pesticides because in addition to planted gardens we have such a wealth of amazing native plants to harvest, but we don't want to harvest if they are covered in poisons!!!!!!

Just because people plant a seed doesn't mean that they can grow a garden. If that were the case why do we have food banks and soup kitchens??

## only NATURAL FERTILIZER and ZERO PESTICIDE USE

I would like to see us focus on growing out seed locally. This will help us adapt species to our environment and will also help us adapt them to any environmental changes in the future. I grow out seeds for the seed bank but need to limit the amount I do because I don't have enough space (you need to maintain minimum population sizes). It would be awesome to have some public land to use for saving seed.

Ensure control of rats. We've had bad experience with early attempts at composting

Encourage homeowners who have spare to make it available--give them a tax break or lower water charges  
Free organic fertilizer. Then share the abundance

Educational drive to help people realize benefits of neighbourhood farming activities. A lot of people won't want the "mess" of farming hence the need for neighbourhood education involve CBC Senior renters churches

Montreal has cool urban gardens and the "Champs" de possibilities is cool too

28. Have you visited other places that are doing inspiring projects related to urban food production?  
What was inspiring?

Response

Count

151 responses

Yes. Vietnam. Vietnam uses all kinds of spaces for food production. But they value their parks highly and do not

No opinion

Quebec city has a public garden right in front of its provincial legislature. Some beds are for public harvesting. There are plenty of security guards on site (for obvious other reasons) so vandalism isn't an issue.

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a system of allowing gardeners to use owners yards when owners are unable to garden or don't want to.

Ingenuity of design - making the gardens user friendly, thereby increasing chance of long term use, and also v neighbours and visitors.

Vancouver - Sole Food Farms - Program that helps street involved and homeless heal, belong, recover, engag

Vancouver - Soul foods - making use of vacant land and allowing job opportunities for downtown ES residents

Yes...urban farm in Oakland. Inspiring that they were able to produce so much fresh, healthy, cheap food from

Campbell River's food map: <http://www.campbellriver.ca/your-city-hall/green-city/food-agriculture/food-map> Of Agricultural Neighbourhood:

[http://www.northsaanich.ca/Municipal\\_Hall/Departments/Planning\\_and\\_Community\\_Services/Planning/Planning Ap](http://www.northsaanich.ca/Municipal_Hall/Departments/Planning_and_Community_Services/Planning/Planning_Ap)

Hamilton ON -- orchard planted on Mohawk College grounds, pop-up market

Community engagement.

Haliburton Farms is a great example of urban farming. The plots are turned over regularly and they are an educ

de-paving in Portland

I've heard about--but haven't visited--the roof top veggie gardens in downtown Victoria. Brilliant!

Inspiring is using hard-surfaces for gardening, meaning containers/boxes on top of hard-surfaces (eg parking | surface no longer needed

Havana, Cuba. The large scale of production was inspiring because the gardens are feeding a majority of the C

yes. Raised beds along old rail beds in Vancouver & Stockholm. Great use of forgotten space.

Several European cities I have visited have allotments which are accessible by public transport, and which hav plots, they look like tiny houses maybe 8x4 ft. People will picnic there in the summer as well as store their gart and shared ammenities for water. No vehicle access.

I have seen community gardens in Vancouver and read about urban farming in Kelowna. These projects have to

Vancouver has had a 'Green Streets' program, with funding and staff, for years now.

botanical gardens that focus on herbal medicines

I lived in Seattle in the 90's and was inspired by the boulevards and community feel in many neighbourhoods. Innovation in gardening and sustainability.

Mason Street City Farm right here in North Park next to downtown, Lifecycles Fruit Tree Project also here in Vict

the intensity of planting and growth and obvious effort that went into makeing the garden grow.

Vancouver has some great community and rooftop gardens that are well kept. Environmentally sound, and wo

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they teach slow food and environmentally friendly alternatives to pesticides /etc.

I saw a documentary about Cuba sustaining a fuel embargo by extensive urban gardening. Early predictions of success of urban gardening, food access was better than ever!

Brooklin Ontario city boulevards with waist high lush rows of Swiss Chard and Kale!

Yes, Mason Street Farm is a great place. I love what they are doing with aquaponics (not sure of proper name)

Yes, in several countries food production occurs in areas near streets which are too small for parks

Toronto: Christie Pitts community gardens: allotment plots in park, without fencing, were not being vandalized. non-gardener residents who enjoy the ambience; park also contains many social spaces with tables and chairs; food is accessible to all. Geneva: allotments with spaces large enough that families could establish a shed and etc.

No.

Community blueberry bog in Olympia Washington. It was a place for people to gather and harvest healthy food

No

the culture

Haultain Commons - sense of community

vancouver has done a great job at creating community gardens

Personal information

before moving to Victoria. UC Davis had great gardening space for students. While at UVic I spent my whole time as a Master's student and was not able to get my own space. Please work with UVic to encourage growing food.

the passion of these educated people :)

Food Forests in Seattle. Great use of park space to grow food and teach others how to as well.

Our beloved James Bay Michigan/Menzies Community Garden. Michelle Obama's White House garden, Washington Inspiring that gardeners share their work with others, teach children about the wonderful cycle of life, while co-ops we have seen plots of gardens in large cities: london, england & seoul, south korea, being two of them

Mason St Farm - that they can do all they can in what's really a back yard. They're also a huge force for cooperation

Edmonton - there are commercial market gardens in the city and it seems to be quite successful. The veggies

I haven't seen it anywhere but in a video. It was inspiring because everyone had access to food. Everyone contributed and hoarding the food. They picked what they needed.

I was in Portland last year for a Sustainability in Education conference and we ate at a Restaurant called Nobel F

really impressive rooftop garden and give tours!

Allotment garden is beautiful place to be in summer.

Yeah. Woodwynn Farms is doing good; But their goal is more to help homeless farm rather than providing food spectrum. Compost Education Center and the little gardens on the blocks in the surrounding area like Spring R taken care of.

hungary: inspired by the vast network of backyard gardens and multi-unit housing gardens and alleyway garden popular culture.

I have not

Japan. They are a model of using every possible space for growing food...although since Fukushima, large tracts

Eco Sense - their cob home and gardens were very inspiring

Mason Street Farm is now selling plants out of their nursery.

Yes, builds community, increases sense of belonging and investment in city. Improves community spirit and co-reduces dependency on imported/manufactured/crap food

Legal pygmy goats in Portland and Seattle.

No answer

unusual spaces - rooftops, planters, portable gardens in bins on wheels, creative use of boulevards and other

New York City. Allotment gardens on vacant lots throughout the city (both in high-density / high-rise commercial

Duncan, Providence farm and multiple community gardens

Vancouver/Lower Mainland; in the middle of the city, urban gardens and small orchards have been springing up among homeless/drug users and it had a very positive impact for them and their community

The Gorge Community garden is looking very nice.

maximizing land/container use for maximum food production WITHOUT stripping land/soil/nutrients

Yes. It was kind of beautiful to see people harvesting and distributing something they grew.

Check out Edmonton's river valley food forest, planted only with native edible plants. Calgary's community orchard in Seattle.

Yes. The level of safety/security and tidiness was inspiring.

Allowing people me to plant gardens in their front yards instead of grass

Roof gardens on commercial buildings including greenhouses for the winter period, providing local greens etc

yes! fort commons is inspiring, also in vancouver there are parking lots near the stadium that have gardens.

rooftop gardening on condos/apartments

Near City Hall in Vancouver there's a nice open garden for walking through.

Some properties in Victoria have inspired me to be an urban food farmer.

No

No although I've seen some interesting pictures of rooftops and sides of buildings used for gardening.

The barter system works well in the small farming communities of the interior, it would be nice to see other, p

No as there are none in my shire

Yes - Seattle Food Forest. Very inspiring.

Food production in large wooden boxes on a large area of dissused land - vancouver. Organoponicos in Cuba

yes - pocket gardening in England - use unwanted spaces for food and flowers and make them pretty for com

Yes. All were located on industrial/commercial properties.

no

Seattle community gardens

They were carefully tended and well located.

Life Cycles helping with food sharing and canning and educational programs

In Victoria there are already many good places. Several restaurants grow herbs in flower boxes. Rooftop conti  
saw mobile box (on wheels) small lettuce garden plots by a restaurant. Just ket it happen; funding and program

I like that the Empress Hotel is keeping bees on their property. I like that they are growing fruits and vegetable  
and Blanshard. I love the Moss St Market.

the pride individuals took in growing and supplying food

The energy around food, organics and independence. It's just exciting. This is life!!

walking around in Havana, **Personal information**, I saw gardens everywhere. It was impressive that otherw

Government house vegetable garden

Yes Fernwood NRG

Can't think of any

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000



I really enjoyed the Peninsula gardening club and their speaker series.

My friend runs a community garden for students at her university in Calgary. I think every school, elementary to lunch programs.

Focus on people taking their own initiative to grow food - this occurs particularly in European communities I ha

Training and employment of marginalized and vulnerable members of population.

Boulder - Growing Gardens (non-profit) manages multiple sites and summer educational programs. Seattle and participation in urban agriculture.

Ottawa has interesting allotment gardens. As well there are groups that garden on private lawns and share the  
It is inspiring how it creates more sense of community

Portland. The city is 20 years ahead of Victoria in development and spirit.

Downtown Vancouver - nice oasis

haven't visited, but heard about bee keeping in Vancouver downtown (Strathcona) - sharing of knowledge, pro

I have visited/researched many jurisdictions doing inspiring urban food production projects. The inspiring piece  
their food is coming from and are getting involved in food production, or buying local products.

People getting their hands dirty! Getting back to nature. Away from computers! Fresh air and exercise Taking c  
yes, universal, positive social effects of local, community-based food production.

Yes..... Not inspiring. Actually quite a clique.

Vic west has a vibrant community supporting urban food production. Would be wonderful to see this increased

Self sufficiency drives ingenuity, and care of gardens.

Yes, Seattle with their Pea Patch model and Vancouver. I saw that gardening projects serve to bring communities  
by appealing to all types of people. The gardens are aesthetically pleasing and beautiful the areas they grow in  
friendlier and safer. Amazing quantities of food can be grown in relatively small spaces.

Princezzengarten in Berlin - inner city food production / education site with on site cafe to congregate within

Seattle. The diversity of people and plantings were amazing; young, old, in/experienced gardeners, all races and  
and food crops.

no

I have not, but I am inspired just by taking this survey.

Please see above comment on garden experience in Europe.)

There was a group in Courtenay that was lobbying the new hospital to consider using locally grown produce in public institutions (hospitals, universities, etc) involved in buying locally grown small scale production for port

California -they have fruit growing everywhere in some neighbourhoods, and maps to show you where to get citrus, by the neighbourhood -all free :)

That various cities throughout the USA are taking on projects such as food forests so no one has to go without of income).

Vancouver has one initiative utilizing temporary raised beds in empty lots. Incredible Edible Todmorden in England ran a project in Cambridge, UK, experimenting with edible landscaping and growing food in public and commu

The rooftop gardens all over Cuba and community involvement for community gardens, Quebec's greenfoos c

Gorge kinsmen park has a community garden and it's beautiful and right by the playground

Take a look at Monteith allotments in Oak Bay--very nice--Oak Bay built the raised beds and brought water to l

Saw family plots along road and train right of ways in Istanbul...real people doing real things.

In Amsterdam, they were growing demo gardens on rafts in the canals downtown.

Beacon Food Forest in Seattle, Springridge Commons, Victoria, Burrard Street Orchard in Vancouver--love the

Personal Information

) here in Gorge Tillicum. Excellent quality, organic and a nice farm str

Personal Information

No.

Portland -- all of it. It is a progressive practice.

I've seen pictures of neighbourhood gardens in Seattle and Portland

There are a few low production examples about which are generally a mess.

The Incredible Edible movement in Britain (started in Todmorden); some really beautifully designed plots incor

Yes, Food production on vacant lands, small food stands in residential areas, food production in residential fro controlled by community group open for public cooking on specified days, food planters beside bus stops, cc

we have an urban farm between Cook and Vancouver Streets, it is wonderful to see the work they do, and the they are.

no

Lived in UK and it's been happening for generations there

Vancouver Davie St community garden - Taking an empty lot and turning it to something that brings community - the excitement on childrens faces when they grow and eat their own food



I visited a squatted area outside of Barcelona with many small plots gardened by the apartment dwelling locals

Personal information

(James Bay) -

Personal information

Vancouver had a street corner garden plot...messy as hell and vandalized!!

The variety of gardens, and people who worked them. It was aesthetically pleasing People greeted one another

Yes. When I lived in Vancouver vacant lots were often turned temporarily into allotment gardens. It was inspiring

Not really urban, but the Isles of Scilly in England truly has a 'farm friendly feel' - at the end of most driveways (sometimes with a suggested price), so you could go for a lovely walk and pick up your dinner at the same time

Visited the community orchard in Victoria West and it was beautiful. It's great to see people coming together to

Vancouver has urban gardens in parks and under the bridges

Though it has been torn down, the use of the rail thoroughfare in Vancouver was a great example of what can

Most cities & urban areas have a 'community garden' & Farmers market it's encouraging

France - they use every available space

Oregon Portland has lots of comm. gardens and use of unused lands

yes!

Oregon they were well maintained and looked good

No

There is an inspiring place in my neighbourhood. I like to look at it when ever I walk by

Camas planting initiatives through Camosun College & mason st farm---as a way to decolonized the territories

## 29. Do you have any other comments about urban food production in the City of Victoria?

Response

Count

122 responses

tyiyt

Homeless population could help to maintain gardens in exchange for food. Also, students assist to learn.

The City must ensure it is not co-opted by a lobby group with individual private interests. Beware the Tragedy of the Commons.

Herb gardens, like the one at Fisherman's Wharf Park, are valuable, and should be supported.

As above, probably a good idea but personally not my highest priority for use of City \$\$\$, staff time and public lands.

Talk to Urban Farmers, Mason Street Farm,

Go for it!

totally against allotment gardens in public parks. There can be no justification for giving individuals exclusive, open ended access to public land. Allotments elsewhere should have city mandated rules requiring a 10% turnover each year whenever there is a waiting list. Only local (i.e. James Bay residents for JB allotments) should have access and only those in apartments or without gardens. Public land belongs to us all - not just the noisy few

I can imagine more ways that this goes horribly wrong than right.

Long overdue! Would recommend more emphasis on self sufficiency as opposed to commercial farming as most lots in the City are too small to sustain a commercial enterprise.

We need to get on this.

Implement policies to encourage people to allow others to garden in others backyards. Works well elsewhere.

This project is worrisome, as if the bike lane project. A lot of taxpayer funding for small lobby groups. land is scarce, and public land should not be de facto privatised through giving lease rights to individuals

I think <sup>Personal Information</sup> is doing on rooftops in downtown is a great idea. I also like the food block downtown where there will be more food grown visibly. I'd love to see more pocket gardens and food producing gardens popping up.

Besides developing guidelines for boulevard gardening, city should consider other environmental uses such as rain gardens or bioswales for adjacent buildings.

please support it!

Victoria is behind Vancouver, but ahead of the curve. Keep up the good work!

partner with professional groups - Agrologists or Master Gardeners

Although there will be issues, it is about time!

Let's do it

Trials one in every community

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#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Keep these surveys coming and keep moving forward! Hire passionate people to keep the local food production systems strong and progressive. At the end of the day it takes a lot of LABOR to grow- people try and give up as it's expensive to start and discouraging when it doesn't work. I believe real change exists in the small scale commercial system as well as perennial food forests- little by little we will grow more food. And reap the benefits!

We need way more bee keeping...save the bees!

Whatever the city is planning, take things slowly so that each phase can be implemented with care and proper foresight.

If a farmer wants to purchase a lot and make a go of farming, great. Let it happen. Public resources including City staff, should not be used as it creates a subsidy or benefit for one farmer over another.

Encouraged to see renewed interest of Council and staff in increasing urban food production - a distinct change from previous times. Hope and expect the enthusiasm translates into a real upswing in spaces and means of producing more local food. We need to be food-ready, can't indefinitely rely on transport of food from faraway destinations. City should try to measure increase in local food reliance over time, as a gauge of the success of its food strategy. Re question 30, below, heard about the survey at the Urban Food Table.

No

Please include native edibles and include local First Nations in setting up long-term harvesting sites for their foods and medicines.

we need a food forest!

A perfect place for food production would be the park land from Vancouver all the way up to chambers streets. It never gets used for anything. This would also be a great way for our place to create a food production garden. Schools could use this space for education. We need more places for growing food.

I fully support it.

A diverse array of food production systems is important for resilience and seeing what works in different communities (private allotments, commons, volunteer run orchards, etc)

im super glad Victoria is taking the lead in the CRD!

Would be nice if the city picked up yard waste instead of the limited drop off times.

It is a fabulous way to build community, celebrate the web of life, and promote food security. Best wishes moving forward.

keep it up and further this wonderful idea!

Incorporating indigenous food systems is a top priority. The definition of community gardens in this survey is

confusing, the terms community garden and allotment garden are often synonymous. Perhaps consider revisiting that language. I also think multi-use areas are a good idea. Places where there are a mix of communal areas and allotment spaces and perhaps a market garden area or an education aspect as well.

I think it's a fantastic idea anywhere but especially important on island.

I wholly support this. My only issue is charging people for the food. I would love to have a small allotment because I would love to be able to grow my salads and I would love to be able to pick an apple a day.

Vitally important work. Lets get our hand dirty and get started!

more bees please

Soil health is a huge part of food production and this survey didn't mention much about mapping soil health, or remediating contaminated sites.

Let's do it!

This is an idea whose time has come. There will be protest from some at first — there always is resistance to change — but within a few years, urban food production will be commonplace — as it was through most of Victoria's history.

Please don't over regulate.

I'm excited!

I would like to participate

Urban food production Rocks!

Neighbourhood food production in the city should be collabortive amongst neighbours.

good

DO IT, please.

Love that this is going on!!

Please consider tax breaks for urban farming.

Keep boulevards for shrubs/grasses that tolerate heat & sun, some flowers but no vegetables.

More education around growing your own/backyard gardening and community gardening is needed - for inspiration and leadership and demonstration.

Although I live in Esquimalt I have done  
ABSOLUTELY GREAT STUFF THERE ! ! ! ! !

Personal information

THEY DO

I would love to see more urban food production in Victoria



These hippy bullshit ideas are the reason my wife and I have sold our house and are moving out of Victoria.

We need BOLD leadership on this issue in Victoria - there is so much support for it, we have a really excellent opportunity to take some risks and show other cities what is possible.

Toronto

Thank you so much for taking the time to read these and compile the data. You're doing great work!

People and talk about growing food and having healthy food but at the end of the day gardening is hard work and people will eat pizza before veggies. Healthy food is already abundantly available if you look. Farmers markets, the root cellar, red barn market. This just seems like a half baked idea that the hippies and whiners of Victoria cook up every few months. Wait a few weeks and they will be on to a new 'cause.'

The island used to grow most of its food. We can do that again. Victory gardens should be more normal than mowed lawns!

Don't forget other growing areas like rooftops, balconies or sides of buildings.

I would love to be kept informed on developments!

I applaud the city for moving this initiative forward, it is of vital importance that we do what we can now to make Victoria more food secure- it might not look pretty all the time, but it has to be a top priority. There also needs to be understanding around native plants and foods, and harvesting. As well as understanding issues of growers needing tenure. It is a lot of work to grow food, and build good soil takes years, so access needs to be multi-year, I suggest 5 year terms.

Excellent idea. I think you need to start making watering facilities a must in multi-unit dwellings and begin an incentive program for irrigation and food production on balconies. It's a totally untapped resource and not incentivised at all to date.

overdue

No

I am a bit concerned about how food safety is maintained if food is growing everywhere and anybody can sell it. I would like to see full discussion about the reasons for doing this, and the cost. If the goal is increased food security for people who currently cannot afford healthy food this should be achieved in the most cost-efficient way.

Lets do it!

Beware special interest groups who want money to create their own jobs. That seems to be the objective of much of what we read about and what we have seen at City Hall.

happy to see what is coming... and thanks for doing this. It makes me excited to live here :)



The city is now considering allowing homeless people to camp in Topaz Park. I believe this location should be a priority for community gardening so that the campers have access to healthy food.

We need more :)

It would be great to see vacant space made available for food production as long as soil tests don't indicate contamination.

Low income families should be given a CSA box of fresh veggies and fruit. All commercial urban farmers should donate a portion of their harvest in lieu of a business license.

Avoid the move to commercial in residential areas - but there is huge potential in creating awareness for people to grow their own and share - in true community spirit.

We should support non-profits to take a regional approach (especially with Saanich) and offer programs. Front or back yard sharing would be a great way to make more land accessible, but right now there doesn't seem to be an active program facilitating this.

I believe that the city could/should find a balance between support for commercial producers and hobby urban farmers

ask permission in the future? :) My garden looks much better this year. Depending on my availability I may be interested in helping out with this project, either as a volunteer, or as a contractor. Please check out my company website **Personal information** up the great work! - might be an idea to

Fantastic- Please sign me up!!!

I would like to see a wide variety of all types of fruit and vegetables.

I fully support this project and would especially like to see an opportunity for more people to participate in community gardening projects on a neighbourhood level. Good for the soul as well as the body

If groups/individuals are offered access to public land then make their continued access contingent upon their respectfully maintaining and actively using the land for food production/decorative gardening. And, finally, thank you to the City for soliciting public input on this important issue.

Thank you for this survey. It's a step! I'm excited about City Hall's participation in food sovereignty issues. Your support and anticipation is vital to our security where many matters are concerned, not the least of which is our access to good food, grown right here, just as it used to be.

I think we should not try to get everything perfectly sorted before we start increasing urban food production. We should get started and then correct problems as they develop. That may involve taking some things away after they don't work out well, but that's fine. Let's give it a shot.

I fully support this initiative.

So happy to see this being taken seriously. I think the best way to have all these initiatives pass successfully fast community naysayers is a well communicated plan of management and tidiness. I think for the most part, people not supporting the idea will be afraid that the project will start with a gusto, then a year or two later there will be plots of dead stuff, neglected, maybe ugly jerry-rigged structures in ie community park gardens, so there must be some standardization offered to people at a subsidy through the city to keep things looking good as well as being productive. Also, a property tax incentive for people who invest and maintain and farm on their private properties would likely help.

Let it evolve is a kind stage to be at. Finally we are here....

I heard about this via an e-mail from Compost Education Centre.

This is a concept that's poised to fly - go for it! We have great examples locally and globally - this is not new to humans. We can tap into knowledge gleaned over thousands of years.

In approving new housing or commercial developments, the City of Victoria should always consider the green space the developers will provide and that those space include the ability to grow food. The City should carefully consider and ensure mitigation of potential negative impacts to neighbouring community gardens.

Let's be anew version of garden city- it is therapeutic too!

The City does not have a "park" zone, perhaps if they ever decide to create new zoning they could distinguish between wild/natural spaces and green spaces that allow food growing amongst other uses. There needs to be clear protocols and consistency going forward so more projects can get started. Let's figure out who is going to manage these projects and how. I want to see some bold action from the City to deal with the ever increasing demand for urban food production. Whether it is guidelines for public and vacant spaces, or encouraging private land owners of apartments/condos and building developers to incorporate principles/access into design. In many cases there will be a need for water sub-metering. In fact next to land inventory, the water/sewer billing is the biggest hurdle for many projects.

Urban beekeeping should be encouraged as well. You might consider offering free workshops or starter supplies.

Start small and simple with few restrictions and see how it develops. You can always add rules latter. Let it evolve.

I do not think that the City of Victoria should be spending money on community gardens and farming projects when we are paying insanely high fees for water and garbage pickup. Homeless persons who need the food will not be the ones who will do any of the gardening. Other residents can afford good nutritious food which is available at grocery food. "Food security" is a bogus ploy and should not be used to ruin our public parks and dig up our boulevards.

There should be a reduced tax initiative for utilizing water for food production and less for ornamental gardens



Let's take Rithet Street with its ridiculous width and put urban gardens including flowers and lilacs etc down the middle of it!!!

The availability of water is a consideration, given this summer's high temps. And if water rates continue to increase, perhaps give a cost break to people who are clearly growing food for intense production and sale...otherwise, the idea of access to healthy and local food lacks substance

Leave farming to serious farmers who have the scale to make it worthwhile

start immediately

I think that this is a very valuable initiative and support the general idea very strongly. However, I do think that there are many potential pitfalls, and that the projects will need to be carefully planned and monitored in order to prevent backlash. I am also a little concerned about what type or style of food gardening is done - some food gardens - even home ones - tend to be ecological wastelands, while others are very ecologically rich and diverse. I would hope that there is some way to encourage the latter, if it can be done without being too 'big brotherish'. Perhaps it's a matter of education - I believe that Vancouver's roundabouts program included an education component. Also, I think it is important to recognize that growing food, especially all your food, is quite challenging, time-consuming, and hard work. It's not for everyone, and there are plenty of other equally virtuous ways of supporting local food systems, such as buying local.

Lands in Victoria are expensive and food growing is under-valued so therefore food is not considered a priority use on private/public land. The City must begin to strongly encourage (or better yet insist) that land development include food production as a priority. Many Victoria residential lots do not grow food, instead residents spend time/money on lawns and ornamental gardening. The City can take an active role in leading by example by planting food plants/trees as an alternative to ornamentals. Also initiate a grow-your-own campaign to change personal gardening practises. Offer free fruit tree with registration into food growing workshop? Partner or provide more support for community organizations who work to improve local food systems. The new granting program is a good start - thank you!

How can the city support existing urban farming activities like Mason Street Gardens or Compost Education Centre lands?

Stop waisting time and just get on with it!

This initiative is a long time in coming & is sorely needed. Thank you to the City for moving this alone now!

no

This would be very exciting, please find a way to make this work.

Education on how to plant to avoid need for chemicals and pesticides. How to compost PROPERLY.

Food can be a tool to develop community

Keep the city the CITY

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We NEED it. Too many cannot afford fresh vegetables.

water subsidies

Victoria

This is a priority in my opinion. We are too vulnerable to market forces, transportation costs & difficulties. Most people haven't an idea where their food come from or don't look at the big picture.

more please, keep groups like James Bay Neighbourhood Associate out of the Decision making, The

Personal Information

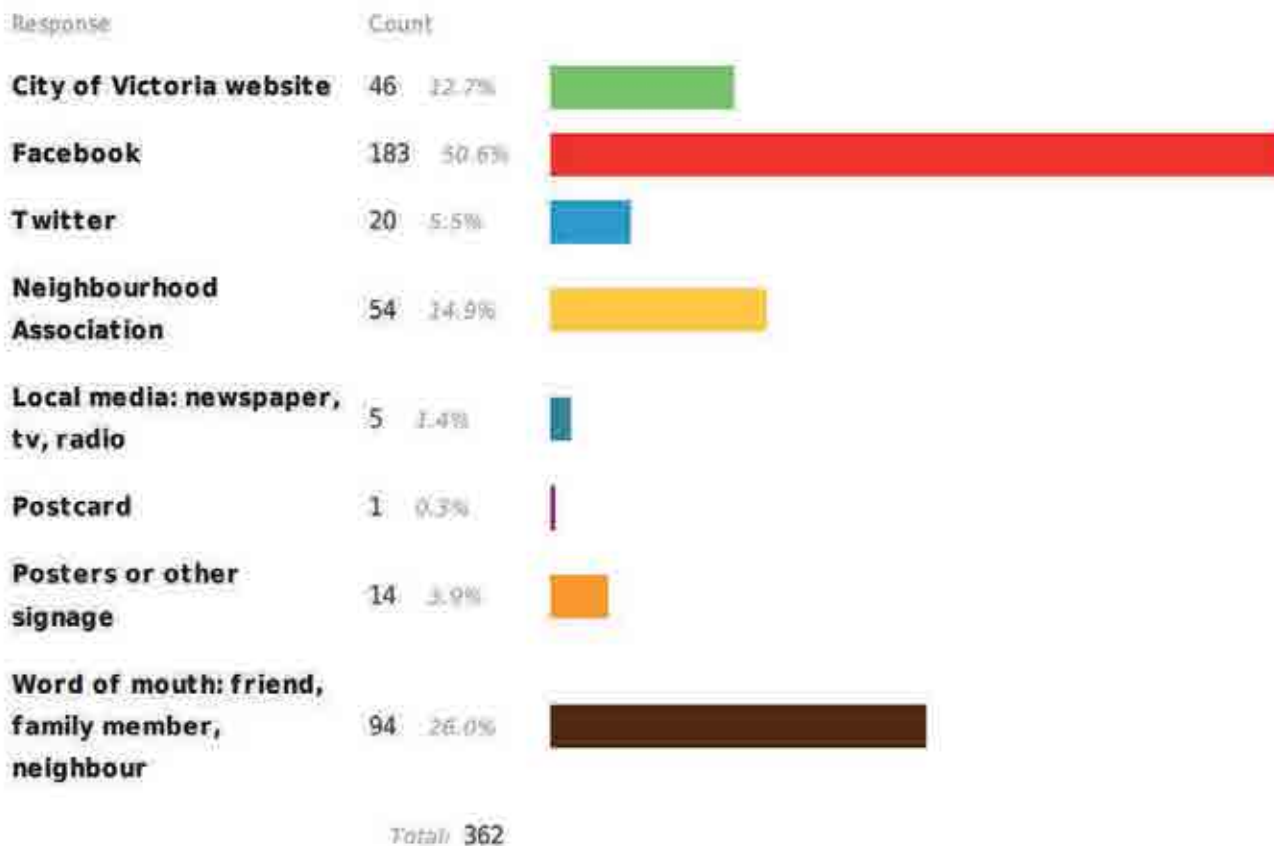
Let's do it!

Go for it! Don't get discouraged by nay sayers

No

I think its necessary for food security on Vancouver Island also as a way to decolonize the land

### 30. How did you hear about this survey?



31. If you would like to be added to our email list to hear about upcoming news related to 'Growing in the City', please include your email address here. Your email will not be shared publicly and will only be used to contact you about updates for this project.

Response

Count

197 responses

### Personal Information



## One-On-One Meetings

The City of Victoria wanted to better understand urban farming in Victoria, and the types of activities, infrastructure and barriers that the sector is facing. Recognizing the sensitive nature of urban farming, most of which is not in compliance with City regulations, City staff put out a call for urban farmers interested in participating in anonymous interviews. City staff interviewed five urban farmers that are current farming commercially at sites in Victoria, or have done so in the past. The interviews were supplemented by the results of meetings with two other urban farmers for previous City of Victoria initiatives (one in 2010, one in 2013), for a total of seven urban farmers.

What types of products are produced at urban farms in Victoria?

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Herbs
- Seeds
- Tree fruit and nuts
- Seedlings
- Egg sales (limited)
- Fish (for home consumption)

What types of activities does urban farming involve in Victoria?

- Growing produce
- Washing produce
- Packing produce for sale
- Storing produce on-site
- On-site retail by appointment or drop-ins
- Deliveries by bicycle, truck, car and on foot
- Raising chickens for egg sales
- Hosting volunteers
- Teaching classes
- Managing compost

Where are products from Victoria urban farms currently sold?

- Direct sales to restaurants (most common)
- Farmers markets
- Community Supported Agriculture box subscription
- On-line
- On-site sales

**What kind of on-site infrastructure does urban farming need in Victoria?**

- Greenhouse (made of poly or glass; temporary or permanent)
- VIHA-approved washing facilities (enclosed, with industrial sink)
- Cold storage (in the principal building or an accessory building)
- Multiple accessory buildings (e.g. greenhouse + cold storage + tool shed, etc.)
- Multiple compost bays (8–15)
- Water
- Electricity for accessory buildings
- Gazebo or shade tent for staff/volunteers; access to washroom
- Some farming is done in containers (raised garden beds, felt bags, hydroponics), with the soil medium brought on site and mixed by the farmer.
- Some farmers prefer soil-based agriculture. Non-commercial and non-industrial lawn-covered properties are ideal sites, to avoid the risk of contamination from other uses and reduce labour costs.

**Where does urban farming currently take place in Victoria?**

- On vacant residential-zoned lots
- On rooftops in commercial areas
- In residential yards, where the farmer lives on-site
- In residential yards, where the farmer does not live on-site (through formal arrangement).

**Where would urban farmers like to locate in the future in Victoria?**

- On school grounds
- On church properties
- On rooftops in industrial and commercial areas
- On grassy sites, to avoid risk of previous contamination
- On large residential lots

**What did urban farmers identify as the barriers to commercial urban agriculture?**

- **Lack of compliance with regulations:** All farmers indicated a strong desire for their urban farm operations to be legalized over time, and for regulations to become more supportive of urban farming. Farmers feel that existing regulations prevent urban farming from being done properly. As a result, most farmers have avoided making inquiries of City Hall, fearful that they will draw attention to their operations. One farmer explained “I feel trapped by all of the regulations”, and that her lack of compliance with City regulations “is always in the back of my mind”.
- **Confusion about where urban farming is permitted:** Some farmers were unclear where urban agriculture was permitted (e.g. as an accessory use to an existing store, on a vacant residential lot in a residential area). Others chose not to inquire with the City.
- **Commercial use of accessory buildings:** The residential zoning restriction on the sales of products produced in accessory buildings was identified as a barrier by some farmers. While some farmers were unaware of the zoning regulation, most chose to ignore it, reasoning that greenhouses are an important part of the growing cycle on the west coast. Accessory buildings were also used for cold storage, retail sales and chicken coops (for commercial egg sales).
- **Development Permit for accessory buildings:** The cost, time and uncertainty associated with obtaining a development permit greenhouses and other accessory structures was cited as a key barrier to the expansion of urban agriculture. A development permit is currently required for many accessory new industrial and commercial areas. There is confusion as to whether a development permit will trigger a provincial requirement for soil remediation.

- **Building permits for greenhouses:** The requirement for a building permit for greenhouses or other accessory buildings over 100 square feet in area was identified as a barrier. All urban farms had at least one greenhouse, used for specialty crops and growing other crops outside the summer months. Several urban farms had multiple greenhouses. Farmers cited the following reasons for not obtaining a building permit:
  - Cost of a building permit
  - Fear that obtaining a building permit would draw attention to other unpermitted uses or structures on site
  - Fear that obtaining a building permit would trigger a referral to the health authority inspectors
  - No time for delays due to paperwork
  - Lack of awareness that a building permit would be required for a temporary building (e.g. hoophouse)

When asked, several people felt that a building permit should not be required for temporary hoophouses (made of poly and PVC or wood ribs), noting the distinction between these structures and more permanent glass and metal structures.

- **On-street parking:** Most farmers noted that they tried to minimize on-street parking in order to minimize complaints to the municipality. Most employees, volunteers and customers arrived on foot or by bike.
- **Complaints from neighbours:** When asked, most farmers described their relationship with immediate neighbours as “good”, “peaceful” and “positive”. Most went out of their way to minimize impacts that might lead to complaints, such as limiting on-street parking by volunteers. Interviewees cited the following complaints from neighbours:
  - Parking complaints
  - Complaint about piles of leaf mulch on boulevard
  - Complaints to business licensing/bylaws, who stated concern about number of outbuildings.
- **Hydroponic and aquaponic production:** Several farmers have aquaponic operations in greenhouses, the combination of raising of fish and hydroponic growing of plants into one system. Farmers follow federal regulations for the raising of fish (which include restrictions on fish sales) but do not have municipal approval. One farmer inquired about obtaining a municipal permit and was told an aquaponics operation would be classified as a “hot tub or whirlpool”. Some stated that they were unsure of whether there were any health regulations.
- **Restrictive Home Occupation Bylaw:** None of the farmers interviewed had received a business licence for urban agriculture as a home occupation. Urban farmers cited several challenges with the urban agriculture requirements in the City’s Home Occupation Bylaw (introduced in 2009):
  - The requirement that farmers live on-site does not reflect the living/farming situation of most urban farmers, as many farm at a multiple sites.
  - Some farmers farm on vacant residential lots, and are not eligible for a “home” occupation, as there is no house on-site.
  - The limit on a maximum of two people farming at one site does not reflect the labour needs for urban farming, as many rely on a pool of volunteers, apprentices and multiple part time staff who come from off-site
  - The home occupation bylaw is restricted to residential zones. Some optimal locations for urban farming are not zoned residential. Urban farming should be a recognized use in all land use zones.
- **Farm stands:** Several farmers are already selling from on-site farmstands, to supplement other sales channels. Farmstands are not usually visible from the street, and customers learn about the sales through word-of-mouth. Some farmers expressed an interest in permanent stands where walk-by sales would be permitted.

- **Commercial sales of animal products:** Some farmers are selling eggs in limited amounts and expressed an interest in allowing these sales. The sales of animal products are currently restricted under the Animal Control Bylaw.
- **Fencing:** Most farmers cited deer as a major challenge to urban farms. The City's fencing regulations, which limit the height of fences in the back and front yards, was identified as a barrier.
- **Insecurity of tenure:** Only one of the farmers interviewed owned their land. Others had different arrangements with landowners, including using the land for free, swapping produce for use of the land, and paying rent. Water costs and taxes were usually borne by the landlord.
- **Economic viability:** All urban farmers cited the lack of economic viability as a key challenge, which include high cost of land, high labour inputs and customers reluctance to pay the true cost of food produced in the city. Some farmers have off-site jobs. Several identified ways the City of Victoria could support the economic viability of farming, including:
  - Exempting urban farms from taxes
  - Changing the City's agricultural mill rate, to allow urban farms to qualify for provincial farm tax status and thus pay lower taxes
  - Waiving water charges
- **Washing Facilities:** Two farmers noted that new Vancouver Island Health Authority regulations require industrial-grade facilities for the washing of produce. This will require additional investment in facilities for most farmers. Previous washing facilities consisted of wash basins, hoses or other home-built facilities. Most restaurants prefer to receive produce already washed.

## Correspondence

### Correspondence

One letter and seven emails were received.

July 23, 2015

Mayor and Council  
City of Victoria  
No. 1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Victoria Downtown Residents Association (DRA) would like to take this opportunity to offer our support to the City of Victoria's "Growing in the City" initiative and the policies for food security and food production in Objective 8 of the City's Strategic Plan.

We understand that the City is looking to build on the success of current initiatives, but may not have considered the downtown as a viable option due to limited access to both public and private lands. The DRA recognizes the importance of securing suitable locations now for community gardens, boulevard gardening and the planning and planting of fruit and nut trees in the neighbourhoods of Downtown and Harris Green.

A downtown resident and a member of the DRA, Janet Strauss, sits as a member of the City's Support for Local Food Systems Committee, and is an enthusiastic supporter and advocate for urban food production, and is leading the DRA's vision to ensure that community gardens become a reality in downtown Victoria.

As part of the City's long-term vision for food systems, the DRA asks that the City consider the following:

- Add the Victoria Public Market to the schedule of "Growing in the City" booths that the City has planned this summer and hear what downtown residents have to say
- Consider food production trees in the City of Victoria's Tree Replacement plan
- Provide financial incentives to private land owner who offer their vacant or hard surface lots for use as community gardens
- Work with the DRA to help identify appropriate lands in the downtown and Harris Green

Sincerely,  
Nicholas Harrington  
Kaela Schramm  
Co-Chairs  
Downtown Residents Association



On Aug 10, 2015, at 8:21 PM, Personal information [ca](#)> wrote:

Dear Mayor Helps and City Councillors,

I read in the Times Colonist a while ago that Mayor Lisa Helps was encouraging people to grow vegetables in the "boulevards". I applaud her for the idea, but not unless the City does something about the huge rat problem.

We have an extensive vegetable and berry garden in our backyard in Fairfield. We have put a great deal of effort into our garden. Sadly, all our fruits and vegetables are being devoured by rats. This situation is extremely disgusting, extremely discouraging, and a significant health hazard.

I would like to know what the City Council is doing about rat control in Victoria. Something needs to be done!

Please get in touch with me.

Thank you

Personal information

**From:** Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 6, 2015 9:47 AM  
**To:** Thomas Soulliere; Jonathan Tinney  
**Cc:** Jason Johnson  
**Subject:** More on food growing

Sorry! Should have read my Community Drop In follow ups more thoroughly before sending.  
Here's another one for you:

Someone pointed to the City of Saskatoon as a leader in urban food growing on privately owned development sites. Someone said there was a bylaw passed in Saskatoon maybe seven years ago (seems unlikely but maybe a policy?) that the frontages along vacant development sites were turned into temporary community gardens. Good from a food production but also community enlivening perspective. Anyways, just passing this on because I said I would and because it fits very nicely with the Growing in the City Project.

Thanks!

Lisa

--

Lisa Helps, Victoria Mayor  
[www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca](http://www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca)  
250-661-2708  
@lisahelps

**From:** Personal information  
**Sent:** Thursday, Jul 23, 2015 1:44 PM  
**To:** Parks (Public Inquiries)  
**Subject:** 'Growing in the City' program

RE community gardens in city parks

Community gardens and orchards *which are shared and open to everyone* are appropriate in city parks. Examples of open community gardens: Banfield Park, the herb garden in Fisherman's Wharf Park, fruit and nut trees in several areas of the city.

Allotment gardens are for the *exclusive private use of a few people*, so are not appropriate for city parks. Other lands, both private and public, should be considered for private allotment gardens instead.

The city goal should be to *add* green space and if possible to reduce asphalt, to create *new* green spaces, not to reduce existing open park space.

One way to do this is to establish an exchange system which connects private homeowners with available gardening space to residents who want to garden. This has been successful in many other communities.

Another example is the proposal for an allotment garden in a street, first discussed by city staff and the James Bay Neighbourhood Association in 2011. The plan for a Rithet Street Allotment Garden would erect planters along the north side of Rithet Street, an extra wide two-block long street parallel to Dallas Road with few driveways and an excess of street parking. This would reduce asphalt and add greenspace.

Over and over through the decades, passionate, sincere groups have come forward asking City Council to set aside pieces of city parks for their special uses. Each proposal was claimed to be for a "good purpose" and would benefit "the community," maybe even "the world". In 2015, pressure comes from passionate allotment gardeners who want city park land for their private use. They want the city to provide land, water, fencing and room for sheds; only their small group would be allowed to use the areas set aside in public parks.

The city has no clear policies and principles in place to protect and preserve city park land so each proposal is viewed separately and in isolation and each decision is made by the council at that moment in time. Unlike other cities in North America, the City of Victoria does not have park zoning. Because most park land is zoned residential, it is open to virtually any proposals for sale or lease or exchange or special uses. The most recent loss occurred when Council withdrew a park from the system to be used for a homeless shelter building. Losses are cumulative, our parks are gradually being whittled away. Each piece lost to a special use reduces city park land open to all.

City population is increasing. More people must share our limited park space. The city's highest value should be to preserve public park land for everyone to use.

Personal information

Victoria, B. C. V8V2P5

**From:** Personal information  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2015 10:18 PM  
**To:** Parks (Public Inquiries)  
**Subject:** 'Growing in the City' Comments

Hi there,  
I would like to contribute to the conversation regarding urban farming & gardening in the City.

I would encourage you to expand the concept of urban farming. Many lots are not big enough to sustain a commercial farming enterprise in the city, but they ARE big enough to provide home owners with "Victory Gardens" that will provide them with large amounts of their produce needs. Any program should embrace both streams as it would be more inclusive while still helping to achieve food sustainability.

#### **Graduated Taxation**

Introduce a graduated tax system whereby the homeowners who have done the most to develop their land into production receive a percentage off their property taxes. Providing a financial incentive would help to get some people engaged in the idea of creating a food garden or at least getting rid of lawn and planting fruit trees/bushes. Having transformed my own garden from a large lawn/garbage area into a fully functioning food garden took a lot of money, sweat and a bit of heartbreak. A helping hand to other homeowners wishing to do the same would help to get them over the initial hurdle of preparing their hardscape.

#### **Full Cycle Composting**

Composting program is great, but where is the finished compost going? I subscribe to the Community Composting program and receive a bag of compost with every monthly pickup. Why not offer the finished compost from the food scraps program to homeowners? we are paying for this program, therefore, it makes sense that we should be benefiting by having access to the finished product. Boulevard gardening is a wonderful idea, but the soil beneath the grass is largely sand based, alkaline and very depleted of nutrients. Many first time gardeners will not know this and feel very down when their eagerly anticipated veggies do not grow. Offering a load of compost for those wishing to transform their boulevard ares will give them a good start instead of setting them up for failure.

#### **Master Gardener program.**

Have a call for volunteers to give lessons to the public at the City greenhouses on how to raise veg in small places or get a raised bed established. Many people have no idea as they have lived lives very distant from the earth and need to learn how to do these things. A Garden Mentor program would also be beneficial - many serious gardeners are also seniors. Giving them an opportunity to share their wealth of knowledge with novices would be a win-win for both the elders and younger folk. Tap into their great knowledge!

#### **Tool Library**

There is a tool library that has started up in Victoria. Give them some support and promote them! Not everyone can afford to splash out on a variety of new gardening tools, but they can get by with a loan.

#### **Promotion**

Not enough promotion of small but very good programs in our city. Perhaps the city could give them some space in the Connect newsletter at appropriate times of the year? LifeCycles, the group that harvests excess fruit could be promoted in the yearly flier regarding leaf pickups. In my neighbourhood there are many yards going wild with overgrown fruit trees that nobody harvests. This is a sad example of perfectly good food going to waste year in and year out. I also note that the City has placed a small herb garden in our local park (Lewis Street Parkette). It

is a lovely idea, but there is no signage advising passersby as to what herbs are growing, or if they are allowed to pick them. Many people passing by are not savvy about plant names and a bit of signage letting them know what is there and if they may pick it would be very useful.

**Boulevard Committees**

Encourage the formation of boulevard committees to bring cohesion to gardening projects. Planning a community style boulevard garden instead of many small, individual plots will make the green space look much nicer and go further in terms of either feeding people or providing a colourful aesthetic.

I think that is enough from me, but I do hope that you are able to get some good feedback from people. I am leaving you with some photos of last year's "Victory Garden" which is still providing me with loads of good food and beautiful blooms.

Many thanks,

Personal information



**From:** Personal information  
**Sent:** Thursday, Jul 16, 2015 8:24 AM  
**To:** [lee.johnson@saanich.ca](mailto:lee.johnson@saanich.ca)  
**Cc:** Parks (Public Inquiries)  
**Subject:** food security and sustainability

Hello,

I recently learned about the City of Victoria's "Growing in the City" initiative (<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/community/growing-in-the-city.html>). As a resident of Saanich living close to the Saanich-Victoria border, I am hoping there is a way to link Saanich's agriculture/food security initiatives and information (e.g., <http://www.saanich.ca/living/afs/index.html>) with what Victoria is doing. As a simple example, it would be great to partner with Victoria in the mapping project to look at whether there are lands in Saanich that might be suitable for the same types of projects Victoria is looking at. We have very much enjoyed in recent years seeing edibles among the plants on the Saanich-run small boulevard at Wilkinson & Interurban but would like to take that a step further and see people actually eating the kale and other edible greens! The process Victoria is following to get input from its residents is also a wonderful opportunity to engage more people.

Saanich is such a large municipality with so many small- and large-scale agricultural operations, it would be terrific if we can enhance that and encourage more people to come together.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to pitch in.

Best wishes,

Personal information

**From:** Personal information  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2015 12:19 PM  
**To:** Ben Isitt (Councillor)  
**Subject:** Re: Expansion of fruiting trees in Victoria

Hey Ben,

I've actually been thinking about the whole 'expansion' of fruiting trees on city land in Victoria for quite a while now. I think it is vital for food security and general nutrition of citizens in the region. There are many ornamental cherry trees that could be replaced by cherry and plum trees that actually produce usable fruit. They would still blossom in the spring like the original ones but also produce a crop in the summer/fall. These trees exist here and there but are far outnumbered by the ones that only have aesthetic value in the spring yet are barren the rest of the year. Newly planted trees in parks should also be fruiting trees like apple and pear trees. Perhaps there could be a new quota in regard to fruiting trees vs. non-fruiting trees in these public areas.

Community orchards outside the city could also be implemented and maintained by both volunteer labour and school groups. Families and individuals could donate time in exchange for taking home some fruit when they work there while contributing to filling food banks and schools with the spoils of their labour. High school students already have to spend a certain amount of time in the workforce as part of their school program, they could spend some of this time harvesting fruit and processing it. There is educational value in this as well as nutritional benefits.

The Mormon Church has been maintaining orchards in Ontario for generations now. Members donate a certain number of hours per church branch in order to run the orchards, harvest and process the fruit. Families that work there take home some fruit and the rest goes to help less fortunate members throughout the year. They actually have their own church 'foodbank' system that has worked for a long time. Perhaps communicating with the church would help in implementing a city version of this system or something like it.

Also, private allotments or 'garden plots' are good...however there will always be a waiting list and money involved in these endeavours and many people will inevitably be left out of the loop. Community projects, public use projects are preferable in my opinion. I think that an expansion of fruiting trees along the streets and in parks as opposed to reserved/private plots like the current so-called 'community gardens' would better serve the public interest.

Personal information

Victoria, BC

From: Paul [[mailto:](#) **Personal information**]  
Sent: Monday, Jul 20, 2015 7:40 PM  
To: Parks (Public Inquiries)  
Subject: Boulevard grow-op

-Uniformity - gone  
-Safe lines of site from sidewalk to road- gone  
- appraised values of homes subject to price corrections of up to \$7500 for unsightly and overgrown boulevards and lack of uniformity  
(15,000 homes affected x \$7500= Over \$112,000,000 of potential lost equity) Nice initiative !!

Liability still lies with the city.

We will be left to police the abusers and regulate the project...

Optics for the tourist industry will be detrimental .

The ad value of this initiative will be a multi million dollar hit to a city that has no economic plan other than to house the homeless and invite their friends - all the while remain apathetic to the tourist faction that we rely on as the real recourse we should be promoting..

We cannot govern from the left and survive- wake up !! Mandate and execute some real initiatives before it's too late ..

# Appendix B

## Communications Materials

A social media campaign, media relations, print ad, posters and stakeholder updates were used to raise awareness about the Growing in the City engagement opportunities.





1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8W 1P6  
[victoria.ca](http://victoria.ca)





## PHASE TWO: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REPORT

# Growing in the City

OCTOBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

City of Victoria  
E parks@victoria.ca  
T 250.361.0600

# Feedback Summary

## Growing in the City

The 'Growing in the City' initiative is all about:

- Enhancing our local food systems
- Finding more spaces to grow food on public and private land
- Finding ways to encourage small-scale commercial urban farming
- Working together to build the skills, knowledge and resources needed to grow more food in Victoria.

The 'Growing in the City' initiative will result in:

- An updated Community Gardens Policy, for public and private land, including guidelines for fruit and nut trees on City-owned lands
- A final set of Boulevard Gardening Guidelines
- Recommendations for regulation changes to encourage small-scale commercial farming
- Voluntary guidelines for food-production in multi-unit, mixed use developments and other types of land
- An inventory of City-owned land for food production

The Growing in the City initiative was endorsed by Council in the spring of 2015. Community ideas and feedback were collected in the summer, fall and winter of 2015. Final recommendations are being developed for early 2016. Updated policies and regulations along with an education program will begin in the spring of 2016.

## Summer Engagement

In the summer of 2015 over 1,000 Victoria residents shared ideas about how to get more food growing in our beautiful city. Read the full engagement report here: [victoria.ca/growinginthecity](http://victoria.ca/growinginthecity)

This is a summary of what was heard:

- 91% support for increasing the number of community gardens
- 94% support for increasing the number of boulevard gardens
- 98% support for increasing the number of community orchards
- 87% support for having small scale commercial urban agriculture in their neighbourhoods

Top priorities for increasing food production in Victoria were ranked in the following order:

- Everyone has access to healthy, affordable food
- Easy to find place to buy locally grown food
- Utilize vacant lots for growing food
- Educate and involve the community in growing and harvesting food
- Food grown on public land is open and accessible to all
- Every neighbourhood has a place for community food growing and harvesting
- Aesthetics/tidiness

## Fall/Winter Engagement

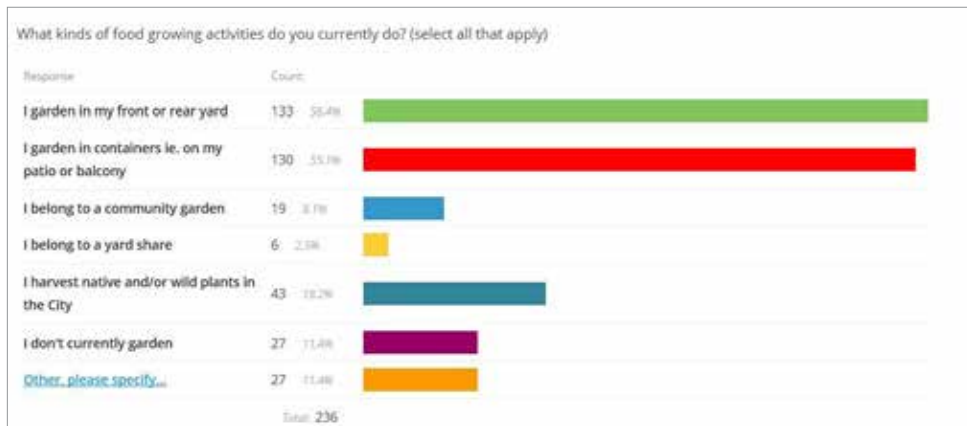
From what was heard during the summer engagement, potential changes were developed relating to:

- Community gardens
- Fruit and Nut Trees on City land
- Boulevard Gardens
- Small scale commercial urban farming

This summary provides a snap shot of who was heard from, what was asked and what was heard between October and January. Along with being shared with interested community members, this feedback will help inform final changes, all designed to get more food growing in Victoria.

## Who Was Heard From

- 236 surveys were completed.
- All neighbourhoods had some representation. 17% of responses were from Fairfield, 11% from Victoria West, 9% from James Bay. 17% of responses were from residents in neighbouring municipalities. (When responses from other neighbourhoods were removed, similar survey results would still apply.)
- 40% were between the ages of 25 and 39, 38% were between 40–59, 16% were between 60–74 and 5% were between 19–24.
- The following bar graphs show the kind of food growing activities that the survey respondents currently do:



- 17 participants from the Urban Food Table participated in a round table discussion in October.
- 60 residents joined us for an evening workshop in early December. The goal was to have 20 people at each of the three tables. This was a fully subscribed event.
- 20 additional residents joined the Open House that was held before the evening workshop.
- The fall/winter engagement was more targeted than the summer engagement. The goal was to touch base with residents that were most interested in these potential changes. In the first phase, broader feedback was collected from the general community.

## What Was Asked and What Was Heard

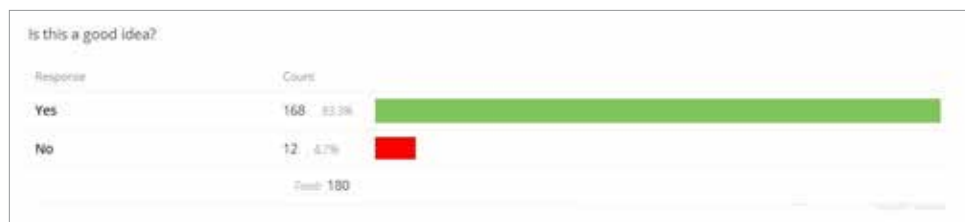
### Topic: Community Gardens

Potential changes include: expanding the definition of community gardens, increasing equity of garden access amongst all neighbourhoods, more staff support and a simpler application process for new gardens.



#### 1) Expanding our definition of Community Garden to include:

- Growing food, flowers, edible berries and food perennials
- Indigenous, cultural and native plants for harvesting
- Pollinator gardens and hobby beekeeping
- Permaculture projects
- Fruit and nut trees
- Demonstration farming
- Edible landscaping



#### Common responses:

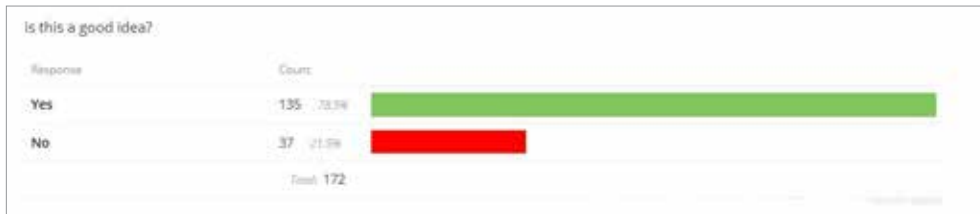
- Keep emphasis on growing food over ornamental
- Community Garden Policy should be inclusive of many types of gardening
- Explore future potential for community chicken co-ops on public land
- Consider changing the name of the policy

“In order to address food security concerns, we should be growing as much food as possible in as many places as possible and be as inclusive as possible in our definitions.”



2) Make all new allotment garden plots available to all Victoria residents, regardless of neighbourhood.

Some neighbourhoods have more space available and dense neighbourhoods like downtown have limited access to new locations for gardens.



Common responses:

- Interest from residents to garden close to home or work
- Consider creating a system where a percentage is set aside for neighbourhood residents and the rest is open for Victoria residents
- Policy change should not affect existing operating agreements
- Ensure that only Victoria residents can participate in community gardens
- Will take pressure off of waitlists
- More equitable
- Proximity is important, don't want to encourage driving to garden
- Residents from outside of neighbourhood could have a different level of care for the area

"People aren't static. They live and work usually in different areas. It seems petty and exclusive to restrict people based on where they live."

### 3) More staff support for new Community Garden projects

We heard community garden groups need more help getting their projects off the ground. This position will help find suitable land, assist with the application process and with public consultation.



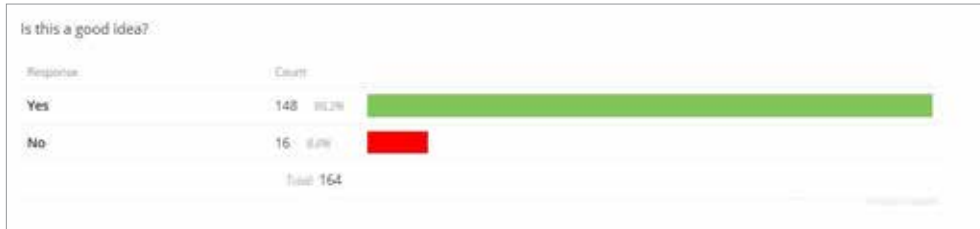
#### Common responses:

- Please help to navigate resources
- water costs and materials are a challenge
- limit the amount tax payers contribute
- central coordinator a good idea
- better coordination with existing non-profits is needed

“Having support from the City is key in getting these kinds of projects off the ground, both in terms of man power and funding.”

#### 4) A simpler, more streamlines application system for new projects

Participants said that the City's current process for approving new community gardens takes too long and is confusing.



##### Common responses:

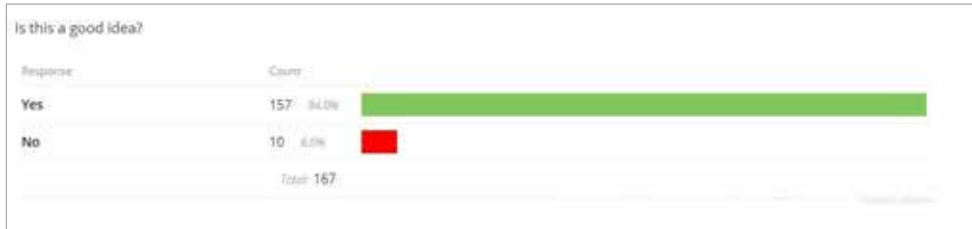
- Easy, straightforward process
- Will facilitate positive change
- Still looks confusing
- Finding new space and confirming that you can use it is the largest barrier
- Expression of interest period should be all year round
- Expression of interest period should be at one point in the year

“People can take this on without feeling too overwhelmed while feeling like the City is working with them, not against them.”



## 6) Adding 'Community Orchards' as a type of Community Garden

The two pilot community orchards have been successful and residents said they would like to have more orchards in the City. This will allow community groups to create orchard projects through the Community Garden Policy.



### Common responses:

- Makes sense to have community orchards in community gardens
- Will increase food security
- Will increase access to local food
- Support for more fruit trees
- Fruit trees on public land should be accessible to all
- Do we need more fruit trees or do we need to do a better job of harvesting from existing trees?

“People need access to fresh food, especially people who are low income and can’t afford fresh foods. Orchards are also good for bees that are in danger.”



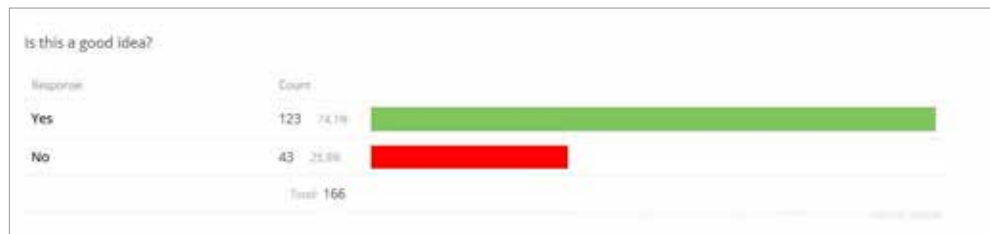
### Topic: Boulevard Gardens

The potential change is to create a new guideline to require boulevard gardens to be well maintained over time.



#### 7) Boulevard Garden Upkeep and Removal

Participants said that a way to deal with boulevard gardens that had been abandoned was important. The new clause would give the City the ability to require property owners to tidy up their boulevard gardens or return them back to grass if we receive more than three complaints or think a garden is posing a safety hazard.



#### Common responses:

- Upkeep process seems fair
- Shouldn't be able to complain for aesthetic reasons, complaints should be valid to be counted
- City staff should do a site visit to check complaints
- Interest in a boulevard gardens adoptive program
- Clarify timelines for complaints
- Harder for renters to access boulevard gardens

"Keeping owners responsible puts onus where it belongs and monitoring is left to the community and not the City."

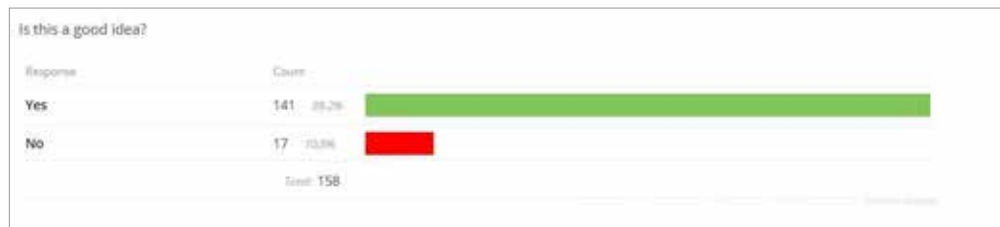
### Topic: Small scale commercial urban farming

Potential changes would include recognizing small-scale urban agriculture as a use in the City's zoning bylaw, allowing this use in all zones, allowing small farm stands in all zones, reducing restrictions around rooftop greenhouses and removing the requirement for development permits for new or changed landscaping in some special parts of the City.



#### 8) Include small-scale commercial urban farming to the zoning bylaw

Participants said that it would be helpful if small-scale urban agriculture was recognized as a use in the City's zoning bylaw. This would include fruits, vegetables, flowers, fiber, nuts, seeds, seedlings, herbs, eggs and honey. Permitted activities would include cultivation, raising, harvesting, processing, packaging, storing, selling and delivery of products produced on-site, composting for on-site use and education and volunteer programs.



#### Common responses:

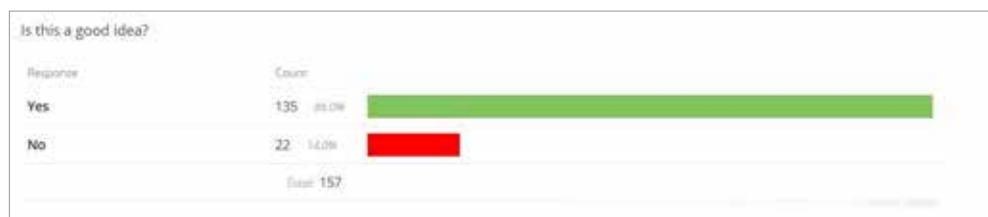
- Strong support for these changes
- Will increase opportunities for small scale commercial urban farming, will make local food easier to grow
- Some urban farmers would like processed and canned goods to be allowed, too.
- This is acknowledging a practice that is already underway, a logical step
- Some concern over whether or not urban agriculture is compatible with residential neighbours
- Concern over pesticide use: need for regulations
- Some concern about pests, smells of compost
- Great to be able to access local produce and products

"The closer the food is grown and the more diverse the gardening, the stronger is our food security and the more likely it is to be sustainable."

9) **Allow small-scale commercial urban farming as a permitted use in all land use zones in the City of Victoria**

This would increase the range of potential sites for small-scale commercial urban farming. This kind of farming is currently only allowed on industrial land or within a residential zone one a property where the farmer resides. Here are the potential regulations related to this change that we sought feedback on:

- Allowing this activity in all zones
- Multiple employees/volunteers permitted to work on-site
- Business licence required
- Composting for on-site use only
- One off-site delivery allowed per day
- No additional parking required
- Must adhere to sign bylaw, property maintenance bylaw and regulations relating to odour and noise



**Common responses:**

- Generally strong support
- This would reflect the reality that one farmer often tends many fields
- Industrial land isn't always the best fit for growing healthy food: good to have options
- Provides more opportunities for growing food and employment
- Puts land to use that would otherwise be sitting empty
- Some concerns about parking and deliveries: limit large truck deliveries, foot, bike, car deliveries ok
- Some concerns about compatibility with residential areas: noise and odours
- Mixed support for requirement for a business licence

"I'm so excited to see where small-scale farming pops up. I would be aware that if you make guidelines too stringent to appease possible concerns from residents you may make it too difficult for people to actually participate."

#### 10) Allow small farm stands in all land use zones

Participants said that they support growers being able to sell their produce on-site. These are some of the potential regulations for farm stands that we sought feedback on:

- Farm stands up to 20 sq ft allowed in front yards in all zones
- Must be set back at least 2 feet from the lot line
- Stand may be covered and partially enclosed
- Seasonal or year-round business licence required
- No development permit required (if applicable)
- Products must be grown on site
- Sale of raw products only: no crafts, baked or canned goods



#### Common responses:

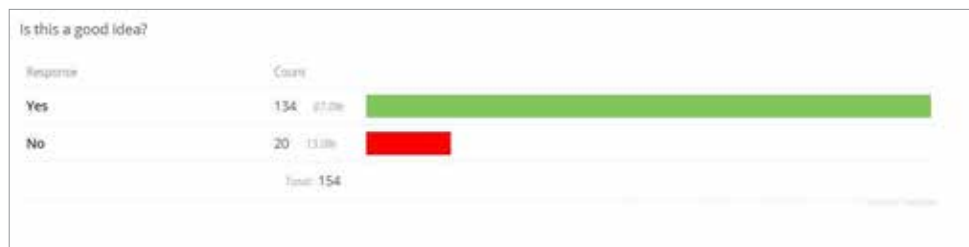
- Excited about access to local food in their neighbourhoods
- Great small business opportunity
- Great community building
- Strong support for farm stands in all zones
- Front yard location and size – too restrictive and too small
- Some farmers are concerned about not being able to sell processed (canned, baked goods)
- Parking, lighting and theft were some concerns

“People who are doing this good work need more ways to get paid for their work ie more opportunities to sell their produce. And it’s good for others to be able to see (and buy) the produce right where it is grown.”

#### 11) Exempt rooftop greenhouses from height calculations and floor space ratio calculations

Small-scale greenhouses on industrial, commercial, institutional and higher density residential buildings can enable year round local food production. Limitations on floor area and building height have constrained opportunities for these facilities. The following regulation changes were explored:

- Allow a small-scale rooftop greenhouse to be exempt from floor area and height calculation, provided it is not on top of a low-density residential building.
- Small-scale rooftop greenhouses must not exceed 15 feet (4.5 m) in height
- The total area of small-scale rooftop greenhouses must not cover more than 330<sup>2</sup> feet (100m<sup>2</sup>)
- A building permit and development permit (where applicable) would be required



#### Common responses:

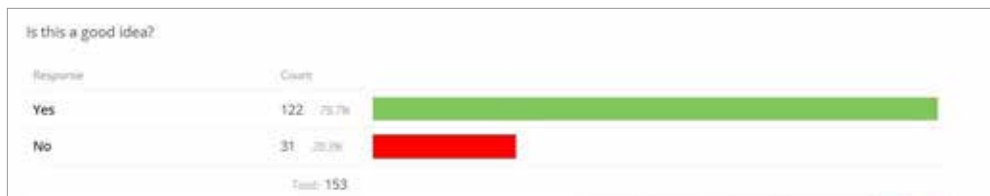
- Strong public support for rooftop greenhouses
- Good use of underutilized areas
- A good way to promote year round growing
- Great source of local food
- Some concern about impacts to neighbouring views
- Some concern for the structural stability of buildings (which would be addressed through the building permit process)
- Make development and building permit process simpler, lower cost
- Desire to allow larger greenhouses

"I love the idea of looking up at a building and seeing people growing their food."



## 12) Exempt small-scale commercial urban farms from requiring a development permit for landscaping

In some parts of the City a development permit is required for new or changed landscaping on the property, to give staff and/or Council more oversight over the design. Removing this step in these areas would save urban farmers time and money.



### Common responses:

- Generally very supportive of removing barriers for small scale farming, reduce red tape
- City does not need oversight in this area
- Some concern over long term maintenance and aesthetics of garden plot
- Will tie up fewer City resources
- The property maintenance bylaw will help with longer term issues
- Desire for City to change tax policy to allow farmers who qualify for provincial farm tax status to pay lower taxes

“More food, more farmers, less interference.”

# Appendix A: Engagement Feedback

## Engagement Events

- Round Table
- Open House
- Workshop

## Round Table

A second Urban Food Table round table was hosted by the City of Victoria on Tuesday, October 6. The purpose of the meeting was to present stakeholders who are actively involved in urban gardening and food production the opportunity to share knowledge, discuss changes and improvements and provide in-depth feedback. There were 17 participants.

### Table 1: Community Gardening in the Public Realm

Participants: 12

## New Definition of Community Gardens

- Naming of Community Gardens Policy: Community Food Places, Community Food Spaces
- Indigenous, cultural and native plantings for harvesting
  - Maintenance
  - Higher level of skills needed – will payment be needed
  - Need a management plan
  - Who will fund
  - Need to start placing value on this knowledge
- Pollinator gardens and hobby bee keeping
- Growing food, flowers and edible berries
- Permaculture projects
- Edible landscaping
- Rooftop Gardens
  - Key for developed downtown areas
  - How to encourage developers to create space to grow food
  - Uses minimal amount of space: create space for people to garden
  - Link with commercial production
  - Linkage with Rainwater Rewards
  - City could clarify steps to get approval
- Fruit and nut trees
  - Maintenance: keep area clean, prevent pests
  - Tree selection: dwarf trees – easier to pick, lower canopy
- Animals
  - Where do they fit in? – possible second phase (after current Growing in the City project is complete)
  - Bees may be part of this phase
  - Linkage with appropriate bylaws
  - Explore partnerships for City land
  - Permaculture systems include animals
  - 'chicken visits'
  - Even temporary would be ok
  - Easy to 'grow' protein with animals (chickens)
  - Need additional out-buildings

- Financial sustainability
  - Harvest – is all product harvested
  - Harvest times need to be promoted
  - Walk throughs
  - Harvest days
  - Funding for promotion events
  - Staff capacity
- Signage and education
  - To be developed
- Tools
  - Tool share
  - Accessibility of food in trees
  - Partner with Fruit Tree Project – Lifecycles
- Pilot Community Orchards
  - Should fall under broader policy
  - Open up – grow other layers of food
- Linking Public Lands with food production
  - Community centres- make food a new focus for program delivery
  - Recreation centres
  - Direction needed from City – offer yoga and ‘growing things’
  - Could be part of Parks Master Plan
  - What directs direction from City for programming
- Demonstration farming/site
  - Compost education
  - Indigenous landscaping
  - Educational component key

#### Community Gardening Policy Revisions

- Expanded definition of community gardening
- Allotment garden locations
- Temporary vs long-term agreements
- Licenses and liability
- Application process
- Fruit Trees and Orchards

#### What's missing?

- Community celebration around food
- What kind of community culture do we want to build around food?
- Where do food trucks fit in?
- Farmer's Markets – where do they fit in?
- How to communicate?
- Community picnic/feasting areas

### Community Garden Application Process

- Clarity would be great
- Staff support for engagement key
- How do we look outside of the box ie skate park
- CR Fair – youth ideas – enable ideas
- Seniors etc – raised berry bushes, picking dandelions
- Use photos
- Barrier: proving a project location with aerial photos, instead ask: do you have a location in mind? – need to provide inventory
- Encourage linkages with ethnic communities in specific neighbourhoods
- How to do better education around existing gardening resources

### Fruit and Nut Trees

- Needs to be a community led project
  - In parks
  - Lifecycles currently is paid small amount by View Royal
- Grass and tree model:
  - Easy to use, increase harvest, 5 trees or less with grass
  - Maintained by community group, with a signed agreement for harvesting and maintenance
- Boulevard planting with arrangement with land owner
  - Need to address: liability issue
  - Could nuts work? – challenge like chestnuts
- Question: Who is this food for? How do we actually serve food insecure people?
- Maintenance is less romantic
- City planting more trees in parks: only maintained every 5 years
- Challenge: disrepair, looks
- Processing limitations
- Singage key – cheeky, funny signs
- Could use more resources from the City:
  - More ladders
  - Build on what's working now
- Don't plant more trees – just help us – planting trees makes more work, lots of existing projects are already in need of support

### Food Recovery

- Is key
- Gap of resources now, can't harvest all trees now
- How do we better harvest trees that already exist?

### Table 2: Recommendations to Support Commercial Urban Farming

Participants: 5

Tax Incentives to Support Urban Farming:

- Support for looking at changing mill rate for urban farming
- Suggestion that it not be lowered all the way to agricultural rate, but that there be at least some incentive provided (find a sweet spot)

Business Licencing:

- Support for urban farmers needing to obtain a business licence

### Greenhouses

- OK to ask for permits for more permanent buildings and large-scale greenhouses
- No building permits for plastic hoopouses. OK with requiring permit if there is any electrical or plumbing.
- Suggestion to prepare voluntary “good neighbour” guidelines for hoopouses
- Group does not think City should be overly concerned about long-term maintenance of hoopouses.

### Rooftop Gardens

- OK with exempting greenhouses under 15 feet in height and a certain total square footage.
- Support requiring full rezoning for large-scale greenhouses

### Farmstands

- OK with limiting hours (better until 9 pm)
- Need guidelines for size, structures etc.
- No solid walls OK
- 10x10 would be a good size
- Some discussion about whether sales should be of on-site produce only or not. Don't want it to become a pocket market or compete with local shops (e.g. Niagara Grocery), but some co-ops would be farming from multiple backyards. Want to avoid produce being trucked in. Could we have the bylaw say “neighbourhood-grown” produce. Discussed the challenging of putting that in zoning.

### Commercial Egg Production

- Suitable in industrial areas
- OK with egg sales in residential areas, but number of hens should be limited.

### Open House

An open house was hosted at Oaklands Community Centre on December 2. Twenty people attended, in addition to the 60 residents who came for the evening workshop. The following ideas were collected through comments on the display boards:

#### TOPIC 1: Community Gardens and Fruit Trees

##### 1. Expanding our definition of ‘Community Garden’

- a. RE: What we heard:
  - i. Allotments in parks shouldn't be a threat or seen as privatization – too much space in some parks isn't used. And what better way to educate, interest and increase awareness?
  - ii. Large educational value with allotments at schools
  - iii. What was the mix of support for allotment gardens in parks?
  - iv. Access to the park is not restricted due to a community garden being there. It is an enhancement to a park and a great way to show kids how food and flowers etc. are grown. What specifically are the objections to have community gardens in parks?
  - v. Every school should have a garden and teach food gardening as curriculum
  - vi. I have nut trees on my property – walnut and hazelnut. you will never get any nuts, the squirrels will get them all
- b. RE: Indigenous, cultural and native plants for harvesting
  - i. YES!! Acknowledge and respect First Nations historic food systems too. Garry oak meadows as food forests.
- c. Boulevard trees with edible fruits and nuts
- d. Expanding definition is great. Along with support for volunteers, gardens could use a series of tool and material depots
- e. Demonstration forest garden



- f. Fruit and nut tree orchards in parks
  - g. It would be nice to have more plants native to our area
2. **Making allotment garden plots available to all Victoria residents, regardless of neighbourhood**
- a. Excellent! People may want plot near workplace or be closer to site technically in another neighbourhood
  - b. Case for allotments is more consistent when people live within a community (neighbourhood). Neighbours build community.
  - c. Like the idea of opening up “neighbourhood” but please be clear with folks on gardening needs from after: dogs, watering, aesthetics
  - d. Tap into skills and knowledge already existing in each neighbourhood
  - e. Community farms in the garden – need should be the determining factor – ie. no access to alternative growing space
  - f. It defeats the purpose to a large degree if people need to drive to their community garden plot. It's a community garden for a reason, to serve the immediate community. This speaks to the need
  - g. Ensuring all neighbourhoods have access to a community growing space \*in\* their neighbourhood is better than opening already limited garden spaces to those not geographically close to them
  - h. If possible, all residents of the CRD should have access to allotment gardens. Municipalities outside of Victoria have lots of space too
  - i. Social capital lessened when geographic boundaries are too large
3. **Testing out a new program for small urban food tree projects**
- a. How about harvest and production of fruit/nut based products?
  - b. This is excellent! Could be a conflict between park maintenance and food tree stewards
  - c. Edges of existing parks would be a good place to try this. Also on boulevards – old/fallen trees could be replaced with fruit trees like the walnuts on Haultain
  - d. What about rats and raccoons? They have a way of finding food. Also the Asian Fruit Fly (spotted – winged – *Diosphilia*) is not on Vancouver Island. I lost my entire raspberry crop this year. They've also infested wild blackberries and blueberries. May need to use sprays. The only way to deal with a fly is to pick all fruit and bush and ground and bury.
4. **Adding Community Orchards as a type of Community Garden**
- a. I heard fruit was going unpicked
  - b. Allotment gardens have to be fenced to prevent deer damage
  - c. There are some (tons of?) existing fruit trees on City land. Is this part of the plan?
  - d. Don't forget espalier trees that can fit in small spaces against walls/fences.
  - e. Yes! Espalier trees are lovely to look at, can create aesthetic barriers, and come in various forms. Also easier to pick!
5. **More staff support for new community garden projects**
- a. Why doesn't the City set some space aside in some parks for community gardens? If the City was more proactive in this that would encourage
  - b. Oaklands is working on this currently
  - c. There are different types of community gardens that work:
    - i. Collective growing and shared harvest
    - ii. Planting on any small areas and public can eat anything
    - iii. Plots which are cared for and harvested by individuals (like allotments)
    - iv. Land overseen by the City with volunteer labour for maintenance and Food Bank harvest
  - d. The City could help new gardens with a load of free compost/mulch

- e. Replace all horse chestnuts with edible Chinese Chestnuts. Same maintenance, same shape, but a great source of local protein. Squirrels are not as much a problem as other nuts due to spiky husks.
  - f. Where will the resources come from the build bed, soil, shed, and composters?
  - g. Community gardens should have free access to water
6. **A simpler, more streamlined application system for new projects**
- a. Re: Food Steward Program
    - i. Aesthetic considerations fit in where?
  - b. As someone who has started 6 community gardens (in another City) finding the space and knowing you can use is the most difficult barrier
  - c. Have property tax incentives for commercial or residential (empty lots) to encourage use for community gardening
  - d. Is there a program or group that home gardeners can connect with to come and pick and distribute excess fruit and veggies from their garden?
  - e. Why non-profit organization? Do these gardens have to share?
  - f. When will expression of interest intake be?

## TOPIC 2: Boulevard Gardening Guidelines

1. **Garden upkeep and removal**
- a. Sounds reasonable, but perhaps Bylaw office could assess garden in relation to Guidelines?  
After all, I think there is a big difference between a hollow complaints and a valid one
  - b. Clear bulletins with checklists and needs – e.g. water cost if left fallow, complaint process for the public
  - c. 3 or more complaints in a growing season? Over multiple seasons? Suggest the former
  - d. Cats! Please keep indoors. Cat poo is toxic
  - e. What about dogs? Buying food open to dogs may be iffy – will there be dog guidelines?
  - f. Re: dogs – yes, but you need deer fencing anyway.
  - g. For any of these structures a lot of “private” getting together. Ensure public is aware of dispute resolution area or service available in case of dispute
  - h. How would this work if a boulevard garden is created and maintained by neighbours who are not the homeowner?
  - i. Would like to see more residents being actively encouraged to use their boulevard for gardening, especially low-maintenance edible plants like herbs and pollinator-friendly plants
  - j. There would need to be guidelines for this as what’s nice to one person is unruly to another. Also, if a person/gardener is not popular with their neighbours, the neighbours could complain about the garden as a way to get at that unpopular person.
  - k. I love seeing boulevard gardens! More attractive than grass ☺ Your upkeep process seems fair
  - l. What if 3 neighbours get together and complain because they just don’t accept one of the boulevard gardens?
  - m. Materials depot at community gardens could help support boulevard gardens too with maintenance
  - n. Stratas and bf in downtown core
  - o. Remember – all food gardens need fencing to keep out deer. It’s expensive and can be not too attractive – could we get reduced cost of fencing material?

### TOPIC 3: Small-scale Commercial Urban Farming

1. **Include small-scale commercial urban farming in the zoning bylaw**
  - a. City beef farm in YVR
  - b. We need a distinction small scale and mid-scale growing (up to 1 acre)
    - i. Mid-scale could demonstrate skill and commitment
    - ii. Provide benefit to the community
    - iii. Have permission to do more on-site business
    - iv. Have flexibility regarding multi-site network
  - c. Winter crops and salads in greenhouses (perfect weather in Victoria)
  - d. More chickens as well as animals like goats
  - e. This makes a lot of sense and seems overdue
  - f. This would really help local restaurants
  - g. Farm animals allow opportunity to be aware of other living being's needs = empathy, a social benefit
  - h. Tilapia farming, solar powered hut for production – jams
  - i. I think rooftop farming could be complicated. Not all roofs can support something like gardens
  - j. What about indoor vertical farming? (2000 sq.ft.)
2. **Allow small-scale commercial urban farming as a permitted use in all land use zones in the City**
  - a. Requirements for pesticides/herbicides enforced?
  - b. One off-site delivery allowed per day only necessary to limit with size of vehicle?
3. **Allow small farm stands in all land-use zones**
  - a. Product from that property only?
  - b. Why exclude sale of preserved food? The growing season is short
  - c. Advice to farmers is always diversify!
  - d. Yes, many farmers rely on the sale of canned and frozen foods
  - e. RE: Products must be grown on-site
    - i. This would be tricky for a multi-site SPIN farm
      1. Cold storage location
      2. Diversity of product (tomatoes in 1 yard, kale in 1 yard, turnips in 1 yard = 3 boring farm stands)
      3. Challenge of managing multiple stands vs. 1 for organization
  - f. RE: Allowed in front yard only, set back at least 2 feet (0.6m) from the lot line
    - i. Who does this protect? This might be better left flexible
  - g. Excellent idea. A great way to introduce children to things that come from the farm. Also a great way to shop local. Would there need to be a limit as to how many?
4. **Exempt rooftop greenhouses from height calculations and floor space ratio calculations**
  - a. How can I tell if my rooftop is safe/suitable for a greenhouse? e.g. weight load
  - b. Consider weight load distribution – too concentrated in a small building
  - c. Height of 15ft is ok. Some rooftops could support a much larger greenhouse than 100m<sup>3</sup> – consider making area flexible
  - d. Yes, rooftop garden space should not be part of floor or height calculations...but fruit trees may get tall and shade on neighbours – e.g. laneway houses in Vancouver has been bad for neighbours' gardens due to their cast shadows
  - e. Make development permit simple!
  - f. Would potentially need rainwater collection system / funding support for rooftop gardens on apartment buildings

- g. Love the idea – would this apply only to “new” builds or existing buildings e.g. strata buildings?
  - h. What level of density for residential buildings? Would love to have a rooftop greenhouse on my condo building!
  - i. Yes! Let’s use our barren rooftops productively
5. **Exempt small-scale commercial urban farms from requiring a development permit for landscaping**
- a. Yes, this would help!
  - b. Would this impact open spaces for recreational use?
  - c. Keep permit process but expedite. This would give neighbours an opportunity for input
  - d. Yes, please help us with soil testing and guidance re: contaminated soils – eg. too near black top. BTW why are you still allowing new driveways with blacktop paving?
  - e. Provide assistance for urban farmers when it comes to soil testing for contaminants
  - f. Great idea!

### General Comments

- 1. Is there any info on existing/historical mapping of City food production? For example, fruit trees?
- 2. Allotments encouraged at larger apartment blocks
- 3. Finding ways to support/encourage schools to get involved
- 4. The Chinese Chestnuts that are growing have the small segmented chestnuts – very hard to eat – I’ve not seen big chestnuts
- 5. Engage businesses in support of community gardens – may need incentives
- 6. RE: Vacant lots
  - a. Vacant for how long? Considering the effort that goes into creating a community garden plot, to have it available for a short period of time i.e. 2 years is a waste of time and effort. What would the gardener move on to after the temporary land was no longer available?

## Draft Policy Review Workshops

60 residents joined staff for an evening workshop on December 2, after the Open House. The goal was to have 20 people at each of the three tables. This was a fully subscribed event.

### Topic 1: Small Scale Commercial Farming

#### GROWING IN THE CITY OPEN HOUSE AND WORKSHOP SUMMARY: SMALL SCALE COMMERCIAL URBAN FARMING

There was a high level of support for the potential changes to City regulations to better support small-scale commercial urban farming.

- 42 comments were posted on the open house boards. A total of 25 people participated in workshop discussions to review five potential changes in more detail. 16 workbooks were completed.
- The following presents a summary of feedback received through the open house boards and workbooks:

Potential change	% workshop participants who think this is a good idea
1. Include small-scale commercial urban farming in the zoning bylaw	94% (15/16)
2. Allow small-scale commercial urban farming as a permitted use in all land use zones in the City	88%(14/16)
3. Allow small farm stands in all land-use zones	88% (14/16)
4. Exempt rooftop greenhouses from height calculations and floor space ratio calculations	94% (15/16)
5. Exempt small-scale commercial urban farms from requiring a development permit for landscaping	75% (12/16)

#### Interest in expanding the definition of small-scale commercial urban farming products to include:

- Bee products (pollen, bees, wax etc.)
- Frozen and dried foods
- Canned foods (extends the growing season)
- Farm animals (not clear if this was for commercial purposes or not)
- Fish (tilapia)

#### Expand the types of urban farming to include:

- Indoor vertical farming (up to 2000 ft sq)

#### Restrictions on deliveries:

- Concern that one delivery per day is not realistic for most urban farms. Growers use household vehicles for deliveries, not just big trucks.
- When discussed with the group, there was mixed support for specifying that **truck deliveries** be limited to one per day and that there be no limit on deliveries by smaller household vehicle, bicycle, foot etc.
- Need to clarify how urban farming regulations would work in an existing retail zone. For example, if property is in a zone where more than one delivery allowed, would they be restricted to just one?

#### On-site sales:

- Several people disagreed with limit on sales of on-site produce only, as commercial farmers grow at multiple sites.
- Several people disagree with the limit on raw produce only, as drying/freezing/canning food extends the growing season and is a vital part of the good production cycle.
- Allow major plant sales 4 times per year so that growers can sell directly from their greenhouses.



#### Rooftop greenhouses:

- Strong support for potential changes. Many people noted that this would be a good use for otherwise unused rooftops.
- The biggest concern was for the structure integrity of the buildings (which will be verified through the building permit process)
- Concern regarding greenhouse loading on roofs (ie, need to ensure roof can support the weight) and anchoring during windstorms.
- Several people felt that the total area did not need to be limited to 300 sq ft, as bigger would be OK
- Preference for no lighting on greenhouses

#### Development Permits:

While most people supported exempting urban farms from requiring a development permit for landscaping, several wanted to ensure the farms were well-maintained.

#### Pesticides:

- Several people expressed desire for pesticides to be prohibited on urban farms. This was reinforced through group discussion.
- Several other people also wanted a restriction on synthetic fertilizers, due to concerns about run-off.

#### Enforcement:

- Several people expressed skepticism about the City's ability to enforce the potential changes to the bylaws.

#### Evaluation/Pilot Projects:

- There was interest in piloting and evaluating the regulation changes

#### Other supports for urban farmers:

In addition to the regulation changes, participants suggested other ways that the City of Victoria could support urban farmers:

- Promoting and linking people to programs offered through other organizations
- Desire for City to incentivize or encourage developers to build new greenhouses
- Guidelines and information package for composting
- Guidelines and information package for rooftop greenhouses
- Soil testing
- Water rates
- Making it easier for urban farms to achieve/claim provincial farm tax status

### Topic 2: Community Gardens and Fruit and Nut Trees

There was a high level of support for the potential changes to City regulations regarding community gardens and fruit and nut trees. 15 workbooks were completed.

The following presents a summary of feedback received from the workbooks:

Potential change	% workshop participants who think this is a good idea
1. Expanding our definition of 'Community Garden'	100% (9/9)
2. Making allotment garden plots available to all Victoria residents, regardless of neighbourhood	90% (9/10)
3. Testing out a new program for small urban food tree projects	90% (9/10)
4. Adding Community Orchards as a type of Community Garden	91% (10/11)
5. More staff support for new community gardens	100% (10/10)
6. A simpler, more streamlined application system for new projects	100% (9/9)

## Comments:

### 1. Expanding our definition of 'Community Garden'

Yes...because:

- would be great to learn about agriculture in schools
- Allows for more transparent policy making and resource allocation
- Recognize indigenous, cultural gardens
- Would be very happy to see more acknowledgement of First Nations traditional land use eg. Garry Oak meadows/ camas meadows as food forests

**Additional comments:**

- Not sure. Seems very broad to me. Good in lots of ways but the wider scope the easier people could be unclear as to what is welcome where. Be sure people know in black and white what is/isn't allowed
- Except for trees, too much responsibility for community groups
- Partnering with community associations, cultural associations, local businesses, schools, senior care facilities will provide a more stable base of volunteers and stewards for existing and new gardens.
- Support for non-profits. Edible chestnut. Emergency planning and food security.
- Dye gardens
- Deer cull – NZ herded deer onto a truck and took them to a deer farm- farmer got free animals to farm
- put a call out to farmers on island- on mainland- Cattle Point in Oak Bay was when they brought cattle over to the island- we should send deer over the mainland.

### 2. Making allotment garden plots available to all Victoria residents, regardless of neighbourhood

Yes...because:

- People will connect where it makes sense- maybe garden plot close to work place
- Renters often have to move outside of their control. I consider both my house and work areas as communities I am involved in.
- Yes – however community garden should mean just that- you don't have to drive to get there.
- Neighbourhood associations (ie Oaklands) have updated their definition of eligible membership. Allotment gardens following this makes sense.
- Excellent idea – let individuals go where they want

**No, because:**

- One of the benefits of a community garden is the ability to connect with neighbours. Ongoing identification and recognition of neighbours = safer and more secure neighbourhoods.

**Additional comments:**

- Renters often have less access to ground space to plant in. Neighbourhood boundaries divide communities. I live in Fernwood but feel part of the Oaklands community as well. Low income families may find it challenging to access existing garden spaces. So many waitlists and non-responses to inquiries from existing gardens.
- You will need deer fencing- this is necessary for the gardens to be a success. Will gardens be able to solicit help/donations from companies such as Castle? not really fair to have initial costs fall to the first gardeners – should be borne by all gardeners.
- Yes and no. I have mixed feelings about this because the farther you live from your plot – the less you visit it.
- Neighbourhood associations often want the garden restricted to residents. If their approval of the garden is required, this becomes an issue.
- Need a sign up list for current projects.
- Intercultural association: multi-cultural elders council

- Need a City database to stop duplication
- % basis for neighbourhood – 70% local, 30% outside
- easy access point for multi-cultural
- What about a % basis – 70% local residents, 30% non-local
- Need a data base for people who have allotment plots in other neighbourhoods

### 3. Testing out a new program for small urban food tree projects

#### Yes, because:

- You spend money clearing leaves anyhow – might as well use community partnerships and produce food.
- community stewards
- I think it is a great idea if you can truly have the stewards on board – a team of at least three so no one burns out.
- Access to fruit in the community, especially where there is limited availability to fresh/locally grown for some residents.
- Great work! Make people demonstrate a willingness to engage in maintenance

#### No, because:

- Park designer/aesthetics: could reduce pleasant view
- As far as people having to purchase the trees – becomes a trigger point for spats. The trees (dwarfs by the way) should be purchased by the City, community association (grants) and be cared for by people.

#### Additional comments:

- Trees are complicated. Requires much more time, attention. Possibly an adopt a tree program? Family signs on for an apple, hazelnut etc. Annual basis.
- City should provide water access. City should support the community groups as much as possible. City spends money on maintaining flower baskets – should spend money on food production too. Supports the community more than flower baskets and Christmas lights.
- Dwarf fruit trees only!
- Fruit tree stewards may adopt sense of ownership over community resource in a negative way
- Need to clarify what organic inputs would be allowed
- Not necessarily a good idea when it comes to discouraging deer and other foraging animals. Need fencing. No matter what there will be windfall issues, although if there is an active group of people consistently picking, that should help.
- I think it is a great way of engaging people to get out and involved in their communities, as well as connect them to food production
- Maybe these should be planted and maintained by the City? Watering, maintenance, tree health.
- Some neighbourhood associations might have capacity for this, but others will need support. Oaklands has started to evaluate potential sites for this type of project.
- schools. PACS
- natives/tree diversity
- Guelph – well being initiative
- signage/media for picking time
- Partnerships – Cridget, neighbourhood associations
- Who harvests? – ladders, resources, what other physical resources?
- How can we better manage what's there?
- Support for LifeCycle fruit tree project.
- Collective relationships.

#### 4. Adding Community Orchards as a type of Community Garden

**Yes, because:**

- If there's a will to do the work. City should not spend a lot of time and money on this.
- Love the orchards at fernwood NRG and Fairfield Community Centre park. I like the combination of gardens with existing community hubs.
- What could be the end points of the produce from an orchard?
- This fits well with other types of gardens and could be combined with garden projects.

**No, because:**

- City or businesses should do this, if they think it's a good idea.

**Additional comments:**

- I'd love to see permaculture style orchards with lower shrubs planted amongst the trees. I like the work I have seen GRAFT do locally – promoting locally suitable grafted trees.
- Dwarf fruit trees only.
- I am more of an advocate of more community gardens vs more fruit trees/orchards. Perhaps each community garden can have some fruit/nut trees.
- Community groups (churches, community associations, condo associations, schools, resident associations) should be able to do this. And that City wouldn't just make a few 'public orchards' in a few public parks and take care of them.

#### 5. More staff support for new community gardens

**Yes, because:**

- Simplify the process
- Support is needed. We need to consider moving funds from other projects to this sort of thing.
- It seems like a more efficient system (expressions of interest) as long as it is transparent. Is there/ would there be support through the process? Will there be clear boundaries/limits for the Food Systems Coordinator so they are not overworked? It seems like this will generate a lot of interest, which is great!
- Business org support for community gardening. Make it a good thing to do.
- It is great that the City is hiring a dedicated position. I hope there will be more staff hired for this in the future.
- Really like the expression of interest added to process. Yay!
- Make it easy, and sensible and fast!

**Additional comments:**

- Why not talk to Vancouver and see what it is that has made their community gardens such a success?
- It would be great to harness more of the positive energy that residents have and turn it into successful, lasting projects.

#### 6. A simpler, more streamlined application system for new projects

**Yes, because:**

- Make it easy for people

**Additional comments:**

- Submit expression of interest in July, take to Council for approval in Sept, build new garden in Jan/Feb
- Great flow chart! Your team is awesome and inspiring! I'd really like to work with you.
- I think you have all done a really good job with this. Congrats!

### Topic 3: Boulevard Gardens

There was a high level of support for the potential change to City regulations regarding boulevard gardens. 14 workbooks were completed.

Potential change	% workshop participants who think this is a good idea
1. Garden upkeep and removal	93% (13/14) 1 neutral

#### Comments:

- An excellent idea to keep gardens in line of maintenance/need a process (2)
- Yes, but...should require numerous complaints from multiple sources. Also needs some transparent review/ appeal process.
- Who decides if it has to be remediated? Is it one or a panel? (remove subjectivity)
- After receiving complaints, the City should go and assess the garden before simply asking homeowners to tidy up the garden, as some complaints may not be extremely valid
- Need a pricepoint for the removal of a BG
- In order to have boulevard gardens as a successful project in the city, they cannot get out of control. Everyone has great intentions from the get go, but you need to have accountability for gardeners to ensure this.
- Encourage raised beds – prevents dog pee on food gardens
- Need to have the boulevard gardens agreed up on by the neighbours
- Very important to do this right
- Education regarding maintenance is important: watering, pruning, checklist of potential vegetables, herbs

#### Additional comments:

- I would suggest that the garden does not return to grass but rather remain in garden status, either ornamental or food. Avoid returning to grass.
- From 3 people or 3 complaints from 1 person. Should be from 3 separate people.
- 3 complaints within a 3 month (one season) period may be more specific. Otherwise what if you get 3 complaints over for example, a 3 year period? Policy needs to reflect complaints about a genuine problem space, not just Nimbys
- Returning the boulevard to grass immediately removes the possibility of other interested parties.
- Make guidelines – sightlines of driveways or corners
- Deer cull- Council must request CRD to proceed with cull so food gardening can be successful (3)
- Education for dog owners – don't let their dogs pee on gardens, beds, shrubs (4)
- Some individuals cause damage to gardens- need education
- Dwarf fruit trees only
- Do not include direction re digging up boulevards – delete!
- Give direction to use lasagna gardening method to establish beds
- Also encourage only raised beds for food plants (2)
- Plant waterwise
- Need money for education – how to boulevard garden
- Would need to be identified by realtor during a sale (2)
- Does it need to be in the landlord/tenancy act? (Vancouver wants more tenants involved) (2)
- Need cat licensing, cats also a problem with gardens (2)
- Checklist of challenges/solutions at start of boulevard gardening guidelines- talk to your neighbours, assess cat and dog traffic, planting tips (2)



- People send in photos, use for education (2)
- Garden tour of boulevard gardens- include conforming gardens
- Encourage flowers and bees: boulevard gardens are good for bees and air quality – grass is not an efficient plant
- Would like to see incentives to encourage boulevard gardens.

# Appendix B: Engagement Feedback

## Survey and Correspondence

- Survey
- Correspondence

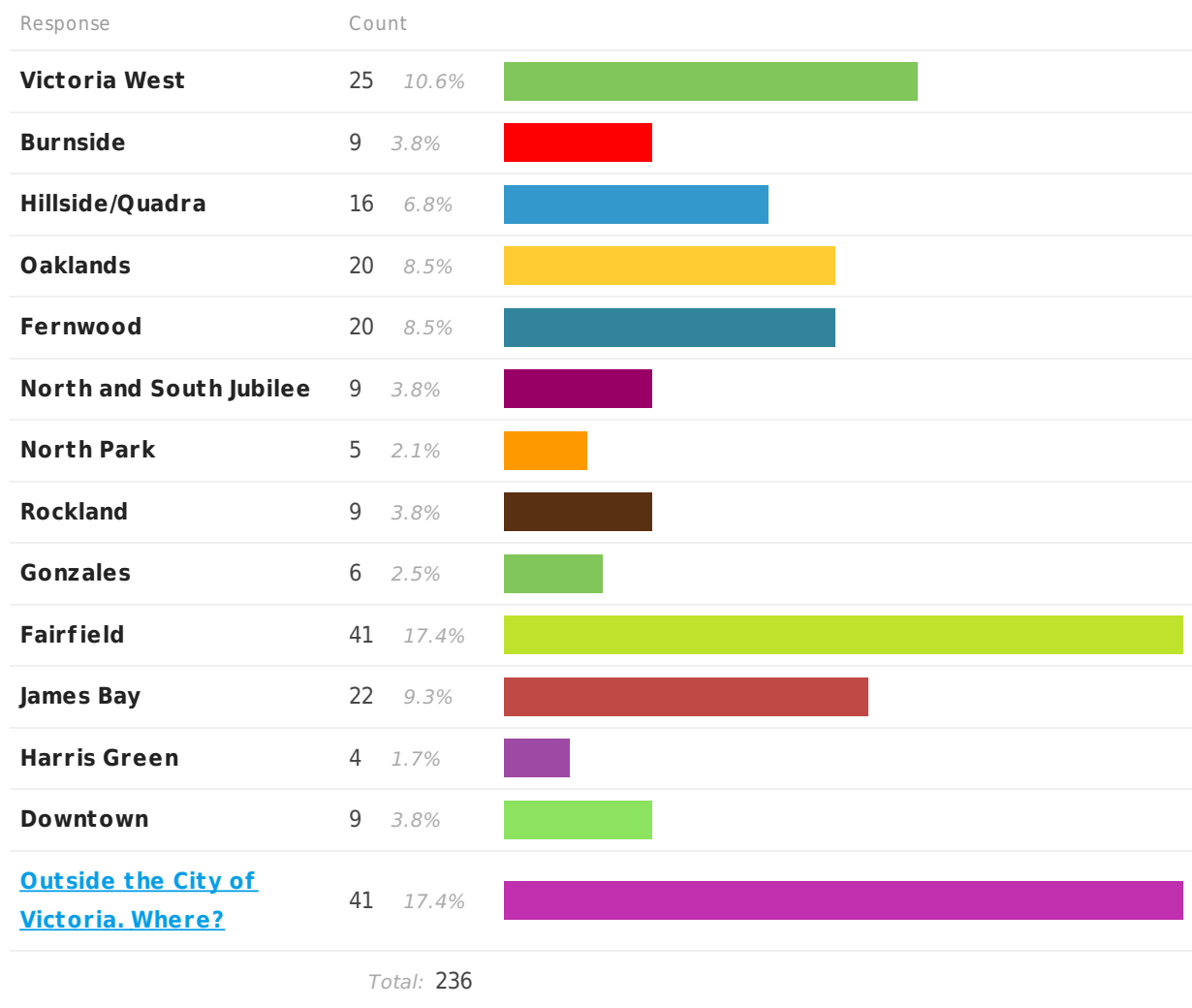
## Survey

236 surveys were completed.

### Questions and Answers Growing in the City

This summer over 1,000 Victoria residents shared ideas about how to get more food growing in our beautiful city. We listened to what we heard and have created potential changes relating to:  
Community gardens Fruit trees on public lands Boulevard gardens Small-scale commercial urban farming  
You can review all of the potential changes here before you begin the survey, or you can read about them as you go through the survey.

Which neighbourhood do you live in?



Saanich

Saanich

View Royal

Oak bay

Sidney

Esquimalt (why are we not on this list?)

Saanich

View Royal

Saanich Shelbourne Panhandle.

Esquimalt

esquimalt

Gordon Head

Salt Spring. I just moved from Fairfield where I'd resided for 7 years.

Oak bay?

rural Saanich

Gorge and Admirals

Kaslo, BC, but I'm a former 30-year Victorian born and raised.

Esquimalt

Vancouver

Saanich

Saanich

kaslo bc

Edmonton, AB

Esquimalt

Kamloops BC

Gorge Rd and Harriet....actually in Saanich.

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Saanich
Oak Bay
saaanich
Esquimalt
Saanich
oak bay
Saanich
Saanich
East Saanich
Quadra/Mckenzie
Oak bay
Saanich/Cadboro Bay
View Royal
Esquimalt
oak bay

What is your age?

Response	Count	
<b>19-24</b>	11 4.7%	
<b>25-39</b>	95 40.3%	
<b>40-59</b>	90 38.1%	
<b>60-74</b>	37 15.7%	
<b>75 years or older</b>	3 1.3%	
Total: 236		

What kinds of food growing activities do you currently do? (select all that apply)



Response	Count	
<b>I garden in my front or rear yard</b>	133 56.4%	
<b>I garden in containers ie. on my patio or balcony</b>	130 55.1%	
<b>I belong to a community garden</b>	19 8.1%	
<b>I belong to a yard share</b>	6 2.5%	
<b>I harvest native and/or wild plants in the City</b>	43 18.2%	
<b>I don't currently garden</b>	27 11.4%	
<a href="#">Other, please specify...</a>	27 11.4%	
<i>Total: 236</i>		

I gather seaweed to use in my compost.

I support community gardens through my work and volunteerism

Also boulevard

I am hired to consult educate and garden for other people all across the greater victoria area. I have chickens and do restoration on neglected sites.

I use part of my aunt's yard to grow.

**Personal information** (with an amazing team)

I harvest fruit from other peoples' yards, with their permission

hobby farm

I grow food, medicine and other plants at my workplace

Garden only non food plants.

I have apple and fig trees that rarely get harvested

farmer

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I have previously owned a greenhouse, chickens and bees

Boulevard gardening, beekeeping, and urban poultry.

I have backyard chickens, part of my sustainable gardening practice as well as yielding eggs.

I have a shade garden.. and the deer have managed to change the structure of our neighbourhood.

Reclaimed small space for herbals in townhouse complex

grow herbs on patio

wild and native plants in the woods, not just in the city.

grow food on boulevards

boulevard food growing, food gleaning from other personal gardens by permission

I glean unwanted fruit

I teach gardening to kids.

I garden on the 'boulevard' that extends from my property but not on the section on the other side of the sidewalk.

I harvest introduced/nonnative species like apples, blackberries, herbs, and greens from public areas and commons gardens.

I also maintain our block's boulevard (cut grass between city mowings, rake leaves) plus have a boulevard garden



green roof on shed

There are four sections to this survey. You can choose to complete just one or all four. Community gardens Fruit trees on public lands Boulevard Gardens Small-scale commercial urban farming

## Community Gardens

Community Gardens: Potential Change #1: Expanding our definition of 'Community Garden' WHY? We heard that the way we currently define 'community gardens' is not inclusive enough of all types of gardening, including maintaining native and cultural landscapes.

Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	168 93.3%	
<b>No</b>	12 6.7%	
Total: 180		

If yes, why?

Response	Count
119 responses	

- More use of green spaces for foods even demonstration is better than flowers or decorative plants
- Diversity, healthy bee populations, food accessibility and independence
- because it represents the balance of growing and caring for the local environment
- A restriction to food production seems limiting to people who may otherwise enjoy gardening
- Seems more inclusive
- Food security. Mental /physical Health improvements. Community spirit.
- This would be more inclusive, and also more viable long term for sustainability
- It's a much more inclusive way to capture the various ways people are maintaining food security in their respective communities.
- The new definition is reflective of current cultural practices, whereas the old defn was not.
- Encompasses a vast amount of different kinds of gardening, and also the additional things that are just as important (beekeeping, demonstraion farming etc). Especialy with demo farming, we need to be constantly inspiring others to garden. many feel like they dont have a green thumb and this is an excellent way of helping people to garden!
- each type of garden or project can support the others through shared knowledge, learning, skills, etc.
- a narrow definition of "community garden" replicates colonial land use relationships
- People should be encouraged to grow their own produce. Besides being good for your health, better nutrition, exercise and metal health, it also has some impact in reducing the carbon footprint a person or family creates

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family creates.

The more people we can get engaging with food the better! Even if it's just seeing more veggie gardens in the community!

More inclusive, but does not include "habitat". A large part of our garden provides habitat for both migrant and year round birds.

Edible landscaping helps our native pollinators and helps build community.

Increasing the scope of the definition of community gardening can only increase the food security of the city, insulating the population from certain food chain crisis.

More inclusive (obviously), shows there's more to a garden than a plot and small plants, easier to build community.

Because 2015

removing limitations creates space for things that haven't been thought of or practised currently.

Includes many possibilities of people gardening, encompassing more of the benefits of growing plants on shared land. Not just for food or esthetics but for many beneficial reasons

Makes no sense to restrict what can be grown. Increases diversity.

includes the spectrum of what a "garden" might mean

All types of gardening are useful to our community. More options means more people wanting to participate

Food security. We need to learn how to grow our own food. Safe food availability for all people. Organic food is expensive and growing your own food provides an opportunity to grow organic food that is affordable. Provides an opportunity to garden with children and teens so they can connect with nature and learn to value caring for the earth.

food security, health

All types of community gardening is good news. I especially like the beekeeping.

The more local food availability we have, the better.

In order to address food security concerns, we should be growing as much food as possible in as many places as possible and be as inclusive as possible in our definitions.

it allows many variations on a theme and stimulates people to think beyond the obvious

Having fruits, vegetables, herbs, chickens, honeybees etc. all over the city will improve the health of Victorians. Also it will improve the overall vibe and energy of the city. There are no negative vibes to city wide gardening.

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I like to see our beautify city and region in all kinds of blooms.

Gardening and harvesting food is an important skill and knowledge base that all humans should have. It brings joy and peace to people's lives.

except for the flowers, it's all about increased food security and increasing the scope contributes to sustainability

Diversity

More food growing the better

While I generally agree, is there any way to also look at animal husbandry in this? What if a group want to have a chicken coop?

Opportunity to help with the diminishing bee population on the island. It provides education to people who are just starting a garden.

Food is expensive. This will save people money. Homegrown is delicious, it will help me eat healthier.

Control over healthy eating. Developing community. Sustainability in times of crisis. Equal access to all regardless of income. Teaching skills to all especially youth. Taking the power back from corporatiins

We need to create a culture of horticulture in this City that embraces everybody, not just select homeowners.

people will be able to eat the vegetables and fruit

Victoria has very poor food security. Without fossil fuels we would run out of food in approximately 4 days. Permaculture projects will help to enable our own self reliance.

Increase biodiversity, connecting citizens to natural spaces.

we need to all be closer to our source of food.

we need to ensure food security on the island for everyone. I like having control over how my did is grown and where it is grown.

We need an extensive list of gardening options given the urban nature of this project, which is considerably different than gardening in rural spaces.

Because pollinators are in trouble and we need to do all we can to build and preserve their habitats

very inclusive

diversity is always healthier for humans and the land

Seems much more complete and inclusive of several beneficial types of gardens. Makes sense to me to change the definition to the above

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Yes but I think a distinction for food is important

we need to maintain urban greenspace thus encouraging bees and birds to pollinate more, and create food sources

More opportunities

It expands the usual definition of what a community garden is and can be

It's more accessible to every one that way, different needs and interests

Ecosystems are important, both simulations of the indigenous ecosystems (native plants, supports for native insects and wildlife) and human-made ecosystems such as permaculture setups. Gardens without pollinators and livestock rely on a large amount of external input in terms of soil amendments etc.

more inclusion means more people and a wider/stronger community

It's all important

Fresh, local food production. Encouragement of garden ecosystems: birds, bees and life in the city!

We should have a diversity of food sources on our public lands

Growing our own food locally is great.

Green spaces create healthy environments for city residents, and habitats for local flora and fauna. This is a great opportunity to create a green city that promotes diverse ecosystems.

It's progressive and reflective of reality.

it's good to expand the definition to be inclusive, however I would also add community greenhouses, chicken shares, therapeutic gardens

Something for everyone!

because we need more ways to engage people into a therapeutic activity and to have locally grown food sources.

We need all the biodiversity we can get, ie pollinator gardens benefit other gardens for miles around. Food security is part of the picture. I also gather some medicinal plants in the city and some plants for natural dyeing.

connection to food and people

It allows more variety to the use of land for community gardening. These are all important factors in community gardens and helping to keep the environment healthy.

Provides a broader range of gardening opportunities to residents.

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Brings community together. Sustainability.

Any food security learning opportunities are valuable as this skill is mostly lost.

It shows the diversity and gives people more ideas.

Edible plants are beautiful

This is a great idea because by broadening what community gardens mean to our city, we recognize that there are many different and important factors at play in gardens. The recognition of the important role Native plant species play both in terms of sustainable food sources and cultural significance is a big part of this action plan for me.

Builds community, provides food

Because plants can be more than just ornamental.

Fresh food is essential to our well being, especially children. The fewer processed food we eat the better off we are. Freshness hopefully will determine what we eat not the price. As well it is good for the psyche to be able to say look what I grew.

free food for everyone!!!!

We must take advantage of all our green spaces to grow food, make these areas attractive, and to maintain indigenous species.

Because it's 2015

more opportunities to grow a wider variety of plants like medicinal herbs and other beneficial greens

It includes the whole range.

Survival food. Given the choice of inedible ornamentals or edible growth, edible growth make sense, even if it is donate to food banks.

There are many benefits to gardening including health benefits for the gardener, for the neighbourhood, for the ecosystem and for our food security. Expanding the definition of what counts enables those who may not participate in what comes to mind as "community gardening" (which raises images of growing carrots in a plot behind a fence somewhere) to feel recognized. It also allows those who cannot participate in food gardening (e.g. I live on the shady side!) to find a way to be a part of that suits their own environment.

increases the scope of food growing to support a local food system

Any increase or inclusiveness to gardens is good.

Those are all types of food production that can be done on a community scale

All of these proposals enhance biodiversity in an urban context and ultimately will increase biomass

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All of these proposals enhance biodiversity in an urban context and ultimately will increase biomass.

Its possible that you provide grants to community gardens. If this is the case, it makes sense to include permaculture and demonstration farms in the definition of community garden.

increases food supply, promotes respect for food production, helps people learn a valuable skill

I love having fruit trees everywhere. Whoever wants the fruit can pick it. U

Food is life...food is knowledge.

Because people seem into it. Food growing is hard. The tomatoes I grow work out to \$9/lb but let people try if everyone thinks growing food will save the world.

Beauty, food security, lower carbon footprint

I have a problem with buying food from other countries when we live in such a good climate for year-round food gardening. In addition, I don't like industrial scale food growing, many unique and heritage varieties are lost when corporations are involved with food production. We would be more self-contained in the face of an emergency, if we could grow our own.

our city needs to be a leader in sustainability and promote as much food growth as possible.

Food security & empowerment plus education.

Uses available landscapes sustainability and adds educational value

Because it's not just about us growing stuff for ourselves, it's about us learning how to nurture the other things on the planet: bees, butterflies, beetles, snakes, frogs, etc.

It can help with feeding homeless, creates community - sharing of food, Brings many different species of insects and birds to the area.

The more food that can be grown within the city, and have more people know where food comes from, is a good thing.

Includes key pieces for urban food sustainability

more complete use of gardens

Encompasses a greater range of realistic practices for producing food.

It is more reflective of the diversity of what people actually do in Victoria. The vast majority of people involved in these activities do not have access to a community garden plot.

Models the diversity of these important skills/practices. It honours diversity.

inclusive definition allows people to be creative and is more holistic (i.e. human health, education, environment, food security, social fabric, and aesthetics)

Edible landscapes and pollinator gardens are important for ALL ecosystems and any support is great. Gardeners shouldn't be limited to growing food in boxes, it should be garden of whatever people envision.

Food security is so important and Victoria has such optimal growing conditions. We should be trying to produce as much of our own food as possible

this is important so that the gardens serve more people and needs.

gardening is holistic and is an umbrella for all aspects of growing and nurturing edible products

pollinators are essential, community gardens are a healthy activity available to all ages

Growing food and plants in the city takes on a lot of forms and may not look like what people traditionally think of as a "community garden." (ie the native garden across from Royal Athletic Park on Vancouver). I like this expanded definition.

Cost savings but more importantly meeting and working with other members of the community.

current definition is too limited & doesn't reflect the city wide or global community, or the broad importance of gardens. I note that the example list doesn't include cultural garden examples.

Pollinator gardens in particular underlie plant existence in so many cases, and bees are in trouble.

Like a healthy ecosystem, there is strength in diversity of process

#### If no, why not?

Response

Count

13 responses

Bears, rats, raccoons, smell (lack of maintenance - people rarely understand how much work it takes to maintain a garden)

Should indigenous, cultural, and native plants be only for harvest?

should also include urban farming and wild areas left untouched (not necessarily "native" or culturally significant") these should be areas for wildlife and buffer zones in which people can visit and also harvest if they choose)

"Community gardens" connotes allotment gardens as these two terms have been used interchangeably in North America for plots that are privately gardened. It is confusing to refer to a demonstration farm or orchard or traditional foods harvesting area as a community "garden" as, again, they are more a farm, orchard or harvesting area than what is commonly thought of as a garden. I understand having a catch-all

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term is necessary for these 7 different types of growing spaces; I suggest using something that allows for this diversity such as "community growing space".

the terms listed are unclear and the question doesn't state the current definition

Chemtrails and radiation are killing our plants and our soil, water is full of aluminum from spraying.

Some OK, some not. Question too broad.

The deer are going to eat it all on the boulevard

I am unsure as to what the change in definition will mean w.r.t. policies

Community Garden has a pretty specific and well-understood meaning. It is approximately a plot of land, divided into smaller plots, which can be used by community members, generally those who do not have their own yards. So, while all of the classes of horticulture and agriculture mentioned above are important, it is not useful to rename the well-understood community garden to include all of them. It would be better to rename governing legislation, or develop a new, more inclusive definition.

Planting on city boulevards is not a well thought out idea. Over the years, oil ,garbage, peptides are still in the that soil.

how are you going to ensure, under "indigenous, cultural and native plants for harvesting" that people don't go out and simply pillage existing plants (eg: the camas beds in Beacon Hill Park and Summit Park). What types of limits would you put on this type of "gardening" for "harvesting". Wildcraft is the new "in" thing but with the proliferation of classes, walks and websites, are there enough resources in the city for everyone who could lay claim to them?

Boulevard gardening should only be available to property owners or renters (with the property owner's written permission registered at City hall) on boulevards immediately adjacent to the owned property. "Gardeners" from distant locations are likely to create situations deemed an eyesore or unsuitable use by adjacent residents. When this occurs, City of Victoria will have responsibility and costs for cleanup.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

37 responses

I hope the flowers mean beneficials and not decorative in this context

These gardening sites should be encouraged on private property and not placed in public parks or boulevards. Reclaim parking lots and hardscape areas for this purpose. The parking lot at Royal Athletic Park



used to be at least 1/3 tennis courts (recreation) now it is all parking. Green it up with a community garden.

Include habitat

I am surprised and impressed that the city would make these changes to the definition.

It should be encouraged by incentives given and free community workshops perhaps with discounted plants, soil & fertilizers for attendees

I think the potential exists for the public to assume that there will be more staff support for allotment garden projects as opposed to the other 6 types of growing projects, if the term community garden is used.

I think many versions of gardening need to be tried, allowing for policy to be adapted later on.

Some signs alerting drivers and pedestrians that there are gardeners in the area.

Only GMO seeds can survive. I won't eat GMO. They are designed to kill or make sick. Until the bigger issues are addressed, anything else is a waste of time.

Garden areas or fruit trees that are intended for anyone to harvest should be labeled so that people feel welcome to harvest from the plant. Otherwise, people are often unsure because they are good polite people who don't want to take things that are not theirs.

In my community garden, I don't like it when someone devotes most of their plot to non-edible flowers. They're lovely to look at, but she seems to be selling them as bouquets and I don't think that's what the garden is for.

Should include composting education.

Great idea. I will brag about this project to my friends in other cities

Such wealth in community sharing and relationships

Would like to see some emphasis on educational possibilities such as having children involved through their schools. I learnt to garden by following my mother around and this is a passion that can be lit early. Reach out to children, seniors and disabled folk in particular, as they are the least likely to have independent gardening opportunities.

Should have been done years ago

A definition that lists CRITERIA instead of acceptable categories would last longer. Over time, the things we do with community gardens will likely change, and the best definition would be flexible enough to accommodate those changes without having to change the definition. If you want to include these categories, you could always specify them as EXAMPLES, without using them as the definition itself.

The question is just put out there - without explanation of impact of suggested changes.  
Misleading.

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I think any change is a good change.

I am very concerned with the loss of green space in my neighbourhood with recent development. We need more community gardens, more allotment gardens, more creative use of the green space remaining, to address both ecological diversity and food security issues.

If I did know what the impacts of changing the definition meant, I would likely have varying opinions to the additional types suggested.

Building community and sharing knowledge are key in developing an engaged community of people where they can increase their knowledge of successful food growing initiatives in the city.

I also appreciate the idea of hobby beekeeping. I am keenly interested in becoming involved with such a project and learning all about how I can cultivate bees both in my home garden and in my city.

I think landlords should have to provide space for tenants to grow food. people would be so much healthier. I currently have potatoes in a bucket, lettuce in a bucket, kale in a bucket, tomatoes in a bucket, strawberries in a bucket, grapes in a bucket. I save so much money for fun things if I am feeding my teens things I can grow. I have gone to Cobble Hill to grow things. It would be sweet to grow them closer to home.

This would be an investment in the future.

I can't see how expanding the definition of what counts as gardening could possibly cause harm to anyone.

Education is key. All of these initiatives require labour and knowledge to be successfully implemented. Local institutions and training should be incentivized, initially, to support educating homeowners - the City should not "own" this aspect and impose costs on taxpayers.

Food is a human right. We have astrayed from our ancestral knowledge and become dependant on store bought food instead of local...and foraged.

Maybe post drought water restrictions and watering days on the home page of the city's website. I have to dig to find them (usually I google this info and wade through webpages to get this info.)

The more food and culturally useful plants in public places and residential yards the better

Not every one wants to garden. You might find people who want to learn how to look after bees or butterflies instead.

The people who are in charge at city hall would stop to think and look at the big picture. Keep hearing from the tax payer, why? is the city allowing more developer to keep building. In James Bay, there was a perfect place for a community garden however money talks. It is coming where people won't be able to buy food and its time to start replanting the orchards and gardens. Cost of living is going up again and people's wallet is not getting bigger. We need true farmers to come in and start planting. We need city workers with experience and knowledge to be planting for the big picture not hiring people who are book smart and nothing about the really world.

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Excellent

no

Perhaps the city/Parks & Rec. could compliment the various types of gardening endeavours by offering public education on the various gardening types in order to deepen the knowledge base & honour/ validate the work/resource of the community gardeners.



If this was captured on a web link to the municipal website, the greater public could learn too!!

a definite move in forward thinking

Its important that people who start gardening on public land do it properly and in a controlled & aesthetically acceptable manner, as public land belongs to all. Similarly, encouraging gardening is good, but starting gardens that become non-maintained weed infested or dusty earth is not beneficial. Soil is a precious living commodity and needs to be managed. Some common herbs/veggies/flowers plants (e.g. dill) are invasive and also need to be managed. Bad gardening is not better than no gardening.

Community Gardens: Potential Change #2: Making all new allotment garden plots available to all Victoria residents, regardless of their neighbourhoodWHY? Some neighbourhoods have more space available for community gardens than others. Dense neighbourhoods like downtown have limited access to new locations for gardens.

Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	135 78.5%	
<b>No</b>	37 21.5%	
Total: 172		

If yes, why?

Response	Count
89 responses	

Should be open to everyone

Location shouldn't dictate garden access, especially with so many renters

Location shouldn't dictate garden access, especially with so many renters

Because people aren't static, they live and work usually in different areas and may want to move to an area they don't currently live in but enjoy adding to. It seems petty and exclusive to restrict people based on where they live.

All residents should have access to city land to grow their own food.

As mentioned, some communities have more room than others. That being said, first spaces available should be reserved for those in the local neighbourhoods to reduce traffic and encourage community relationships.

With hesitation. I like the idea of fairness and equal access, but not the idea that people would have to "commute" to their garden.

We are all Victorians first. I would prefer to have a plot near my home but understand that I may need to accept a spot elsewhere if none are available. With ALR land close by in Saanich why wouldn't Victoria gain access to land for plots? Place it beside the Goose or Lochside trail for easy cycling to and from.

Because I live downtown and there's no access that I'm aware of to new plots.

More inclusive

I consider both my home and work neighbourhoods as potential places I'd want to partake in a community garden. Neighbourhood boundaries divide, instead of building community.

I want to grow food but there is no place available for me to do that

Everyone that wants to help garden should have a space to do so.

All who wish to have access to land to garden should be allowed to do so, regardless of their financial ability, or place of residence.

people move and then have to pack up their garden with them. Some people simply just don't have access for where they are, it's also good for folks to get to know their other neighbours.

Some spaces fill up quicker than others and some people are in areas lacking green space.

Until we can sustain our local population sufficiently we should always create more food land in every way possible which may need to be creative

fairness, accessibility, getting to know the city and its people better by spending time outside your usual hood.

People may live and work in different parts of town and can decide what is convenient or beneficial to themselves. Some areas are more conducive to allotment gardens etc than others

More access to gardens

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As stated above some neighbourhoods, like downtown, have little to no access to community gardens while others have a lot of green space

Regardless of where you live you can have access to growing food.

Totally agree that the areas with more garden space should be shared. Also, many people can only afford condos but want to garden so this is good news for them.

To start this is a good idea. After a couple years, we can revisit this to see if there is more demand in one neighborhood or not and share/open gates accordingly.

There is an allotment system, which may need to be expanded. Yes they should be for all Victoria residents.

I cannot see anyone abusing a garden system. If it is for all and the vibe is good and positive all will be well.

As noted, there are many 'concrete canyons' that have little green-space, so sharing makes sense.

Removing restrictions is an important part of making things accessible to everyone.

Downtown residents need options for gardening

More access for people wanting to garden

I might move to a neighborhood with less garden space or but a condo with no space so it would be great to be allowed to garden where I do not live.

Accessibility is key part of change and equality

to share the land

increase accessibility

Perhaps it should be free to garden in your own neighbourhood and if you want to plant in a different neighbourhood you would have to pay a minisule fee.

First come first served waitlist city wide

More people will have the opportunity to grow food. Develops community pride and community spirit.

Better use of garden space. Helps ensure most garden spaces are used.

Overall I think this is a good idea as I know it's really hard to get a plot on some areas of town where they're at a premium, but ultimately it is better if the plot is close to a person's home if at all possible so there's no excuse to not get there and tend it.

Because all people should have access to growing food.

You shouldnt be restricted by the neighborhood you live in. Many people spend more time commuting and should be able to utilize space that someone else might not

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Gives greater access and removes restrictions

The wait lists on these garden plots are ridiculously long, if we open more plots allowing more access we can accommodate more people.

I'm a bit torn about this one, because I think neighbourhood connection/loyalty is important. But if this approach is preventing some people from having access to gardening opportunities, then the change is a good one.

Some neighborhoods, have unused space that could be used by citizens from down town, etc.

For example, some people might choose to have a garden near work instead of near home.

The garden plots should go to the most enthusiastic people, wherever they are from in the city. Let people fill out an application for the plot. Mind you, this needs to be a recommendation to the non-profits, accompanied education on the benefits of changing their policy . It's not something the city can just "rule" on.

Increases green space, and allows people who cannot afford to live in houses with access to gardens to still have access to a plot of land that they can take care of, it give people a chance to care for their city. It also makes the city more aesthetically pleasing.

We need gardens where ever we can get them in the urban areas.

It's good to give everyone equal opportunity to garden, however it would be good to have some provision to try to match individuals with plots closest to their home to improve accessibility and reduce transportation impacts

anyone who wants to be able to garden should have the ability to garden. gardening is good for the soul!

I am divided on this issue. The positive is that keen gardeners from adjacent neighbourhoods may help to get a garden established in an area such as Hillside Quadra that currently has no allotment gardens. It can also build relationships between adjacent neighbourhoods.

I've attempted to join several community gardens but they have all been restricted to residents only. Because I live in the downtown core there are no gardens available to me even though I am willing and able to work in them.

Seems more equitable

That's kind of a no-brainer, more people can participate

Locals should get first crack. If there is space available make first come for the current growing season only.

I will travel to Cobble Hill to garden what is it to travel across town to plants and harvest.I just want to grow food. it costs less than getting the food from the store. will the stores feel the pinch if everyone gardens??

City residents should have the same kind of access as rural ones.

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It's more democratic, less elitist

meeting someone from a different neighbourhood is always a good idea and fosters a more inclusive bigger community to learn from

No segregation due to location

Parks can handle strip planting. Parkades could handle roof top gardens. But that would still leave many people without access. I would suggest the easiest would be cooping chickens.

Not all areas have availability of space, however, residents could have priority. If they don't use the gardens enough or efficiently, their space could be re-allocated.

As stated above, some communities have more green space

if you live in a city, you should have access to its resources

People should be able to grow their own food no matter where they live

The more access to local food by more people the better

People buy their homes and types of homes (condos, townhouses) where they can afford to. If these homes do not come with any type of area for gardening and all current available spaces in their particular community are used, they would not be able to contribute to their own food security, if they are that way inclined.

More people will have access to the gardens.

Provide garden space to those who really want to garden not to those that live in neighborhoods.

The idea is to ENCOURAGE gardening, right?

To provide access to those with limited neighborhood opportunities because of limited space or an imbalance in popularity for neighborhood gardens (some neighborhoods may have a lot of uptake while others may not).

Everyone has the right to shelter, food.

Creates community throughout Victoria

If there is room available, people should be able to come from all over the city to grow. It's about growing food, not inner-city xenophobia :)

Victoria can get very segregated by neighbourhood and it is not always helpful. Also, I live on the very edge

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of Fernwood so it may be easier for me to garden in another neighbourhood community garden.

Adds beauty, community and food security

I love this. It helps to break down the "them" & "us".

Realistically, it may not be overly practical for some people as transportation or distance may be an impediment. But, where there's a will there's often a way - so go for it!!

overall, it's a good idea because it removes barriers based on your address and also promotes community beyond neighbourhood; it would be good to make sure people don't have to drive to get to their garden plot and also ensure people have a sense of stewardship even though they don't live in that neighbourhood

people may work or have other commitments near a garden that makes participation more conducive compared with a garden near their actual home.

No reason to have restrictions in place - make it easier for everyone to garden

gardens and food growing are important.

greater availability for those interested

Because it increases access for those who live in densely packed neighbourhoods.

I'm okay with this as long as it applies to new gardens only. My worry is that if it was applied retroactively, those neighbourhoods closest to the core would have the most pressure on them. There should be a way where people can designate what their priority location might be.

Up to a point. If some land is not used people from outside the neighborhood should have access on a first come basis.

more equitable. However, there should be a time limit/rotation so no one can 'own' the plot forever. And if it is neglected it should be immediately forfeited.

You've made the case re downtown garden availability.

Availability will provide opportunities for those who by choice or necessity are in areas where there are fewer available gardens.

Community gardens should, however, not be on boulevards but on fenced, controlled access lots.

If no, why not?

Response

Count

37 responses

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Community gardens should foster the sense of community in the immediate neighborhood. That would be destroyed by people coming by car to the garden, then leaving the area. Also, those coming from afar will not have the same attachment and care for the neighborhood

People should be guaranteed access in their neighborhood if it is available. Travelling across the city to gain access to a community garden plot is less environmentally friendly. Is someone from downtown gained access to a plot in Gordon head, which displaced a resident there and forced them to James Bay, it would destroy the sense of community that grows along with vegetables in community garden plots.

Loss of community spirit. no loyalty to the neighbourhood. urban dwellers have the choice to live elsewhere if they wish more "green" space); people who choose to live in urban centers must accept the cost of their decision (less green space) rather than make those who live in less urban areas pay for it /lose out

Proximity to services is a key factor in measuring the livability of neighbourhoods. I think efforts could be better spent in exploring creative ways to generate additional space for gardens in communities. There is also the question of access. Opening neighbourhood allotments to anyone in the City creates something of an unfair advantage for those who have the ability (financial, physical, etc) to travel across town to garden. For neighbourhoods with higher populations of marginalized or vulnerable people (seniors, low-income families, etc) I think this could be detrimental to community health.

I think there is a great deal more space in the downtown area than people realize, it may simply require a shift in municipal thinking as well as perhaps buy-in from higher levels of government. I'm thinking of the areas of greenspace on provincially held land such as the court house, St. Ann's, the boulevards in Harris Green. There is also the possibility of re-purposing space such as empty lots, rooftop gardens, raised beds in parking areas, etc.

Community members who live in an area should have first priority. Communal space, such as gardens, are an integral part of building community relationships and enhancing livability. I think that there are way more barriers to gaining equal access to garden space than belonging to a certain neighbourhood. We should work on bringing in local community members to under used community garden spaces before letting them go to outside individuals.

Gardening opportunities should be made available in all Neighbourhoods to minimize travel.

People living in the area and operating the non-profit - typically, the people who do most of the work - should be able to retain decision-making power in this regard.

Encourages people driving more, reduces the neighbourhood community building. Those involved don't have a vested interest in the neighbourhood affected by the garden.

First. The communities have not been consulted. The gardening lobby has responded. Why should one neighbourhood have to bear the cost for the whole city. Keep this neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

I think boundaries would still be useful or you lose the benefits of community development and you start

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increasing to pollution when people can't walk or bike to their garden plots. Also, my experience has been that the further away I lived from my garden plot, the more likely I was to neglect it and therefore the less efficient my plot was.

Being close to your garden is important. You need to be there often and many people downtown don't have cars. Find rooftop or park space or abandoned lot space to have gardens downtown for downtown residence.

Leave it to members of the community. Residents in densely populated areas will have to get more inventive.

space can always be found if we are creative regardless of density. Neighbourhood gardens generate neighbourhood connections and relationships which contributes to vibrant neighbourhoods.

gardens in close proximity to the home promote communities. driving 20 minutes to your plot does not. long distance plot renters will not persist

I think priority should be given to people who don't have backyards (living in apts.) and keep it local

It should be the decision of the communities who is allowed to participate

The gardens should reflect the community in which it flourishes. A garden in uplands/oak Bay will look substantially different from a homegrown garden in Esquimalt. Rich people can afford to do more/better, more exotic than a blue collar neighborhood.

I should be able to garden in my neighbourhood - allotment gardens do NOT give equal access to anyone. These private clubs are privatizing public land.

With limited green space dedicated to growing first priority should go to those who live in the neighbourhood.

The negative side of this is that residents who really need the garden space may not be able to access it. I would be okay with this change if at least some gardens were reserved for residents of the specific neighbourhood ie 50%. I don't think this has to be completely open or closed issue.

The deer are going to eat it all on the boulevard

Aggressive people can take over neighbourhood green space just because they are aggressive. A very very bad idea.

Gardeners resident in a neighbourhood have a greater commitment to their own community.

Increased traffic

I'm on the fence on this one. Increasing travel and burning fossil fuels to have people travel to other neighbourhoods to grow may not be long lasting. Finding committed people who are willing to travel may represent a problem.



It makes sense for people to grow things closer to home so they can walk or bike.

One key barrier to people getting involved with their local community garden is proximity. People will be more likely to get involved if the garden is but a short walk from their house. More effort needs to be made to ensure each community has access to gardens that are either within walking distance, or a short bike/bus ride.

Because denser areas have other public use spaces, like wider roads and sidewalks. This shouldn't take away local residents' rights to green space, but it currently does. That's just bad policy.

I actually feel ambivalent, not a hard "no" but there was no maybe option. My fear would be that people would sign up and then because it's inconvenient to get to, they'd never come. Meanwhile someone in that neighbourhood would like that plot but they can't use it because all the absent downtowners have laid claim to it. A better solution would be to find creative spaces where plants can be grown downtown - rooftop gardens on city hall maybe? Take away a bit of space in Centennial and Market Squares and put plots in? Require developers to provide space for gardening? Make a deal with the hotels? Etc.

1. Operating organizations (community association) may restrict garden membership based on their constitution and by-laws (residency policy) therefore the City forced provision to open membership would contravene the organizations policy.
2. Administration and maintenance of the gardens is mainly provided by community volunteers of the operating organization who's purpose is to serve its membership and community, not the outlying neighbourhoods.
3. Purpose of gardens is to build community relationships to support a resilient neighbourhood. These relationships are more critical in the immediate neighbourhood.
4. The existing allotment gardens are not meeting the needs of the immediate neighbourhoods - all have wait lists. A better solution is to provide more food growing opportunities to all neighbourhoods, not force the demand on the limited existing space. The City new development process must require (not voluntary) food production in multi-unit, mixed use developments and other types of housing i.e. ornamental landscaping should be replaced with edible.
4. Gardens closer to home is more convenient and therefore will be visited more often/maintained more often.
5. Gardens closer to home can be accessed more easily (walked to rather than by car) therefore decreases the demand for on-site parking, reduces the number of cars on the road, is more healthy, etc.

Maintenance. Kitchen gardens are proven successful in proximity to consumption. Individual plots should be allocated to neighborhood residents only, while commercial scale activities should be supported where available land is abundant.

Make more community gardens accessible in the downtown through design guidelines i.e. rooftop gardens. Modern life does not encourage relationships between neighbours and this has a negative impact on civic governance. We need opportunities to interact with each other at the neighbourhood level. We should encourage more neighbourhood based activities.

One of the key factors determining community garden success is PROXIMITY. Simply put, it is a hassle, you will not go to your garden when your garden needs it. This leads to failed gardens, and discouragement from gardening.

Gardens need weeding, seeding and watering. More weeding, harvesting, more watering, more weeding, more seeding, always watering. When you garden is not near to hand, perhaps on your way to or from work or some other frequent trip, the garden is neglected.

Inconvenient garden locations mean they will be used only by those with lots of time and easy transportation. Many gardens have lots of retirees that are active, and fewer young families who could really use the food, and would benefit from integrating gardening into their children's experiences.

Assuming every neighborhood has access to community gardens, the gardens should serve the neighborhood they are in.

need to add some qualifiers, like who gets first dibs. look at novel ways to develop community accessible garden spaces in the downtown areas

priority must be given to local communities first

some traditionally disadvantaged neighbourhoods (Hillside-Quadra, Burnside-Gorge and perhaps North Park) have limited resources, and perhaps even limited desire of individuals to engage in community gardening. People need to be taught the benefits and mentored. Plus, the financial resources coming to the groups and community centres has been "hard-won". It's easier for a well-off neighbourhood to rally financial support. If a less-affluent neighbourhood finally gets a community garden (something we've been attempting to do for a very long time in Hillside-Quadra) it should be for the benefit of people in this community, many of whom struggle with food security.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

34 responses

It shouldn't just be new community gardens made to be more inclusive, it should be all community gardens.

Why not just ensure that plots are available in every area, even if it means rooftop gardens etc... Or create a spot close to downtown solely for the use of downtown residents, so that they are meeting members of their own community and not displacing others.

those who wish to have green space should not choose to live where there is no green space. their choice in neighborhood should not negatively impact those who do live in and pay to live in less urban areas.

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People who live in green areas incur the costs of being outside the urban centre (ie poor public transportation); people who choose to live in urban centres must accept the cost of their decision (less green space)

Consider access from the perspective of those who have the least ability to get around.

The size and number of community gardens should increase in line with the number of downtown residents indicating they want space to garden. Metrics should be taken for the first two years to get a handle of the size and scope of the trend.

If a garden has space & folks from other neighbourhoods want to use it, they should. However gardens can prioritize residents if they want. Also, a policy should be in place for folks who neglect their gardens, in case distance proves a barrier to maintain the space.

I think of community gardening as community or neighbourhood building, which would be less-so if the "neighbourhood" was broadened to include people from all around the City.

On second thought travelling across town to garden does not seem like a good idea, so I would emphasize the need to have land that is available to all residents on foot.

I do think that people in the neighbourhood should be given priority.

Water use for growing needs to be addressed in this process of education

Caution that it might create friction between local residents and non-resident gardeners

I'd like to see greater equal access, but how would that affect the community/neighborhood building aspect?

More allotment garden plots are needed in Victoria, opening who can garden where won't meet the needs of those wishing to garden if the wait lists remain full. The potential exists for gardens that are not tended by someone living in the neighbourhood to be neglected.

Some sort of communal access to water would be helpful. Tools can be carried, but water is heavy.

Why has nothing been discussed with the neighborhoods. Can't let one stakeholder group control City land. Other needs for public land have not even been identified, let alone planned.

The only concern I have is increase in traffic from people coming from outside of the area.

Great idea. Some landlords do not allow you to garden so community space would address that.

Like all ideas, some grey area. Perhaps a percentage of each garden could be allotted to those outside of neighbourhoods? Would like to see neighbourhoods served first, then allot perhaps 25% of each to people outside of that community. Of course, if there is not sufficient uptake within the neighbourhood, then by all means add the surplus to the 25%

i worry that by making it open to all victoria residents there will be less incentive to ensure that allotment

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gardens are represented in all geographic areas. Allowing all residents to be a part of the allotments increases accessibility regardless of where you live; however, there may still be barriers of physical accessibility for those people that live far from the actual gardens.

But it might be hard for poor people to travel - should emphasize/prioritize gardening close to home for people with limited mobility

Gardening should be part of the school curriculum

Who says that some neighborhoods have more space than others. Fairfield and Rockland have more space than the rest of the City, but that doesn't mean they will want people from anywhere in the City using their space. Fairfield has oodles of public space - but what public use would be lost if converted to allotment-garden-private space? Rockland has the most green space - but not city-owned land. And given the large green areas in Fairfield and Rockland, why should the residents there be able to take over land in another neighbourhood? Just not right.

This survey is being offered to the gardening lobby members, yet it will affect all of us. Why are not other voices part of the discussion?

I think community gardening helps people come together in that particular community. This might help people get to know each other.

Individual plots should be proximate, or available for growing seasonal crops, such as grains, potatoes or similar that have specific harvesting times - the latter only where land is more abundant.

people using community gardens should have some kind of accountability for upkeep and fair use

I am aware that the closer a person is to their community garden plot the more convenient it is to attend to and therefore the more likely their plot will be well kept and utilized. So this may need to still be a consideration sometimes. But perhaps this is adequately addressed through garden rules. Perhaps the waitlists for all allotments could be combined but then some rating/ coordination take place so that folks could turn down an offer of a far-away plot if they know they will be up next for a closer garden.

This could increase automobile traffic and people could have more than a fair number of plots.

needs a careful thoughtful discussion to flesh out the idea more completely

Maybe this should be only partially changed: ie. new community gardens should be allowed to restrict a certain percentage of memberships to their own neighbourhood, to ensure it is getting the primary benefit. Otherwise you might run the risk of deterring people from the hard work of starting up a community garden, if they think few people in their neighbourhood will actually benefit. And it serves as a hub for meeting others in your own neighbourhood. On the other hand, if a person is just on the inside border of one neighbourhood but is close to the community garden located in an adjacent neighbourhood, (partially) removing this restriction makes sense. It is also more equitable for downtown dwellers who don't have many options, though the focus of remedying this should be in creating more rooftop garden space.

Try to ensure that the allotments have great bus access.

Introducing lots of new cars to neighbourhoods - may not be so positive, & could work to cause resentment from the neighbourhood, which may not help with breaking down social barriers.



it is not difficult to prioritize local applicants with others on a waiting list

people in neighbourhood where garden is located should have first dibs, and people without space on their own property should be prioritized.

Perhaps a caveat that if the garden plot is not kept up the "ownership" can be revoked, regardless of where the gardener lives. People start out meaning well but then let the weeds take over / don't water the plants.

### Community Gardens: Potential Change #3 More staff support for new community garden projects

Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	152 87.9%	
<b>No</b>	21 12.1%	
<i>Total: 173</i>		

If yes, why?

Response	Count
91 responses	

The cost concerns me seems like a waste of resources

Raises awareness and the success of the gardens

Many people need more support and education available.

From my experience the city does not currently have the capacity to be responsive to issues related to community gardens and/or food security. Make it a dedicated priority.

Food security will increase dramatically with this change. The proposed policy is a good balance between citizen demand and city availability.

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more help is needed. period.

The City can provide useful and practical help with finding garden/project sites, arranging financial assistance/grants and sharing knowledge gained from involvement with other projects.

The food security, gardening, and sustainability non-profit world is under funded and often people end up doing things off the side of their desk. The more supports in place the better.

Most people who want to participate don't have the hours and hours it takes to make it happen. This would help.

Identify land and help organize the people who want to garden. Many if not most parks could feature allotments or community gardens.

I was hoping to get an allotment garden in Fairfield but nothing is available

We need more edible and production landscaping in Victoria and I know a lot of people that would like to get involved.

Seems like it would help streamline the processes involved with getting more people gardening.

yes there is not enough support for this kind of thing and is almost always 110% volunteer run which is not always sustainable long term. There should be more city support and funds for helping these projects.

These areas are hard to navigate on your own, City help would be great!

Let's be an example of how possible this change is. We live in the most perfect climate to make this successful!

It is the "City's" responsibility to participate in and/or facilitate community projects that benefit and improve the city. Period.

Increases likelihood of successful gardens

Having at least one networker/knowledge keeper sounds like it's needed here.

It will help communities get their own projects going

This would help community gardens get started and flourish. We need pay people a living wage to help get projects like this underway.

Jobs, sustainability

If you are going to invest in community gardening , you need the resources to do it properly

A central coordinator would be a good source of information for new as well as ongoing community gardening project. Why keep reinventing the wheel? Learn from others through this central body of knowledge.

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There could be a greater scale of sourcing plants, advice on gardening (ecologically friendly), big picture view.

The garden needs to be tended with a constant vibe. It's good for the plants and the people.

There may be ways and means to be most effective at city gardening, that not all persons may be aware of. Guidance may be a good way to get people active.

People need land to garden in.

Good process is important

More help growing food the better

A close liaison with the city staff is always a good thing and the wisdom they will bring to the project.

Great use of city money.

Voice to the people. This is what democracy looks like

It will stop people from pursuing inappropriate projects. I would also like to see the City step up and offer the public a chance to obtain compost at a reduced price. We are paying to have our food scraps and leaves removed, yet we cannot access the finished product. This does not make sense.

this is something that we need in Victoria

Yes! Markets need to be organized, classes need to be taught, and more effort must be spent organizing people. Social media could greatly enhance the scope of people who are interested!

Food sustainability municipal clearing house. Bring attention to best practices, encourage granting inputs.

Many people need support as they don't always know how to garden

Better implementation

Food security is important for people who live on an island

better support for success

In my opinion, the more the better if it means getting this process to the action stage. I feel this is one of the most exciting and beneficial initiatives the city could have, and "many hands make light work" so seems like there's more chance of success if we get the right number of people for the tasks at hand.

We are a beautiful city with so much more potential. We can lead the way in edible urban development of greenspace. It can help solve a problem by potentially feeding people who currently don't have access to affordable food.

More gardens

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Extra resources will help those who need it to get started and be successful

Better land use

A coordinator would likely accelerate local food production which needs to be encouraged and facilitated now.

The return on investment in ongoing food security is worthwhile!

There is so much unused land in the city that many people have brilliant ideas for, we just need to give them the chance to try, and the support to actually make it work. These projects benefit many people.

Puts a commitment behind the concept.

Planning is critical. Open ended projects without any structure would result in a hodge podge of growing, planting, less product, people doing their own thing when they want - or up and leaving projects half done. There does need to be structure.

more land should be dedicated to growing food and the act of gardening. If they park or land is currently not being used for anything why not engage people.

Amazing way to get members of the community together to make use of land that isn't being used to contribute to local food security

Opens up the availability of community gardening to more people.

My involvement getting the new gardens going in Oak Bay definitely showed that people require support to make their gardens successful. We had to work through the plan for deer fencing, who was responsible for what etc.

Selects people who are most motivated

Having support from the city is key in getting these kinds of projects off the ground, both in terms of man power and funding.

If possible, cut the red tape even more

More jobs. More help. Win win.

Someone has to be the champion of the garden. I would like to see composting happening at the gardens. All household organics composted at the garden in a rodent proof Composter. [Joracanada.ca](http://Joracanada.ca)

more land to grow on is always a good thing!!

Because without some assistance, most people would not have the information or resources to find land for gardens.

Expertise is needed to get things going

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as long as the intake and paperwork doesn't get to burdensome for the average person to handle; too much paper and regulations will put people off from trying to get started

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Most people will waste their time learning to garden. Better it would be to have the gardening all ready in place and people take over the care of the plots. Kale and potato crops would be best.

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It won't work without adequate guidance and support.

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I'm not actually sure this is a good idea. The main thing would be to have less red tape and not more. Sometimes bureaucrats dedicated to a single focus create more red tape because they feel a need to justify their existence, so make everyone jump through hoops. Sometimes they are helpful and eliminate the bull poop involved in having to apply for every little thing.

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Creating a standard application will simplify the process and establish understandable expectations of all parties; however will the one in-take period address the existing slow process - what is this attempting to solve?? Does this not put more demand on limited staff resources and create a community vs community competition culture??

Having professional City assistance in the community consultation/engagement process will provide crucial support to the limited community volunteers.

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Sounds like it's needed

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Somewhat. This approach should be taken IF there is a lack of expertise in the community. Could this not be an annual contract for one of the many excellent businesses in town? There is a growing depth of excellent experience in the private businesses in the community - why does this role need to be in-house?

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planning is key to gardening

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Yes, more staff attention to urban agriculture is a good idea. But it should be focussed.

Most community gardens are uselessly small. The plots may be only 30-75 square feet. This is too small to offer a significant amount of food for a family, and certainly too small for any commercial application.

So, it would be a waste of time to focus on providing more uselessly small patches of ground to residents. Focus on transitioning street trees to fruit and nuts, opening large tracts of land to agriculture, growing food on large boulevards and vacant lots.

For community gardens, the city should install a water faucet, and not much else. Let the community do the work.

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ANYTHING that eases and increases access to local food is good. I would like to see more than one application date each year. Even ongoing opportunities

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Increasing community interactions is always beneficial, especially to newcomers. It'd be proactive to want to be engaged in the community from a municipal government perspective in order to be more accessible to

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## If no, why not?

Response	Count
	21 responses
Community garden groups should work within their own resources. The city could help with selecting land but to help them with project proposals seems more like the city getting to involved with directing these groups.	
City staff are stretched thin enough as it is, and a "community" project should be established using community, not city, funds and resources. If I want to put in my own vegetable garden, the city will not pay for staff to assist in planning or other resources, so why should they for community gardens?	
If you are too lazy /incompetent to get it started yourself, you are going to have trouble maintaining it.	
Expression of interest, annual intake to cumbersome. Identify all available land in all neighbourhoods and work with existing or emerging groups to put the land under cultivation.	
Not unless current staffing expenditures can be minimized. Staff payout right now is HUGE.	
Use the existing staff in each community. Don't need more city staff.	
There are so many other places the city needs to spend money. should be done by volunteers and nonprofits.	
We have a garden - complaining that the members are not carrying the load of assisting. Just interested in themselves, not the garden or the community aspect of the garden vis a vis responsibility and work share. This program could be a huge mess. Any City staffing should benefit all residents, not yust the "food" group who are l;obbying for their own self-interest	
should be volunteer run and not at tax payer expense	
This seems like the sort of thing that would be more appropriate if done by community groups themselves. They'll be more vested in the process if they do it.	
Reason do not support this proposal is cost. I would rather see the financial ersources put into developing or refreshing public space for everyone, not this group of gardeners who want to privatize public land.	
The deer are going to eat it all on the boulevard	
My tax dollars are being diverted to single use residents, who want to gain for themselves.	
Unless fees for this service fully cover the costs.	
Council already spends more than it has.	

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There is no justification for using public money to support an activity that is not essential for the operation of the city. There is no good evidence that community gardens support food security in a cost efficient manner - they do not produce enough to genuinely increase resilience to any interruption to regional food supply nor is there evidence that the costs incurred return a positive net benefit in terms of the food produced. There may be some social benefit to the small number of people involved but this does not justify public expenditure at a time of high cost of living and property tax burden to taxpayers

What a massive waste of taxpayer dollars and resources.

Somewhat. Unfortunately, public sector employees may not be the most progressive and hands-on. This critical implementation role needs to be on the street, hands dirty, not behind a desk.

Neighbourhood associations should hire skilled community organizers that proactively facilitate projects such as community gardens.

I think one staff member is sufficient. I would like others in the planning department to be involved depending on their role. Another way to get more people time is to give grants to non-profits that are already working in this area.

don't need any more levels of official civic intrusion, the community can do this, give them a chance. Put out a call for proposals. I will step up.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

33 responses

Anything that increases city staff workload and potential taxes is a poor idea. Revenue neutrality is the only way to go.

Hopefully the City can help local project coordinators work with developers and other land users to get projects underway. Eg when new housing developments are proposed there could be a garden component built in to their proposal and work with City, developers and neighbourhood gardens can all work together to create more growing space.

What about the box gardens put on asphalt in Vancouver. We could create lots of garden plots on asphalt.

Giving people a purpose is always great. Allowing people that may not be valued in other industries may thrive in this type of work.

It's about time. Thanks.

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Caution that this could become bureaucratic and expensive. Is the City going to mediate disputes? You'll end up in court: expensive and embarrassing.

My only question would be - could there be a really cost effective way to partner with an existing non-profit to facilitate the co-ordination with the City - might be cheaper for tax payers than an employee.

Cross pollination of people, and their ideas, would be as important as to the flowers.

tax-dollars are being directed to a few

what is the cost of this service?

I wouldn't say yes or no to this proposal because it doesn't address its term "garden groups". I belong to a garden group controlled by the Fernwood Community Association and the FCA is a huge problem for gardeners to overcome. Specifically, a **Personal information**

. Then, we we ask the FCA to do the things we are prohibited from doing ourselves (circulating emails, calling meetings) we don't get support and are told the funding is minimal. I think the best thing I could recommend is that the overseers of the "community groups" be trained and be ACCOUNTABLE. thanks for asking

"more staff" is not helpful. Are there any staff? How many? How are existing staff focused on community gardens? Not enough info to make informed comment.

Why will City staff help this growing group and not other citizens with their projects?

The only part I am not in total agreement with, is having one annual intake period per year. While I can understand how this could help the city, it could be discouraging to individuals to know that they have a narrow window to get launched. I am not sure what time period is being proposed, but from a gardener's perspective a lot of thinking, dreaming and planning occurs over the winter months. If this application period was during spring for instance, we may all be busy gardening.

I believe that the City is challenged, fiscally. Let's pull in costs - especially for things such as this. People gaining for themselves should use their energies and finances, not my tax dollars. The bridge, sewage, and other infrastructure etc will drain us all.

A continuous intake would help with volume and preparation for the seasons of growing food.

As I mentioned composting of household organics, as well as garden greens should be composted on site.  
Joracanada.ca

These resources should be diverted towards enforcing basic bylaws and ensuring all businesses have valid business licenses (even illegal narcotics retail outlets).

most people have no idea how much space growing food takes up. the more space the better.

I vehemently disagree with the idea of a single annual application. Just take the applications all year round!

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The deadline might work for city Hall but what if it doesn't work for the people trying to garner momentum in their community? It makes local action groups far less responsive if they identify a desire and current interest in a garden but they can't capitalize on it because, oh, missed the deadline, hope you'll all still be around a year from now. If you're going to the expense of hiring someone just to coordinate food then surely that person will have the time to process applications whenever and to advise applicants that while they can apply for the garden now they might wish to wait until the next grant application cycle. Lots of neighbourhoods would rather get things going now and then apply for the money once they've actually started a bit of the work - that creates more ownership of the project anyway and makes it seem less city-sponsored.

Leverage partnerships or fundamentally change the role of EXISTING departments. Perhaps a retooling of parks, sustainable planning and zoning is in order. Don't add to the bureaucracy, change it so that it is relevant and nimble.

Stop building condos !!!

no

Hire students or part-time staff to help this person. Tell me where I can apply.

Excellent - this kind of facilitation, if done well, helps to ensure successful outcomes at many levels. It is often hard to quantify the value of such an investment, but in my opinion it is often the glue that holds the whole thing together.

Facilitation skills need to be the primary skill set of this person - their admin/ other skills are secondary.

growing food in our region should be a huge priority - we should invest more resources here than you are even planning

it is important to coordinate potential opportunities for growth in this area and expand on a growing movement for local sustainable food production

this needs a community group, as in Neighbourhood Watch etc.

In terms of new community gardens, can also make the suggestion that whenever possible they be established with a corner for kids to play? The most successful allotment gardens I've seen are those that have a small play area within the fenced in enclosure so that kids have something to do while their parents dig. (Kids normally get bored digging with their parents after about 5 min :-). It doesn't need to be fancy or liability-inducing. Just a pile of dirt set aside with community members encouraged to bring a few old shovels, pails, boards, diggers and dump trucks (similar to how some community toys are left at city parks) and a sign saying "kid zone: dig, construct and do what you like here" would do the trick. A facility that includes that makes a huge difference to the ability for families to use the space.

Why do city bureaucrats even need to get involved?

does this need to be a full time position?! How about hiring a student... or plugging into one of the many existing programs or industry related firms (which would help support those programs/firms). e.g. Lifecycles, Haliburton Farm, Glendale Hort Program, local Landscape Architects, etc.

This is a good idea if, and only if, there is parity among the groups and neighbourhoods.

You might also consider a volunteer mentor program. There are a number of gardeners who would be happy to guide neophyte members of the gardening community.

**Community Gardens: Potential Change #4** A simpler, more streamlined application system for new projects **WHY?** We heard that the City's current process for approving new community gardens takes too long, and is confusing. Here's how we're thinking of improving it: If you can't view the following image clearly, please click [here](#).

Is this a good idea?



If yes, why?



Seams like a reasonable process

Accessible applications mean more people (especially those with lesser computer or education skills) can apply for projects. It doesn't take a genius to be a hard worker

Simplicity is always better.

Common sense. Keep it simple.

Road maps are good! Confusion and lack of clarity around process can be a disincentive for those who want to start initiatives, particularly those folks who are not engaged with a neighbourhood association or other formal body who can advocate or lend support.

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Reduces the red tape dramatically, and fits into the larger picture of the other changes afoot as well. The revised policy makes sense and is not onerous.

people can take this on without feeling too overwhelmed, plus feeling like the city is working with them, not against them.

Much of the land available for gardens/orchards is City land so it makes sense for the City to be involved from the beginning.

Streamline the process, but make sure the taxpayer is not on the hook to pay for the maintenance and cleanup of abandon sites. There should be a deposit held to ensure compliance.

We need more allotment gardens

If creating garden spaces was made easier than hopefully we will have more gardens?

Not terribly complicated

I think this graphic is a good idea - having things laid out in this way is very helpful. Fewer steps.

Looks simple to me

This process seems straightforward.

As long as it is effective why would a process need to be complex? This is a public sector flaw that is always best addressed.

Simple is best. The above procedure makes it look pretty easy!

Simplifying will allow more people to participate

Any plan to get things moving towards actual gardens being available to the public is a good idea.

Simple processes always good

There's a purpose to some bureaucracy (which funny enough was autocorrected to 'nauseous'), but when a clear majority supports the idea, less is more - with further examination/tweaking once the program is started.

It should be easy and straightforward to grow food. If burdened with bureaucracy, projects may lose the momentum and good community energy they need to keep going.

Anything simpler is better. I don't see any problems here.

Fruit and nut trees, what could be better?

Clear pathways to success.

A clear and simplified process is a good thing. Less red tape would be beneficial

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Better than current

Anything you can do to cut red tape helps my community

Bypass red tape and limits. Time is important especially in growing food

more accessible to different types of learners! easier to navigate

For years, no new community gardens have been approved. Any new framework will be better than the previous anti-community garden sentiment at the municipal level.

facilitate positive change and access to good food.

The city should introduce prices improvement wherever possible

complicated paperwork is a barrier to participating

Easy process ensures more gardens will follow through to the completion stage

seems straight forward

Looks fairly straightforward and easy to follow. I'm unfamiliar with the old process tho

It covers all bases

Anything that streamlines bureaucracy is a good thing

Simpler

less bureaucracy is always better

More gardens, less hassle

Very straightforward, and makes use of the new position

just plain logical.

it seems easy to follow

making things simple for people makes them want to engage more.

Having support from the City is key and simplified processes are helpful, especially for those who prefer to work with soil than fill out paperwork. However I have a few questions about the above process.

Simplifies the application process.

I have no strong feelings on this but it seems sensible

Allows people to clearly see the steps involved and how to achieve their goals.

But come on, that still looks super confusing

Anything helps

Any way to streamline the process is good.

as long a there are clear steps to be taken and not a convoluted , labour intensive and confusing hoops to jump through then it might work. I don't like the "one annual intake period" , I find that restrictive and is this process going to be online?

Sooner the better.

Not knowing what the previous process looked like, I have no idea whether this is really an improvement or just a nice graphic.

Change 4 is related to Change 3. A simpler process and staff support to the community would be greatly appreciated.

Anything that simplifies the process is good!!!

I think this is really important - we have fruit going to waste, and people who want to grow more, so let's help it happen!

Why is food security a "process"? The chart above is still too complicated. If the OCP was robust and truly a plan, the framework for implementation would be in place. Advice - make sure that the review process, internally has buy-in. Many departments within City hall are archaic and fail to respond proactively to new initiatives.

streamlining and adjusting bureaucratic process is always a good idea

As before

Sadly, the city does not seem to have a reputation of being accessible and straightforward when it comes to applications for renos etc. Improving access and ease of passing of proposals would go a long way to becoming less of an "us vs. them" scenario

Simplicity is most effective.

Because it is. For goodness sakes.

Gives residents a clear outline of how things can be done. Gets projects started with a clear system.

less bureaucracy, please. Rules are regulations are needed, but not too much.

couldn't read the image well, but anything that cuts through red tape is always a good idea

Clear & transparent to everyone. Well done!!

a program that can be explained with visuals will certainly help applicants understand how it all works

again, make it as easy as possible for motivated people to grow food

looks straightforward and clearly defined by objectives

anything that simplifies a process is a good thing

The above looks really helpful.

Better than before but still too complicated.

clear

simply explained.

It always helps to have a clear process articulated so that interested parties know how to proceed and don't have to wade their way through various elements of bureaucracy that may be more complex than necessary.

If no, why not?

Response	Count
	16 responses

It should be one process for all varieties of community gardening options in case people are doing a hybrid approach.

This does not seem streamlined to me.

Food trees belong in public spaces. The city should only plant food trees.

There needs to be thorough oversight.

Your consultation, early in process, of use of public land is only identified for tree planting.

people planting fruit trees in public parks shouldn't happen period

Simple is more attractive to people trying something new.

The process now does not take too long. In fact, there is very little consultation when the city gives up lands -meaning consultation with people who may have other uses of the land.

The deer are going to eat it all on the boulevard

The system is already too light on checks and balances. Other use of green space, parks, and boulevards should be considered such that the real costs are known (lost opportunities for others)

You need to compare and contrast the two application methods so that one can make an informed assessment.

Weighted down by committee and politics. Too slow. Timeline would be outrageous.

Why do you need a team? That's restrictive.

What a waste of city resources.

to much red tape. I just want to be told I can grow there and here is my space and start growing.

What is an ever better idea is eliminating regulation altogether.

Sure, that is probably impractical in this case. But that should be the goal. Let people garden whatever and wherever they want.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

28 responses



what happens 5 years later when the person/people who planted the trees move away or no longer have the ability to care for the trees?

If there is an option for neighbourhood associations to be a 'flow through' of funds please work in tandem with the finance department to ensure it fits in with the changes that have been made to the City's granting program.

Get out in front and lead.

I'm not sure why starting a community garden requires partnering with a nonprofit.

Make this offer desirable for space to be used for the work it will take. Show what an income could look like and health benefits of eating more "naturally"

Assume that there will be conflict, disputes, irrational people, unforeseen costs to the City and legal actions when drafting the bylaws and policies. It's always nice for the politicians to respond to their constituents by promising that the City will run things, actually doing so is another matter.

I like that it sets out clear goals for individual or groups' to follow

watering may be a challenge for some area, it would be nice to have a rate in place to offer watering services for trees or gardens on city land, at a cost to the organizer.

maybe - I'm focusing on the term, "find a team". I worked in Toronto for 20 years organizing tenants in apartment buildings. This program could be a huge boon for apt building tenants, many of whom are low income and need food security and almost none have access to land. Yet, the sense of community in most buildings is not developed the way that street based neighbourhoods are. The city would need a focused program to support the development of groups in buildings.

Cant start early enough!

These changes are good but ultimately the system would work so much better if there were greater overall coordination and cooperation between all community gardens throughout the city and the CRD

Thanks for posting on FB. Keep the city green and growing edibles!

I am curious about why the (relatively) simple process of planting 5 or fewer trees goes through the neighbourhood association while the more involved process of allotment gardens/food forests etc does not? I think it is best to get everyone on board early in the process. The neighbourhood associations will have helpful information relevant to both processes. Where the need is for gardens, where the support is likely to be (or not). Other information from the neighbourhood land use committee could include history of other proposals, knowledge of who may have been working on these issues for years in the neighbourhood. Another process question I have is what is deemed to be support from the neighbourhood? I would like to ensure that projects such as allotment gardens can go ahead even if there are a few people not in favour but are generally supported by direct neighbours. Another weighting of validity of support should include how close people live to the proposed garden project. This is particularly important if gardens are going to

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How close people live to the proposed garden project. This is particularly important if gardens are going to be open to all Victoria residents. The opinions of people living close by need to be weighted higher than those further away.

Only if you solve the deer problem will it make any sense to do anything ... as the deer are eating pretty well everything.

Land within the city of Victoria should be prioritized exclusively for residential development with the objective to reduce pressure on vacancy rates and prices. Use of city land for community gardens creates benefits only to the small group of people with enough money and leisure time to participate in them. Any application for a community garden should be able to demonstrate that it does not use land that could otherwise have residential use. The priority has to be in residential development, not use for what is an extremely inefficient way of producing food with no tangible benefit on food supply.

The city's process for approving anything takes too long and is too confusing, unless of course it is an illegal narcotics retail operation which apparently can pop up with no permits or even business licenses.

I would suggest the city take action and create these zones in advance so that volunteers can take over the care of them.

I don't see why council approval is needed for community gardens; surely that can be managed by staff. Also there should be a way for applicants to skip the step where the city helps them prepare a formal proposal with public consultation if that part is already done. Many groups in this city are more than capable of managing their own public consultation process without the city's interference. There's no need to repeat that just because of some policy somewhere, so there needs to be an option to demonstrate the proposal and consultation are done already and skip that step. Honestly the city does not need to be in control of everything! Trust the people that elected you and pay your salaries. I also disagree with the requirement to partner with a non profit organization. What about partnering with a for profit on private land? What about a group of neighbours who live in an apartment? I get that you are trying to ensure continuity but there are other ways. You have to make sure your requirements are flexible enough to match reality, rather than only allowing those possibilities that match exactly. There's no room for new models and methods to emerge right now.

When replacing diseased boulevard trees, consider planting a fruit tree occasionally so every several blocks will have the benefit of some fresh fruit.

KISS - why is food security being packaged into a process. What about spending the time and money educating the community on the benefits of urban agriculture, confirming interest, and participating with land owners to demonstrate success?

not without further review

Can we also get city support for proposals of mini orchards (<5 trees) on private lands? I suspect this will be a popular category as there are pockets all over. Having the city's help in coordinating would increase the opportunities.

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no

in my experience, people will still have questions and will need help to navigate the process; the coordinator will need to be patient and the process will require tweaking along the way

there should be more than one intake a year. why not monthly?

I had no idea planting a garden was so complicated. This is ridiculous. It's not a building , it's a GARDEN!!!

It doesn't address boulevard frontages (one family or individual), or developments (providing gardening space for neighbourhood or renting to gardeners or local food industry, i.e. restaurants/chefs)

under food trees--how long a commitment are you looking for? What restrictions are you placing on trees in parks? For instance--Summit Park is an ecologically sensitive area. Would fruit trees be allowed in this park?

## Fruit Trees on Public Land

Fruit Trees on Public Land: Potential Change #1 Testing out a new program for small urban food tree projects (five or less trees) WHY? We heard that people want to expand the number of fruit and nut trees planted in parks around the City.

Is this a good idea?



If yes, why?



get the community into the parks make use of otherwise empty green spaces

People would be honoured to receive the fruits of their labour and cut city costs!

I would rather have trees that are providing food and are good for the local environment, than have trees planted that are just ornamental.

Goes to increasing food security and overall food sustainability.

The more we grow our own, the more food security we have.

It makes sure interest is there before a project is started.

I believe people are willing to do the work, if only they can find the space.

Great idea! But who gets to eat the fruit?

Because it's still 2015

We need to grow food

Free for the city! Beautifying!

It just is

More trees in the city is a good thing. People taking responsibility and working together. FREE FOOD!

Fruit trees are wonderful but can be a mess if untended.

It will both beautify areas and create more access to local food

People need access to food, especially fresh foods. Planting fruit trees that can feed people is common sense.

Why not? Might stop people's fruit being pinched from their gardens.

Free food, free stewards = win, win!

This is a no brainer. I don't believe that fruit trees are more problematic than any of the other trees planted along our city streets. We should be growing food whenever and wherever possible. Period.

Wonderful idea. It beautifies the city, provides food and is easy to maintain; accessible to all. Although allotments are sensible and productive, they look unsightly.

Seems an odd question. They provide food. What does a garry oak give you?

Caring for trees and gardens gives you a sense of purpose and well being. Harvesting the fruit is free.

This region is ideal for growing trees of all kinds, so the varieties would be many.

Why not? More trees is great, as long as they don't have fences around them...that just ruins parks.

Great idea

More food the better

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More food the better

Fruit is delicious. I wish this was also paid for by the city but just allowing the trees is a great start.

Lots to learn. Importing is expensive unpredictable and makes island life vulnerable.

WE need to expand our local food production

Tree planting should be encouraged. Increase in tree cover is important in a concrete world. All city trees should be food bearing, no reason for any other kind in the city.

better access to affordable food

Fruit is expensive to buy. Including fruit trees in the urban forest contributes to food security.

Yes! Desperately needed. Former gardeners for the city have left us a tremendous legacy; however, many trees are nearing the end of their lives. Planting fruit and nut trees helps both people and pollinators. Win win and so very important.

Ideally yes, but could be problematic is there's no follow up or accountability

Absolutely a good idea! For several reasons: More local food production for the community, the possibility for neighbours to create closer bonds to one another while working together, harvest for now and future generations. And depending on what's growing it could foster interaction with neighbours about uses for food and herbs, etc. Seems to me to be a win-win situation.

Free food

Better utilizing public space

Edible crops increase the beauty of an area

More food

Stewardship is best; fallen fruit would certainly be a pest issue if not maintained.

The more food the better!

for the same reason as the gardens.

any way to produce more locally grown food in the city should be welcomed.

More locally grown food

I like the idea of more fruit and nut trees in the city. I think this is worth trying but I am curious to see how many people want to do this. At a certain point there could be too many, although that probably wont be a problem. I would add that during the dormant season, weekly maintenance would seem excessive.

While the ornamental trees are lovely it seems silly not to grow food trees as well that everyone can access.

It will provide residents with an alternative source of locally grown fruits & nuts.

Sustainability.

Good idea but I believe that the city should be involved in the purchase of the trees. Not the financing, but the approval and quality control.

Getting the public involved is always a good thing.

The potential to produce food is huge

This is a wonderful way to use space that is already designated as park as an opportunity to grow food. Also a great way to instill community leadership through 'Food Tree Stewards'.

Fruit can be eaten

if people want to but how do you keep others out of your nut tree because you want them all. I've seen a Chinese family take sticks and beat the walnuts out of the tree across the street from where i lived and the tree was on privet property. They didn't have any right to it but they beat that tree and when they were done it looked all broken and there was nothing left for the people who owned it. now had the tree been behind a fence it would have been safer but because it was on a bullivard of an apartment building they decided they had a right to do what they did. then the apartment owners were left to pick up the pieces. felt bad for them. sooo how do we keep those kinds of people out of the trees we take care of??

So many reasons. To facilitate community. To utilize the space. To educate adults and children.

more fruit trees are a great idea

Long time coming.

Why not? Fruit trees are lovely; they can supplement our food supply and attract nature to our urban areas.

Smaller projects are more sustainable for volunteer resources.

Offers free fruit and nuts to anyone, offers children the change to see fruit growing on trees, not on store shelves. Fresh hazel or walnuts...yum!!! And encourages birds and squirrels to live in the area; it's a cycle!

What I said before, it's a great idea to enable this and I like that there is a responsibility for maintenance

Proactive, demonstrable, readily implemented!

fruit trees NEED to be maintained

If someone wants to take responsibility at their own cost and time, fantastic!

The more public access to local food the better

Fruit trees will attract pollinators, provide a community focus within a neighbourhood association, provide food for people within the group or for any local food bank. to have fresh fruit instead of canned.

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It is an amazing idea. Such an easy and wonderful way to promote food growth

Free fruit

Why not?

Great to be able to feed people

Yes!!! Yes!!! I've always thought this was a great idea, and used to say to friends "if I were mayor, I'd plant public fruit trees." Feed more people, free food for homeless people.

I would like to see more food producing plants in our parks.

good use of space

It gives agency to people who are motivated and decentralizes the process. I want to do this!

developing stewards in our community to just good!

more fruit trees!

making good food more available.

community ownership and participation is a good thing

Great for community , good healthy activity for all ages, no cost to taxpayers

increases food production in the CoV

In addition to the food produced, it also provides another focus for community development and broader social education.

If no, why not?

Response

Count

21 responses

The neighbourhood association would need to have a long term plan for this, something that is better left to the city.

I see this program as having a limited interest - that is it would have great interest in the beginning, but eventually would peter out and the city would now be responsible for the maintenance. I also see that fallen fruit would remain on the ground and attract wildlife and pests, such as raccoons, rats, deer.

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Overly restrictive. What tree needs daily, or even weekly maintenance once it's established? I love the idea of more food bearing trees in the city, but not with such strict rules.

This should be a low priority

Trees are more difficult to maintain than realized and harder to protect from deer. I am a professional landscaper in town and see truckloads of existing fruit go to waste from existing trees uncared for or over abundant harvests... More funding for lifecycle a and other small initiatives for existing trees would be more well suited

I would like to see the city help financially in some regards to this area, fruit and nut trees are not terribly expensive, but when bought en masse, the bill can climb. I would like to maybe see some sort of rebate system set up, that the city will refund some percentage of the initial purchase. As the addition of fruit trees, general makes a property more attractive, which translates into higher property taxes, the city, will gain monetarily from the addition, and so the initial cost of the addition should be offset by the city.

the city should be planting food trees in boulevards instead to replace ailing and diseased Cherry trees. Also fruit trees DO NOT require weekly maintenance on non fruit producing days of the year, or daily maintenance on fruiting days.. Maintaining fruit trees is an art and there for should be done by someone who has significant experience and care to tend them long term over the years.. The last thing we need is small patched of butchered trees all over victoria we have enough sad poorly pruned plants all over the city. There is much more to know about taking care of fruit trees than reading a small pamphlet from the city.

a) conflict with other park users (these are public spaces and you are giving one person or group some sort of ownership - moms vs hippies!). b) Food Tree Stewards move, lose interest, pass on, etc. City is left to clean up. c) What happens when the fruit doesn't get used?

sounds great except we (all of us) could have a real mess in 10 years (or 5) just like happened in Spring Commons

fruit trees in public parks are a terrible idea

Already there are too many fruit bearing trees where the fruit goes to waste and falls to the ground. Once it falls to the ground ... Wasps!

If the fruit is not picked up it will draw pests so it needs to be well monitored

Not enough City involvement. Ehy not use City staff to mulch and prune - and plant?

The deer are going to eat it all on the boulevard

Partially a good idea. Need more "common" access fruit trees, as done elsewhere. But the proposal as above does not sound very feasible. Maybe stop development of more allotment gardens and have only public orchards instead - so the general public will benefit. Put resources into that rather than to the allotment lobby group.

As soon as trees are planted it becomes very difficult to change usage for something much more important, such as residential development. In effect, allowing fruit tree usage creates a use that some will use to oppose any proposed alternate development. It risks creating an unofficial notation or lien on the land.

Only caveat - make sure this new urban forest accounts for climate change!

Stop expecting betrayal. Stop expecting the worst will happen. Five trees is not very much food. If the food is to be public, there will be a tragedy of the commons, where everyone will want to leave some for other people, and so food will be wasted.

And if the food is to be harvested by the steward, five trees is not enough for much of anything.

Let people plant trees as they like. Replace all the street trees with fruit and nut trees, and contract that huge orchard out to an actual orchardist with an actual business.

You'd have to be insane to want to do this.

totally reliant on volunteers & what happens when the volunteers aren't available? Volunteers already doing invasive plant control and many other garden related activities - & its not just caring for the tree but also harvesting. I think the parks should focus on good design & contribution to the urban forest. An orchard could be planted in an appropriate area but would need to be contracted on a long term basis to a reliable agency.

Parks should be concentrating on native plants, which are struggling to survive as we destroy ecosystems.. There are many fruit and nut trees in back yards that are not cared for or harvested. Lifecycles tries to keep up if they know where the trees are and have homeowner permission to harvest. Do a survey of existing fruit and nut trees first and see who is caring for them, if anyone.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

49 responses

what happens with the stewards no longer live in the area or no longer have the ability/desire to maintain the trees? do other peoples taxes go up so city staff do the work? do the trees become unwell and the fruit a pest attractant? I support the idea, but there needs to be a plan for the inevitable problems

There seems to be a disconnect between this proposed change and the city's position on volunteers in parks. I think this is something that should be explored.

I would want provisions made in the bylaws that allow the city to order their neighbourhood assn and/or

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participating residents in the program, to maintain the trees in such a way so as not to become an eyesore. Maintenance compliance must become a city priority under this idea.

One issue is that of volunteerism. It's always hard to find reliable, consistent volunteers to maintain an orchard or garden. Everybody loves the idea, but few step up to help.

If people are keen they'll approach you. This is a big commitment. Don't do a lot of outreach on this.

I think the city should support this more, instead of offloading the time costs and work to others.

An Orchard would be a better plan so that a community can come together to share the work involved with taking care of trees and creating an environment where people can learn from each other about how to properly take care of them.

Give access to which varieties grow best, companion planting, & possible issues including rooting and disease

How will the City ensure that the stewards have the skills to care for the trees? There may need to be some standards in place around care/maintenance/appearance/ecological approaches. For example, neighbors may disagree on pruning styles, pesticide use, mulching, etc. Also, perhaps the City can help formulate a "plan B" if the original steward becomes unable to care for the trees.

It is also important for the city to maintain and replace, as well as expand, urban forest. A transition from exotic nonfood producing species to native or edible producing species is important too. Recognizing that aesthetically or culturally significant species too have a place. I.e. flowering dogwoods, Japanese cherry blossoms

The 'Food Tree Steward' should have a plan in place for harvesting and using the fruit themselves and with their neighbours, as the Fruit Tree Project is already over taxed as a service to fruit tree owners who can't or don't want to use the fruit from their trees.

I like that the fruit would have to be harvested, rather than leaving it to attract unwanted pests.

I love the idea of this, honestly, but it would require a long term maintenance commitment from people, which I don't think can be guaranteed. Of all the gardening ideas suggested - this one - as beautiful as it could be will eventually fall into the city for maintenance.

Who will have the right to access the fruit? Right now in Fernwood we have some trees that were planted by the Fernwood Community Centre, and the rest of the neighbourhood is told we cannot access any fruit, that it belongs to the NRG. The trees are fenced.

What happens if the group abandons the trees that have been planted?

Important to explore what can grow here and make that a priority for land use

I live on a street with nut trees. The leaf pickup schedule does not reflect the leaf drop times that we need pickups. The City needs to schedule more leaf pickups earlier in the season. It is December 13 and there

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has still not been a leaf pickup on my street. The leaves are turning to compost on the road in some places. I took a lot for my garden and raked the remainder in front of my home under a tarp, but the waste/mess is not good.

The city must use a lot of resources just planting the flowers around town, the one thing I noticed above is that the cost of the trees would be taken on by the neighbours themselves, which is fine, but would be nice in certain areas - at least ones with lower incomes - if it was supplemented some by what the city would have spent on the plants to be put there in the first place.

I am skeptical that fallen fruit will be picked up! Better to work with Life Cycles or reliable group. Concerned about pests.

It's a step in the right direction. However, the city currently funds the purchase and establishment (watering etc.) of non-food trees on boulevards. Why are fruit trees exempt from the same support?

This scheme might work better on boulevards, where a landowner could take responsibility. Alternatively, it would be great if the city did have the resources to care for trees that were abandoned after a few years.

Trees last a lot longer than the interest of a few people. This is going to be a huge headache for the city once the people who planted these trees lose interest. No one likes to dig up trees, so the city is going to be stuck with them.

One thing I would worry about is the fruit tree stewards seeing the resulting produce as their own property, preventing others from harvest. There will be a real sense of ownership, and the stewards may resent others who aren't "working" just coming and taking the fruit and nuts. I saw this myself when I took a handful of raspberries at the Burnside Gorge gardens. They were not in the fenced-off allotment gardens but the woman gardening said I was out of line in doing so.

what will happen to the fruit that is grown? Is it privately owned?

Rather than give so much resource (staff time) to the allotment gardeners, the City should plant more apple/prune trees that the general public could harvest - as is done in Sidney.

I know that the concern will be who will assume responsibility for the trees once the Food Tree Steward moves on? Would we advertise for a new steward? I know that another concern will be attracting wildlife such as deer.

Who gets the fruit??

The locations of these food trees would need to be advertised along with harvest times so people are aware of them and able to take advantage of the harvest.

Will the position of 'Food Tree Steward' be available to individual adults, youth, and possibly families?

Would the food tree steward have to bring their own watering implement and water? That seems challenging.

I think "food tree steward" roles should be shareable among more than one person. What are the

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consequences if that person leaves the neighbourhood or dies?

Requirement for daily/weekly maintenance is excessive and unnecessary. How will water be supplied is there is no cost to the City? A formal City-Community agreement is a good idea to ensure all understand their respective responsibilities.

a brief training program for 'fruit tree stewards' on proper maintenance would go a long way to see healthy, productive trees

What happens when that food tree steward moves? Who takes over? What if that steward leaves without finding a replacement?

Why so few trees?

Um, what about vandalism, or louts stealing fruit, breaking trees, etc. Next you'll tell me that we should give all the produce to the homeless.

May need to develop a plan to address the cases where community group participation wanes.

Great idea , city is good at planning those great ideas. Question, who will look after the trees???  
It never fails, no one looks after much

Consider providing a grant to initially buy the trees.

Some cheap city assistance would be good--free mulch and compost from city facilities for example, and water. Water is key--it is not feasible water an orchard unless your property is immediately adjacent, which severely limits your pool of stewards. There must be some water access provided by the city.

And the city could provide a facilitation role-- for example establish a list of willing private landowners (businesses, community organizations) who have available land; post 'request for interest' at different potential sites to help catalyze volunteer stewards.

no

Tree choice, planting, and long term maintenance requires knowledge and skills. Providing resources, workshops, support from the Food Systems Coordinator, neighbourhood-level contacts that people can call if they have questions about proper care is going to be very important to the success of this great idea.

there is a chance that responsibilities will go unmet (maintenance, in particular) -- is there a 'plan B', of sorts?

in general this is a great idea. but the city needs to be able to maintain the trees should interest be lost by the original caretakers. furthermore, the city needs more than just fruit and nut trees and plants to have a healthy ecosystem. What happens if some of the fruit/nut trees develop a blight or other infection that could easily travel to say Central Saanich, Metchosin or Salt Spring and seriously damage commercial crops? Someone will need to help ensure that the trees and all food plants are maintained in as best health as possible for the potential consumers and minimizing impact on commercial growers.

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Additional food trees needs to come with additional education for the public so they know where they can find the free food and know that they're allowed to harvest it so it doesn't get wasted.

The one thing I would add is that they should also be responsible for designating a team back up person at the time of application as well as acknowledge that should they move away or no longer available to participate, they should find someone to take over for them. Would/could there be a list online so that people could get in touch with someone about the trees and/or know if there are trees in need of a steward?

Who are the food tree stewards? Bureaucrats or garden members.

fruit trees are a LONG commitment of decades. How will the CoV ensure this decades-long commitment is honoured and how will harvesting be ensured. For example, look at the issues that LifeCycles encounters with their Fruit Tree Project. There are already an abundance of fruit trees in the City of Victoria on private property and the fruit often goes to waste. Even with the LifeCycles project and its volunteers.

Providing oversight to ensure that stewardship occurs as outlined above will be critical, particularly over the longer term as such stewardship groups undergo member changes.

Fruit Trees on Public Land: Potential Change #2 Adding Community Orchards (with six or more trees) as a type of Community Garden in the Community Garden Policy. WHY? We heard that the two pilot community orchards that were installed in 2012 have been successful, and that people would like to have more orchards in the City.

Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	157 94.0%	
<b>No</b>	10 6.0%	
Total: 167		

If yes, why?

Response	Count
71 responses	

Same as before and community land use

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There are some good community trees and

BEEES!

Would allow for the small orchards while still filtering the proposals through the city and establishing a policy framework for how community garden groups can accomplish this.

If trees are located within a garden area, they will be adequately maintained and fenced off so as to prevent wild life gathering.

Same as above

Food security increases...

More trees, more fruit, more food security. Ornamental trees are pretty, but food gives us the strength to look at the pretty trees.

The tree planting should be included with the Community Gardens.

I have visited the existing one and they will be wonderful when the plants are more established.

More trees within city limits, especially food trees, cannot be a bad idea.

Good for community, bees, and kids.

Feed all of the people....please

Again....FREE FOOD.

Gardens are the right place for community fruit trees

As stated above

People need access to fresh food, especially people who are low income and can't afford fresh foods. Orchards are also good for bees that are in danger.

Builds community, teaches people how to grow food in their neighbourhood - what's not to love?

Apart from beauty and utility, it should encourage people to take part in tending Victoria. I hope it will mean fewer people vandalize trees if they have a sense of ownership.

Fruit trees would give life and health to humans, birds and bees.

It has been successful in some areas, let's expand the efforts.

keep the fruit trees together and not in public parks

We could make fruit salad !

All if the above. Empowering people

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more access to food

Community orchards can grow heritage varieties (Vancouver heritage community orchard for e.g.) include bees, education people on different varieties. All good.

Yes please! See above comment

who doesn't want more fruit?!

Absolutely a good idea! For several reasons: More local food production for the community, the possibility for neighbours to create closer bonds to one another while working together, harvest for now and future generations. And depending on what's growing it could foster interaction with neighbours about uses for food and herbs, etc. Seems to me to be a win-win situation.

People learning to take care of something other than themselves

The orchard in Stevenson Park is fantastic.

grow more food!!

More food, better land use

Fruit trees for the future. Excellent source of nectar for local bees.

It's delightful to see the Vic West garden mature, the mason bee houses, the potential for fruit and nuts :-)

excellent teaching spaces on where food comes from and how to care for the plants that give us food!

We want fruit trees in our neighbourhood.

I love the idea of having an urban orchard.

I like the approach of orchards as a form of community garden, especially as we see more infill development and fewer back yards able to support fruit trees. With the many people living in condos I think that anything we can do to support city agriculture is a good idea.

Food trees in gardens has been happening for millennia. It is only logical to include them in community gardens.

Small orchards will provide community groups with fruits & nuts locally as an alternative to commercially produced crops

Sustainability.

If the groups exist and want to look after the trees there would be no reason not to allow this.

More trees is always a good idea

Food.

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Fruit can be eaten.

It would save people money and I would totally help as long as i don't have to worry about someone taking all the fruit leaving me nothing for my hard work.

It seems to be proven. Give it a chance.

it reduces the neighbourhoods' carbon footprint and allows more people to have access to more fresh food

It would be more productive.

Again, why not? If you have a group of people dedicated to maintaining an orchard then I say let them.

Creates another food growing opportunity under the City policy.

<Why not>!! And people can be taught, learn how to graft different varieties of fruit to one tree stalk. These skills are waning!!!

Same as above

Readily implemented, demonstrable - directly engages community groups!

increases public access to fresh, healthy food

As long as there's interest, and possibly a volunteer program overseen by a lead volunteer, this is fantastic!

Food trees are just as lovely as ornamentals and it increases local food production exponentially

To have a designated space as an orchard would be an option for people if an allotment garden would not permit fruit trees to be grown.

Provides food and peaks interest of others to become more in touch with where food comes from

Community gardens already have willing participants, people who want to look after their space.

Same as previous answer

Makes sense to have them in community gardens.

the more the better

if pilots went well then why not? orchards provide shade, habitat for birds, food for humans (and animals), and support a healthy hydrological system

yeay!

if there is a demand then go for it

Any tree is a good tree for the environment, why not have trees that produce food and enjoyment as well.

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potentially good - only if located on land designated for community garden and contracted to a responsible group. There has to be a high level of commitment and rules around management must be created.

see above

The trees will be visible and a community responsibility re care and harvest.

This is a logical extension of the community gardens policy. - needs similar oversight to the trees in parks approach.

#### If no, why not?

Response	Count
	8 responses

See above comment

I'm not sure there is a demand (a market) for this yet. Do you know?

Not clear who can take the fruit.

It could be OK, but you haven't explored other resident use of land. There is limited land - need to examine and balance uses.

Only if the trees and fruit are accessible to all. One group shouldn't be able to essentially own large portions of public land for their sole benefit

The only reason I am saying no, is that the "city has heard that" is not a meaningful reason. What has the City actually heard? And from whom has the City heard?

The deer are going to eat it all on the boulevard

City should create it - not community groups. Some community groups work - and are open. Other community groups are wanting it for their financial gain themselves (e.g. lifecycles)

#### Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response	Count
	22 responses

Again, as in my previous comment, there seems to be a disconnect between this proposed change and the city's position on volunteers in parks. I think this is something that should be explored.

Again, volunteers to develop and maintain these orchards will be needed.

Fruit trees on public lands is a bad idea. I note that you heard from only 1000 people in your previous survey. Likely, the majority of those are the food hippie type who, generally speaking, have big ideas that are not thought through and whose opinions do not represent those of the majority of us.

Support and work in conjunction with lifecycles project

An understory should be allowed to be planted underneath the fruit trees to embrace a more holistic way of growing that will benefit the trees and assist with maintenance.

Great community and neighborhood building exercise.

See note above.

I would encourage the City to consider the needs of wildlife, particularly small songbirds. These little guys thrive in hedgerows which are rare here. Please consider planting some hazelnut trees as when shaped into bush form provide the birds with a wonderful habitat. The spring flowers are also highly prized by bees; a wonderful choice for our environment and well-suited to our climate (the nuts are tasty too!)

Nice to pair this with canning or preserving workshops or events

Please include nut trees in this project.

Friends have a plot in an allotment garden. They tell us how difficult it is in their club to get people to share the workload beyond their own plot. There are no safeguards to ensure that the people gaining are carrying their wown weight - ther is no broader "community" benefit for many of these endeavors.

I think this proposal is more likely to be successful than the smaller groups of trees that may potentially lose their steward.

My concern is gaining access to land where 6+ fruit trees can be planted. Would these community orchards be in peoples's backyards? In vacant lots?

What is the purpose of an orchard? If the only real benefit is for a small number of people to participate in then granting this as a land use will prevent future beneficial use. The city of Victoria is a city with pressing need for affordable residential development. It is not a rural or farm land.

This is pretty much the same question you asked at the start, about expanding the definition, only now you are just focusing on one addition. There seems to be a lot less detail with regard to this idea in terms of how it must be undertaken. Maybe that's because there are pilot models?

Stop using decorative trees when you could be using productive trees.

Same concern as above - what to do if community group interest wanes.

no

generally a great idea, but who will maintain the orchards when novelty wears off? or if the orchard becomes infested? what about undesirable produce - where will it go? nearby composts where wasps in particular will flourish and be a nuisance to neighbors?

Again, a great idea, but some plans need to be set in place to ensure ongoing success.

Again, additional food trees/community orchards needs to come with additional education for the public so they know where they can find the free food and know that they're allowed to harvest it so it doesn't get wasted.

Why do we have so many policies - just get on with it.

see above

## Boulevard Gardening

Boulevard Gardening Guidelines: Potential Change #1 Garden Upkeep and Removal WHY? We heard that a way to deal with boulevard gardens that had been abandoned was important to you.

Is this a good idea?



If yes, why?

Response	Count
65 responses	

To strick what is the appeal process 30 days is to quick

Because there is sufficient notification to the homeowner and time to remedy the situation.

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Needs to be some kind of recourse

But what about those who rent?

Goes to enhanced food security, an increased sense of community, and a pragmatic use of public land otherwise unoccupied/unproductive.

people need to take responsibility..

Seems fair.

I believe this needs to be done - but make sure a garden in disarray is well defined! Not all gardens are perfectly manicured and some weeds are edible!

If a safety or maintenance concern is well-founded, then the adjacent homeowner ought to address it.

People who want only grass will complain about all Boulevard gardens

Seems fair

Please outline the benefits as much as if not more than the potential for problem.

If the land belongs to the City there should be a process for making sure it is clean and safe.

Incentive to maintain boulevard gardens

If it is unsafe or abandoned it's a great idea. I would want to make sure there's a provision where complaints can't be acted upon for aesthetic reasons provided the garden is maintained. I'm thinking of native plant gardens...etc which don't necessarily have the same neat and orderly look as a flower garden. They can often prompt complaints from neighbours because they don't share the same aesthetic views even though they're maintained.

Sounds fair. I have never seen a boulevard garden that was unkept or abandoned. I would be concerned that some people are prejudice against the look of a boulevard garden and feel a garden should be neatly trimmed grass and geraniums - these people could make complaints against food products boulevard gardens and restrict people from being able to grow food.

It's good to have a mechanism to deal with issues that can't be managed through neighborhood discussion.

Again, the more local food, the better. Sounds like good accountability as well, although may have winter-appropriate maintenance guidelines posted.

Keeping people accountable is a good idea.

Some boulevard gardens look pretty messy, depending on the season. It's good to tell the gardeners what's expected of them and to keep Victoria well groomed.

The gardens should be a source of satisfaction to the neighborhood, and all homeowners.

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Yes, providing complaints are anonymous. Complaints, if they come will come from my neighbours ... I don't want to know who they are, but I will want to know what is the specific thing I need to fix. I want my neighbours to love my garden...

Some of the gardens have been allowed to become a mess!

Abandoned boulevards need to be dealt with.

They should be kept tidy. The ones in my neighbourhood look great.

The City has to be well maintained. Nobody wants an eyesore.

Yes, qualified. Naturalizing boulevards may seem aesthetically unappealing. native species are not necessarily 'tidy'. There needs to be allowance for a less groomed appearance.

ensures gardens are not abandoned.

Maintain the beauty of our garden city

because boulevards are public property and if they aren't maintained by adjacent residents then the city needs to maintain them.

Private gardens in a state of disrepair effect everyone.

encourages garden owner to keep it in order

Well... How much of a problem is this really?

You gotta maintain, or give it to someone else

Keeping owners responsible puts onus where it belongs and monitoring is left to the community and not the city

Gardens are great but must be maintained

I like the idea of being able to garden on my boulevard, but I also understand that it is my responsibility to keep it up. The city should not be responsible for this.

You need to have rules, accountability and order.

This is a fair process now with these changes.

overdue.

but please use common sense when dealing with a complaint from a neighbour.

I am okay with having a mechanism to ensure that abandoned gardens can be dealt with. I would want to make sure that the 3 complaints were from different people (not just one cranky neighbour) and that the complaint was legitimate. I once had a neighbour that complained about the cherry blossoms from their

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complaint was legitimate. I once had a neighbour that complained about the cherry blossoms from their neighbour's tree falling on her lawn.

If not kept up boulevard gardens become unsightly and sometimes a hazard depending on what was grown in them. The cost of neglect should be borne by the homeowner, not the taxpayer.

The City must start to make those who create messes, or otherwise do not adequately fulfill their commitments, to be responsible. Other taxpayers are already subsidizing these initiatives in so many ways.

Abandoned or poorly maintained boulevards present hazards to neighbours and road users.

Boulevard gardening is only successful with maintenance.

Food produced

It has worked elsewhere like parts of East Van.

need more details as to what counts for disrepair; someone growing herbs on the boulevard is not going to look the same as a small traditional English garden and some noses may get out of joint; meaning that 3 complaints could come from the same person who did not like the 'look' of another gardener's concept of garden

Accountability is important. BUT new homeowners need to be given an option to remove the garden at the PREVIOUS homeowner's expense. It wouldn't be fair to charge them for something someone else did.

Accountability to neighbors. Lots of folks like the idea of gardening, but may not fully appreciate the work involved.

a maintained boulevard is like a common area at a communal living space. one should be required to keep their communal area tidy for the sake of others.

Within 30 days would enable the situation to be resolved quickly instead of dragging on.

I like for my street to look well maintained.

It puts the ownership on the homeowner and the community members. The city will step in as needed

I like that it is complaints based, but I worry that one cranky neighbour can complain a lot and get the garden removed just because they don't agree with it.

abandoned or neglected gardens need to be dealt with not ignored - in the case of renters, one may love the garden and the next renters not give a moment's care to a garden and have no interest; then a problem could arise with neglected space which poses potential safety and aesthetic problems

the process sounds fair enough

it keeps the onus on the people that started the garden to maintain it.

makes it all work better for everyone.

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responsibility is a good thing

- In our neighbourhood the vast majority of boulevard gardens are very beat and tidy. I would not eat any veggies from a boulevard garden due to the constant urination by dogs and of course the deer will eat everything that is planted.
- People start out with good intentions and then let weeds take over, and don't realize the work involved. Or move away and the garden is abandoned.
- The general community is likely to be more supportive of these changes if they understand there is a process to deal with boulevards that have been abandoned or represent a health and/or safety hazard.
- Good idea only if boulevard garden is immediately adjacent to the "gardener's" owned property or with the written approval of the landlord. Property owners and landowners should be wholly responsible for cleanup and restoration of abandoned, neglected, or hazardous failed gardens.

If no, why not?

Response

Count

36 responses

- Hello 1938 Germany.
- Way too easy for it to be abused by overly fussy neighbours. Needs to be some mechanism to ensure the reporting system is not abused.
- At the recent open house at Oakland a number of speakers addressed the need to refine the complaint process, e.g. should 3 complaints from the same neighbour carry the same weight as complaints from a number(3) of different neighbours. Maybe there is a toxic relationship involved.
- It very much depends on what neighbourhood you live in and how uptight your neighbours are. If you planted a herb garden and your neighbours like gardens that look like sterile tidy livingrooms then they will have your garden removed at the expense of your hard work, other neighbours that harvest from it and also the wildlife that rely on it as well. There should be some definition as to what disrepair means and have an appeal process to keep gardens in their best state. Also boulevard gardens around town may have no relation what so ever to the tenants in the houses in front of them so penalizing residents for gardens that are not of their doing is not fair. Neighbours should have to talk to each other before any formal process there should be a consultation process between residents.
- Some people live in neighbourhoods with others who think anything but grass and very regimented gardening is messy. It's so subjective. I think the homeowner needs to be able to appeal, and that gardens

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should NOT be removed unless they are, in fact, abandoned, or deemed a hazard after the appeal and being given the chance to rectify the situation.

30 days may be too short to deal with the situation.

If a homeowner falls ill or has a crisis of some sort in their life, they may let the garden go. Maybe there could be volunteers that inquire about the state of an unkempt garden and work to remedy it with positive energy.

doesn't seem like the city has thought through all the pieces- are the complaints from the same person? is it just one year that the complaints are counted, or over seasons? how is poor maintenance being defined? some people just like the look of lawns and think everything else is unsightly (and maybe should be forced to live off grass clippings, if that's their stance)

Gardens are messy. Responsible parties should only be required to remedy the situation if they are violating a bylaw. One persons opinion (or 3), a vocal minority, may not accurately reflect the silent majority.

Can't foresee plants being safety hazard.

Supporting the garden if the original creators are no longer able to maintain. Create a network of gardeners and gardens. Not about ownership or power but about sharing and supporting for common goal. Removing a garden is the old paradigm

Safety risk is not clearly defined. What type of risk? There also seems to be no feedback mechanisms for the homeowner.

It depends on the process. Does the homeowner have a method of appealing etc?

I think this would be reasonable if there were a process for determining whether the neighbours' complaints are valid. Without that, it leaves boulevard gardeners vulnerable to complaints by grouchy neighbours who just have a tidier aesthetic preference, and may simply not understand what's being done with the garden (e.g, leaving the duff layer over winter is better for habitat for beneficial insects but may look messy).

People have different standards of "well-maintained", and soil improvement processes like mulching often look unattractive for a period of time, but are key to the overall health of the garden.

I think only one or two complaints should warrant a talk with the boulevard gardener. Many garden perennials are invasive and truly "weeds".

the homeowner may not have been the one to plant the garden but they will be penalized regardless, this clause would give homeowners reason to deny renters the opportunity to garden on the boulevard since they could be held responsible if the renter moved out and left the garden, it is difficult enough for renters to find garden space without giving home owners more reason to deny access

The boulevards are city property ... it is up to the city to maintain them ... to ask landowners to do city employees work, won't the union grumble?

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Prevents garden areas from falling into disrepair

Perhaps a better option to simply having the city remove the boulevard garden, would be to have another neighbour or perhaps the neighbourhood "adopt" said garden and maintain it.

Collection of the cost would be unlikely, this inflates responsibilities of bureaucracy...

This effectively grants permission to use public land in a way that could impact the enjoyment of two neighbours. Why do 3 people have to complain? Don't allow anyone to use public land for their individual enjoyment if it leads to any complaints at all

gardening is messy!!! the people across the street would call everyday as they would find it an eye sore not caring that gardening is messy.

Instead of removing, reassign the garden to another on a list. City planted for plants that will survive and member maintained.

Why would it need to be returned to grass?

Great for homeowners, terrible for landlords. I rent, and I garden. Were I to create a Boulevard garden and move, our landlord would be left with the bill if the next tenants weren't gardeners. How would I cover the cost if restoring the boulevard if I am living in poverty and had to move?

Why feed NIMBYism. Support freedom.

What about neighbourhood level stewardship? Helping out our friends? Sharing the work?

wait for someone to complain? Seriously? What if the area is already derelict and no one cares?

Most people don't clean up the plots. Seen many times when parks city staff have to clean up and return to grass. Have to think about the parks staff when its time to mow the boulevards, and garden plots are left behind. No NO NO boulevards garden plots.

I agreebroadly with a process. But complaints are subjective-- someone might consider a boulevard garden unkempt even if it is being maintained and they could band together with others against it to tally up over 3 complaints. There should either be some effort to canvass other neighbours to see if they agree ( they may love it and not know about the complaints!) or have a city rep come take a look and decide if it is truly abandoned/ unsightly or just an untidy garden.

The 30-day window seems short. A person may be on vacation. 45 or 60 dAys is more reasonable.

30 days too short, action is too drastic and costly. Extend the window and be ready for compromise.

try posting a sign first to see if anyone else in the neighbourhood wants to take it over before removing it

I Do Not support boulevard gardens in any form

I think having a policy for removal and upkeep is a good idea. However, I think it needs to be more clear in terms of what "abandoned and unsightly" means. Unwatered and untended for four months? Otherwise you will get a string of calls from the type of folks who are more interested in seeing neat rows of petunias rather than some of the more productive yet messy garden types. If I've put in a tangle of fava beans to build up the soil over the winter in our boulevard garden (which is good and actually improving the health and longevity of a city asset!!), I'd feel pretty resentful if I then started having to take calls from by-law officers and explaining what I'm up to. The guidelines for when to call need to be clear and put right in the language above.

neighbours should not have to report neighbours. The City needs to somehow monitor boulevards.

## Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

48 responses

Doesn't consider health or seasonal changes

The city should research the boulevard to ensure complaints are legit before ordering remediation.

But what about those who rent? It seems to be excluding those who are not homeowners. What about some sort of formal 'adopt a block' initiative?

The process flow chart is good, but there needs to be a further explanation of what is meant by the term "safety hazard". This would be needed by the homeowner in order to know what is expected of them.

Who decides what's potentially dangerous or what's merely creative?

Sites should be inspected and a permit issued to start with. Items like gas lines and trees might be affected by digging up the ground. Boulevard gardening should not be allowed until the adjacent property has been gardened to a require percentage. Say...at least 50% of the available landscape? Property owners must also show support in writing if a tenant wants to boulevard garden.

Clarify and refine the dispute resolution process. We were told you would but I see no refinement here from what we shown Dec. 2

The three complaints should #1 be from different parties, and I would expect the city had already trained professionals to deal with the validity of any "complaints" regardless

Complaints should be valid to be counted. It should be clear that a few complaints are not enough. One vindictive neighbour shouldn't be encouraged to lodge three frivolous complaints, and shut down a perfectly acceptable garden. If three valid complaints have been received in one growing season from three different

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people, then this approach holds appeal. Gardens tend to 'reset' each winter, so three complaints over ten years shouldn't be viewed the same way as three complaints during the same year.

Some people don't know what food looks like, what healthy ecosystems look like, what safe and habitable landscapes look like. Sometimes they just know what golf courses and bouchard gardens looks like.

I don't think boulevard gardens are a good idea but if we have them we need to regulate them. Again, the City is stepping into neighbour disputes, which is inevitably time consuming and expensive.

Would it be possible to incorporate the boulevard into the community garden plan? Ex. work with the homeowner to find a volunteer/steward (someone waiting for a community plot) to restore and maintain the boulevard?

Must be careful to verify legitimacy of complaints. Should not be returned to lawn, as it is wasteful, unappealing and requires city maintenance anyway.

Provided that the three complaints (unrelated to safety) are:

- from three different people (as opposed to one grumpy neighbour);
- received in the same growing season (three complaints over ten years are a very different thing); and
- valid, when measured against the Guidelines themselves (baseless complaints shouldn't count).

Perhaps there can be a resource for people who may have lost the capacity to care for their boulevard properly. There should be an opportunity for community to assist, especially for those who have become incapacitated for health reasons or who are experiencing other difficulties. Though this is an accountability measure, it should be dealt with in a sensitive matter.

I would never take vegetables from the garden because it's not my property and they've done all the work. It would feel like stealing. It doesn't seem like the best solution to gardening on a city-wide scale; the city would look like a slum. I would prefer longer grass on the verges to encourage butterflies.

If a homeowner elects to grow food on a boulevard which is city property and then moves not sure it is the responsibility of the new owner to maintain the garden or pay the cost of having it removed.

Potential for conflict here, but also opportunity for engagement of all parties concerned.

The same thing should apply to those who sign up for allotment gardens and other personal use of public land.

I am concerned about rental units doing these bullshit boulevard gardens that are unsightly, dangerously tall and block sight lines. Making homeowners accountable will make landlords put clauses in leases

Should not have to require 3 complaints to check out condition of a boulevard. In the end, it is the city's responsibility.

I'd say it's more important to change grass to shrubs or food!!

Maybe a possible group or person ready to take over responsibility if original applicant is unable

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maybe a possible group of person ready to take over responsibility if original applicant is unable.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION! Please follow up with a visit from the city to assess the actual disrepair. It might be that neighbours just don't like boulevard gardens! As well, the complaints should come from at least two different households so that the procedure isn't initiated by a personal vendetta.

There should be guidelines that the gardener has to follow so neighbours who just don't like boulevard gardens cannot complain and have the garden removed for no reason. Perhaps if a complaint is made, the garden in question could be reviewed?

The City is creating a very expensive program. Has all of this (meaning growing) initiative n=been costed out? If so, time to declare what full cost is, including executive resource costs.

See proviso.

This needs to be moderated however. The grass boulevards are a mess at times and when residents call the city, the city doesn't do anything about it so it needs to be balanced.

Perhaps boulevard gardens can transition to being public community garden space that is "adopted" by individual streets. This will not only increase food production, but could also foster a sense of community in neighbourhoods without access to a community garden.

Don't return the space to grass. Grass is so boring and expensive to maintain.

But city staff should inspect the offending Boulevard garden to ensure the complaints are actually founded. I think the city must set clearly the guidelines but also the maintenance standards for Boulevard gardens. Exceptions should be allowed in case of illness.

There should be an appeal process, e.g. If someone's garden fell into disrepair because they were undergoing cancer treatment, then the city should wait or offer help to clean it up but not remove it entirely. There is a difference between neglect and a short term crisis that makes the garden not the most important thing in the world.

Or perhaps offer the plot to someone else on the block that may have an interest in it before it's taken over or removed. With the understanding that if they abandon it, the plot will be re-offered to someone else or plowed under. The original owner of the plot may have to agree to allow others to use it, but really, it does belong to the city.....

Is there any way to debate "disrepair"? We have a neighbour who hates that we let our gardens mulch each winter. It's a natural way to preserve the soil, and we keep it as tidy as possible, but he would complain for sure...

Could these gardens be reallocated to a neighbor-in-need? Could partnerships between individuals and neighbors with land be established to increase the success and maintenance of these gardens?

how are landlords to handle it when it is tenants that create, then neglect, a boulevard garden? will they have recourse if they are fined by the city for their tenants actions?

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This needs more thought. Hopefully a way to make this happen will arise, because I do enjoy the maintained boulevard gardens.

Would it be possible for a neighbor or community group to step in and take responsibility for neglected boulevards? E.g. Change in ownership of property, prolonged illness or reduced mobility

Can anyone garden on the boulevard in front of my house or just the home owner? I would have real concerns about privacy and security if someone other than a family member were to garden there. What about the deer? I have stopped planting a garden because they eat everything.

Maybe 30 days is too short in some cases.

sounds reasonable to me

There is a high proportion of renters in Victoria. Sending a letter to the homeowner via this automated response process should not be the immediate go-to. How can the City encourage neighbour-to-neighbour communication first to remedy the situation? Too many people make complaints about their neighbours without ever speaking to them. This discourages trust and relationship building when you don't know which of your neighbours complained about you, or why.

concern around cost--is it very expensive to remove the garden? if so, then people should know the cost in advance; also, concerned that if someone is not able to care for the garden, maybe there are some other issues going on and should be considered in a decision

Boulevards are in reality small public parks. Their function is simply too complicated to be used as gardens. I am ADAMANTLY opposed to boulevard gardening.

I would just worry that some neighbours who are anti-boulevard garden would keep calling in to complain when the homeowner may not be doing anything wrong. The city will have to be able to double check on complaints to make sure they are valid and I think homeowners should be able to challenge complaints.

Before we do anything more relative to community gardens we need to eliminate the deer problem. We are constantly battling with the deer who constantly eat what we are trying to grow. There is a lot of work to maintain a food garden and it is all for nothing as in one night/day the deer eat it all.

these maintenance guidelines should also apply to fruit tree projects as well--fruit must be harvested and pick-up off the ground in order to avoid wildlife and pests like bears, deer, raccoons and rats

3 complaints should not be an automatic trigger for removal. City assessment needs to be done if 3 complaints received. It could simply be people who like grass better than plants, complaining. Food should not be grown on boulevards given car exhaust pollutants and dogs peeing on plants. Keep boulevards for pollinator gardens and ground bee havens. The latter require that they not be disturbed so can look a bit messy. Could encourage / demand a certain %age of native plants?

## Small-scale Commercial Urban Farming

**Small-Scale Commercial Urban Farming: Potential Change #1** Introduce small-scale commercial urban farming to the zoning bylaw **WHY?** We heard it would be helpful if small-scale commercial urban farming was recognized as a use in the City's zoning bylaw. We also heard that small-scale commercial urban farming includes a variety of activities beyond simply the growing of fruits and vegetables.

### Is this a good idea?



### If yes, why?

Response	Count
66 responses	

Because zoning is a terrible issue we have to deal with, and the more available zones, the better quality of life residents can strive for.

It would just need clear parameters about where/how it can be sold, if they are selling on the city's right of way then it needs to be clear what the requirements are if they are setting up a farm stand, money box, etc. Much like the boulevard garden requirements are clear.

It's a much more inclusive of the various ways that folks are supporting food security.

Locally grown protein products are a great way to increase local food security and nutrition. The proposed features need to deal with the animal bylaws concerning beekeeping and the raising of chickens. Currently, these bylaws are contained within in the city's animal control bylaws. This needs to change over to the urban farming bylaw. Such bylaws need to exist.

If we're looking for food security, these activities have to be allowed.

It would reduce the number of steps between people and locally produced food.

More opportunities for local food crops.

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Allows more room for urban farming.

'Cause I'm already doing it! And it's a great way to help beneficial insect (and other animals) populations.

In the big picture it increases health and decreases the carbon footprint we produce. In the small picture it encourages interactions between neighbours building safer communities.

More food in the city is better for everyone.

It will add much needed employment and local sustainability

Creates business and employment. Encourages young people to become involved in farming/gardening.

More local food = win.

Because I want to buy food in my neighbourhood!

It sounds like a good use of resources of all sorts, especially if the produce is sold locally. I imagine the neighbours would want to have a say in what happens next door.

This sounds wonderful!

Sets zoning and bylaws in an equal manner across the city, and possibly region wide.

Only on privately owned property by the owner/tenant

emphatically, yes.

Yes, it's important that people are legally permitted to have a garden without risk of being accused of a bylaw violation.

the closer the food is grown and the more diverse the gardening, the stronger is our food security and the more likely it is to be sustainable

Yes, with a caveat. Composting of waste. We have a community garden in our property and the members involved want to open compost. We also have a rat problem. Composting, a vital part of gardening, doesn't necessarily mean more pests, but if unattended (it needs turning several times a week) then open composts make sweet little nests.

This will help small businesses literally live off the land. It will create a way for people to make money. I'd buy their products.

Absolutely. Sustainability thru community is the goal

Helps to encourage people to expand into for production and build local economy.

Make food available in the neighbourhoods where it is grown. Best plan ever. A zoning amendment could allow for all related activities ie sales.



better community resource, better access to food, fresh food

Everyone would love to have a farm in their community. New-style subdivisions in the U.S. are being built around a small working farm, saw one such community portrayed on CBS Sunday morning a couple of weeks ago and it was a beautiful place to raise a family.

I don't know, probably no different than growing veggies

Its visible to the public, so becomes something they are forced to recognize and learn about

More food :)

Encourages small scale gardens

About time!

This is important for Victoria food security, and for children to be more familiar with where food comes from.

To be more sustainable, we need to have food right here in our backyards!

More food, better land use

Densification should not just be about building more apartments. We should have mixed use neighbourhoods with opportunities to grow and sell produce.

Diversity. And many folks as individuals don't have the knowledge/finances to do more robust projects like bee keeping or raising chickens. But I'd love to help an urban farmer and would certainly buy these products from a neighborhood urban farmer.

This is incredible, how amazing would it be to have a small scale urban farm down the street from you. What a great way to buy local produce, support your neighbours and community. Please change the by law.

In terms of food security we need all the help we can get. I am in favour of this if it helps to protect people who are trying to raise food for themselves and neighbours.

This would increase the amount of locally grown food available to city dwellers and should be recognized as a land use.

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If reasonable, commercial growing where possible should be encouraged. With a reduction of ALR, we need to increase our creativity in how to grow commercially where we otherwise wouldn't.

Keep the money local and gets people involved in food production which is good. It also gives people an opportunity to make some money from their efforts.

Rooftop gardening is a great way to reduce building climate control costs and to increase food production. Perhaps the city could create an action plan with businesses located in high rise buildings in the downtown core whereby community groups create gardens on their rooftops. All maintenance, planting, harvesting etc

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would be done by designated community groups in charge of said garden.

More fresh food made available

improves food security locally and teaches others how to do it for themselves

survival food. 100 mile diet etc.

It's already happening so might as well zone for it.

It's growing food, teaching children skills, feeding people, helping the city in general to be greener. What's not to like....

Innovative and important!

Best idea of all - zoning is at the root of food security. Remove all restrictions and enable food production. Fundamentally, green infrastructure would be incentivized!

we live on great farmland. why let it go to waste?

Actual commercial agriculture is critical to producing meaningful amounts of food in the city.

This vastly expands out arable land.

Many people would like to have a supplemental income since living here is very costly. If food production for driveway sales were permitted, it would provide hobby growers a way to move on their surplus to the local community. As well, many people do not want to buy produce from out of country, there is a trend to buy more local that doesn't have a long-distance journey to get here. And again, if there were a disaster here, we as islanders would not be so reliant on food aid coming from off-island.

People who sell seedlings, plants, etc won't have to hide it anymore,

Time to change the way people live and start looking after each other. Urban farming will work when its done right

But the zoning bylaw does not need any more zones!

Only over a certain level. Selling eggs to a neighbour or some flowers at a market or doing your own composting should fall within residential zoning. Truck deliveries and larger scale operations obviously exceeds commercial zoning.

I think zoning may provide certainty to those who do small-scale commercial agriculture; it provides an opportunity to have some standards, perhaps, without limiting opportunities?

local good food

promotes and encourages a broader umbrella for local sustainability

Food to expand

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Good to explain.

Its happening elsewhere & Victoria needs to get on board. SPIN farms are highly successful & provide opportunities for young farmers who cannot financially handle larger & more traditional farming styles. Victoria seems ideally situated for this.

This represents a logical step in the evolution of urban agriculture

#### If no, why not?

Response

Count

17 responses

Accumulation of a large number of chickens for egg production could get noisy and irritate neighbors, plus create unpleasant odors. Also, composting if not done correctly can create odors. Both of these acts are potentially trespass/nuisance creations and could end up in a court battle. Having customers arrive to purchase goods could also increase neighbor conflict and parking issues. Commercial farming is best done on the more-than ample farmland available on Vancouver Island.

Just thinking of the neighbours of these farms. What about pesticide use?

We don't need bird flu. China develops it by living with chickens. Vegetables and fruit is fine - chickens are a health hazard

Possibility of too much commercial activity in residential areas and smell of rotting compost next to houses. Selling should take place in existing farmer's markets with perhaps a smaller nominal table fee. Composting must be residential capacity only. Concerned about noise and smell from chickens, suitable only in limited situations.

City land is scarce - we need parkspace especially as more people moving in and more densely populated

farming creates farm waste and the city is not responsible enough to deal with its current sewage situation let alone abundance of chicken shit and bees everywhere

"processing, packaging, storing, selling and delivery of products cultivated on-site; the composting of waste for on-site use; and the delivery of educational and volunteer programs" sounds like a small business operating in a residential neighbourhood. Not a good mix and is potential source of conflict and complaints..

Local food production is great, but not a "commercial" enterprise in the city.

The commercial garden acceptability depends on where it is situated and who may be impacted. This is a land-use matter and each should require full land-use system approval. So much depends on the expertise of the gardener, and the impacts on others. Question is too broad as is.

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If this is allowed, where will it stop and who is going to oversee and check if it becomes too big and out of control? not the homeowners!! the police? the city? the unions? where will the money come from? The city allows individuals garden small scale which is acceptable ... but commercial??? No WAY! No cows, pigs, horses, donkeys and 6 chickens is enough.

The survey does not identify what zoning is intended to be changed. Question is too open.

Small holdings are inappropriate for urban areas. This type of operation would be better for outlying municipalities with lower population density.

prioritise residential development to reduce pressure on housing costs, not so that a small number of people can make money growing food in a cost inefficient and unsustainable way. Food simply doesn't need to be produced in the city of Victoria. It is done far more sustainably in surrounding farmland

Too complicated. Sounds like beehives, ducks and chickens, composting etc. a recipe for neighbourhood unhappiness

Do we really need more laws. This constant creation of rules and regs seems to me to be make work projects for city bureaucrats.

People living in residential zoning don't expect a farm next door. Compost attracts urban wildlife creating a problem for the wildlife when people don't want them around. Could be hard to regulate the composting ie odours and how well it's done - more to it than throwing organics / kitchen scraps (to get away from paying for pickup) in a pile. No animals use for food production, ie eggs. It's passe. Even the UN has promoted a plant based diet.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

29 responses

I like the idea of going up the street to pick-up some eggs from a neighbour I don't currently know that may own chickens. There would need to be some thought given to what the restrictions will be for setting up a point of sale, as mentioned above, if it is a structure or on the city's right of way, etc.

concerned about smell from compost / growing  
pests attracted to poorly managed composting / crop sites

Stick with the current process.

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ALWAYS OFFER INCENTIVES! Financial, educational and how to benefit. Show people to the light! Make these processes easy for encouragement.

I assume this does not mean a zoning change is needed (I hope not).  
Consider other small livestock.

This is one of the proposed changes I'm most excited about!

What difference does it make?

I wonder how this will affect taxes if people claim to make a certain amount of money to allow farm status property tax.

It will be nice to see how varied, or how similar the gardening will be.

should be licensed, and odours and noise tightly regulated.

I am glad that you are including eggs, which means chickens. What about other poultry ... are they permitted?  
How will the care, and resulting necessary slaughter, of animals occur? Can we require humane measures?  
Will the animal control/SPCA be allowed to monitor?

As long as pesticides are not used and they don't get too big

If you want small scale farming in the city, I think you need a minimum size of lot established for the purpose and agreement among neighbours similar to when one applies for variance.

Only if it was kept under control. Farming is not pretty, curb appeal might be an issue. Perhaps back yard only for the "farm".

Would you add goats or sheep (maximum one or two)? Small breeds are no bigger or more harmful than large dogs.

I would not want to see it restricted to specific properties, or size of properties, so I am not sure exactly what you are proposing here.

No roosters

Often people who live in the downtown area do not have cars so are unable to take advantage of the products available in agricultural areas. It could also provide more access to healthy food to the local food banks and shelters.

There needs to be some way of distinguishing a farm intended for profit and a gardener offloading a few extras. If I end up with more carrots than I can use and sell some to my neighbour I don't want to get fined for doing small-scale commercial farming in an unloved area! Similarly if a neighbourhood garden holds a sale to raise funds that is not the same as if you buy a plot of land specifically to farm it for money. There

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needs to be a way of defining what counts and what doesn't.

Zoning needs to be more nimble and relevant - the City's zoning bylaw and entrenched administrators are the single greatest impediment to fostering progressive planning in the City!

1. in regards to rooftop gardens be subject to a load test to determine the strength of the roof?
- 2.. Will the raising of goats be allowed on urban farms in the near future?

I don't know about this. Maybe. Needs carefully written and clear guidelines about what's possible.

Concerned about when pot is legalized by the federal government. Consider what will happen then with this zoning.

Raising of ducks and chickens for sale as egg layers should be included.

urban land is usually more expensive than rural, so the foods grown in the city center will probably be more expensive than food in grocery stores. this is a great concept to encourage people to reconnect with food and have more variety than what is available in a grocery store. However, the cost of some of this produce may inhibit many from regular purchase. So could the city also find ways to lower operating costs for urban farmers so that their goods are comparable in price to grocery stores?

controls for noise, odour must be clearly defined when livestock is involved, also humane treatment of animals must be overseen

Don't push the envelope. Support growing food, have few chickens etc. and leave it at that. Commercial urban farming is a hornet's nest. The initiative here should be about community, healthy activity and together, growing healthy food.

I'd actually also bend the rules to include small goats and their milk. Given that some people have dogs twice the size, I don't see an issue. (Or include language somewhere that would enable the piloting of this at a couple locations if a resident had okay from neighbours).

New zoning may also allow for agri-parks.

**Small-Scale Commercial Urban Farming: Potential Change #2** Allow small-scale commercial urban farming as a permitted use in all land use zones in the City WHY? The proposed changes would increase the range of potential sites for small-scale commercial urban farming.

Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	135 86.0%	
<b>No</b>	22 14.0%	
Total: 157		

#### If yes, why?

Response	Count
47 responses	

It would be good to allow it with proper regulations.

The new bylaw would reflect the current reality that one farmer tends many fields.

Yes, but additional parking should be required. There is insufficient parking in many neighbourhoods to accommodate business traffic.

Seems fair

yes but i dont agree with everything, farms sometimes require multiple deliveries a day depending on the season, one delivery per day is not realistic.

It's already happening, it's silly to prevent it. It's not practical to own land here. At all.

I just believe in this movement. Allow people to see the "smells" as healthy smells, or do they prefer tail pipe exhaust???

I'm so excited to see where small scale farming pops up. I would be aware that if you make guidelines too stringent to appease possible concerns from residents you may make it too difficult for people to actually participate in

Provides more opportunities for growing food, and employment.

More food! More community!

It puts a lot of land to use that would otherwise just be sitting there empty. It would encourage people to be productive/provide jobs. It would provide more green spaces and improve air quality. It may provide opportunities for out of work people (both food and work)

Nature is natural, gardening, animals, it is all natural. Farming should happen everywhere.

City need guidelines for residential areas.

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Gives good guidelines for gardening practices.

Yes, it's important that people are legally permitted to have a garden without risk of being accused of a bylaw violation.

where people live, there needs to be food. let's get back to connecting people, food and land - if you read the book published by the Songhees about their history in Victoria, they report that the concept of the people was not distinguishable from the land they lived on. How great would it be to live in a community with that understanding?

Addresses a need of the farmers. I'm all for it

Respectful community

just good all around

The more farms the better!

As long as it is regulated as you state. More food and opportunity for entrepreneurship

Details what is acceptable

More food, better land use

These are good conditions, and people could make great use of all kinds of spaces in the city. A residential neighbourhood would be a lovely place for a small urban farm. People can grow a great deal of food in a small space and it would benefit the local economy if they could sell their bounty

this would ensure green areas in the city and allow for more locally grown food.

Restricting to limited zones cuts off access to many folk especially those without cars, older folk. All residents should enjoy the benefits of small scale urban farming regardless of age, finances, mobility, transportation etc.

but if you are going to make no additional parking needed, I think other businesses should be allowed the same grace. Really this city is so strict on its parking issues and i dont think it should only allow urban farms to not have a parking requirement.

We need to increase the ability of people to produce food for themselves and commercially. I think issues around compost and scale can be addressed as above.

The regulations seem reasonable

Farming activities are incompatible with urban living.

Provided the area is not too crowded with workers

Adherence to bylaws is key to success in my opinion.

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Put land to good use

I think you have all the bases covered here; the more small farms the better !

survival food

Can't see anything wrong with it.

Local food growth is important, and this would allow restaurants and small grocery stores to be even more local

As above

makes sense

Why not. We all need to eat, and it is better if our food comes from closer.

While you are opening up zoning to reasonable uses, allow corner groceries in any zone.

Allow me suggest zoning be eliminated and replaced with performance requirements. Who cares if someone is running a business if it has no impact on the neighbourhood?

Stop being prescriptive, start demanding performance measures.

As above. ANYTHING that increases local food production (food security) and lowers carbon footprint is a good idea.

This will encourage small scale farming across the city.

Great land use. "Infill" is positive and can increase quality of life and neighbourhood.

provides certainty for the farmer(s); sets some boundaries of what is allowed/not allowed in neighbourhoods--rules should be flexible to address change over time

there will be more land available for production without changing more productive business ventures.

good local food, we must do this.

Awesome change. Go for it.

This is probably the one area that does need clear regulation - and the ability to provide enforcement.

If no, why not?

Response

Count

15 responses

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Again, I see numerous neighbor conflicts. Current owners purchased land with the knowledge that the neighboring properties had certain zoning restrictions and now these goalposts are being moved. It would be akin to putting a high-rise in a residential neighborhood.

As expressed on the last question, my experience tells me these start out well and often deteriorate into neighbourhood arguments and bureaucratic entanglements. The example of marijuana shops opening without permits or authority and the City unable and seemingly unwilling to do anything about makes me wonder what kind of nightmare a homeowner would have to go through to get some action on a complaint about a noisy, smelly farm next door, especially if the farmer doesn't have to live on the property. It becomes an absentee landlord type issue.

the proposed regulations do not go nearly far enough to protect the neighbourhoods.

It is a curious proposal. An absent farmer/operator? I don't think so.

not really clear on what "commercial urban farming" would look like, but that seems to be in a different category than home gardening.

There is a great risk of contaminated soil in all areas of Victoria. Soil testing would need to be a prerequisite.

The City has very weak bylaws regarding noise and odour, and does not have the will or capacity to enforce.

The deer, the trucks coming and going, and there is odour about already.

City does not respect need for noise/odour enforcement, and does not have the capability to enforce any rules, nor the will. Need to get meaningful bylaws foirst, and staff has never supported anything effective.

prioritise residential development to reduce pressure on housing costs, not so that a small number of people can make money growing food in a cost inefficient and unsustainable way. Food simply doesn't need to be produced in the city of Victoria. It is done far more sustainably in surrounding farmland

see above

There should be no commercial farming based on community gardens.

I think this needs to be assessed on a project by project basis.

Hold on to the ALR and provide transportation for farmers who want small plots.

A rezoning application and public hearing should be necessary to change the land use of any property.

The Province of British Columbia appears able to ignore land use restrictions based upon municipal zoning upon provincially owned properties (campground on Provincial Courthouse grounds).



City of Victoria Bylaw enforcement appears not to have the stomach to deal with this abuse.

Suitability of any property for urban farming should be subject to a rezoning and public hearing process.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response	Count
	23 responses

There needs to be a regulation on manure usage as part of the odours. Only well composted manure should be used in the first place so there shouldn't be a strong smell but I think this needs to be stated. There has been a strong manure odour on Belmont north of Haultain for weeks now and I can only imagine this could be worse with a commercial growing enterprise if they didn't use fully composted materials as fertilizer.

I don't know what the "one off-site delivery a day" refers to. Excess traffic?

I would create another tier of business license - for small scale urban agriculture - that lessens the fee. If truly small scale, then there will likely not be much extra capital (esp in the beginning) to go toward licensing fees.

There need to be better resources available for testing soil contamination.

Small scale farming should be allowed in all zones. City should be able to help in informing farmers about previous use on sites and information concerning possible site contaminants.

Requiring a business license is tricky - I'm trying to figure out what I need to grow on my aunt's land and sell at market/to florists. There are NO clear rules for this. And what about one off-site delivery per day? What does that mean? What about delivery of things like flowers - you can't deliver ONE bouquet of flowers, or to one florist, per day. That isn't practical. Unless it doesn't apply to that - if it only applies to deliveries over a certain size/made by vehicle, that's different and needs to be specified.

Could be a source of pride and civility throughout the region.

See my note about raising poultry, care and slaughter above.

Not sure if I like this. Yes, if it can be insured that noise, smell etc. Can be mitigated

Are urban farms appropriate to raise pigs? Cattle? Just what is the vision of urban farms in the city?

Why only one off-site delivery allowed per day? That restriction could be problematic for some urban farmers, especially if they're trying to run a CSA.

My question would be - at what point do you require a business licence?

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I don't think it is necessary to have a business license, this added expense doesn't add to anything except perhaps to city revenues.

I don't understand how this fits with change #1. If it is permitted in all zones then why is a new zone for commercial small scale urban farming even required? That seems redundant. Also security needs to be added to your list of requirements if the farmer does not live on site.

As in any business, must be carefully monitored, especially in the beginning, so that there are no overly large, messy sites that other neighbours might find offensive. But of course, cannot please everyone. There will be some complaints to deal with!

As above!

Again, I don't know. Maybe. I wouldn't want employees parking on the street in front of my house. If it were my neighbours, they'd feign ignorance to any rules that don't suit their agenda, which puts me in the position of reporting them or putting up with them, possibly ruining relations from too much reporting? Their cavalier attitude to live music played in the wee hours has already been damaging.

Permaculture everything possible. Please.

I could see problems arising from areas that are strictly enforced as 'residential parking only'-some people are extremely irritated by non-residents in or around an area marked this way. And rules for composting must be adhered to in order for the operation to continue within an urban area that would not upset neighbours who don't understand urban farming.

You can't regulate odour....if people want the urban farming, odour is going to happen. Wake up to reality. City can think about regulating their own noise. Don't need a business licence its farming

humane treatment of animals must be addressed

Bad idea

Hold on to the ALR and provide transportation for farmers who want small plots.

Small-Scale Commercial Urban Farming: Potential Change #3 Allow small farm stands in all land-use zones WHY? We heard that many people support growers being able to sell their produce on-site, with no restrictions.

Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	139 87.4%	
<b>No</b>	20 12.6%	
Total: 159		

#### If yes, why?

Response	Count
57 responses	

Duh

It is a nice option for others that live in the neighbourhood but maybe not on that street to partake in purchasing veggies, fruits, eggs, etc.

Less red tape and tax around selling one's local produce locally simply makes common sense.

Less red tape

We need food security. This will help

Seems fair

I dont agree with everything here.

FANTASTIC way to build community, interest in small business, agriculture, and food!

Why not! This boggles me at what the issue is??? If people are able to leave their lots in dismay, how can adding value to a community/neighbourhood be a bad thing??

We want to support and enable farmers to make a living.

GREAT idea!

I love being able to purchase goods grown or harvested in my neighbourhood. Any improvement to making food sustainability possible is an excellent idea

Provides fresh food to people in the community. Builds community. Provides income.

Again, I want to buy more food from my neighbours who have more time to garden than I do!

Densifies local traffic, improves community spirit and self-reliance. Is an alternative to the food industry.

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If someone has enough produce to sell, why not?

Less transportation of produce leads to lower carbon debt for the entire project.

Yes, it's important that people are legally permitted to have a garden without risk of being accused of a bylaw violation.

I could grocery shop from front yards? Fantastic! I like that it would only be food

We have one. Still too many rules. Why put away. Ours is permanent. No complaints. People stop and chat. Going to use as book exchange in winter. Why all the rules?

Builds community.

allows small scale business and the sharing of resources. great idea to develop local economy!

This would help islanders ensure food security and everyone wants to shop local, especially food.

Oh, now I see! Yes this would be great for individuals to sell their seasonal goods, much like a local market

So excited about this idea. I've thought several times about having a farm stand outside my own house in Rockland/Gonzales area. We produce so much food from our yard it would be a great opportunity for the neighbours we don't already know well to access some of it. Just another opportunity to enrich community, similar to having a book box in ones yard. I think it's a fantastic idea.

Better food access for the community, easier for farmer

Gives the public local access to fresh products

Neighbours having been asking for years if we sell our eggs, and we often have a surplus in the summer. It would be lovely to be able to contribute to the neighbourhood and make a bit of money this way.

People who are doing this good work need more ways to get paid for their work--i.e., more opportunities to sell their produce. And it's good for others to actually be able to see (and buy) the produce right where it's grown.

Local food from your neighbourhood.

Cost can often be prohibitive for small-scale farmers to rent a space to sell their goods. Allowing them to sell directly from their farm saves them money, and means that the farmers are being directly supported by their neighbours. The people buying the produce know exactly where their food came from!

But only if the immediate neighborhood had first access to the products. If we're supporting neighborhood urban farm with shared labor, our purchasing dollars, our patience with ie., the sounds of roosters early morning crowing - I'd for sure want first crack at buying the product!

Loves this idea. Why not be able to make a little extra money off selling your fruits and veg. however I think there should be have to be a design submitted to the city first. nothing complicated just to make sure it

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there should be have to be a design submitted to the city that needing complicated just to make sure it looks cute in the neighbour hood

I think a small stand is fine.

More access to the products for the average person.

I believe that properties with back lanes should allow stands in the laneways. Helps to create a community feel on all aspects of property.

Keeping this very local.

Yes, because this allows growers to sell their fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs and honey.

Because it reduces waste. Family gardens may produce 30 lbs of zucchini, which is more than one family can manage. So they should be able to sell the remainder.

HOWEVER, a licence should not be required, and more than one small sign should be allowed.

Neighbours feeding neighbours. What a great opportunity for a family to work together

benefits those who can't garden , no time, poor health etc and allows them the opportunity for fresh food and the opportunity to support local gardeners/farmers

availability of food.

I would love to be able to stop by a farm on my walk on the weekend and buy some fresh fruit or eggs for my meal that day. Right now we drive out to the Saanich farms, impacting the environment with our car, to do the same.

Promotes local business; good for kids to learn how to garden, retail sales, food production, etc.....and helps others supplement their income....

Love this - local food stands!

It is hard to believe I am answering this question in 2015.

Because freedom.

Because local food is good.

Because local business is good for us all.

Because it will reduce food waste.

Yes yes yes!! The closer to home people can get the food they need the better

Encourage community between neighbours and encourage people to grow their own food for trade



encourage community between neighbours and encourage people to grow their own food for sale

Perfect, now you starting to get on the right track

Make local food available to locals

That sounds like a lovely idea.

Very reasonable. Enhances local shopping and community engagement.

I don't really know much about this, so it would make sense to monitor how these rules are working for farmers and neighbours

it will allow homes with enough yard space that are growing too much for their consumption to sell and encourage neighbours to purchase from neighbours - creating market diversity. I think baked or canned goods should be allowed. For example if someone has a plum tree bursting with fruit, why not sell some canned plums for pantry/winter storage?

again, making good local food more available.

encourages community ownership of local food production and procurement

People are doing this already. It also adds to sense of place, neighbourhood interaction.

#### If no, why not?

Response

Count

17 responses

Farm stands create parking and noise pollution issues, especially in residential areas. Also lack of control of cleanliness, etc.

It sounds idyllic, but as these structures age I fear ramshackle huts becoming unsightly and a liability issue. I also fear how much money it will cost the poor, long suffering tax payer for the bylaw officers who will have to manage this.

you have got to be fucking kidding me. every asshole setting up a vegetable stand is NOT the answer to making the city affordable. People shouldn't have to supplement their incomes by setting up stands everywhere.

A residential zone is residential ... If a property next door becomes a farm, for seniors living in their home for years, they should not be burdened with having to decide to move because of the happenings that happens on a farm, tractors ... the sit-down mowers are loud enough as well as the city leaf blowing ... too much noise pollution.

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Times are too broad. Open at 7 might mean outdoor set-up at 6. Tighten hours.

Farm gate sales should be restricted to rural areas not urban settings.

Increased traffic. Unsightly

This potential change disallows the selling of crafts, baked, or canned goods, but this seems like a difficult thing to enforce. Will there be a "farm stand task force" sent out to fine people who don't adhere?

prioritise residential development to reduce pressure on housing costs, not so that a small number of people can make money growing food in a cost inefficient and unsustainable way. Food simply doesn't need to be produced in the city of Victoria. It is done far more sustainably in surrounding farmland

These have the potential to be an eyesore.

Waters down the vital community initiatives like the Moss Street market. Individual producers should look toward small markets and shops to sell products.

Why not baked or canned goods?

See the above answer.

This conflicts with essence of residential neighbourhood 'streetscape' and what other home based business owners are allowed to do.

See above.

This is an area of urban farming that I would approach cautiously as it has the potential to affect neighbours more than any other aspect. It may be possible to allow limited direct sales in some zoned areas, but I would be reluctant to see this happen in residential areas in the first set of changes. There are other vehicles available for those who wish to market their produce.

See comment above regarding rezoning and public hearing process.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

26 responses

The major issue around these is going to be theft. Whether goods are taken or the money box. will the policy for the stands state what best practices would be for ensuring items aren't taken and who they should be reported to (would it necessarily be the police?).

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The guidelines seem a little restrictive.

I would want to look at parking ramifications, esp in smaller neighbourhoods around higher traffic volumes. In many neighbourhoods now, the price of housing has forced many homeowners to make a suite of a portion of their home. This creates far more traffic on the small streets -- these streets were not designed to take the increase volume during peak times of vehicle movement. The safety issue around this concern (i.e. children walking to and from school, parks, etc) would need study in particular neighbourhoods where street sizes are small, or where living density is higher.

farm stands should be able to be put up for neighbour to neighbour use, not just farm businesses. Stands should be able to stay in a permanent location as having a mobile unit would be prone to theft.

Stop regulating People and what they do!

Perhaps the stand could be kept back from the busy streets, for less distractions to drivers.

no totally sure about "no" restrictions, the City would need to be cognizant of existing health and food safety regulations

As long as signage and radix don't become a problem

Not 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. shorter hours and some restrictions on the size/design of the stand are necessary.

Great!

I think it's a neat concept. But realistically, it would mean potentially a lot of cars would be stopping and starting up and down a street to check if the stands are sold out of eggs, etc. Perhaps, one neighbourhood stand for a collective on the street?

Why not canned or baked goods? I understand that commercial sale means that these need to be produced in a commercial kitchen, but if the stand clearly states "does not meet commercial kitchen regulations" then people buy at their own risk and the producer gets value added revenue.

Any signage should be at the stand and very small and no lighting.

No need to be 20 ft long. 6 would suffice!

I don't think a business licence should be required for very small sales. For example I see a few people who have small flower stands in front yard. This goes along with previous question- at what point should a business licence be required?

Sounds amazing!!

Perhaps a better way around this would be to assist communities and neighbourhoods in the creation of local farmer's and producer's markets. Our city has seen great success with the Moss Street Market and the Esquimalt Farmer's market.



Food systems are just that, systems. Create policies that are nimble and can be tweaked to support market initiatives as they emerge. Put basic policy in place and continue to refine as the system evolves.

no crafts, baked or canned goods? why?

Maybe. Again the issue of heavier car traffic. I feel like this is why there's farmers markets for people to sell excess goods.

I don't see why baked goods would not be permitted, such as breads. Also, in our case, our front yard is mostly fenced off; we would have to place this stand close to the boulevard, which would make it awkward. I think there would have to be a little bit of leeway, per case, that would work with the the yard shape, since there are so many size differences in the city.

I don't see the need for a two-foot setback from the property line.

The rule that it must be put away if unused for 5 days seems draconian--that means selling one day a week is inadequate, and also doesn't allow for any falter in the schedule. 14 days or 30 days would be more reasonable, allowing producers to keep it in the summer and take down in fall.

It seems to me that the more permanent the structure, the more likely it is to be quality-made rather than ramshackle.

This should not require a business licence. The cost of the licence would make it barely worth the trouble to set up a farm stand!

Hours: why finish at 8pm in summer? If it's to do with darkness, make it an earlier end time in winter (5pm?) and later in summer (9-10pm?)

Why no crafts, baked or canned goods??? Selling jam seems like a great idea.

People should have more than 5 days for not using the stand. Gardening can be really unpredictable. Some people will have problems with moving their stands. Make it at least 7-14 days.


would increase responsibility of local health authorities to oversee that bylaws are followed

Not sure about this.

Local markets provide an excellent opportunity for sales and are important contributors to building community.

Small-Scale Commercial Urban Farming: Potential Change #4 Exempt rooftop greenhouses from height calculations and floor space ratio calculations WHY? Small-scale greenhouses on industrial, commercial, institutional and higher density residential buildings can enable year-round local food production and provide valuable educational opportunities within a dense urban environment. Limitations on floor area or building height have constrained opportunities for these facilities.

### Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	134 87.0%	
<b>No</b>	20 13.0%	
Total: 154		

### If yes, why?

Response	Count
50 responses	

It is not living space

So many restrictions, wow

This idea would have the potential to offset the probable increases in community garden requirements, given downtown residents wouldn't have to leave downtown to garden.

Food production in wasted space helps food security

Seems fair

Just do it already

Greenhouses are great!

It makes excellent use of existing (and wasted) space

Allow more opportunities for food production.

Because it encourages food production even when space is limited.

It requires a lot of monitoring by the City but it's using waste space productively. Building users or renters could be involved; schools could maintain the garden.

Greenhouses and gardens are not an eyesore. Big grey buildings are though.

Good use of currently underused areas.

Yes, it's important that people are legally permitted to have a garden without risk of being accused of a bylaw violation.



it's a brilliant idea - why not?

Sky gardens are a great idea for people with less space. I like the 15th max.

Some safety concerns so need proper construction. Possibly subsidies. Solar support. So much potential to explore. We don't need to invent the wheel. I. This she of the web we can learn from global examples. Lots to catchup on

just a great way to increase food production.

The more farms we have, the better the health of our committing both socially and physically.

Sure, another great way to support year round growing

Thank god it's about time. Let's utilize or underutilized urban spaces like rooftops!

Expands the growing habitat

makes sense

Rooftop gardens have the potential to combat urban warming effect and to act as carbon sinks, and cleaning city air. Taking down buildings to put in gardens makes no sense, but using space that already exists make lots of sense. Densify intelligently!

i love the idea of looking up to a building and seeing people growing their good

There are so many empty roofs downtown where nothing is happening.

This is especially good in densely populated core areas where land on the ground is not readily available.

Aesthetically incompatible with existing urban landscape.

This is my favourite project proposed. Those who reside in condos etc, especially downtown would be able to have a connection to the dirt.

Allows growing to happen all year long.

a great way to grow; be careful of the roof load and other engineering factors

more viable.

It would encourage more rooftop gardens which are a brilliant idea.

Love this too - makes it more possible for people

The zoning bylaw in the City is punitive and fails, consistently to respond to community change. This is just one example.

maybe its a good idea? Let the experts analyze this for impacts.

building permit should be required for the safety of the building occupants!

Great for apartment dwellers or those without balconies. Effective use of space.

This would incentivize good things—growing local food.

But please remove the area limit. That is dumb, brute-force regulation. What are you trying to control? Aesthetics? Shading? Just say that.

And while you are removing disincentivizing regulations, please start measuring floor space ratios by the interior area, not the total footprint of the house. This disincentivizes thick insulation, which is terribly stupid.

As above

any options for people to grow their own food and be more connected with what they eat is a great idea

Great use of space. Should also be allowed for SFR and duplexes.

I think it is very important for the city to review and amend its bylaws to assist use of rooftops as garden areas... green roofs help control heat islands, filter rainwater, look nice, provide food, provide habitat, reduce energy use of homes

those with the means (i.e. a condo building strata) could greatly increase their property's value and residents well being with access to a garden. it also moves growing from city land to residential/commercial, where city staff will have no need to step in and maintain.

brilliant use.

rooftops offer ideal growing opportunities for those living in multi-family buildings

Seems okay, but need more info

A great way to expand growing capacity in the city.

good land (surface) use

Could provide an important source of growing produce on rooftops that do not have the structural capability to establish as a roof garden. Careful attention will need to be taken to ensure that these structures are located in areas and on buildings that are unlikely to negatively impact neighbours. In addition to height - whether or not the greenhouses use supplementary light or heating may have the potential to impact neighbours.

If no, why not?

Response

Count

15 responses

Why exempt farming? Why can I not put an additional unit on my home for residential purposes? Farming should not receive additional benefits.

Exempt from floor area makes perfect sense, but these things should definitely be included in height calculations.

Height restrictions particularly in residential areas should apply.

this should be aloud on single family homes. This is the type of people who would be more likely to be utilizing this technology. I larger density building is most likely not going to go to the effort to create this for their tenants, however if it is something for a larger building 300 sq feet would not be nearly enough space to yield enough produce to make it feasable for a larger group of people living there. The current space requirements proposed would make for a novel and expensive demonstration greenhouse, for larger building it is not adequate.

Roof top activity, be it gardens of decks, or BBQs have caused great angst. A land-use matter - would need full process.

These are often characteristics of development that have been considered by neighbourhood associations and support is often contingent upon minimal height. There may be view considerations to say nothing of aesthetics.

Crazy idea. Greenhouses are not a good idea on rooftops in a windy and well populated environment.

Do not agree with the assertion that building height restrictions have limited gardening.  
Do you have ANY substantive evidence to support this statement? ils it merely an assertion?

It will start as a greenhouse, and then change its purpose without the city being aware of it.

I doubt that limitations on height have NOT constrained opportunities. I believe this is a non-substantiated assertion?

Forget the permit. Everything else ok.

prioritise residential development to reduce pressure on housing costs, not so that a small number of people can make money growing food in a cost inefficient and unsustainable way. Food simply doesn't need to be produced in the city of Victoria. It is done far more sustainably in surrounding farmland

Why should these be exempt when the city rakes everything else over 2 floors tall over the coals as a massive skyscraper that is going to blot out the sun?

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No commercial gardening.

Present zoning regulations are meant to limit heights of buildings to protect existing neighbours from loss of views and sunlight.

The rights of existing neighbours should not be sacrificed to the interests of a gardening lobby group.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

15 responses



Caution blocking neighbors views!!!!

This could be more expansive.

we should allow this kind of development for smaller scale dwelling and also have different size requirements available for different size buildings and uses.

All these small-scale developments need constant care for them to flourish. There must be rewards for the workers involved.

Access and drainage concerns may be difficult in some locations, especially in heavy rainfall events.

Please restrict to the backyard, and cannot be immediately adjacent to property line. Someone's structure may block sun to a neighbour's yard.

Maybe. I think that buildings will have to be thoroughly assessed so that they are structurally sound to support rooftop gardens

how do you allow multiple high-rise buildings to be built and change our landscape no problem, but you want to restrict the height of a small roof-top garden to 15ft?!????

Pam Madoff will hate this :-)

Only certain kinds of roofs would work and can we assume the city will inspect to insure the integrity of the roof system?

These up in the air greenhouses might blow away. Need to be careful.

Could be done within current zoning heights.

This has proved successful in Vancouver and other cities. Other non-traditional areas could also be considered, such as unused viaducts (New York City has a great example) and other areas and installations which are no longer used for their original purposes

The proposed changes don't seem to lift many of the previous limitations. Building permits may still be required, no rooftop greenhouses on low-density housing, they must not exceed 15 feet in height etc.

We shouldn't need a permit for a greenhouse. If you have a yard you don't need a permit, so why would we need one just because we've chosen to live in high density environments instead?

The percentage should perhaps be calculated by the size of the roof....

**Small-Scale Commercial Urban Farming: Potential Change #5** Exempt small-scale commercial urban farms from requiring a development permit for landscaping WHY? In some special parts of the City, a development permit is required for new or changed landscaping on a property, to give staff and/or City



Council more oversight of the design.

Is this a good idea?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	122 79.7%	
<b>No</b>	31 20.3%	
Total: 153		

If yes, why?

Response	Count
39 responses	

It costs so much to do anything these days

Less city resources tied up in bureaucracy.

Within limits, city council having more oversight on design, sounds a little tyrannical.

The cost of these things is prohibitive to some people - a lot, probably. It certainly was to me.

Always with incistance of sustainable practices please.

We need to remove barriers to small-scale farming.

Again it improves access to local food,decreases costs involved with city oversight and makes it easier for people to get involved in small scale farming

Cost is an issue. Farmer/gardens are not making a high income so they need all the help they can get. We need to keep costs down to encourage food production in our city.

For the reasons provided.

If the property maintenance bylaw is in place.

It's nice for things to look nice.

Keep the costs low, to give good opportunities to all.

Yes, reduce red tape!

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'landscaping' is a value laden term. beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I would so much rather look at food being grown, even if it's messy, than fine trimmed lawns and gardens.

Less red tape, more vegetables.

Cut down on red tape! If people want to farm, leave them in peace to do it.

may create more edible gardens

Eliminating any and all barriers to food security should be eliminated

Save public funds, reduce taxes, and provide greater incentive for farming operations

Allows more freedom still within the bylaw without strict landscaping requirements

More food, more farmers, less interference

Simple attracts more people to try something new.

Smart farmers rotate crops and plant companion crops to renew the soil and limit the external fertilizer that needs to be applied to plants. Also, sometimes experimentation is needed to find out what will grow best where, and how. Farmers have the knowledge to make these decisions and requiring them to constantly seek approval before making necessary changes to their land would be a waste of time and expensive for both the farmer and the tax payer.

Poorer and modest income people prevail in most neighborhoods. Money is a huge barrier to modest income families who really need healthy living food options.

I think there should have to be some sort of plan to submit to the city

Farmed land is supposed to look different in season and this could provide a good educational opportunity for school children and people in general.

So long as the property maintains maintenance and stays organized, the city should not be required to approve the landscaping. I understand the need for slightly yards but meeting landscaping requirements is old thinking. Gardening is beautiful, lawns unnecessary.

Land being put to better use than a lawn which is not watered in the summer

get rid of the barriers

grass is not edible.

City hall needs to get over itself anyway. You honestly do not need oversight into every little thing.

Certain areas are designed to be a certain landscape type; it does no harm to keep these pockets special....

Faster and less red tape is good!

As above #4

NIMBYs are a giant pain.

Anything that speeds up bureaucratic processes is good!

Remove barrier, save city money.

overall, a good idea, but I think it is always important to retain some oversight for the greater good of the community -- maybe some overarching principles or guidelines should be developed?

cost must be considered to make urban gardening viable while maintaining landscaping standards of the community

If no, why not?

Response

Count

25 responses

DP's need to be required for other development, so why exempt farming? This smacks of favoritism.

streamline but do not eliminate

Bylaws are out of date and impede progress

City currently does NOT apply Maintenance Bylaw. neighbours already have several problems (without gardens).

They need oversight

No, there has to be some oversight to this construction. I am sorry if it is an extra step, but so be it.

Need special dept to support this growth not to discourage it

small scale urban farms have neighbours and should be required to adhere to certain criteria with regard to landscape. It need not be so onerous as to present barrier to a small scale grower.

don't know what the P. maintenance bylaw stipulates

I don't think the barrier of obtaining a development permit outweighs the the benefit of the permitting process in an urban environment. As long as consideration of the fact that an urban farm is different from traditional landscaping is in the process that should be sufficient.

The City demanded landscaping design constraints for a reason.

Removal of the landscape requirement without the safeguard of the same kind of review that put in

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restrictions, may counter the reason that the restriction was put in place..

A homeowner requires a permit to change a front porch ... therefore, a development permit is definitely necessary for a much more impacting project in the neighbourhood.

Should definitely need a landscape permit so that neighbours have a buffer zone.

The City should maintain control and oversight.

Some form of regulation is still required.

Perhaps still requiring a permit but making the application process cheaper and easier for farmers? I love the idea of having more urban farms, but for some people it can often be an aesthetic issue.

prioritise residential development to reduce pressure on housing costs, not so that a small number of people can make money growing food in a cost inefficient and unsustainable way. Food simply doesn't need to be produced in the city of Victoria. It is done far more sustainably in surrounding farmland

Why should there be special privileges and exemptions for one of Lisa Helps' pet projects?

I want to know more about the pros and cons of this.

This does need city oversight.

See above.

The landscape drawing addresses hydrology/drainage, existing vegetation, significant site features, habitat, climate adaptation, urban forest, views from neighbours to the site, circulation (safety) and many other things. Flexibility for the farming operation can be built into the plan.

See above - not in favour of urban farms.

I would prefer to see a streamlined process developed for small scale urban farms rather than a complete exemption.

City staff and City Councillors have an obligation to protect the interests of existing residents from excesses of overfed developers (often hailing from Oak Bay and Vancouver) and over zealous lobby groups, be they gardeners or bicyclists.

Ideally, each proposed development should benefit and not detract from neighborhood or community.

A development permit and rezoning process allows all affected individuals to demonstrate either support or objections to each specific development proposal.

Present City Council has demonstrated a nasty habit of " selling out " neighbourhood concerns in return for contributions to sundry housing, heritage preservation, and bicycle land funds.



## Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about this potential change?

Response

Count

11 responses

The diversity of food types grown, means that some gardens will undoubtedly seem more unkempt than others. For instance, larger plants that grow vertically and have lots of foliage, might seem unmaintained to the uninformed eye. Making the new process complaint-driven for enforcement, may offset the lessened need for up front bureaucratic staff (permits), esp in the beginning when many residents may not yet be educated toward the new allowances.

Do not allow pesticides and unethical practices

Depends on the situation.

Checks need to be made that the land isn't a bio-hazard if it is an industrial area.

Current 'noxious weed' bylaws should be adequate to control most lots.

Depends on the location and the types of landscape changes

The term "small scale urban farm" is used without definition. Are we talking food production as well as animal based farming? If you approved the "processing" of produce might one end up with an abattoir next door. These questions are lacking comprehensive background.

Awesome.

It would have been helpful to have an example because right now I can't think why this is even an issue.

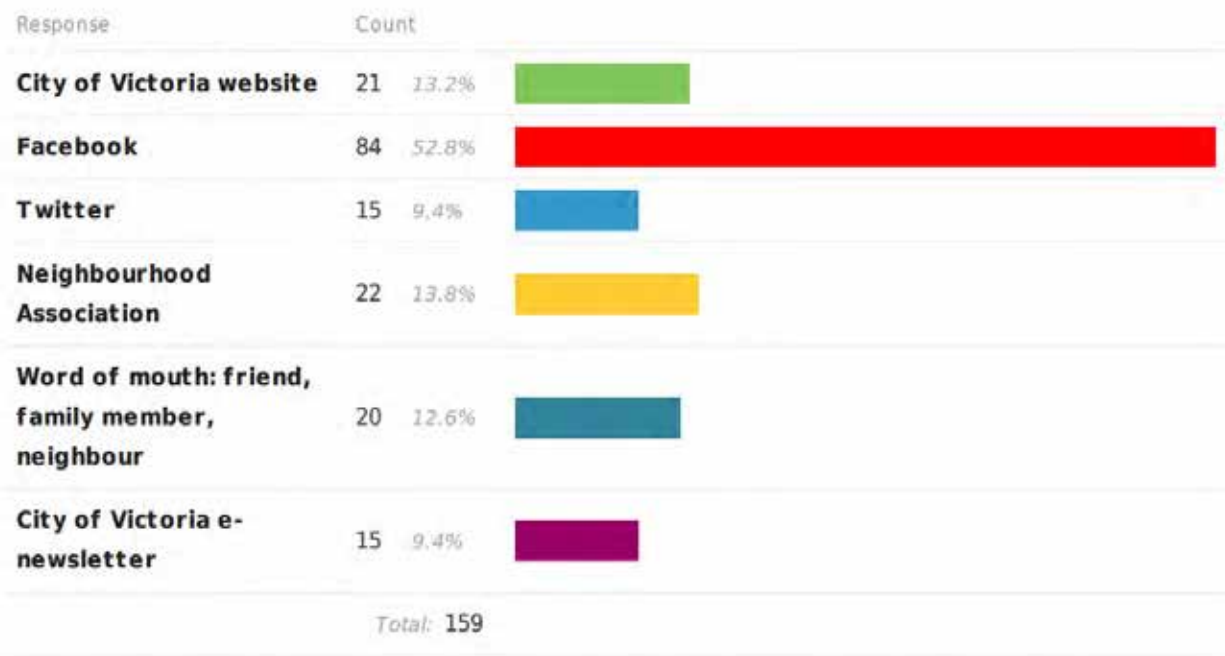
as long as this does not apply to rooftop gardens

in general a good idea, but what happens if the farm is not maintained to a standard that the neighbors agree with? there needs to be neighborhood involvement where these farms are going to start up.

Thank you for completing this 'Growing in the City' survey. Your feedback is very important to us as we work to get more people growing more food in our beautiful city. Thanks again for taking the time to share your feedback! The 'Growing in the City' Team

How did you hear about this survey?





If you leave your email address below, we will send you updates relating to the 'Growing in the City' initiative.

Response	Count
89 responses	

Personal information

## Correspondence

Three pieces of correspondence were received during this phase of engagement.

### Correspondence

Three pieces of correspondence were received during this phase of engagement.

**From:** Linda Geggie [ [Section 22](#) ]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 11, 2015 12:45 PM  
**To:** Kristina Bouris; Alia Johnson  
**Cc:** [Section](#)  
**Subject:** Great work!

Hey ladies,  
I just wanted to say I heard very good things about the consultation night on Growing Forward at our Food Forward Forum that was held the next day.  
I sent Aaren on behalf of CRFAIR as I have been suffering from cold flu issues. He also said it was great, very engaging.  
I will send the results of the Food Forward Gathering along to you when we have the report done so you can stay in the loop, but I thought you might like to know that one of the **top 15 Highlights of 2015** that we mentioned at the Forum was the work of the staff at City of Victoria on moving forward the Growing in the City project and establishing the Food Systems Coord. Position.

We had a 100 attend the Food Forward Forum (max capacity! ) this year which was great, and one of the things that happened that you will want to know is that we agreed amongst the delegates to more formally establish a Food and Agriculture Network this might be something that will support the work of the Food Systems Coord alongside the Vic Urban Food Table.

I am excited to hear about the new Food Systems Coord. When the time is right-I hear we are getting close. Of course I will make time to meet with them when they are in place and ready!  
Excited about 2016!

Have a great weekend!

Linda



Linda Geggie

Coordinator, CRFAIR  
Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable

**From:** [Section 22](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, Dec 10, 2015 1:55 AM  
**To:** Kristina Bouris  
**Subject:** Feedback on Small -scale Commercial Urban Farming bylaw changes

Hi, Kristina,

Here are my thoughts on this:

First, thank you for talking with urban farmers and for listening to us. It feels really good to have our opinions valued. Overall, the body of these proposed changes points the City in the right direction. Removing the requirement for development permits, allowing some rooftop greenhouses, and adding small scale commercial urban farming as a permitted use will certainly open doors for small growers to operate in the city, unencumbered by fear of bylaw violations or lengthy permitting processes. Limiting deliveries to by bike, or to one vehicle run per day is manageable. Small temporary farm stands, as described in item #3, will allow growers to sell to their neighbours on a scale that will help recover the cost of growing while increasing neighbourhood consumption of local food, and hopefully building community.

As the City opens the doors to more growers, especially inexperienced ones, there is an opportunity to require a high standard of farming practice, similar to those required for organic certification. A well-run organic farm will have very little negative aesthetic and no health impact on their neighbours, or on the surrounding ecosystem. Annual check-ins showing composting records, organic soil treatment records, organic pest management strategies, water usage and leachate/runoff prevention strategies go beyond permitting and move toward some sensible, supportive, but effective regulation that protects the environment and the safety of the food we are producing. And, a well-managed compost doesn't smell bad!

As commercial growers dedicated to working full time at growing food while educating the community and choosing to remain accessible to city dwellers, we need a few provisions that enable us to produce on the scale that earns us a living. Another point to consider is the effective use of the farmer's time. The 8 hour day involved in packing, loading, setting up, selling, and returning from market can be used so much more efficiently to rake, weed, sweep, paint, sort and tidy, while customers come and go from the farm/nursery stand. The farm is also the storefront, and gets the care and attention we give our home when expecting guests. When customers and neighbours come to the farm to find their food and plants (which have not been put through loading on and off a truck or trailer), they can see how they are growing, chat with farmers and workers about growing tips as they work, and even lend a hand. Our farmers' markets are a crucial part of our communities, connecting rural farms with the city, but the handful of true urban farms provide a unique experience for city dwellers. Allow farmers to sell from their farm and the concerns around aesthetics solve themselves.

What if a zone existed that distinguished one step up from the scenario described in the list of potential changes? In addition to what you have described in items 2 and 5:

- larger sites, up to 2 acres on either a single site or on a documented network of sites
- property maintenance bylaw applies but is relaxed to allow for:
  - storage of up to 60 yd of permitted materials like leaves, wood chips, sand, gravel, topsoil (not manure) for up to cumulative 6 months of the year
  - deer fencing: Urban Ag use added to section 5(2)b of Fencing bylaw

- no permit to build structures for permitted farm activities only: greenhouses, composting, potting, planting, washing, dehydrating, packing, storing, etc.
- or increase maximum size for unpermitted outbuildings by 25%
- composting for on site or within network of sites only
- full farm sales:
  - produce, eggs and honey from that site or network of sites only
  - Island Health Approved frozen, dehydrated, juiced or pickled produce of that site or network of sites only - this extends the revenue to year-round
  - plants and plant starts - also a crucial revenue generator
  - open up to 15 hrs/week, spread over up to 5 days per week(5x3hrs, 3x5hrs, 4x3.5hrs etc)
  - sales could take place from a temporary 10x10 farm stall or from an existing building such as the packing shed or or nursery, located an appropriate distance (7m?) from neighbouring property lines or letter of support from nearest residential neighbour outlining location, hours of operation etc.
- farm submits parking management plan: providing off-street parking, requiring/incentivizing bike use, managing regular customer attendance by appointment, etc.
- permission to post signage
- Also, support through subsidizing water/sewer and leaf mulch through the leaf collection program
- Possible tax exemption for landowners - did I hear that this is now in place?

This designation would enable the City to keep the broadly permitted use throughout all zones described in items 2 and 3 from being too permissive, while supporting serious full time commercial growers in responsibly scaling up to a sustainable business.

Thanks for reading this long email, and let me know if there's anything I can clarify or explain.

with thanks,  
Heather Parker  
City Harvest Co-operative

Section 22

**From:** Section 22  
**Sent:** Thursday, Dec 3, 2015 6:48 PM  
**To:** Kristina Bouris  
**Subject:** RE: Pyramid Garden

Hi Kristina,  
No problems.  
In regards to last night, my input that might be considered are lowering the costs for property taxes and water usage like any land zoned for agriculture. Perhaps a talk with North and Central Saanich might be advisable as how they administer it?

I can't remember the other thoughts I had but I think you wrote those down. ;)

Take care and if you ever need an opinion, feel free to contact me.

Take care,  
Allan





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Victoria, British Columbia  
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## Community Gardens Policy (2016)

### What is a Community Garden?

The City of Victoria recognizes community gardening as a valuable community recreation activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, neighbourhood building, food production, environmental education, habitat development, and connection to nature.

For the purposes of this policy, a community garden is a piece of land gardened collectively by members of the community, in partnership with a non-profit society.

Community gardening includes, but is not limited to, the following types of activities:

- Growing annual and perennial food plants, medicinal plants, and flowers
- Growing Indigenous, cultural and native plants
- Pollinator gardens and hobby beekeeping
- Permaculture projects
- Fruit and nut trees
- Demonstration farming
- Edible landscaping

### Types of Community Gardens

There are three main types of community gardens in Victoria:

1. **Commons Garden:** A commons garden is a communal garden area maintained and managed by community volunteers, where any harvest produced is available to the public.
2. **Allotment garden:** Allotment gardens consist of individual garden plots that are rented, maintained and harvested by individual member gardeners.
3. **Community Orchard:** A community orchard is a grove fruit or nut trees where a community organization is responsible for the care, maintenance and harvesting of trees, with food going to the community.

Community garden projects often include a mixture of these three types (for example, a garden may be a mixture of allotments and common garden areas.)

A community garden project may also have the following features:

- Compost bins, tool storage sheds, shared tools and other elements necessary for the operation of a community garden
- Educational opportunities to encourage the involvement of schools, youth groups, and citizens (who do not have assigned plots) in gardening activities
- Mechanisms for deer protection (tree fencing or perimeter fencing).

- Universal accessibility in garden design, to provide gardening opportunities to people with a variety of abilities.

#### **City support for community gardens**

The City of Victoria supports community gardens by working with non-profit societies and gardening organizations. Subject to available resources the City:

- Promotes community gardening and provide contact information to the public of existing community garden organizations (e.g. through the City of Victoria website).
- Provides a staff contact liaison for community garden projects.
- Provides access to information on the development and operation of community garden projects.
- Through City of Victoria grants, provides opportunities for funding to start, develop, and manage community gardens.
- Facilitates connections between project proponents and other potential partners.
- Assists interested groups in searching for suitable land for the development of community gardens.
- Where appropriate, assesses the suitability of City-owned land for food consumption and production through a Phase 1 Environmental Analysis (a historical search of the property to determine possible soil contamination from past land uses).
- Helps connect project proponents to appropriate landowner, if not the City of Victoria.
- Provides a municipal water hook-up and minimal fencing for new garden sites on City-owned land.
- Provides in-kind support where feasible (e.g. excess materials like compost and leaf mulch).

#### **Finding an appropriate site**

Appropriate sites for community gardens have the following features:

- Informed and supportive neighbours
- Year-round accessibility
- Good sun exposure (a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight per day)
- Easy access to municipal water
- Visible from surrounding uses to provide passive site surveillance
- Will not adversely impact other land uses

To assist with finding suitable land for community gardens, the City of Victoria has prepared an inventory of City-owned sites that may be suitable for future projects. This inventory can be viewed on the City's interactive mapping system 'VicMap', accessible from the City of Victoria website. Sites identified by the land inventory will still be subject to the public consultation requirements of this policy.

#### **Community garden projects on City-owned land**

The City of Victoria supports the creation of community gardens on City-owned land where neighbours have been consulted and are supportive, where a gardening group demonstrates an interest and commitment, and where the project meets the intent and objectives of this policy. Community garden projects on City-owned land will be subject to the following:

#### **A. Criteria for community garden projects**

Community garden projects on City-owned land will be operated by a non-profit society according to the following criteria:

1. Promotes urban agriculture, food production, education, and/or habitat enhancement.
2. Does not negatively impact surrounding land uses.
3. Is maintained to a minimum standard of aesthetics and orderliness. Year-round production is encouraged.
4. Expressions of art and creativity are welcomed and encouraged.
5. Operates at no cost to the City of Victoria, except through City of Victoria grants.
6. Provide public access to the garden at all times; locked gates are not permitted except through special approval from the City of Victoria.
7. The duration of a community garden is time-limited, according to the terms of the license agreement.
8. Groups are required to have liability insurance.
9. Produce grown on the site is not for private profit, unless through prior approval with the City of Victoria.
10. Contact information is posted on site for neighbours to support positive relationships.

#### **B. Public Consultation Process**

Community garden projects on City-owned sites are subject to a public consultation and approval process to ensure neighbours are informed and supported. Public consultation will be jointly facilitated by the City of Victoria and the proponent. Requirements for public consultation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, determined by project size and anticipated project impact.

#### **C. License for use**

For community garden projects on lands owned by the City, a license of use agreement is required between the City of Victoria and the non-profit society for the purpose of developing and maintaining a community garden. Depending on site location, licenses may also be subject to Council approval.

License terms may vary based on project requirements. A standard license agreement for a community garden will be three (3) years. License agreements may be renewed for multiple terms providing the project continues to meet the criteria of this policy.

#### **D. User agreement between Non-profit Society and Garden Members**

The community garden organization and/or a neighbourhood association agrees to develop, manage and operate a community garden according to a user agreement with their members which specifies the terms of use, management responsibilities, user fees and access procedures which include the following:

- User agreement will not exceed three years, with an option to renew.
- Residents of the City of Victoria will be given priority for membership and the opportunity to garden.
- Participation must be made from a waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Membership in allotment gardens may not be restricted by neighbourhood.

- A list of regulations is developed for use of the site, and members are required to sign a contract indicating their compliance with regular maintenance and standards.
- Membership and use of the site can be revoked for non-compliance with the organization's bylaws and regulations.
- Pesticide use is not permitted on the site.
- Public access to the site is permitted and facilitated.

#### **Community garden projects on Private Lands**

The City of Victoria encourages the creation of community gardens on private lands where the project meets the intent and objectives of this policy and the vision of the Official Community Plan. The City of Victoria offers the following support for encouraging community gardens on private lands:

- Make connections between project proponents and potential funding partners.
- Help connect project proponents to appropriate landowners.
- Funding opportunities through City of Victoria grants.



## **Growing in the City – Part 1: Appendix D**

### **Overview of property reclassification process through BC Assessment**

The Strategic Plan directs staff to “learn from Vancouver’s success in creating a community garden on Davie Street private property and replicate the model on available private properties in Victoria, including downtown”. This appendix contains additional information on the reclassification of private properties by BC Assessment to a lower “recreational” tax class, which has encouraged the growth of community gardens on vacant and private lands in the City of Vancouver, including the community garden at Davie Street and Burrard Avenue.

BC Assessment assigns each property to a property class, in accordance with the *Assessment Act*. BC Assessment predominantly considers actual use of a property as of October 31 to assign classification, but may also consider zoning. Installing temporary or permanent gardens on a site make properties eligible for reassessment by the BC Assessment Authority to Class 8 (recreational) for as long as the garden is installed on the site.

This could result in a property tax reduction for lands currently held in the following categories:

- Class 4: Major Industry
- Class 5: Light Industry
- Class 6: Business Other (includes most commercial properties, and properties that don’t fall into any other categories.)

Reclassifying lands currently held in Class 1 (residential) to Class 8 (recreational) will not result in a property tax reduction, as residential properties pay a lower tax rate than recreational properties.

There are currently approximately 195 vacant taxable properties in the City of Victoria. Of these, 87 properties could potentially benefit from a temporary reclassification (2 properties are currently held in Class 2, and 85 are held in Class 6).

There is a potential tax impact when a property (or portion of a property) is reclassified to a lower property class, resulting in a tax increase for other business or commercial properties. For the most part, this impact is short term (only applicable while the temporary garden remains on the site). The median taxable assessment for vacant properties in the City of Victoria is \$331,000. A reassessment from Class 6 to Class 8 at this assessed value would result in an approximate decrease of \$7500 in total taxes (\$5000 in municipal taxes) for the property owner (to be made up by other properties in Class 6), with an approximate benefit of \$4000 total taxes (\$3000 municipal taxes) to be split between properties in Class 8. In the unlikely event that all of the vacant business and industrial class properties in this analysis became recreational, there would be an approximate decrease of \$625,000 in taxes under Class 6 (to be made up by other properties in Class 6), and approximately \$370,000 benefit to the recreational class tax payers to split.

The City of Vancouver has found the tax implications of reclassifications to be minimal; only 5-8 community gardens around the city are located on temporarily reclassified developable land. Generally, temporary activation of vacant sites as parkettes, community gardens, or for other public uses has a positive impact on urban areas while developers wait for market conditions to improve.



## 2016 Land Use Inventory of City-owned Land for Community Gardening Objective and Methodology

**Objective:** The objective of the inventory is to provide guidance in assessing the suitability of various sites for multiple and diverse community gardening uses. Sites not included in the inventory are not automatically excluded from hosting community gardening activities, and sites included in the inventory will still be subject to public consultation.

**Methodology:** The inventory considered all properties owned by the City, including both pervious and impervious surfaces, but excluding roof tops. Sites presenting the following features were also excluded:

- Leased by school board
- Natural area/sensitive ecosystem
- High exposure to salt spray and wind
- Rocky, uneven surfaces
- Sites with total areas < 126 sq. m

The following suitability ranking system was developed to classify sites according to the amenability of each site to host a wide range of community gardening activities. Sites with the largest open space areas (ranked "1") present the most community gardening options. Community gardening options include allotment gardens, commons gardens, community orchards, fruit trees, and vertical production.

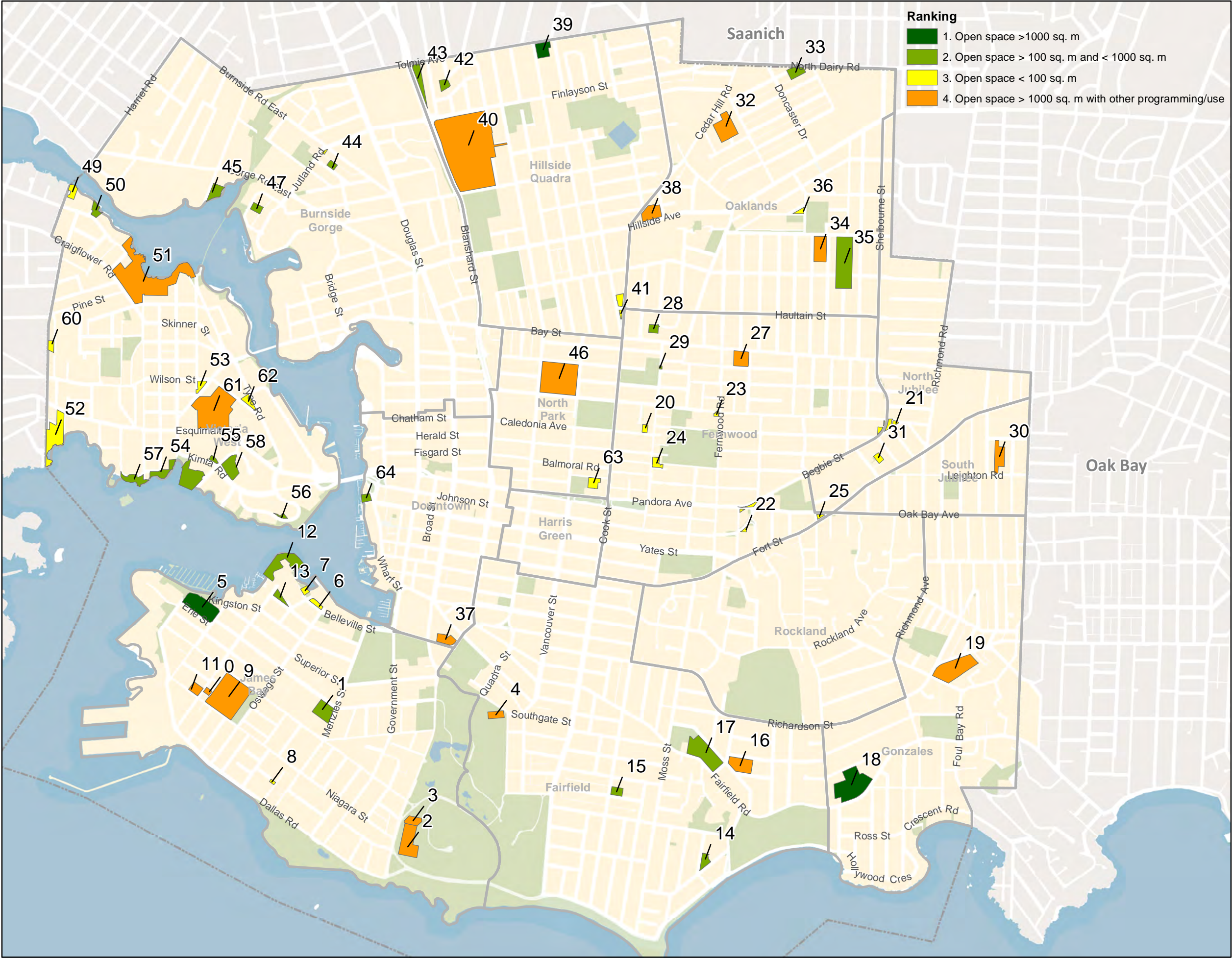
1. Open space >1000 sq. m
2. Open space > 100 sq. m and < 1000 sq. m
3. Open space < 100 sq. m
4. Open space > 1000 sq. m currently unavailable due to other community programming or use (i.e. off-leash areas, sports field and ball diamonds) or with land trust or heritage designations.

Sites part of the inventory may or may not be appropriate for community gardening, all depending on envisioned use. For example, small sites with lots of shade were included to encourage and maximize opportunities for the creative use of park space for community gardening (i.e. vertical production).

**Results:** Following Council approval of this land inventory, the information will be added to the City's VicMap program for public use.

Rank	Number of Sites
1. Open space >1000 sq. m	3
2. Open space > 100 sq. m and < 1000 sq. m	22
3. Open space < 100 sq. m	19
4. Open space > 1000 sq. m with other programming/use	16
Total sites	60





**Inventory of City-owned  
Land for Community  
Gardening: Site Map**

- # Parcel Name**
- 0 Ernest Todd Playground
  - 1 James Bay Playground
  - 2 Beacon Hill Park (All Weather Fields)
  - 3 Beacon Hill Park (Douglas St Ball Diamond)
  - 4 Beacon Hill Park (Heywood Ave Soccer Field)
  - 5 Fishermen's Wharf Park
  - 6 Belleville Street Greens
  - 7 Centennial Park
  - 8 Lewis Park
  - 9 Macdonald Park
  - 11 Ernest Todd Playground
  - 12 Laurel Point Park
  - 13 Charles Redfern Park
  - 14 Ross Bay Park
  - 15 Chapman Street Playlot
  - 16 Brooke Street Park
  - 17 Robert J. Porter Park
  - 18 Hollywood Park
  - 19 Pemberton Park
  - 20 King Park
  - 21 Begbie Green
  - 22 Johnson Street Green
  - 23 Gower Park
  - 24 Haegert Park
  - 25 Scurrah Green
  - 27 Bay Street Playground
  - 28 Wesley Place Park
  - 29 1160 Queens Ave
  - 30 Redfern Park
  - 31 Fern Street Playlot
  - 32 Oswald Street Playground
  - 33 Clawthorpe Avenue Playlot
  - 34 David Spencer Park
  - 35 Oaklands Park
  - 36 Oaklands Green
  - 37 Cridge Park
  - 38 Hillside Park
  - 39 Jackson Street Playground
  - 40 Topaz Park
  - 41 Blackwood Green
  - 42 Quadra Heights Playground
  - 43 Mayfair Green
  - 44 Sumas Playground
  - 45 Washington Avenue Park
  - 46 Central Park
  - 47 Selkirk Green
  - 48 Jutland Green
  - 49 Arm Street Parkette
  - 50 Burleigh Park
  - 51 Banfield Park
  - 52 Barnard Park
  - 53 Alston Green
  - 54 Mary Street Park
  - 55 Sitkum Park
  - 56 Songhees Park
  - 57 Rainbow Park
  - 58 Vista Park
  - 59 Lime Bay Park
  - 60 Hereward Green
  - 61 Victoria West Park
  - 62 Triangle Park
  - 63 Franklin Green
  - 64 Reeson Park



# Inventory of City Land for Community Gardening: Site Data

Last updated: Wednesday, February 3rd 2016

	Location	Neighborhood	Address	Ranking	Growing conditions	Other considerations (land trust designations, other current uses, etc. )
1	Irving Park	James Bay	455, 461, 575, 481, 491 Michigan St, and 250 Menzies St	2	1. Some shading adjacent building and tree canopy; 2. Potential acidic needle fall from trees to north 3. Good SE opening	1. Some re-grading required 2. On-site public washrooms available
2	Beacon Hill Park	James Bay	All Weather Fields (North and South) at corner of Beacon and Douglas	4	1. Field gravel, amenable to container/box growing. 2. Potentially subject to some wind and salt spray 3. Excellent sun exposure	1. This is a Land Trust Designated Heritage site. This site designation presents specific and substantial (although not insurmountable) challenges, changing terms and conditions for land use would be a long process 2. Part of the field could be converted to a garden with other remaining a sports field 3.128 bookings for North field (rugby & soccer) and 86 bookings for South field (soccer and youth activity) in 2015
3	Beacon Hill Park	James Bay	Ball Diamond on Douglas St	4		1. Open space dominated by ball diamond 2. 17 bookings in 2015 (fastball and slow pitch)
4	Fisherman's Wharf	James Bay	300 St Lawrence St	1	1. Good sun exposure 2. Some hills could require regrading	
5	Belleville Street Green	James Bay	300 & 350 Belleville St	3	1. N facing slope site 2. Heavy shading from tree canopy	1.Tourist area 2. On David Foster Harbour Pathway
6	Centennial Park	James Bay	220 Belleville St	3	1. N facing slope site 2. Heavy shading from tree canopy	1. Site is secluded 2. Prime tourist area 3. On David Foster Harbour Pathway
7	Lewis Park	James Bay	32 Lewis St	3	1. Heavy shading from tree canopy	
8	Todd Playlot	James Bay		4	1. Some shading from large trees	1. Land Trust Designation, using this site would likely require a change to terms and conditions (long process).
9	Todd Park	James Bay	180 and 190 Niagara St, and 100 Montreal St	4	1. Heavy shading from tree canopy	1. Land Trust Designation, using this site would likely require a change to terms and conditions (long process).
10	Charles Redfern Park	James Bay	200 Quebec St	2	1. Shade from tree canopy	
11	Beacon Hill Park	Fairfield	Soccer field on Heywood Ave	4		1. 177 bookings in 2015
12	Bushby Park	Fairfield	160 Bushby St	2	1. Flat 2. Good sun exposure	
13	Chapman Park	Fairfield	1208, 1210, 1212 Chapman St, and 235 and 237 Linden Ave	2	1. Flat 2. Good sun exposure and SE opening	
14	Brooke Street Green	Fairfield	1425 Brooke St	4		1. Open space dominated by ball diamond
15	Robert J. Porter Park	Fairfield	1350 Fairfield Rd	2	1. Some hills and rock beds	
16	Hollywood Park	Gonzales	1700 Fairfield, 1645, 1635 Earle St	1	1. Open area beside equiment shelter and near ball diamond has good SEE opening, slight northern slope. 2. Open area beside playground (1645 & 1635 Earle St) has good sun exposure and is flat.	
17	Pemberton Park	Gonzales	1855 Richardson St	4		1. Open space dominated by ball diamond
18	Kings Park	Fernwood	1150, 1156 Caledonia St	3	1. Heavy shading from tree canopy and building 2. Small open curbside area slopes N	
19	Begbie Green	Fernwood	2020 Shelbourne St, 1675 Pembroke, 1401 Begbie St, 1425 Harrison St	3	1. A few small sites, some have heavy shading from existing tree canopy.	1. Parts of Begbie Green are planted with fruit tree and berry bushes
20	Johnson Street Green	Fernwood	1355 Johnson St	3	1. Small site sloping North, shaded from adjacent buildings on SE side.	1. Difficult to access



21	<b>Gower Park</b>	Fernwood	2050 Fernwood St	3	1. Small site with heavy shading from tree canopy	1. Low power lines and man hole are limiting factors
22	<b>Haegert Park</b>	Fernwood	1202 Yukon Street, 1805, 1801 Chambers St	3	1. Shade from tree canopy	
23	<b>Alexander Park</b>	Fernwood	1325, 1345, 1355; 1365, 1375 Bay St; 2426, 2422 Oregon Ave; 1380; 1370, 1360, 1350, 1340,1330 Walnut St	4		1. Open space dominated by large off-leash area and volleyball posts
24	<b>Wesley Place</b>	Fernwood	2518 Wesley Pl	2	1. Shade from tree canopy	
25	<b>Closed off street on Queens</b>	Fernwood	1160 Queens Avenue	2	1. Closed off paved street, amenable to container gardening 2. Good S opening 3.Tall trees on E and W will shade.	
26	<b>Scurrah Green</b>	Fernwood	1580 Fort St	3	1. Shade from tree canopy	1. Adjacent to high traffic area
27	<b>Red Fern Park</b>	South Jubilee	1755 Redfern St	4		1. Open space dominated by large off-leash area
28	<b>Fern Street Park</b>	North Jubilee	1815 Fern Street	3	1. Limited space and shade from tree canopy	1. Adjacent park parcel (1827 Fern Street) is leased
29	<b>Oswald Park</b>	Oaklands	2955, 2945, 2935,2875, 2865, 2855,2845,2835,2825, 2930,2870,2860,2850, 2840,2830,2820 Oswald Rd	4		1. Open space dominated by large off-leash area
30	<b>Clawthorpe Park</b>	Oaklands	1615, 1623, 1631, 1635, 1639 Clawthorpe Ave	2	1. Shade from tree canopy	
31	<b>Oaklands Park</b>	Oaklands	1550 Kings Rd	2	1. Open space between sports field and playground is a good size and SE facing.	1. Majority of open space is dominated by sports field
32	<b>Holly Green</b>	Oaklands	1515 Holly St	3		1. Already gardened by community
33	<b>Hillside Park</b>	Oaklands	1280 Hillside Av	4		1. Open space dominated by ball diamond
34	<b>Central Park</b>	North Park	2275 Quadra St	4		1. Open space dominated by ball diamond, tennis fields, playground & other
35	<b>Jackson Street Park</b>	Hillside/Quadra	3183, 3173, 3185, 3193 Jackson St; 1111, 1121, 1131 Tolmie Ave	1	1. Good sun exposure, open space with SE slope, bowl.	
36	<b>Topaz Park</b>	Hillside/Quadra	2950 and 3050 Blanshard St	4		1. Open space dominated by ball diamond and sports field
37	<b>Blackwood Park</b>	Hillside/Quadra	2550 Cook St	3	1. Shade from tree canopy 2. Rock bed	
38	<b>Quadra Heights Park</b>	Hillside/Quadra	825 Villance St	2	1. Some shade from tree canopy	
39	<b>MayFair Green</b>	Hillside/Quadra		2	1. Some shade from tree canopy	1. Ajacent to high traffic area
40	<b>Sumas Park</b>	Burnside	524, 530, 534 Sumas St	2	1. Good sun exposure 2. Flat	
41	<b>Arbutus Park</b>	Burnside	2925 Washington Ave	2	1. Good SE orientation, slight SE slope 2. Area near water is flat	1. Finding nearby parking may be challenging
42	<b>Selkirk Green</b>	Burnside	Between Jackladder lane and Waterfront Crescent	2	1. Flat, open space with ok sun exposure	1. Subject to Master Development Agreement
43	<b>Jutland Green</b>	Burnside	505 Burnside Rd E	3		1. Adjacent to high traffic area
44	<b>Arm Street Park</b>	Victoria West	1455, 1465 Arm St	3	1. N facing slope 2. Shade from canopy cover	
45	<b>Burleith Park</b>	Victoria West	570 Selkirk Ave	2	1. Small area with SE opening	1. Area near road could be used for small garden

46	Banfield Park	Victoria West	521 Craigflower Rd	4		1. Open area dominated by sports field, dog off-leash and other uses.
47	Barnard Park	Victoria West	300 Barnard Ave, 710, 716 Sea Terr	3	1. Rocky 2. Heavy shade from tree cover	
48	Alston Green	Victoria West	190 Bay St	3	1. Shade from tree cover	1. High traffic area
49	Mary Street Park	Victoria West	400, 250 Milne St; 260, 270, 280 Catherine St	2	1. Good sun exposure	2. Site in front of Spinnakers (280 Catherine St) is steep but maybe suitable to fruit trees
50	Sitkum Park	Victoria West	200 Kimta Rd	2	1. Trees on SE side will shade	
51	Songhees Park	Victoria West	11 Esquimalt Rd; 49 Songhees Rd	2	1. A few pockets with good S opening/sun exposure. 2. Slight slope in some areas 3. Potentially subject to some wind and salt spray	1. Subject to Master Development Agreement
52	Rainbow Park	Victoria West	201 Robert St	2	1. Good sun exposure 2. Potentially subject to some wind and salt spray	
53	Vista Park	Victoria West	40 Saghalie Rd	2	1. Good sun exposure	1. Subject to Master Development Agreement
54	Lime Bay Park	Victoria West	10 Cooperage Pl	2	1. Good sun exposure 2. Potentially subject to some wind and salt spray 3. Slight slope	
55	Hereward Green	Victoria West	904, 908, 912, 916 Hereward St	3	1. Slope 2. Heavy shade from tree canopy	
56	Victoria West Park	Victoria West	155 Wilson St	4		1. Open area dominated by sports field and dog off-leash.
57	Triangle Park	Victoria West	150 Wilson St	3	1. N facing slope 2. Sun exposure limited by tall surrounding buildings	1. Subject to Master Development Agreement
58	Franklin Green	North Park	1045 Mason St	3	1. Shade from tree canopy	
59	Reeson Park	Downtown	1300 Wharf Street	2	1. Slopes WSW	1. On David Foster Harbour Pathway
60	Cridge Park	Downtown	730 Belleville St	4		1. Open area dominated by cricket pitch



## Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program

The City of Victoria recognizes food-bearing trees as valuable assets for promoting food security, food education, and the growth of the City's urban forest. The Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program enables residents, in partnership with a community organization, to plant and maintain small groupings up to a maximum of five fruit and/or nut trees in a park or greenspace in their neighbourhood.

### **Becoming a Food Tree Steward**

Food trees require ongoing maintenance, including watering, pruning, mulching and harvesting. Residents who wish to plant food-bearing trees in a neighbourhood greenspace or park must partner with a community organization to sign a maintenance agreement as a 'Food Tree Steward' with the City of Victoria to ensure the tree(s) will be kept healthy and well-cared for the duration of the life of the tree(s).

#### ***Food Tree Stewards are required to:***

- Select and purchase trees, as approved on tree location plan. To ensure tree health, trees must be inspected and approved by a City of Victoria arborist prior to purchase if in a local nursery. If being ordered and delivered, the tree must be inspected by staff on site at delivery.
- Plant the trees in accordance with the tree location plan approved by the City of Victoria and according to the City's tree planting specifications.
- Commit to daily maintenance of the site during the fruit bearing months, and at least weekly visits during the off months.
- Water, prune, weed, mulch and maintain the tree(s). This includes locating an accessible water source from which to water the trees.
- Ensure all fruit is picked during the harvest and ensure all windfall is gathered. No fallen fruit can be left on the site.
- Maintain the trees to the set standard, at no cost to the City of Victoria, including water, disposal fees from all debris including from pruning, and organizing supplies (including mulch).

#### ***Your application must include:***

- Contact information for the operating community organization, and Food Tree Steward(s).
- A description of the project.
- A tree location plan, including proposed tree species, cultivar and rootstock (where applicable), water location, site access, and any required tree support structures.
- Proof that immediate neighbours have been consulted and are supportive. Prior to approving an application under this program, the City may also erect signage on the site to solicit feedback from other park users.

### **Design considerations**

- Species should be selected for climate change resistance, ease of care and reasonable cost. A list of recommended species is attached as Appendix A.

- Trees should be spaced to accommodate lawn mowing between trees (at least 4 meters between tree wells).
- Once mature, trees should be pruned so that the lowest limbs are at least 2.5 meters above the ground, to accommodate pedestrian circulation and mowing under the trees.
- Trees should not be located where fallen fruit may be hazardous, including near playgrounds and streets.
- Trees should be located where fruit can be easily and safely harvested.
- Any physical structures, including deer fencing and tree supports, will require approval from the City of Victoria Parks Division prior to installation.

### **Restrictions**

- No additional plantings or garden plots are permitted as part of this pilot program. Fruit trees with additional plantings or garden plots are considered a type of 'Community Garden', and must adhere with the City of Victoria Community Gardens Policy.
- Trees may not be located over underground utilities, under power lines, or in locations that will make surrounding maintenance difficult.
- No ornamentation of trees is permitted.
- Pesticide use is not permitted. If a pest infestation or disease threatens tree health, the City of Victoria Parks Division will work with the steward(s) to establish a treatment plan.
- Produce grown on the site cannot be sold for private profit.
- Produce grown on the site must be available for the public to harvest.
- The City of Victoria reserves the right to remove trees for any reason, by providing 30 days written notice to the operating community organization.
- Trees must be maintained to the standards outlined in this document. Issues and complaints about trees received by the City of Victoria will be forwarded to the operating community organization. The City reserves the right to remove the trees if issues and complaints remain unresolved by the operating community organization after 30 days.

### **Evaluation of the pilot program**

The purpose of the Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program is to introduce and test a model for increasing the number of food bearing trees in City of Victoria parks and green spaces. As part of the City's adaptive management approach this program will be evaluated annually and at the end of five years, and practices and policies revised accordingly. Evaluation will include, but is not limited to:

- Complaint and/or comment calls
- Tree health
- Input from community organization
- Volunteer hours and individuals

## Food Tree Steward – Maintenance Agreement

### Applicant Contact Information:

Community Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Tree Steward(s): (attach additional pages if necessary)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of the project** (Tell us why you would make a good Food Tree Steward, and why this project will be a positive addition to your neighbourhood park or green space)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### List of Attachments (Include all attachments listed below)

- ☐ Tree Location Plan (including placement of trees, water location, tree support structures if required, tree species, site access)
- ☐ Proof of neighbour support

**By signing below, the City of Victoria Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities and \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert Name of Community Organization] agree with the terms and conditions of this agreement, as outlined in the Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program document.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[INSERT NAME OF SIGNATORY]

[Insert Name of Community Organization]

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
[INSERT NAME OF CITY OF VICTORIA REPRESENTATIVE]

Parks Recreation & Facilities  
City of Victoria

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE





# Boulevard Gardening Guidelines

The City of Victoria has adopted a set of Boulevard Gardening Guidelines. An increase in boulevard gardening will support the City's goal of creating healthy and diverse ecosystems, creating vibrant and attractive streets and improving local food security.

The Boulevard Gardening Guidelines have been designed to help beginners and experts garden on City of Victoria residential boulevards more confidently and responsibly.

Generally speaking, boulevards are the grassy strip of land between a property and the street and are owned by the City. The majority of boulevards have grass and trees between the sidewalk and the curb.

Boulevard gardens can create more beautiful, interesting and diverse streets, add character to neighbourhoods and increase feelings of community pride. They can also support environmental benefits such as increasing ecological diversity and providing bird, butterfly and pollinator habitats. Working on the boulevard can bloom into community building, traffic calming, and healthier living. Edible plants can improve the availability of fresh, local, and sustainable food sources. Not least of all, boulevard gardens can further cultivate Victoria's reputation as "The City of Gardens".

If you are thinking about transforming your boulevard into a garden of the edible or decorative variety, please read the following guidelines carefully.

Happy gardening!

## 1. Introduction

Property owners can transform or support the transformation of the boulevard immediately adjacent to their property into well-designed and well-maintained gardens. Examples of support includes giving permission to apartment or condo dwellers to garden on the adjacent boulevard, inviting others to help, and guiding their efforts.

Remember that the boulevard is a shared public space, so please be courteous of neighbours and passers-by by keeping your garden tidy, clear of the sidewalk and free of garbage. Also, remember that underground utilities share the boulevard. The City and utility companies may require occasional access to maintain these underground utilities, to build new sidewalks, install street signage, or prune boulevard trees, for example. The following Boulevard Gardening Guidelines aim to assist residents in transforming their streets in a way that is beautiful, manageable and safe. Kindly review this document in its entirety before you begin boulevard gardening, and if you've already begun, review these guidelines before you continue.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Parks Department

T 250.361.0600

E [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca)





## 2. Preparation and Design

### 2.1 Preparing the boulevard for planting:

- (a) Boulevards are corridors for utilities such as hydro and gas lines and must be maintained so there is always easy access to these services. Be aware that if road or utility work needs to happen on your boulevard, you may lose what you've planted. You may or may not receive advanced notification. In either event, work crews should be treated respectfully.
- (b) Adjacent property owners must confirm the location of underground utilities before disturbing the boulevard, and must ensure that no utility company objects to the property owner's gardening proposal, by phoning BC One Call at **1.800.474.6886**. Visit [www.bconecall.bc.ca](http://www.bconecall.bc.ca) for more information. Residents who plan to dig or disturb the boulevard must also contact the Engineering and Public Works Department at **250.361.0313**.
- (c) To avoid interference with underground utilities, be careful to comply with instructions provided by utility companies and the City, including instructions regarding where and how deep you may dig. Use hand tools only.
- (d) Keep utility covers clear of plants and soil. Work crews must be able to easily locate and access them. A pot of flowers on top of a utility cover is fine as long as it is easily moved by one person.
- (e) Remove existing grass and shake it well to ensure minimal soil loss. Sod that is removed should be composted. Alternatively, you can flip grass over. Better yet, place a layer of unwaxed cardboard (with any tape and staples removed) on top of the grass, and use layers of compostable materials (except food scraps) to create sheet mulch. Sheet mulching does less to disrupt soil ecology, and builds new soil by allowing the grass and other materials to decompose in place. In order to speed decomposition and help hold materials together,

water thoroughly before, during and after layering the mulch. For more information on sheet mulching, visit <http://compost.bc.ca/education/factsheets/>.

- (f) Mound up compost or soil up to 20cm high, or mulch up to 40cm high, measuring from the original ground level, to ensure there is adequate soil for plants to root and that underground utilities are not disturbed. (Mound up less material in the area above tree roots, as described below).
- (g) Use new, clean soil, compost or mulch to avoid weeds and toxins. Compost is available from some hardware and grocery stores, garden supply shops and other commercial sources in and around Victoria. Using soil from backyard composting is another excellent option. For more information on composting, visit [compost.bc.ca/education/factsheets/](http://compost.bc.ca/education/factsheets/).

### 2.2 Working around boulevard trees:

- (a) Boulevard trees are part of Victoria's urban forest and the City maintains them. More information about Victoria's urban forest can be found at [www.victoria.ca/urbanforest](http://www.victoria.ca/urbanforest).
- (b) Take care not to damage or cut roots, trunk, bark or branches when working around boulevard trees. Do not nail or tie signs, trellises or other fixtures to a boulevard tree.
- (c) Keep new soil, compost or mulch from contacting existing trees as holding moisture against bark or wood causes it to rot, threatening the health of the tree. Drought tolerant native plants are often the best choice for plantings under existing trees.
- (d) Do not place more than 10cm of compost or soil, or 20cm of mulch, in the area directly above underground tree roots as it may lead to shallow rooting, or deplete the roots of the moisture and oxygen they need. Healthy, deep-rooted trees are more likely to survive drought stress and are less susceptible to wind damage. You can estimate the extent of the area above underground tree roots by observing the 'drip line' of the canopy (i.e. the area of ground corresponding with the circumference of the densest part of the canopy above, errant branches excepted). In this area, use compost or soil with a sandy texture (at least 50% sand by volume) for good drainage, or rake sand into the area once your mulch has broken down to form soil.
- (e) If you have a tree on your boulevard, consider selecting plants which will work in collaboration with each other and with the tree. This approach is sometimes called companion planting, and the group of plants is sometimes called a guild. To find out about appropriate guilds for your boulevard tree, Google your tree's name, followed by "companion planting" or "guild." This should give you plenty of information about plants more beneficial to your tree than grass. For example, the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team offers valuable information regarding native plants well-suited as companions for Garry Oaks, at: [www.goert.ca/gardeners\\_restoration/index.php](http://www.goert.ca/gardeners_restoration/index.php).



- (f) When planting around trees, keep in mind that work crews may need access to trunk and branches, including enough room for ladders. Again, if work needs to happen on your boulevard, you may lose what you've planted.

### 2.3 Setbacks, access and mobility:

- (a) If there is no sidewalk, access along the boulevard must be provided so that pedestrians are not forced to resort to the street.
- (b) If parking is permitted along the curb, maintain a path of at least 60cm wide along the curb edge to allow pedestrians to easily open and close vehicle doors, and to reach the sidewalk from the street. Garden beds should be no longer than 8m without a break. If parking is permitted along the curb but is seldom used, it may be enough to leave periodic gaps or to place stepping stones in your boulevard garden. Alternatively, if you have observed people relying on the boulevard to unload mobility equipment (e.g. walkers, wheelchairs, strollers) or other large items, look for ways to ease mobility across the boulevard. For example, a pathway with a firmer surface than grass (e.g. fine gravel) could be used to make paths.
- (c) Maintain a 1.5m clearance around fire hydrants, utility poles, bus shelters, concrete bus pads, or other permanent structures. Make sure they are easily visible and accessible from both the street and the sidewalk, to avoid mobility issues, and in particular, to assist emergency workers and other work crews to carry out their duties.



### 2.4 Plant size:

- (a) Where sightlines or safety may be a concern, plants must be no taller than 1m, in order to allow drivers and pedestrians to see clearly over the tops of the plants. In these locations, choose plants that grow to a mature height of 1m or less or keep plants low by trimming.
- (b) Keep plants lower close to intersections, driveways, curbs, and sidewalk edges. Plants should be no taller than 60cm in these locations.
- (c) Ensure that plants do not hang over the sidewalk or into the street. If a plant threatens to obstruct or interfere with the free use of the sidewalk or the street, cut back or remove the plant.
- (d) Fire hydrants must be easily visible and accessible from both the street and the sidewalk. Maintain clearance to ensure that plants do not interfere with the operation of the hydrant.
- (e) If plants are deemed to be a visibility, mobility or safety concern by the City, or do not meet the above guidelines, the City reserves the right to ask that plants be trimmed, or to have them trimmed. If a plant remains a persistent problem, the City reserves the right to remove it.

### 2.5 Plant selection and maintenance:

- (a) Consider perennials, native plants, drought-tolerant plants and plants with winter interest. Aim to create a waterwise boulevard that looks great in all seasons. Ideas for plant selection are readily available on the internet, at the Victoria public library, and by talking to other neighbourhood gardeners. For example, the Habitat Acquisition Trust offers ideas in an online guide entitled "Gardening with Native Plants", available at: [hat.bc.ca/index.php/publications](http://hat.bc.ca/index.php/publications).
- (b) Consistent with the City's Official Community Plan, food producing plants are encouraged within the guidelines set out below. Many food producing plants offer colourful flowers, plentiful pollen, abundant nutrition, and great taste. Importantly, food producing plants enhance local food security and sustainability.
- (c) Do not plant trees. Trees may outgrow the space and become costly for removal in time. Only trees planted by the City are allowed on the boulevard. The exception: some varieties of dwarf fruit trees, when mature, are similar in size to standard berry bushes (e.g. thimble berries; red currants). Viewed as akin to berry bushes (with larger fruit), rather than akin to standard-sized trees, these dwarf varieties may be appropriate on the boulevard, provided that all guidelines applicable to other plants are followed. Take special note of the guidelines regarding plant height, setbacks, and trimming, and boulevard tidiness. In this way, the City encourages an increased number of food-bearing trees on public lands, consistent with the Official Community Plan.

- (d) For those interested in planting fruit trees in visible, public places, the City of Victoria offers the Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot program, and the Community Gardens Policy (for community orchards). More information about these opportunities can be found on the City's website: [www.victoria.ca/growing-in-the-city.html](http://www.victoria.ca/growing-in-the-city.html)
- (e) The non-essential use of outdoor pesticides (including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides) on public land is generally prohibited in Victoria. To learn more about pest and weed management, visit [www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/parks-rec-culture/parks/natural-areas/pesticide-reduction.html](http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/parks-rec-culture/parks/natural-areas/pesticide-reduction.html).

## 2.6 Structures and ornaments:

- (a) Permanent installations such as in-ground irrigation systems and permanent structures and ornaments are not allowed as they interfere with public safety and the City's ability to quickly access underground services.
- (b) Temporary structures and ornaments are allowed within the parameters described below, provided they are easily movable and do not interfere with access or visibility.
- (c) All temporary structures and ornaments must be set back 1m from the curb, 30cm from the sidewalk and 1.5m from any pole, fire hydrant or other permanent structure.
- (d) Raised garden beds are considered temporary structures. The recommended height for a raised garden bed is between 15cm and 45cm. Raised garden beds must not exceed 45cm.
- (e) Provide a 1m wide path between raised garden beds and other temporary structures and ornaments to ensure easy access between the sidewalk and parked vehicles. Raised garden beds must be no longer than 8m.
- (f) Where plants must be no taller than 1m, please measure from the ground level, not the surface level of the raised garden bed. Where plants should be kept to a maximum of 60cm (i.e. closer to intersections, driveways, curbs, and sidewalk edges), please measure from ground level.



- (g) If you are building wood-sided raised beds to grow food, avoid treated lumber or creosoted timbers as they may be toxic. Use wood that is naturally rot-resistant such as cedar or juniper. For low garden beds, materials such as bricks, landscape pavers or rocks can be used to retain soil and define the garden edge. A preferable form of raised bed is a berm, a mound of earth in a distinct shape with no hard sides. Instead of using wood, rocks or other hard edges, plant ground cover around the sides of a berm to save materials and resist erosion. It is easier to create an interesting or artistic shape with a berm than with a wood-sided bed.
- (h) Stake plants that are vulnerable to falling over (e.g. sunflowers), or that might pose a tripping hazard. Top the stake with a bright colour (e.g. a brightly-coloured scrap of fabric, or a piece of brightly-coloured tape) to improve its visibility.
- (i) Be aware that you may lose any temporary structures or ornaments, if emergency or other work crews need to perform work on the boulevard. You may or may not receive advanced notification. In either event, work crews should be treated respectfully.

## 3. Growing Food on City Boulevards

Under its Official Community Plan, the City wishes to consider new and innovative approaches to urban food production that increase food security, in partnership with community members. The City also wishes to enhance the appearance of major roads through planted boulevards; sustainably grow a healthy share of Victoria's daily food supply within and around the city, and encourage food production activities in visible and suitable public places to foster a connection between people and the process of growing, harvesting and eating fresh produce. Cultivating food plants on city boulevards is a modest yet inspiring step along this policy pathway.

At the same time, growing food on the boulevard can present special challenges. In general, many food producing plants, annuals in particular, require good soil and regular watering, so extra attention to these elements and their cost may be important to you. Also, boulevards are public land, so passers-by are likely to stop and pick. On the bright side, sharing food and friendliness with passers-by can grow into a valuable community building experience. For this reason and many others, a sunny boulevard can be a great place for growing food. Boulevard gardening creates memorable places, for gardeners and passers-by alike.

### 3.1 Year-round interest and beauty:

Ensuring that your boulevard looks great in all seasons is a key consideration when planning your garden. Many food producing plants are annuals that die back in the winter. Planting these areas with a winter cover will ensure the garden looks well-maintained while also protecting the soil from winter erosion. Consider planting perennials in your garden, to lessen annual workload, prevent soil erosion, create a winter presence, and give your garden a jump-start in spring. Native perennials are particularly well-suited to our local conditions and climate.



### 3.2 Watering and maintenance:

City-owned infrastructure may not be used for watering. This includes boulevard water services and fire hydrants. Many food producing plants, annuals in particular, demand more water and maintenance. It may be challenging to water your boulevard, so determine how you will water your plants before you begin to ensure a successful harvest. Be careful not to leave tools on the sidewalk as they can be a tripping hazard for pedestrians. Be aware that garden hoses stretched across sidewalks can also be a tripping hazard. Take reasonable precautions such as brightly-coloured hazard cones or flags to alert pedestrians that the hose is there. Be sure your caution alerts do not block the sidewalk so much that two people walking abreast, or someone using a mobility device, cannot pass.

### 3.3 Neighbourhood pets and passers-by:

The boulevard is a public space where you have little control over the way people, pets and other animals interact with your garden. Again, plants and produce may be picked by passers-by; and pets and other animals often have little consideration for garden beds. A certain level of quality and contaminant control may be lost when you garden along the street.

### 3.4 Soil quality:

As with any other land in the city, it is possible for contaminants to be present in soils on boulevards. Contaminants may appear at potentially unsafe levels, particularly in older or more industrial neighbourhoods where paints and sprays were used before the ban of certain chemicals. In many boulevards, the likelihood of industrial soil contamination is unknown; therefore, the City cannot guarantee the suitability of your boulevard for growing food.

Another source of potential contamination is in runoff of water from the street that can contain oil and other residues. Boulevards typically have raised curbs that obstruct the flow of water into the planted area. Gardeners, however, are encouraged to take note of water flow around their gardens.

If you are not certain that your soil is safe, have a soil test done. They are relatively easy, inexpensive and may provide urban gardeners with confidence that their food is safe for consumption.



If you are concerned about soil contamination:

Use ornamental plants in your boulevard garden. Sustainable choices include native, drought-tolerant and/or pollinator-friendly species that will benefit the urban environment.

Create raised beds if you intend to grow food. Use new, clean soil, compost or mulch for planting. Make sure your raised beds fit within the applicable guidelines above.

Contaminant levels are higher in the soil than in the plant material and therefore, the risk of exposure is higher from direct contact with the soil (or soil particles on the surface of plants) rather than from the consumption of garden produce. Washing garden produce thoroughly will greatly reduce the risk of contaminant consumption. Gardeners should take care not to ingest soil or dust and wash hands, gardening clothes and tools well.

Adding compost helps bind metals such as lead and also assists with the breakdown of oil or pesticide residues, making the soil safer for food growing. Compost also offers many other benefits, like enriching soil, holding moisture, and fighting pests.

Fruiting crops like squash or berries are less likely to take up common contaminants than root crops or greens.

The Society for Organic Urban Land Care has developed an Organic Land Care Standard as a guide and resource. The Standard is available for download at: [www.organiclandcare.org/soul-organic-land-care-standard.html](http://www.organiclandcare.org/soul-organic-land-care-standard.html). Boulevard gardeners may find it challenging to comply with the entire Standard, because the historic use of your site may be unknown, airborne toxins along major streets may be excessive, and root barriers and row covers may be unaffordable to you, for example. Just the same, the principles, practices and products described in the Standard should be helpful to those who value working toward preserving and supporting the health of ecosystems and human communities. In particular, beware of unsafe levels of heavy metal contamination, and toxins generally, as described in the “Environmental Toxins” section of the Standard.



## 4. Cultivating Community along City Boulevards

### 4.1 Notions of Neighbourliness

A boulevard garden, cultivated courteously and consensually, can pull neighbours together; done recklessly, it can push people apart. Bear in mind notions of neighbourliness at every turn.

If you wish to establish a garden on a boulevard adjacent to your property, ask yourself: “How will my neighbours react to this boulevard garden?” If you are uncertain, why not ask them? One approach would be to canvas those neighbours who will be able to see your garden from their properties, aiming to get the ‘ok’ from a strong majority of them (say, 75%). Another approach would be to canvas immediate neighbours (those on either side of you, and directly across the street), aiming to get the ‘ok’ from all of them. Be sure to let your neighbours know how big the garden would be, and the kinds of plants you’d like to grow. Obtaining informed consent is the ethical way to go.

On the other hand, if boulevard gardens already dot your block, you may feel confident that those who have planted before you have helped stake out a new social norm in favour of boulevard gardening. Under these circumstances, you may believe that informed consent is implied by all concerned.

Under some circumstances, obtaining informed consent from your neighbours may be difficult or impossible. For example, your property may be adjacent to multi-unit buildings, occupied by large numbers of condo owners, tenants or both. Simply gaining access to these neighbours may be unworkable, and systematic canvassing may be unwelcome. In these kinds of situations, it is wise to start small. Establish your garden on only a portion of the boulevard adjacent to your property, with plants familiar to most people. While working in the new garden, you may recognize some passers-by as your neighbours. Observe how they react, listen to their comments. Consider shaping your subsequent gardening efforts based on the feedback you receive.

If you are a tenant, be sure to obtain the informed consent of your landlord before you begin gardening on the boulevard adjacent to your rental building. If you are a condo owner, you will want to approach your strata council. Boulevard gardeners who ignore the interests or objections of neighbouring stakeholders can expect to sow discord and discontent along the boulevard.

Major changes to a boulevard garden can be controversial, so consider renewing community-building efforts whenever garden expansions or redesigns are planned. Once it appears that support for establishing or expanding a garden is strong, aim to create a garden that you and your neighbours can be proud to show to visitors.

### 4.2 Neighbourhood Participation

Informed consent is one thing, active support is one better. You may be pleasantly surprised that your neighbours are eager to participate in your boulevard gardening project, in various ways. Neighbours may wish to help by propagating plants, pulling weeds, or watering while you are away. A neighbour may be inspired to establish their own boulevard garden, when they hear about your potential project. Consider declaring your boulevard garden to be an open one, where anyone can help and harvest.

Even if you don’t, the boulevard is public space, so expect that some passers-by will walk the garden, admire it, even graze, and you would have no cause for complaint.

### 4.3 City Hall as Stakeholder

In Victoria, boulevards are public land, and the City is a key stakeholder. As a result, your garden will be vulnerable to public projects and purposes. You may find your garden limited in unexpected ways, in terms of time and space. For example, road reconstruction or block redevelopment may uproot your boulevard garden, and disrupt other street features. If the street is changed or widened, the new streetscape may include no boulevards at all. On the upside, the City gives advance notice of major construction projects to adjacent property owners. As a result, you should have an opportunity to transplant your favourite plants into pots, or over to other gardens.

### 4.4 Neighbourhood Maintenance Help

If you have a stake in a boulevard garden and see a need for help with maintenance, consider sending an email to the Compost Education Centre at [vicboulevardgardens@gmail.com](mailto:vicboulevardgardens@gmail.com). The Compost Education Centre keeps a list of neighbourhood volunteers who wish to work in local gardens. If the Centre is able to provide contact information to you regarding potential volunteers, it would be up to you to contact them, screen them, and work out some maintenance arrangement (including a basic understanding of the work involved, and how you might share seeds, cuttings, food or flowers, for example). Likewise, if you are interested in gardening but have no access to a garden plot, consider sending an email to the Compost Education Centre and include the name of the neighbourhood where you’d like to garden in the subject line. The Centre would add your name, neighbourhood and contact information to its list of potential garden volunteers.

## 5. Safer Gardening on City Boulevards

Gardens on City boulevards are close to vehicle traffic. You can keep yourself and others safer while gardening if you follow these tips.

### 5.1 Be visible

- (a) Garden during daylight hours and when the weather provides clear visibility. Garden when traffic is light rather than during peak traffic hours. Your experience will be safer and more enjoyable.
- (b) Wear a safety vest or other bright clothing when working in your boulevard garden.

### 5.2 Be alert

- (a) Pay special attention to passing bicycles and motor vehicles.
- (b) Access corner bulges from the sidewalk and not from the street. Avoid standing on the street or having your back towards traffic while tending your boulevard garden. Stand in the garden or along the sidewalk edge.

### 5.3 Be responsible

- (a) Make sure that children are closely supervised if they are helping with your boulevard garden.
- (b) Keep an eye on your personal belongings. Keep hoses, tools, and gardening supplies off the street. These items can be a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists. Do not leave open holes unattended.

## 6. Boulevard Taxes, Boulevard By-laws and Other Legalities

### 6.1 Boulevard Taxes:

In the City of Victoria, most of the boulevards are maintained by the property owners who own the land adjacent to the boulevard. If you are one of these property owners, feel free to simply switch from mowing to gardening, on all or part of the boulevard adjacent to your property. You may wish to leave a portion of the boulevard as grass, and continue to mow it, in order to maintain the setbacks and pathways described under these Guidelines. Another attractive alternative is creating and maintaining a wood-chip path.

Some boulevards are mowed, watered, fertilized, and edged by the City, as a maintenance service to adjacent property owners. A service fee is applied to the property owner's tax bill as a 'boulevard tax'. If you are one of these property owners, the City will no longer maintain those portions where there are boulevard gardens. If you wish to no longer pay the service fee, you will need to work with your neighbours to opt out of the boulevard tax, through the process described on the City of Victoria's website: [www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/parks-rec-culture/parks/boulevards-program.html](http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/parks-rec-culture/parks/boulevards-program.html).

### 6.2 Garden Maintenance and Upkeep

It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep their boulevard garden well-maintained and operating within the guidelines established by this document. The City of Victoria does not monitor the state of gardens on boulevards, and will respond to issues on a complaint-basis. If you feel that a boulevard garden in your neighbourhood poses a safety risk or has been abandoned, you may first wish to speak with the adjacent homeowner. Complaints about boulevard gardens can be directed to [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca). Homeowners will be notified when a complaint is received about their boulevard garden.

If multiple (three or more) complaints are received by the City in a single calendar year, the homeowner will receive a thirty (30) day written notice to respond and remedy the situation. If the situation persists beyond the 30 day window, the City reserves the right to remove the boulevard garden, at the cost of the homeowner.



### 6.3 Liability and Indemnity

#### (IMPORTANT PROVISIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

With control comes responsibility. By assuming control of the boulevard adjacent to your property for gardening purposes, you and your helpers assume full and sole responsibility for any bodily injury, property damage, or other harm that is suffered by you, your helpers, or any third party, arising in any way from, or connected in any way to, your garden-related activities, and any related liabilities, damages, complaints or claims (collectively, "Claims") including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, injury to anyone who may trip and fall in your garden, illness to anyone who may eat plants from your garden, and lost or damaged plants, structures or ornaments caused by anyone including the City.

The publication of these Guidelines and the granting of permission to engage in gardening on City boulevards is not intended to establish any agency or other relationship between the City and any person engaged in gardening on a boulevard. The City does not assume any responsibility or supervising authority for gardening on boulevards and will not inspect or manage boulevard gardens in any way.

By engaging in boulevard gardening, you agree, in return for permission to garden on City boulevards in accordance with these Guidelines, to comply with these Guidelines and to waive any and all claims against the City, its officers, employees, elected officials, contractors and agents (collectively, "Releases") in relation to any Claims and you further agree to indemnify and save harmless the Releases from any and all Claims including legal costs and expenses that may be based on or related to your action, omission or inaction.

Publication of these Guidelines and the granting of permission to garden on City boulevards is not intended to confer any legal or equitable interest or property right in the City boulevards. The City reserves the right to re-occupy the boulevards at any time and for any reason without notice to you or payment of any compensation for removal of the plants or other property from the boulevard or for the time and effort spent by you or anyone else in gardening or improving the boulevard in any way.

The capacity to prepare for and respond to change is a cornerstone of a sustainable and resilient community, and policies are developed with inherent uncertainties. These Guidelines are provided for information purposes only, are not exhaustive, and are no substitute for relevant experience, careful research, and sound judgment in relation to each specific site. These Guidelines reflect the City's position in light of the information available to it at the time of preparation, including the fact that informal street gardens have been sprouting up in Victoria for several years. While reasonable steps have been taken in preparing these Guidelines, any use that a gardener or any other person makes of them, or any reliance on or decisions based on them, are the responsibility of those parties. The City accepts no responsibility for Claims, if any, made or suffered by anyone as a result of decisions or actions based on these Guidelines.

## 7. Measuring and Sharing Success

Once you have sketched out a plan for a boulevard garden adjacent to your property, or even after the garden is established, kindly send an email to the City at [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca). Tell us your name, your street address, and the nature of the garden (ornamental, food producing, or both). This is not an application or approval process. Rather, the City wishes to collect basic information about your boulevard garden, to help monitor and evaluate the progress of boulevard gardening and report on the success of these Guidelines. The City may contact you down the road with additional questions about your gardening experience. If you run into obstacles and decide to return the boulevard to grass, kindly send another email to the City, at the same email address, saying that you no longer count yourself as a boulevard gardener.

## 8. Conclusion

In light of the number of boulevard gardens already growing in Victoria, it is clear that many people stand ready to establish and maintain these potentially productive spaces. In part, this trend arises from people's recognition that maintaining grassy boulevards consumes time and energy in ways that may be unsustainable, yet grass offers no food or flowers. In part, this trend arises from the demand for allotment gardens exceeding supply due to the high number of people renting or living in multi-unit buildings who lack access to land.

The City's Official Community Plan acknowledges that local people should have access to the knowledge and resources needed to produce their own food in urban areas. These Guidelines aim to increase the opportunity for urban food production on public lands, along with encouraging other forms of gardening. With these Guidelines in hand, beginners and experts alike will have basic information to help them garden on boulevards more confidently and responsibly.

For decades, the City has taken care of boulevards for local people, and local people have taken care of boulevards for themselves. Under these Guidelines, conscientious care-taking can continue in a spirit of reciprocity and respect.

Questions, concerns and comments regarding these Guidelines can be directed to [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca).







- r. Specify that a rooftop greenhouse must not exceed 3.35 m in height and 28 m<sup>2</sup> or 50% of the building's roof top area, whichever is less.
2. Prepare a *Business Licence Bylaw* amendment to:
    - a. Require a business licence for commercial urban agriculture for off-site retail purposes;
    - b. Require a business licence for on-site farm stand sales
    - c. Offer the option of a three-month farm stand business licence for \$25.00 or a year-long licence for \$100.00;
    - d. Permit the loading of commercial urban agriculture products into a delivery truck one time per day, between 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday; and between 10 am and 8 pm on Sunday or a holiday.
  3. Prepare an *Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw* to:
    - a. Amend policy 17.10 to clarify that urban agriculture should be subservient to the density, built form, place character and use objectives in the *Official Community Plan*.
    - b. Exempt commercial and non-commercial urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for the alteration of land, unless the installation is being constructed in association with a building, structure or other landscape features that requires a development permit.
  4. Prepare a *Sign Bylaw* amendment to allow permanent signage for outdoor markets on City property.
  5. Prepare a *Pesticide Regulation Bylaw* to restrict the use of pesticides for commercial urban agriculture use, including on industrial, commercial and institutional properties.
  6. Prepare outreach materials and design examples for food production in multi-unit, mixed-use developments and other types of housing.
  7. Prepare information for applicants on siting, appearance and design considerations to encourage compatibility of commercial urban agriculture operations, including rooftop greenhouses, farm stands and operations on vacant lands, with other land uses.
  8. Prepare information materials to communicate requirements and responsibilities for commercial urban agriculture and farm stands.
  9. Implement a process to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the proposed regulatory changes and report to Council after two years on the effectiveness of the changes, and recommend any adjustments that might be warranted.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present Council with a series of proposed amendments to City regulations to better support small-scale commercial urban agriculture, as part of the "Growing in the City" project. These include proposed amendments to the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*, *Business Licence Bylaw*, *Sign Bylaw*, *Pesticide Regulation Bylaw* and *Official Community Plan*, to:

1. Define commercial agriculture
2. Allow commercial agriculture in all zones
3. Restrict loadings of delivery trucks
4. Allow off-site retail sales
5. Allow on-site retail sales through farm stands



6. Limit odours, noise and light pollution
7. Exempt rooftop greenhouses from height calculations and floor space ratio calculations
8. Exempt urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for landscaping
9. Restrict the use of pesticides in commercial urban agriculture
10. Allow permaculture market signage

Commercial urban agriculture, which produces agricultural products for sale, is an emerging, expanding use that involves many different activities - growing, retailing, processing, packaging, warehousing, storage, wholesaling – but does not fit neatly into zoning and other City regulations. As a result, there has been uncertainty about where commercial urban agriculture is an appropriate use and how it should be regulated. The proposed changes take a balanced approach by introducing regulatory changes that support expanded small-scale commercial urban agriculture, with limits to minimize negative impacts on neighbouring properties, particularly in residential and commercial areas.

The proposed changes were identified and reviewed through two rounds of public engagement as part of the Growing in the City project, involving more than 1,300 interactions. Engagement techniques included one-on-one interviews with urban farmers, two on-line surveys and a workshop to review draft policies. Engagement results suggest strong support for expanding commercial urban agriculture activities in most areas of the city. Key regulatory barriers include a lack of clarity regarding where commercial urban agriculture is permitted, restrictive zoning and limits on retail sales. Despite the strong overall support for commercial urban agriculture, considerations for noise, odour, lighting, parking and the compatibility of agriculture with other land uses need to be managed as part of any regulatory changes.

Following Council's consideration of the proposed approach, staff will prepare the associated revisions for consideration by Council at a future meeting. Should Council approve the associated zoning amendments, it is recommended that staff report back to Council after two years to evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the proposed regulatory changes.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present Council with a series of proposed amendments to City regulations to better support small-scale commercial urban agriculture, as part of the "Growing in the City" project.

A separate report will provide Council with proposed updates to policies and guidelines to support urban food production in the public realm, including an updated Community Garden Policy, a land inventory of City-owned suitable land for community food growing, a pilot program to facilitate the increase in the number of food-bearing trees in City parks and a final set of Boulevard Gardening Guidelines.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Victoria recognizes urban gardening and food production as a valuable community activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, connection to nature, environmental education, increasing healthy and diverse ecosystems, neighbourhood building, and food security. Small-scale commercial urban agriculture, which involves the production of agricultural products for sale, provides household and neighbourhood-scale economic opportunities and supports the region's food production and restaurant sectors.



The 'Growing in the City' project is a year-long initiative to update and expand policies, regulations and guidelines to support urban food production in the City of Victoria. The project will deliver six related initiatives intended to advance key directives in the City's *Official Community Plan* and 2015 – 2018 *Strategic Plan* towards a more sustainable local food system:

1. An inventory of City-owned land for community food growing.
2. A review and update of the Community Gardens Policy.
3. Voluntary guidelines for food production in multi-unit, mixed use developments and other types of housing.
4. Guidelines for food-bearing trees on City-held lands.
5. A review of City regulations and policies to explore the opportunity for, and implications of, supporting expanded small-scale commercial urban agriculture.
6. A final version of the Boulevard Gardening Guidelines.

The regulatory changes proposed in this report have been developed to address initiative five, described above.

### **Official Community Plan and Food Production**

Victoria's *Official Community Plan* (OCP) supports a shift towards a more sustainable urban food system, including expanded opportunities for small-scale commercial urban agriculture and other food-related economic development. Given Victoria's small land base and the City's commitment to accommodating a significant amount of the region's population growth, the use of land for food production should be balanced with the City's objectives for new housing and development. Food production will be supported on private lands where it is safe, suitable and compatible with density and other urban place guidelines in the OCP (17.10).

Specific to commercial urban agriculture, the City's OCP directs the City to:

- 17.14. Explore expanded small-scale commercial urban agriculture through a review of policy and regulations to consider the opportunities for, and implications of:
  - 17.14.1. Enabling infrastructure and human resources needed to support small-scale commercial urban agriculture as a home occupation.
  - 17.14.2. Using residential accessory buildings for commercial agricultural purposes.
  - 17.14.3. Allowing commercial urban agriculture uses, including greenhouses, in commercial and industrial zones.

### **Existing Regulations for Commercial Urban Agriculture**

Commercial urban agriculture is an emerging use that involves many different activities including growing, retailing, processing, warehousing, storage, wholesaling and, as such, does not fit neatly into the City's *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*. As a result, there has been uncertainty about where commercial urban agriculture should be permitted and how it should be regulated.

In 2008, the City introduced Urban Agriculture as a home occupation under the City's *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*. It allows up to two people living on site to engage in the production of fruit and vegetables for retail purposes on a portion of the parcel. As with other home occupations, no retail sales are allowed from the site. Staff have not been able to confirm the number of urban agriculture business licences obtained since 2008, but it is estimated to be less than five.

Commercial urban agriculture is not currently identified as a use elsewhere in the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*. Operators wishing to establish a commercial urban agriculture operation away from their place of residence are directed to industrial areas, where activities analogous to food production such as manufacturing and warehousing are permitted. Most urban farmers would prefer not to be limited to industrial areas due to the limited availability of arable land, the risk of soil contamination, as well as limitations on retail sales.

## **Overview of Public Engagement**

### Phase 1 (June 2015 - October 2015)

From June 2015 – October 2015, the City conducted the first phase of public engagement for the 'Growing in the City' initiative to identify barriers and opportunities related to urban food production. The engagement consisted of the following opportunities to provide input:

- One-on-one interviews with urban farmers operating in Victoria
- An online survey with a short and long version
- 3 pop-up engagement stations at local farmers' markets
- A "round-table" event with representatives of the Urban Food Table (comprised of local stakeholders)
- A series of meetings between City staff and urban food system professionals, distributors and purchasers.

The City received over 800 responses to the online survey, and met with more than 30 experts involved in the local food system. The results from the engagement indicated a high level of support for increasing small-scale commercial urban agriculture activities, including:

- 87% support for small-scale urban agriculture activities in their neighbourhood
- Support for urban farms in residential areas (79%), in commercial areas (77%) and institutional/provincial public lands (70%)
- 71% support for food producers to sell produce on-site (e.g. farm stands) with no restrictions and also off-site at farmers markets or grocery stores
- The top concerns with commercial urban agriculture were noise, hours of operation, parking and pesticide use.

A complete engagement summary from Phase 1 is attached as Appendix A.

### *Concerns Related to Commercial Urban Agriculture*

Despite strong overall support expressed for commercial urban agriculture, participants identified a number of concerns related to impacts on neighbouring properties. These concerns are described in Appendix B, and include:

- Noise from machinery and deliveries
- Odour from compost, soil amendments and chickens
- Artificial lighting from greenhouses
- Parking for customers and employees
- Hours of sale
- Aesthetics and maintenance



- Compatibility of agricultural uses in residential areas
- Increased pesticide and synthetic fertilizers use.

### *Interviews with Urban Farmers*

Staff interviewed seven commercial urban farmers to better understand the characteristics and needs of commercial urban agriculture in Victoria. Urban farmers identified the following regulatory barriers, summarized in Appendix C:

- Lack of clarity about zones where commercial urban agriculture is permitted
- Restrictive requirements for urban agriculture as a home occupation
- Restrictions on commercial use of accessory buildings
- Need for development permits for landscaping, greenhouses and other structures
- Need for building permit for greenhouses or other accessory buildings
- Restrictions on commercial sales of animals and animal products
- Non-regulatory barriers including insecurity of tenure, lack of economic viability of urban farming, desire for preferential water pricing for urban farms, and need for more skills training and access to capital for new farmers.

### Phase 2 (November 2015 - January 2016)

The second phase of public engagement solicited feedback on the draft regulation changes through a roundtable meeting with food stakeholders, an open house, a policy review workshop, and an online survey. Approximately 80 participants attended the open house, with 60 participating in the workshop sessions. An additional 263 survey responses were received. Overall, responses indicated a high level of support for the potential changes recommended in this report:

- 89% support for introducing commercial urban agriculture as a use
- 86% support for allowing commercial urban agriculture in all zones
- 87% support for allowing farm stands in all zones
- 80% support for exempting commercial urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for landscaping (alteration of land)

Some revisions have been made based on Phase 2 input and staff review, including two additional proposed amendments:

- Allow signage for farmers markets outside market hours of operation
- Restrict pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use for commercial urban agriculture.

A complete engagement summary from Phase 2 is attached as Appendix D.

## **ISSUES & ANALYSIS**

Drawing on the results of public engagement, this report proposes a series of changes intended to support the expansion of small-scale commercial urban agriculture in the City of Victoria. The proposed changes take a balanced approach by introducing regulatory changes that support commercial urban agriculture, with limits to minimize negative impacts on neighbouring properties.

Backyard gardening is already practiced extensively in Victoria with few conflicts with adjacent properties. Commercial urban agriculture is anticipated to be similarly low-impact and small in size.



However, any expansion of commercial urban agriculture needs to carefully consider impacts on neighbours and surrounding land uses that may come with an increase in intensity of activities for commercial purposes. While some cities have limited the scale of commercial urban agriculture by restricting the size of operations, this approach is better-suited to cities where commercial urban agriculture is most likely to locate on large tracts of vacant land. As a built-out City, commercial urban agriculture operations in Victoria are more likely to use only a portion of a property and already be quite small in size.

The goal of the proposed amendments is to support commercial urban agriculture of a scale that is compatible with other urban land uses, particularly in residential and commercial areas. Staff propose that the scale of operations be limited through restrictions on commercial pick-ups, retail sales, hours of operation, noise, odour and artificial lighting. Large scale operations such as large commercial greenhouses play a vital role in a food secure community and will be encouraged to locate in industrial areas, subject to applicable zoning regulations, where there is a higher tolerance for industrial-scale impacts such as lighting, odour and noise.

Despite the proposed restrictions, there is still a risk that a larger-scale operation, such as a large greenhouse or an operation that cultivates an entire lot, may locate anywhere in the city, including residential areas.

#### *Public Feedback on Proposed Amendments*

Overall, engagement results indicated a high level of support for increasing opportunities for commercial urban agriculture in the City in both Phase 1 and Phase 2. Public feedback informed each of the proposed amendments, and is summarized by amendment in Appendix E.

### **1. Define Commercial Urban Agriculture in the Zoning Regulation Bylaw**

Both the public and City staff indicated a desire to recognize commercial urban agriculture as a use in the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*. A new definition would include the range of activities involved in commercial urban agriculture such as harvesting, packaging, storing, selling and delivery of products; the composting of waste and preparation of soil amendments; and the delivery of educational programs.

The proposed definition would allow the commercial production of a range of products with low food safety risk including the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, fibres, nuts, seeds, seedlings, herbs, eggs and honey. Island Health sets the health standards and guidelines for food safety, production and sales. While there is interest in expanding the list to include other animals and animal products, it is recommended that this expansion be considered as part of a two-year review in January 2018 due to additional health and food safety considerations.

Staff recommend that products regulated by the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, such as medical marijuana, not be permitted as commercial urban agriculture products.

Due to the cost and availability of land, many urban farmers in Victoria and other cities cultivate multiple sites. The proposed definition would not require the cleaning, packaging or storing of products to occur on the same site where they are cultivated or raised. Small-scale food processing would be permitted as a home occupation or through another use that has a food processing component, subject to zoning requirements. Island Health regulates the food safety and health aspects of small-scale food processing.



## **2. Allow commercial urban agriculture in all zones**

Under the City's current *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*, small-scale commercial urban farming is limited to industrial zones and to residential zones where the farmer lives on-site. Results from the Phase 1 survey indicated strong public support for allowing commercial urban agriculture in all land use zones, with the exception of land used for parks.

The proposal is to allow commercial urban agriculture in all zones. This would expand the range of potential sites for new urban farms, to include commercial areas, vacant residential lots, rooftops, institutional properties and other underused sites. Allowing commercial urban agriculture in all zones would recognize the wide variety of uses, activities and geographic contexts that characterize commercial urban agriculture in Victoria.

This bylaw change does not affect use in City parks. Food production activities in City parks are regulated by the *Parks Regulation Bylaw*, which does not permit the activities captured in commercial agriculture without consent of Council or the Director Parks, Recreation and Facilities, depending on the situation.

There is some concern that allowing commercial urban agriculture in all zones may impede future development, particularly for new commercial mixed-use and residential properties in the downtown core where 50% of the City's growth is envisioned in the future. There is a risk that commercial urban agriculture could stifle future development if it turns out to be more lucrative than redevelopment in the core area. In many cities, commercial urban agriculture is most often an interim use for properties awaiting eventual redevelopment. Over the long-term, Victoria's economy will likely find higher value from redevelopment than from urban agriculture. The City is not proposing any financial incentives that would make long-term commercial urban agriculture competitive with redevelopment (see page 12).

There is also a risk that permitted commercial urban agriculture uses could be displaced by a new, adjacent development in the future. For example, an established farmer may object to a taller building due to the fear of losing their sunlight. As with other businesses, the onus will be on the farmer to understand the existing zoning entitlements on adjacent properties.

In the case of a rezoning, commercial urban agriculture is not intended to impede the achievement of future density and growth objectives, which would remain a higher priority. It is proposed that OCP policy 17.10 be amended to clarify that urban agriculture shall be subservient to other OCP objectives for form, place character, use and density provided in OCP policy 6.2 and Figure 8.

## **3. Restrict truck loadings for off-site sales**

To minimize parking and traffic impacts in residential neighbourhoods, regulatory changes are proposed to restrict the frequency and hours of commercial loadings. The proposal is to allow only one delivery truck loading of commercial urban agriculture products per day, between the hours of 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday, and from 10 am to 8 pm on a Sunday or holiday.

Following discussion with farmers and non-farmers at the draft policy review workshop, it is recommended that the restriction apply to delivery trucks over 907kg (a one ton truck) only, and not to lower-impact modes such as personal vehicles, bicycles or foot. Loading of delivery trucks would not be restricted where otherwise permitted by zoning.



#### **4. Allow off-site retail sales**

Urban farmers indicated that direct sales to restaurants, farmers markets and subscription box programs provide a stable market and make up the majority of their business. Off-site retail sales of commercial urban agriculture products are currently only allowed as a home occupation, which requires producers to live on site.

The proposal is to permit the off-site retail sale of commercial urban agriculture products. An annual Business Licence would be required for off-site retail sales of commercial urban agriculture products, which will include a referral to Island Health for any high-risk food products.

Off-site retail sales would not be restricted where otherwise permitted by zoning.

#### **5. Allow on-site retail sales at farm stands**

Farm stands can provide easy access to healthy, fresh food, as well as provide household economic opportunities. On-site sales of agricultural products are not currently allowed through existing City regulations. It is proposed that on-site sales at small farm stands be allowed with the following conditions to limit impacts on surrounding neighbours and businesses:

- Farm stand is limited to 6 m<sup>2</sup> (20 feet<sup>2</sup>) in area and 3.35 m feet in height
- Allowed in front yard only, set back at least 0.6 m (2 feet) from the lot line, to address privacy and security concerns
- Stand may be covered, and partially enclosed
- Products must be grown on-site
- Sale of raw products only, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs and honey. No crafts, baked or canned goods.
- Stand must be stored out of front yard when not in use for more than 7 days
- Hours limited from 7 am and 8 pm on a weekday or Saturday, and from 10 am – 8 pm on a Sunday or holiday
- One small sign allowed (12 in \* 24 in), which is in accordance with the *Sign Bylaw*
- Maximum one farm stand per property.

The proposed changes seek to make farm stands suitable for both seasonal hobby growers who wish to sell surplus harvest, as well as year-round commercial urban farmers selling a portion of their products. The small size of the stands, and the requirement that products for sale must be grown on-site, aim to limit competition with surrounding shops and farmers markets. Staff acknowledge that the proposed size and origin restrictions may not meet the needs of year-round urban farmers. However, urban farmers can still continue to sell to other off-site retail locations where larger-volume sales are more appropriate.

As part of the business licence application, staff will distribute tips and other information on farm stand siting, appearance and design to encourage high-quality design and aesthetics of farm stands.

Farm stands would require a business licence for on-site retail sales of commercial agriculture products, distinct from the one required for off-site retail sales. Given the seasonal nature, it is proposed that the City pilot a new cost structure where applicants would have the option of obtaining a year-round farm stand licence for \$100 or a three-month licence for \$25.



## *Health Regulations*

In consultation with Island Health, it is proposed that products for sale at farm stands be restricted to raw, unprocessed fruit and vegetable products, eggs and honey. Island Health sets the health standards and guidelines for food safety, production and sales. Island Health staff have reviewed the proposed changes and recommend that sales be limited to foods with a low food safety risk. This would exclude processed products such as jams, jellies, canned goods and baked goods.

### **6. Limit odours, noise and light pollution**

Public feedback indicated that noise, odour and light pollution from commercial urban agriculture could have negative impacts on neighbours and surrounding properties, particularly in residential areas. It is proposed that the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* be amended to restrict commercial urban agriculture from creating unreasonable noxious or offensive odours, noise and light pollution. This amendment would be in addition to the *Nuisance (Business Regulation) Bylaw*, which would prohibit businesses from being a nuisance to neighbours or violating noise regulations. Commercial urban agriculture operations would also be required to comply with the *Property Maintenance Bylaw* in order to minimize visual impacts on neighbours and the public realm.

The proposed amendments to the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* may pose a challenge for management and enforcement, particularly for odours, given the range of tolerance for what is “unreasonable”. Staff will encourage urban farmers to use proper management techniques through public education, and track complaints, calls for service and inquiries as part of the two-year review.

### **7. Exempt rooftop greenhouses from height calculations and floor space ratio calculations**

Small-scale rooftop greenhouses on industrial, commercial, institutional and higher-density residential buildings present an emerging opportunity to enable high-yield, year-round local food production. In addition to structural limitations of some buildings, zoning regulations for building height and floor area have constrained opportunities for these facilities in Victoria and other North American cities. To encourage the development of greenhouse food production, the proposal is for rooftop greenhouses under a certain size to be exempted from zoning height calculations and floor space ratio calculations. This would apply to smaller commercial and non-commercial greenhouses.

Some members of the public expressed concern regarding the visual impact and potential for blocked views on adjacent properties. The recommended height exemption of rooftop greenhouses has been reduced to 3.35 m in height (12 feet) from 15 feet based on feedback from the public and staff. It is proposed that rooftop greenhouses be made of a translucent material and be limited to 28 m<sup>2</sup> (300 square feet) in area, or 50% of the roof area, whichever is less, to reduce further visual impacts on neighbours. Rooftop greenhouses would not be permitted in low-density residential zones, where views are of a particular concern.

All rooftop greenhouses would need to meet City requirements for building permits (including engineering studies), development permits, and heritage alteration permits, where applicable. Owners would be responsible for obtaining appropriate insurance.

The proposed limits aim to minimize visual impacts on neighbours and the public realm by keeping the greenhouses to a small size, particularly in commercial and mixed use areas. Larger rooftop greenhouses play an important role in urban food production but are more suitable for industrial



areas. Larger greenhouses in industrial areas would be subject to zoning regulations for height and floor area, although many industrial sites likely have excess capacity.

#### **8. Exempt urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for landscaping**

Under the OCP, a development permit is required in some areas for landscaping (the alteration of land). It is proposed that commercial and non-commercial (e.g. community gardens, community orchards and edible landscaping) urban agriculture be exempted from requiring a development permit for the alteration of land, unless the installation is being constructed in association with a building, structure or other landscape feature that requires a development permit.

While development permits serve important purposes in minimizing visual impacts on adjacent properties and the public realm, the time and cost involved in obtaining a development permit has been identified as a barrier, particularly on vacant lots. Gardening is already extensively practiced through the City with limited visual impacts on neighbouring properties and the public realm. The *Property Maintenance Bylaw* would continue to apply to address maintenance concerns.

#### **9. Restrict the use of pesticides in commercial urban agriculture**

One of the most common concerns that the public had regarding the expansion of commercial urban agriculture was the potential risk of increased pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use. It is proposed that the City's *Pesticide Reduction Bylaw* be amended to restrict the application of pesticides for commercial agricultural use, including on commercial, institutional or industrial properties. The City does not currently have a tool to limit the use of synthetic fertilizers, but this could be explored as part of the two-year review.

The issue of whether to restrict pesticides needs to be carefully considered. While there are numerous health and ecological benefits associated with reducing and regulating the use of pesticides and fertilizers, there are also practical considerations such as enforcement, restrictions on personal choice, and the effectiveness of some organic pest controls.

Additional public education would be required to help commercial urban farmers understand which commercial products are suitable for use. Enforcement of the regulation would be challenging due to the need to prove non-compliance. Contraventions of the Bylaw may result in fines.

#### **10. Allow farmers market signage**

Farmers markets are an important retail outlet for commercial urban agriculture. Through consultation, it was suggested that permanent directional signage for markets would improve awareness and attendance, but that City regulations restrict this type of signage. It is proposed that the *Sign Bylaw* be amended to allow signage for markets managed by non-profits on public property, outside market hours. This would apply only to outdoor markets managed by a non-profit organization. Because the signs would be on City property, City staff would review the placement and design of the signs.

### **Other Regulatory Issues Related to Commercial Urban Agriculture**

#### *Development permits for buildings and structures*

The need for a Development Permit for structures such as greenhouses, walk-in coolers and chicken coops in applicable areas was identified as a barrier to expanded commercial urban



agriculture. Nevertheless, such permits serve important purposes in regulating visual impacts from adjacent properties and the public realm. It is proposed that buildings and structures associated with commercial urban agriculture continue to require development permits, subject to OCP requirements. Later this month, Council will consider exemptions to certain types of development permits and delegation of approval authority. If approved, these changes may reduce the time and cost for the approval process for structures under 93 metres<sup>2</sup> (1000 square feet). Under the proposed changes, structures under 9.3 metres<sup>2</sup> (100 square feet) will not require a development permit.

### *Building permits*

Urban farmers identified the need for a building permit for agriculture-related buildings and structures as a barrier, particularly for temporary plastic hoopouses. Currently, a building over 9.3 metres<sup>2</sup> (107 square feet) in size requires a building permit. After consideration by staff, it is proposed that the City continue to require a building permit for agriculture-related buildings and structures. Even for temporary structures, there are risks to life safety due to snow collapse or materials blowing around in heavy winds. The building permit process would provide needed oversight and regulation. Individual buildings and structures under 9.3 metres<sup>2</sup> (100 square feet) do not require a building permit.

### *Tax implications*

Through consultation, some urban farmers have encouraged the City to adopt lower tax rates for commercial urban farms. In 2008, Council directed staff to amend the City's Revenue and Tax Policy so that farm class properties pay equivalent taxes as if they were residential class properties. This policy was introduced to mitigate the potential increase in tax burden to existing tax classes with commercial urban agriculture being added to the list of permitted home occupations in Schedule D of the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*. Since 2008, no property in the City of Victoria has been classified as farm. After staff consideration, it is recommended that the City maintain the current policy with respect to farm class tax rates.

Properties under 8000m<sup>2</sup> with farm sales exceeding \$10,000 can be classified as a farm class property by BC Assessment Authority. Once classified as a farm, all land associated with farming, including the footprint of the farmer's dwelling (but not the dwelling itself), is classed as farm and valued solely based on soil capability, whether cultivated or not. While the assessment value is typically lower for farm class property, this can vary from property to property.

Urban farmers have encouraged the City to set a low farm tax rate to encourage the growth of commercial urban agriculture. However, more analysis is needed to carefully consider the tax impacts of expanded commercial urban agriculture, namely whether lower tax rates would indeed act as an incentive for more commercial urban farms, whether such an incentive is desirable and what the overall impact would be on other taxpayers, and to whom the tax burden would be redistributed.

### **Next Steps**

Following Council's consideration of the proposed changes, a third and final phase of the Growing in the City project is to prepare bylaws for Council consideration and provide public outreach and engagement to support the recommended changes. Specific to the amendments proposed in this report, the final phase of this project will include:



- Council consideration of proposed regulatory amendments, including public consultation and a public hearing where applicable
- Developing educational materials to support commercial urban agriculture, including:
  - A food program identity on the City of Victoria website, including online forms, educational materials, policies and additional resources
  - Outreach materials and design examples for food production in multi-unit, mixed-use developments and other types of housing
  - Outreach materials and design examples that encourage compatibility of commercial urban agriculture operations with other land uses, such as rooftop greenhouses, farm stands and operations on vacant lands
  - Information materials to communicate requirements and responsibilities for commercial urban agriculture and farm stands, to be distributed as part of the business licence application process
  - Information regarding commercial urban agriculture opportunities and processes through the Business Hub
- Strengthening partnerships and aligning program goals, including:
  - Meeting with large landowners, including School District 61, Island Health, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, faith-based organizations, and the Province of British Columbia to discuss opportunities and share information for encouraging community gardens or other urban agriculture initiatives in the City
  - Meeting with non-profit organizations and community groups with urban food agendas, to support networking, capacity-building, partnership development and program delivery goals.

## **Monitoring and Two-Year Review**

Many of the regulatory amendments proposed in this report are new to Victoria and unique in a Canadian context. Monitoring will be important to determine the effectiveness and impact of the proposed regulatory changes, and whether adjustments are needed. It is proposed that staff establish a system to track urban agriculture activities, inquiries, calls for service and complaints. Staff would report back to Council after two years on effectiveness and benefits of any regulatory changes and recommend any needed adjustments.

The two-year review would also provide an opportunity to consider additional changes to support commercial urban agriculture. This will provide staff with the opportunity to monitor the level of interest and uptake in commercial urban agriculture over the first two years and provide a more accurate basis upon which to analyse the potential impacts of any further changes.

## **OPTIONS & IMPACTS**

### **Option 1 (Recommended):**

That Council direct staff to proceed with the amendments to the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw*, *Business Licence Bylaw*, *Sign Bylaw*, *Pesticide Regulation Bylaw* and *Official Community Plan*, as described in this report.

### **Option 2**

That Council provide alternate direction to staff.

## *2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan*

The recommended option is consistent with Objective 8: Enhance Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems, including the following actions:

### 2015 Actions

- Develop long-term policies for food security and boulevard gardening, including an inventory of City-owned land for food production and improved coordination of food systems resources and initiatives in the City.
- Allocate existing resources in Parks and other departments to implement food security initiatives.

### 2016 Actions

- Introduce new partnerships with citizens and groups to increase food cultivation on public and private land.

## *Impacts to the Financial Plan*

Implementing the regulatory amendments associated with the recommended option will be completed using staff time and are not anticipated to result in impacts to the Financial Plan.

Permitting farm stands and commercial urban agriculture will require staff time for processing new Business Licence Applications. This will be met by existing staff capacity. New licences will generate nominal, incremental revenue.

The proposed regulations for commercial urban agriculture may create additional enforcement needs. While it is difficult to estimate how many people will be interested in establishing urban agriculture operations and the associated enforcement costs, it is anticipated that the impact will be low. Additional resource needs will be anticipated as part of the two year review.

## *Official Community Plan Consistency Statement*

The proposed amendments support the OCP's objectives for a more food secure and sustainable urban food system. The proposed amendments seek to balance the desire for more commercial urban agriculture with restrictions that will limit impacts on adjacent land uses. The encouragement for commercial urban agriculture needs to consider the City's growth targets for new housing and development.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

There is a strong desire by Victoria residents and urban farmers to enable and expand small-scale commercial urban agriculture. The proposed regulatory changes in this report are anticipated to remove barriers to small commercial urban agriculture operations, while imposing some restrictions to minimize the scale and potential negative impacts on neighbouring properties.



Respectfully submitted,



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Alt.



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Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date: Feb. 18, 2016

#### List of Attachments

- Appendix A: Engagement Summary Report (Phase 1)
- Appendix B: Concerns Related to Commercial Urban Agriculture
- Appendix C: Regulatory Barriers Identified Through Interviews with Urban Farmers
- Appendix D: Engagement Summary Report (Phase 2)
- Appendix E: Public Feedback on Specific Proposed Amendments to Support Commercial Urban Agriculture.

## **Appendix A: Engagement Summary Report (Phase 1)**

**To see this appendix, please reference Appendix A in Growing in the City: Part 1 – Urban Food Production on City-Owned Lands.**

## **Appendix B: Concerns Related to Commercial Urban Agriculture**

Despite the strong overall support expressed through public engagement for commercial urban agriculture, the public, urban farmers and City staff identified a number of specific concerns, primarily regarding impacts on neighbouring properties.

The engagement consisted of the following opportunities to provide input:

- One-on-one interviews with urban farmers operating in Victoria;
- An online survey with a short and long version;
- 3 pop-up engagement stations at local farmers' markets;
- A "round-table" event with representatives of the Urban Food Table (comprised of local stakeholders); and,
- A series of meetings between City staff and urban food system professionals, distributors and purchasers.

Specific concerns identified:

**Noise:** There is concern regarding the noise from farm machinery, deliveries, coolers and customers.

**Odour:** Compost, manure and other odorous soil amendments are commonly applied and stored outdoors for commercial urban agriculture. The keeping of chickens may also produce smells. Properties in the area may be impacted by smells depending on wind direction, air temperature and scale of production. Urban farmers note that well-managed compost and chicken coops should have minimal odour.

**Artificial lighting:** Commercial greenhouse operations may have artificial lighting after dark to stimulate plant growth. Depending on the intensity and orientation of the lights, this could have impacts on adjacent and surrounding neighbours.

**Parking:** Parking for customers and employees was commonly cited as a concern with expanding commercial urban agriculture, particularly in residential areas.

**Aesthetics and maintenance:** Some people expressed concerns that urban farms are not always well maintained and that aesthetic standards are important, particularly where operations are visible from adjacent properties or the public realm.

**Compatibility of agricultural uses in residential areas:** Commercial urban agriculture could introduce agricultural and retail uses into a range of zones. There are some concerns about the compatibility of these uses in residential areas.

**Use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers:** Many people suggested that commercial urban agriculture practices should be limited to organic practices. The use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers is of concern due to run-off, health and ecological impacts.

**Hours of Sale:** Many people felt that the hours of farm operations and farm stands should be limited to reduce impacts on neighbours.



## **Appendix C - Regulatory Barriers Identified Through Interviews with Urban Farmers**

In order to better understand the characteristics and needs of urban farming in Victoria, the City also interviewed past, present and potential urban farmers operating at sites in Victoria, to help inform the recommendations in this report. Farmers were interviewed about their needs for on-site infrastructure, their current range of products, their methods of production, and their perceived regulatory barriers. The anonymous interviews and site visits were supplemented with results from earlier interviews with urban farmers for a total of seven participants. Urban farmers identified the following barriers to commercial urban agriculture:

**Lack of clarity about where urban farming is permitted:** Some farmers were unclear about where urban agriculture was permitted through zoning (e.g. as an accessory use to an existing commercial use; on a vacant residential lot in a residential area).

**Restrictive requirements for urban agriculture as a home occupation:**

- The requirement that farmers live on-site does not reflect the living/farming situation of most urban farmers, as many farm at multiple sites.
- The definition of urban agriculture does not include food packaging, processing or storage, activities typically associated with the cultivation of fruits and vegetables.
- Some farmers farm on vacant residential lots and are not eligible for a “home” occupation, as there is no house on-site.
- The *Home Occupation Bylaw* is limited to residential zones. Some ideal sites for urban farming are located in non-residential zones where the farmer does not live on-site.
- The limit on a maximum of two people farming at one site does not reflect the labour needs for urban farming as many rely on a pool of volunteers, apprentices and multiple part-time staff who live off-site.

**Commercial use of accessory buildings:** In most residential zones, greenhouses and other accessory buildings are not permitted to be used for commercial purposes. This is a barrier to year-round food production and restricts the types of crops that can be grown for sale.

**Development permits:** Requirements for applicable properties, the cost and time associated with obtaining a development permit for landscaping, greenhouses and other accessory structures was cited as a key barrier to the expansion of urban agriculture in commercial and industrial areas.

**Building permits:** The requirement for a building permit for greenhouses or other accessory buildings over 100 square feet in area, including temporary poly-sided hoopouses, was cited as a barrier to establishing year-round farming operations.

**Restrictions on commercial sales of animals and animal products:** Some farmers would like to be able to sell eggs, honey, meat and milk products.

**Non-regulatory barriers:** Urban farmers identified numerous barriers important to the growth of commercial urban agriculture. Although these fall outside the scope of the Growing in the City project, they include:

- insecurity of tenure (only one farmer owned their land)
- lack of economic viability of urban farming
- desire for preferential water pricing for urban farms
- the need for more skills training and investment support for new farmers.

## **Appendix D: Engagement Summary Report (Phase 2)**

**To see this appendix, please reference Appendix B in Growing in the City: Part 1 – Urban Food Production on City-Owned Lands.**

## **Appendix E: Public Feedback on Specific Proposed Amendments to Support Commercial Urban Agriculture**

Overall, engagement results indicated a high level of support for increasing opportunities for commercial urban agriculture in the City in both Phase 1 and Phase 2. Public feedback informed each of the proposed amendments. Engagement results specific to each of the following ten proposed amendments are presented here.

### **1. Define Commercial Urban Agriculture in the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw***

The proposed definition would:

- Include the range of activities involved in commercial urban agriculture such as harvesting, packaging, storing, selling, delivery of products; the composting of waste and preparation of soil amendments; and the delivery of educational programs.
- Allow the commercial production of a range of products with low food safety risk including the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, fibres, nuts, seeds, seedlings, herbs, eggs and honey.
- Exclude products regulated by the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, such as medical marijuana

Results from the Phase 2 of public consultation indicate 89% support for these changes.

### **2. Allow commercial urban agriculture in all zones**

The proposal is to allow commercial urban agriculture throughout the City, excluding land used as a City park. Results from the Phase 1 survey indicated strong public support for allowing commercial urban agriculture in all land use zones, with the exception of land used for parks:

- 87% of respondents support small-scale commercial urban agriculture in their neighbourhood
- The strongest support was for urban farms in residential areas (79%), commercial areas (77%) and institutional or provincial public lands (70%)
- Only 33% supported urban farms in parks

Results from the Phase 2 indicated 86% support for allowing commercial urban agriculture in all zones.

### **3. Restrict truck loadings for off-site sales**

Public feedback revealed that neighbours are concerned about parking and traffic from commercial urban agriculture. In response to discussion with farmers and non-farmers at the draft policy review workshop, it is recommended that the restriction apply to delivery trucks over 907kg (a one tonne truck) only, and not deliveries and pick ups made by foot, bike and personal vehicle.

### **4. Allow off-site retail sales**



Phase 1 survey respondents indicated strong support for off-site retail sales of urban agriculture products:

- 71% of survey respondents felt that food producers should be able to sell produce on-site (e.g. farm stands) with no restrictions and also off-site at farmers markets or grocery stores

Through interviews, urban farmers indicated that the majority of their retail sales are made off-site through direct sales to restaurants, farmers markets and subscription box programs. These off-site retail outlets provide a stable market for growers, especially for specialty agriculture products that may be custom-grown for retail customers.

## **5. Allow on-site retail sales at farm stands**

It is proposed that on-site sales at small farm stands be allowed with the following conditions to limit impacts on surrounding neighbours and businesses:

- Farm stand is limited to 6 m<sup>2</sup> (20 feet<sup>2</sup>) in size (approximately 4 feet \* 5 feet)
- Allowed in front yard only, set back at least 2 feet (0.6 m) from the lot line, to address privacy and security concerns
- Stand may be covered, and partially enclosed
- Products must be grown on site
- Sale of raw products only, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs and honey. No crafts, baked or canned goods.
- Stand must be stored out of front yard when not in use for more than days
- Hours limited from 7am – 8pm
- One small sign allowed, in accordance with the *Sign Bylaw*
- Maximum one farm stand per property
- Farm stand would not be considered a home occupation

Both the general public and urban farmers expressed support for sales from farm stands, including in residential areas, in Phase 1:

- 87% of survey respondents feel that it is appropriate to have farm stands with on-site sales 10 % felt that food producers should only be allowed to sell off-site at farmers markets and grocery stores.
- hours of operation and parking were the two biggest concerns with allowing farm stands
- in interviews, urban farmers expressed concern about the cost of a Business Licence for a farm stand, particularly for a small, seasonal operation.

Results from Phase 2 indicated 87% support for allowing farm stands in all zones.

Hours of operation and parking cited most frequently as concerns with allowing farm stands. Urban farmers expressed concern about the cost of a Business Licence for a farm stand, particularly for a small, seasonal operation.

Some urban farmers disagreed with limiting the size or sales to on-site products as they farm multiple sites across the City and may have cold storage or a farm stand at only one site. While the proposed amendments would allow these multi-site farmers to have multiple farm stands, urban farmers indicated that this would likely be challenging and impractical to manage.



## **6. Limit odours, noise and light pollution**

Public feedback in Phase 1 indicated support for restrictions to minimize the impact of noise and odour from commercial urban agriculture on neighbours and surrounding properties, particularly in residential areas.

## **7. Exempt rooftop greenhouses from height calculations and floor space ratio calculations**

To encourage the development of greenhouse food production, the proposal is for rooftop greenhouses under a certain size to be exempted from zoning height calculations and floor space ratio calculations.

Public feedback indicated strong support for more rooftop greenhouses in Victoria. In Phase 2, 87% of survey respondents indicated support for exempting rooftop greenhouses from height and floor space ratio calculations. Despite the overall support, a number of respondents expressed concern regarding the impacts of height and blocked views on adjacent properties.

## **8. Exempt urban agriculture from requiring a development permit for landscaping**

It is proposed that commercial and non-commercial (e.g. community gardens, community orchards and edible landscaping) urban agriculture installations be exempted from requiring a Development Permit for landscaping purpose, unless the installation is being constructed in association with a building or structure that requires a Development Permit.

In Phase 2 consultation, 80% supported exempting commercial urban agriculture from requiring a Development Permit for landscaping.

## **9. Restrict the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in commercial urban agriculture**

It is proposed that the City's *Pesticide Reduction Bylaw* be amended restrict the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers for commercial urban agriculture.

Public feedback expressed strong support for restrictions on pesticides and mixed support for restrictions on synthetic fertilizers:

- When asked what restrictions should be in place commercial urban agriculture, restrictions on pesticide use were one of the top three identified.
- 46% of survey respondents in Phase 1 felt that [synthetic] fertilizer use was appropriate for commercial urban agriculture; 37% of respondents had concerns about fertilizer use.
- Workshop participants in Phase 2 strongly supported a ban on both pesticide and fertilizer use for commercial urban agriculture due to health and ecological concerns.

- Other workshop participants wanted individual urban farmers, and the market, to decide whether to use pesticides and synthetic fertilizers or not.
- Urban farmers indicated that a ban on pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use would have little impact on their operations. Most operations are too small to warrant their use and customers generally prefer pesticide-free produce.

#### **10. Allow farmers market signage**

Feedback from a local farmers market society suggested that permanent directional signage for markets would improve awareness and attendance, but that City regulations restrict this type of signage. After consideration, it is proposed that the *Sign Bylaw* be amended to allow signage for markets managed by non-profits on public property, outside market hours.