

Shape Your Future Victoria



Food Systems

Definition and description

The **urban food system** refers to the series of interconnected activities that shape how food is produced, processed, distributed, consumed and recycled within the city. The urban food system is tightly linked to the regional food system. **Food security** exists when all citizens obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet from non-emergency sources.



Why is this topic important?

Within cities, the food system shapes many aspects of daily life and the built environment. The availability of nutritious, affordable food enhances the health and well-being of residents. Markets and cafes animate neighbourhoods and bring people together. Food-producing gardens and trees increase green spaces and re-use organic waste in the form of compost. Daily travel patterns are shaped by trips to grocery stores, food banks and eateries. Food-related businesses provide employment and economic benefits

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Ideas and Options for the Future

June 25 and 26 - Topic Insert



Public Input on the Food Systems

Proposed Goal 1 From Public Input Encourage Urban Agriculture	
Direction: <i>Community-Based Food Production</i>	Direction: <i>Food Systems Knowledge and Skills</i>
Ideas and Examples	Ideas and Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tentacles of agricultural land connect the city to surrounding farmland • Community-based agriculture • Greater percent of food is produced locally • Neighbourhood farm in every neighbourhood • Use school sites for agriculture e.g. greenhouses • 2040 community garden plots by 2040 • Food production in boulevards • Rooftop food gardens • Plant mostly fruit trees • Edible, indigenous landscapes • City could use some park spaces to grow food • Grow food in land around apartments / condos • Use school sites for agriculture e.g. greenhouses • Identify incentives for more food production (e.g. lawn tax) • Property tax reduction for agricultural use • City grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City to define sustainable local capacity for food, water, energy • Local first food systems approach that moves beyond a focus on production to include distribution networks and ways of adapting to periods of low production • Mentoring and education on food systems (e.g. production, composting, rainwater) • Place to compost in condos with links to farms • Agricultural demonstration sites • Undertake education and information programs; encourage community food events, e.g. tomato festival featuring heritage varieties • Re-skilling: recognize, value and utilize those who have old-time, permaculture and/or aboriginal skills and knowledge to share before they are lost (e.g. edible & medicinal plant knowledge) • Education about ecology and sustainable food practices to be integrated into every aspect of social life, as well as the formal education system

Related Victoria Sustainability Framework Subthemes and Goals	
Local Food Supply:	<i>Nourishing, safe food that supplies most of Victoria's daily needs is sustainably grown, processed and packaged in the city, in surrounding agriculture areas and on Vancouver Island.</i>
Education and Skills:	<i>Victorians have access to skills and knowledge to grow their own food in urban areas.</i>
Resources Security:	<i>Victorians can rely on significant local sources for food, energy and materials to meet daily needs and under emergency conditions.</i>

Public Input on the Food Systems

Proposed Goal 2 From Public Input Secure Local Access to Food for Daily Needs	
Direction: Food Markets	Direction: Food Security
Ideas and Examples	Ideas and Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket markets • Every neighbourhood has a community garden and food market hub • Create a downtown farmers market • Create a downtown farmers market - convert a parking lot into a farmers market on weekends • Establish covered, year-round market • A community owned market preferably on city land: a permanent structure set up with freezers and storage (like Granville Island) as well as local food processing capabilities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every neighbourhood has access to grocery stores with affordable and healthy food • Buy Local procurement program for City of Victoria • Support neighbourhood Good Food Box program • Street food vendors that provide livelihoods • Community kitchens and gardens, can be at different scales (boulevard to community-centre/school-sized) • Meals are provided to vulnerable citizens, e.g. seniors living in poverty, the homeless • Identify barriers to redistribution of surplus perishables to people without food • Local food for low-income families

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Existing Policies on the Food Systems

Victoria Sustainability Framework (2010)		
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Official Community Plan (1995)	Downtown Core Area Plan (draft 2010)	Other Plans / Policies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage projects that incorporate opportunities for urban agriculture. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the City's policy on public markets to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine guidelines and standards for maintaining and expanding existing markets and for establishing new markets. Identify the conditions and thresholds that must be met to trigger the development of a central public market within the 30-year term of this Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens Policy Commercial Urban Agriculture Bylaw (Schedule D Home Occupations) Animal Control (Backyard Chicken) Bylaw Neighbourhood Development Policy Street Vendors Bylaw Outdoor Markets Bylaw