Growing Insights: Urban Agriculture & Local Food

Module 3 – Planning & Governance

Additional Resources

Edmonton’s agriculture and food strategy, background documents

- City of Edmonton’s Agricultural Inventory and Assessment Report from 2012 planning process.
- Toma and Bouma: Developing a City-wide Food and Agriculture Strategy for the City of Edmonton (2010)

Canadian Cities’ Most Recent Work on Developing Urban Agriculture Policy:

- The Urban Farming Guidebook: Planning for the Business of Growing Food in BC’s Towns and Cities (2013)

North Saanich, Vancouver Island (just north of Victoria at Sidney), British Columbia has an award winning Whole Community Agricultural Strategy.

- North Saanich, Vancouver Island, British Columbia: Agriculture and Local Food Planning documents
- North Saanich’s Agriculture Economic Development Strategy
- North Saanich Agriculture Home Page: http://www.northsaanich.ca/Municipal_Hall/Departments/Planning_and_Community_Services/Planning/North_Saanich_Agriculture.htm

City of Edmonton’s Food and Urban Agriculture strategy, “fresh” approved in November 2012. The Edmonton Food Council was created in 2013 with meetings beginning in September.

The City of Calgary and the Calgary Food Committee approved “Calgary Eats”, Calgary’s Food System Assessment and Action Plan in May 2012.

City of Hamilton’s report, May 2013 on Urban Agriculture, Planning, and Practice Hamilton is at the beginning stages of developing an urban agriculture strategy.

City of Burnaby’s Urban Agriculture policy and practices. Burnaby has 274 ha designated agricultural and of that 117 ha are in agricultural production. The number of hectares with agricultural production are expanding in Burnaby not disappearing. Most agricultural operations are vegetable and greenhouse operations. A cranberry farm is the largest farm (70 ha).

City of Toronto’s Urban Agriculture Action Plan (October 2012). Pgs 18-22 outline policy, education and bylaw changes needed promote urban agriculture in Toronto. Toronto’s Urban Agriculture and Local Food initiatives:

- Canada’s largest food security organization, FoodShare Toronto
• Toronto Urban Farm, a partnership of the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.
• McVean Farm, New Farmers Project; a joint project of FarmStart and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.
• Near Urban Agriculture on Public Land, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has three projects:
  1. Black Creek Farm
  2. Albion Hills Community Farm

1. McVean Farm, New Farmers Project

Cote Saint-Luc, Quebec, Urban Agriculture Initiative In April 2013, Cote Saint-Luc launched its urban agriculture plan, the first in Quebec.

Kamloops, B.C., is in the process of developing an Agricultural Area Plan to update and define policies that will protect and promote local agriculture (product grown or raised within the boundaries of Kamloops). The draft plan was released in September 2012. Kamloops' background information on the process and timeline can be viewed at their Agriculture Area Plan page.

City of Vancouver’s Food Strategy was approved in January, 2013. To help urban developers include urban gardens in their developments, Vancouver has Urban Agriculture Guidelines for the Private Realm (2009).

USA Cities Most Recent Work on Developing Urban Agriculture Policies:

• Baltimore is in the draft stages of developing a Urban Agriculture Policy. They also have Rules and Opportunities for Farming In Baltimore (2013) that covers zoning, permitting, animal husbandry and leasing city-owned land.
• Minneapolis launched its Urban Agriculture Policy Plan in 2011. They currently have a Working Group tackling Land Access for Urban Agriculture (see reports on progress in 2013). Here is their list of Urban Farming Resources.

Urban Agriculture Elsewhere:

Canada’s International Development Research Centre’s articles and books:

• Urban Agriculture: Growing food in our cities
• Mougeot, Luc J.A., Agropolis: The Social, Political and Environmetal Dimensions of Urban Agriculture, 2005, IDRC
• Mougeot, Luc J.A.; Growing Better Cities: Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Development, 2006, IDRC
• Resources Centre on Urban Agriculture and Food Security
• Brazil - Belo Horizonte article as well as a PDF presentation