

Section 16 – Food Systems

Sub-Topic	Plan Reference	Feedback
Goals	p.19	Food Systems Goal A is overly ambitious. Remove “most of” from the goal statement. Goal B seems redundant given high level of knowledge amongst Victorians. Add “Victorians have the...resources” to Goal B.
Overview	p. 108	Within the Overview Section include the environment and social well being ie. The food system has major impacts on transportation patterns, urban employment, the <u>environment, social wellbeing</u> and waste management. Lost critical food infrastructure includes all types of processing facilities ie. Beverage, fruit, vegetable, grains, and meat processing.
	p.108	Organizing concept should be <u>food security</u> , not systems. It is unrealistic for Victoria to pursue food production, but food security is critical issue.
	p. 108	Consider removing paragraph 2 up to “...food in home gardens”.
	p.108	Focus on allotment (rather than community) gardens.
	p. 108	Rewrite the text for Food Systems to reflect the full cycle and to remove the impression that FS is primarily about access to allotment gardens.
Comprehensive Food System Planning	16.1.2.	16.1.2 I suggest encourages local and regional food production, preservation and/or processing and protection of productive farmland
	16.1- 16.2	For the city to get involved in food supply - no expertise, no buying power. Let Saanich worry about farmland. Victoria has enough real problems to deal with inside our boundaries
	16.2.	Local farming should have high priority.
Urban Food Production	16.3, 16.4	Concern for 16.4 given current events
		Land-use plans should include provision for urban gardening.
	16.4	Need to consider water management for urban food production. Should map potential sites, and locate gardens on land with high seismic rating, and with access to water.
	16.4 – 16.5	Strategic focus in food production – most can buy from regional producers. Food production in neighbourhoods: be opportunistic but don’t interfere with residential densification.
	16.4	Urban Food Security. Does it address boulevard development? There is a need to clarify where food can be grown. The City currently is in the process of reviewing the boulevard policy.
	16.4	How do we engage people in making choices about use of public land for food production?
	16.4	Community input to address the conflict between neighbourhood gardens and the alienation of public space.
	16.4	Suggest incorporating mechanisms that capture disease and invasive species management and pest control. ie. Food production could be enhanced by controlling pests and disease on existing public and private lands. (Tent Caterpillars come to mind)
	16.4	Encourage roof-top gardening, the reserving of south-facing areas for gardens, aesthetic sidewalk gardens, food gardens instead of lawns, chicken keeping, beekeeping, and similar activities and resources for individuals, communities, organizations, and developers.
16.4	Protect private land for food production, not public. Farm the farms, Garden the gardens - not the Parks, Recreation and Culture.	

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	16.4	Anticipating a discussion with community groups for planned use of public space; There is direction to have these types of discussions.
	16.4	More flexibility in the language to allow for other types of food production.
Food Production on Public Land	16.4, 16.12	When promoting food production in the city, it is important to recognize the direct conflict between open access to existing public park land for all residents and blocking off sections of public parks for the exclusive use of a few individuals as allotment gardens. The JBNA Community Gardens Policy Paper ratified by the membership on February 9, 2011, states that our scarce and precious existing park space must be kept open for all residents to enjoy. The JBNA opposes establishing allotment gardens in existing city park space but supports acquiring additional green spaces where possible for that special use. "Collective gardens" do not assign plots to individuals and therefore can be considered in a public park. Collective community gardens can include food plants, such as nut and fruit trees, berries and herbs; the food produced is available to anyone. The JBNA policy paper is available at www.jbna.org
	16.4, 16.12	Recommend working with Association and VIHA at identifying lands that may be available for park and allotment gardens on the Gorge Hospital site before transition plan is drawn up.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Allotments gardens mean the effective privatization of public land. In higher density areas, there is a greater need for common public green areas. Don't take it away by privateizing.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	I would like to see expedited implementation of community gardens.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	There is no need for food production on parkland. If public land is needed for food production, make sure parkland is excluded. Food production is monoculture and is incompatible with the objectives of biodiversity and retaining natural ecosystems.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	We need to support farmers and home gardeners. The loss of farm land under houses is a far greater issue for local food production than the possibility of growing limited quantities of food in public spaces where it is vulnerable to vandalism, easily contaminated, and unlikely to receive consistent enough care to be of good quality. Harvesting is also likely to be uneven and food produced is very likely to be wasted.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Food grown on public land should be for community use, no allotment gardens on public land. Then city downzoned very small lots so no housing can be built on it. There is a shed allowed on these properties and they would be great for rentals to allotment gardens.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13, 16.16	Develop more community gardens. More public markets (i.e. Farmer's markets) that are less regulated, and have more affordable table rentals.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	It is important not to use public park space for individuals garden plots. Keep park space open for the use of all.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Food production is incompatible with parkland. Food production requires the removal of trees and shrubs. The City needs less, not more, parkland deeded to exclusive groups for their personal use.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Food on public land is anything but secure.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	The city does not have much park space. We need to acquire more just as a park. Food production should take advantage of other lands like connected to community centres, in private yards, on small lots that can not be developed, rehabilitated parking lots, flat roof structures.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Use of Parks, Recreation and Culture for food garden's must be approached cautiously, and with much public

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		consultation.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Do not allow allotment gardens in city Parks, Recreation and Culture! That means exclusive use of public land for a few individuals.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Stick to fruits/nut trees and edible product shrubs on public lands. We don't have the staff now to maintain boulevards. let alone a fruit orchard. We don't have enough parklands to privatize any (through allotment gardens) even if we acquire new lands. With more densification, any new park lands will be needed as public commons
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	There is nothing in the all the above proposals that would exempt parkland from agricultural uses. That needs to be asserted!
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Food on public land is unlikely to be well grown, harvested, used.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	Not in Parks, Recreation and Culture.
	16.4, 16.11-16.13	There is also zero need for food production in Parks, Recreation and Culture. Food production is monoculture and is totally in conflict with the concept of maintaining biotic diversity within Parks, Recreation and Culture.
	16.4	I would like to see more greenspaces within the city. I would also really like a community garden put in near the downtown core where core residents could have access to greenspace and grow their own food.
Food production on Private Land	16.6 – 16.9	Food production in neighbourhoods: be opportunistic but don't interfere with residential densification.
	16.6 – 16.9	These policies could be in direct conflict with the desire for increased density. Indeed, I have heard members of the public use backyard biodiversity and food production capacity as arguments against infill. I recommend including a policy in this Chapter that makes explicit the City's role in the region as the Core that welcomes built density, while at the same time incorporating food production where safe and possible. This might be most appropriate by converting lawn space to food production rather than thwarting increases in density in appropriate locations. OCP policy may also recognize that it is more effective for regional food security to protect farmland in rural areas from housing development pressure and to place that housing in already serviced areas such as the City.
	16.6-16.10	Fantastic to make agriculture part of the residential. Regulations can control any nuisances.
	16.6- 16.8	Stay away from social engineering. Someone builds a garden and the tenant doesn't want it - then what Encourage - fine Guidelines - waste of taxpayer resources.
	16.6 – 16.9	Food production OK so long as it doesn't interview with density explained in urban place designations. May want to consider a hierarchy of priorities. Food production should be seen as an amenity, not a priority.
	16.8	Clarify that use of advisory design guidelines is voluntary, or remove the policy.
	16.8	Need strong leadership for urban agriculture, including requirements for new developments to use food plants over ornamentals
	16.9	Suggest developing guidelines for the keeping of small live le. Need to make sure people are practising good animal husbandry and minimizing disease and pest infestations.stock in the city.
	16.10	As to commercial production in residential areas, then key is the impact on others. Standards, performance zoning is needed. But do NOT subsidize by enabling human resources.
	16.10.2	The allowance of accessory buildings is already reducing the urban forest through the removal of trees. Extending accessory buildings to agricultural purposes will hasten the process.
		I would like to see plans for subsidized incentives to get citizens living a more sustainable life i.e. property tax subsidized for having x% used for growing food. Businesses offering reduced costs for customers who travel green to their place of business which is then subsidized back to the business owner.

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Food Production on Public Land	16.12	Specify allotment gardens for use of low-income or people lacking access to land
	16.12	Remove or change to generalize the distribution. More appropriate for discussion of community gardens vs allotment gardens to happen in Community Garden Policy review?
Food System Infrastructure	16.14	Lack of grocery store is a main challenge. Tourists also want something. Nothing beyond Market on Yates. Grocery store is proposed for Cornell Building.
	16.14	16.14 In addition to achieving densities consider mechanisms to attract food businesses to underserved areas ...
	16.15	Parks, Recreation and Culture must NOT be used for any kind of commercial vending.
	16.15	No food vendors in public Parks, Recreation and Culture. Parks, Recreation and Culture should be a relief from commercialism and traffic, too.
	16.15	The City cannot pick winners and losers in the market place. This is bad bad policy. Expand food vendor opportunity - but stay away from subsidy or preferred treatment in any way - including grants. Let's not consume Victoria resources saving Saanich farmland or creating a Saanich abattoir
	16.15	16.15 Could consider - offering incentives to vendors that support local food producers/processors
	16.15	No vendors in Parks, Recreation and Culture. Commercial centers are just a walk away and this is the appropriate place for selling food.
	16.15	We like food carts – more of them – all over
	16.15, 9.19	Replace “public eating” with another phrase. This notion has implications for introduction of food carts and other commercial food sales in public spaces including parks.
	16.15	Good eating practices should also include food free zones. We do not need food vendors in Parks, Recreation and Culture.
	16.15	Please do not introduce food into Parks, Recreation and Culture, it distracts the purpose of the park for me. I need a respite from the sounds and smells of food and the park is that place. With weight and dietary issues, I want to stay away from tempting treats. Encourage food services in commercial areas where I expect this type of activity. Please zone park space free from vendors. If I wish to picnic I can bring my own food and take it home again. Vendors increase the garbage in the park too.
	16.16	Desire for year round farmers market at Finlayson and Gorge.
	16.16	Thank you! (Downtown Farmers Market)
	16.16	We need a public market, pref. Downtown, permanent.
	16.18	Ensure that farmland protection is very stringent so as not to allow it to be developed under any circumstances EXCEPT for a moderate family residence and/or barn for the use of the farm family. Otherwise developers will buy agricultural land while it's cheap and lobby relentlessly to rezone it, thus evading your efforts, destroying priceless farmland, and making private money at public expense. This cannot be allowed, but at the same time farmers must have a place to live on the property or it will be difficult to encourage farmers to work the land.
		Please allow for nut trees on public land to increase urban forest and food security, and to diversify the canopy so more resilience in urban forest. Preservation of tree cover - please revive the Urban Forest Master Plan. We the undersigned artists, photographers, writers and tree lovers have produced a five week show of urban tree art and held a day of talks/readings (October 30/10 at Overleaf Café/Bookshop, Pandora Avenue) expressing concern for local trees and green space preservation. We urge you to improve provision in Victoria's new Official Community Plan for protecting Garry oaks, other native and non-native tree species, and green space and gardens generally, both private and public. We are alarmed at the pace of development and the destruction of the urban forest and heritage

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		gardens. We submit that the Official Community Plan must decide on a minimum percentage of landscape to be reserved for continuous tree canopy and be backed up with a Significant Tree Designation and revised zoning rules for the protection of unpaved space. We would like to remind you of the priceless benefits derived from trees: they clean the air, provide shade, sustain water, support wildlife, moderate temperature (shading streets in summer, insulating buildings in winter), and generally provide aesthetic value to the city. The presence of large tree groupings has been shown in numerous studies to increase real estate values, lower crime rates, buffer noise, and lower the incidence of depression in the human population.
	16.18.2	16.18.2 Support and re-establish fruit and vegetable processing as well
	16.18.3	One area that could be strengthened in the Draft City of Victoria OCP is in relation to the section on Food System Infrastructure. It would be our suggestion to add sub section 16.18.3 that supports Strengthening Farm Viability. While this is partially covered in the previous two points, it could go further beyond protecting the land and supporting processing infrastructure, to working with other layers of government to create tools and policies that support increasing farm income (through sustaining subsidized water rates, supporting farmer capacity building, creating access to organic inputs etc.) .
Access to Food	16.20	These policies will end up in the cutting down of more trees than those in Beacon Hill Park. I do NOT want the city to try to tell me what food to eat. This is not your responsibility. Education is a provincial responsibility - stay out of the schools. We don't need then to get messed up by this social-engineering.
	16.21	16.21 will just put citizens on the hunt for parkland that can be removed from general recreational use for what would be a token project. Totally unnecessary!
	16.22	I can tell you that I would sleep better at night if there was a comprehensive plan for an earthquake that includes sufficient access to long term and short term food and water.
	16.22	Food security in an emergency: do we have a plan (i.e. logistic)?
Food Waste	16.24	You can't seriously consider area composting in an urban centre. Houwehold yes, village centre - everyone carting their pails - no
	16.27	As long as composting is a household activity, the quality of the compost remains high; move it to a regional facility and the quality drops to the point of non-useability. Non-implementable!
	16.27	Also install recycling and composting bins with garbage cans on sidewalks and at bus shelters.
	16.27	A recoverable household compost system like the one in Nanaimo is worth considering in Victoria.
	16.27	Food waste depots needed for multiple family dwellings.
	16.27	typo in word "collection"
	16.27.2	Typo on page 111
	16.27.2	Maybe add roles and responsibilities to 16.27.2
General - Other		Local food security will actually increase as imported produce is priced out of the market. Seasonal food now becomes the norm and permanent farmers markets are found downtown and in the surrounding nodal communities
		Recognize somehow in this plan, food production as a function of the city, at both public and private levels.
		Section 16 – Page 111 – No “Measuring Progress” performance indicators. I highly recommend “Measuring Progress” performance indicators be included in each section.
		While more local food might be grown within the Capital Regional District, there is no room within the City for a local food industry which could supply the whole city.

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		Highlighted importance of food systems and food security
		raise taxes on above ground parking plant food trees and food gardens require green roofs on those tall buildings
		Overall this is a great chapter and I appreciate the way it moves from the regional (Food System Strategy) to the local, and the recognition of the need for adequate densities to support food system infrastructure.
		We are pleased to see that the current draft of the OCP reflects the direction and many of the suggestions that were put forward from the consultation stage of the process. In addition, we would like to commend the City on its Chapter 16, specifically on Food Systems. We found it to be very comprehensive and we appreciated the efforts to link urban food systems planning with regional food systems planning.
		It is also very important to note and applaud the City for their identification of food as a cross cutting issue through-out the plan, and that Chapter 16 takes a comprehensive approach to food systems.
		Restructure Section 16 sub-topics: put infrastructure first, and consolidate urban food production into one sub-topic. Clearly distinguish food production sub-sections from other sub-sections.
		More community gardens would be nice.
		I suggest far more emphasis on food security and all it's aspects, e.g. urban gardening and supporting farmers.
		Grow food on private land.
		Yes, green plans and food security.
		The Region may have all of thees items as objectives, but for the city to focus on them is just silly - and a waste of our scared taxdollars. Thriftys, Safeways, Fairways, China Town and local markets/stores deal with food supply issues.
		All these statements are too broad to be meaningful. This is a terrible survey! I bet most people feel like quitting. I sure do.
		Responding to any of the above choices is meaningless until the methods used to achieve the stated goals are known.
		Encourage institutions such as UVic, Camosun College and Royal Roads University to grow more edible gardens and/or grow community or student gardens.
		Great job overall on this section of the plan. Local food security and a thriving local agricultural/food culture industry are vital for a great city in terms of both health and culture, and, of course, important for basic food security in times of an uncertain future. Future generations will be very happy with us for developing this section of our plan, I think. It shows vision...
		Will planning activities measure the demand for the gardens, harvest? ie. will activities be planned based on identified resources - ie. people to maintain, harvest and consume the food?
		I am heartened at the inclusion of an entire section on Food Systems in the city's Official Community Plan. Food really is very important, particularly when planning resilient communities! The overview captures the situation well[...] The proposed coordinated, partnership approach will go far to address both challenges and <u>opportunities</u> afforded by food system development.