



URBAN AGRICULTURE

PHASE 1 WHAT WE HEARD



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Executive Summary

Agriculture is a celebrated pillar of Beaumont's heritage, and the City recognizes the role that urban agriculture can play in enhancing the community's future. The City of Beaumont is preparing an Urban Agriculture Plan that seeks to support the vision of a culture of community support for agriculture, while also promoting long-term positive impacts on environmental, social and economic conditions in Beaumont through varied and resilient solutions. This plan is currently under development, and is expected to be completed by summer 2023.

From October 11 to November 23, 2022, residents had the opportunity to share their feedback on the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont. The following report highlights the results of the first round of public engagement, where ideas were gathered on the opportunities and challenges for urban agriculture, and visions for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont. In our conversations with residents of Beaumont, the following key themes emerged:

Beaumont's Leadership in Urban Agriculture

Residents shared their desire for Beaumont to become a nimble and flexible agricultural innovator that is supportive of new local initiatives and continues to remove barriers for those wishing to implement urban agriculture initiatives. Currently, there are a series of bylaws and practices that are perceived to limit implementing urban agriculture, particularly for those wishing to start into animal husbandry.

Community Gardens & Edible Landscaping

One of the most supported topics was around the need for more community gardens and edible landscaping in Beaumont. Many Beaumont residents already grow their own fruits and vegetables, and would like all residents to equitably have access to the opportunity to do the same, while creating connections within the community, and repurposing underutilized land. Respondents also supported a transition to more edible plantings, with fruit production benefiting the community through food sharing programs or a community food bank.

Urban Chickens

The engagement results suggest urban chickens are a polarizing topic in Beaumont. A majority of respondents expressed support for allowing urban chickens in Beaumont,

with many residents excited about the possibility of having their own chickens for the fresh eggs, pest control, nutrients for gardens, and educational opportunities for children. However, some residents are opposed to allowing chickens in residential areas, highlighting concerns around perceived noise, smell, and mess.

Urban Beekeeping

The majority of respondents were supportive of urban beekeeping, as well as the planting of wild flowers and pollinator gardens to support native bee populations in Beaumont. While there was less opposition to urban bees than urban chickens or livestock, concerns were raised around allergies and fear of bees.

Urban Livestock

Urban livestock was the least supported form of urban agriculture in the online survey and the student workshops. In student workshops, this was largely because of the association of the term “livestock” with larger animals like horses, cows and donkeys. Further research is needed to understand the complexities of livestock.

Food Security

The topic of food security emerged across the engagement; with the increasing supply chain impacts of global issues such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents mentioned the high cost of food, the desire to grow their own food, access to buy and sell locally grown food that is affordable, and greater education around healthy and sustainable food options. In conversations with Indigenous communities around Beaumont, increasing food security and access was seen as an act towards reconciliation.

Residential Development & Agricultural Land

Respondents expressed concerns around existing development forms and the lack of urban agriculture in new developments. Gardens on private residential lands are common forms of urban agriculture, yet the trend towards large buildings on smaller lots often may not provide residents with this luxury. At the same time, ensuring new development happens in a sustainable manner to protect existing agricultural lands is important to Beaumont residents for the various benefits that these lands provide.

Education & Network Building

Education and agricultural network building was highlighted as a key component to grow community support for urban agriculture and successfully implement agriculture initiatives. Many residents were unaware of any urban agriculture initiative already happening in Beaumont, and identified misinformation as a barrier to agricultural initiatives. Popular educational programming suggestions included lessons on food production and gardening for residents, programming with schools to engage Beaumont’s children, and food literacy and sustainability courses.

Next Steps

A second round of engagement will be held in the spring of 2023 to gather feedback on the level of support for the various actions of the plan. Feedback from both phases of engagement will be integrated into the final Urban Agriculture Plan.

The engagement process engaged

340

community participants in the following ways:

- Online and print survey
- Workshops
- Pop-ups
- Indigenous relationship discussions
- Student workshops
- Discovery interviews
- Website
- Emails





SECTION 1.0

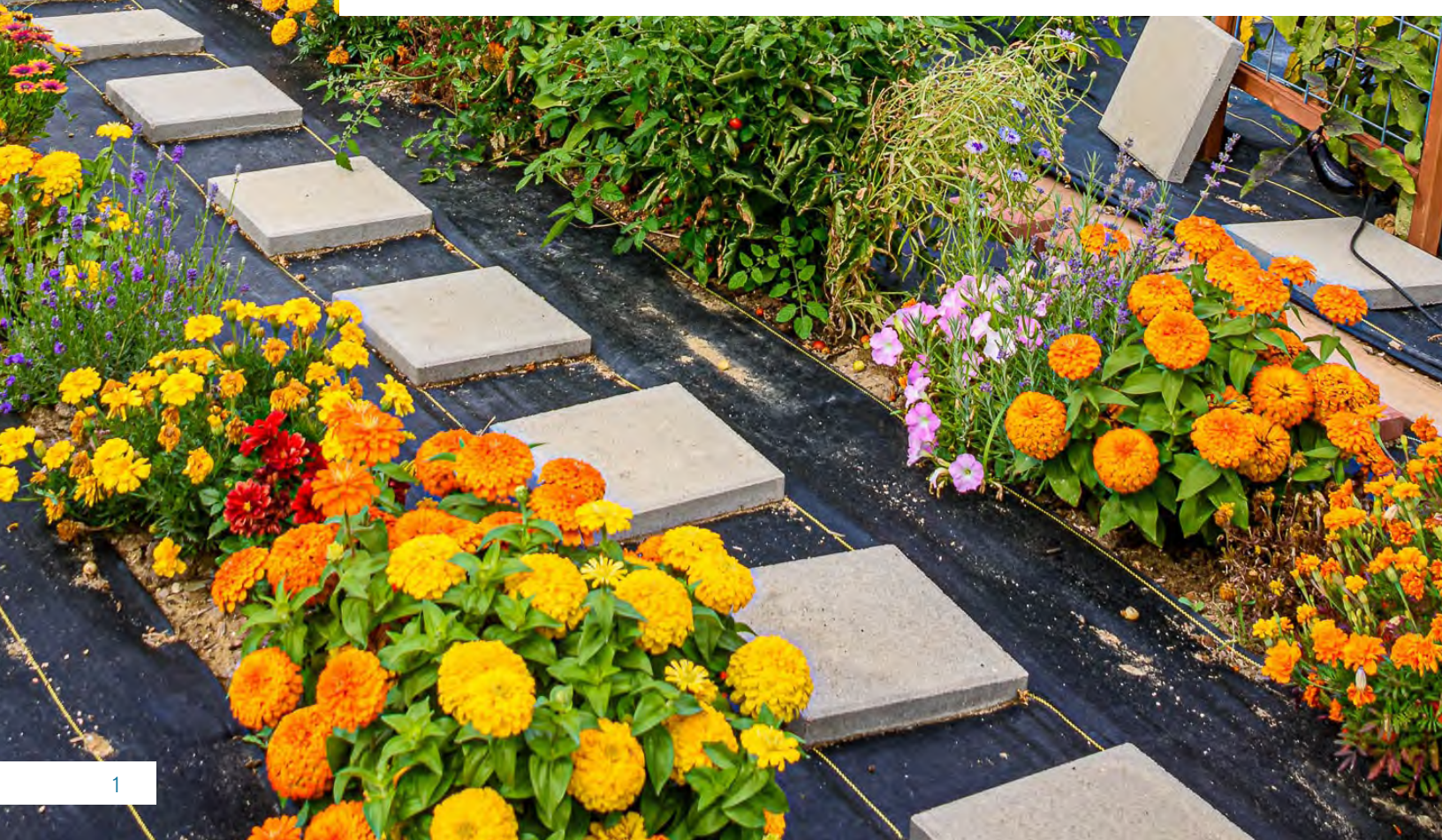
Introduction

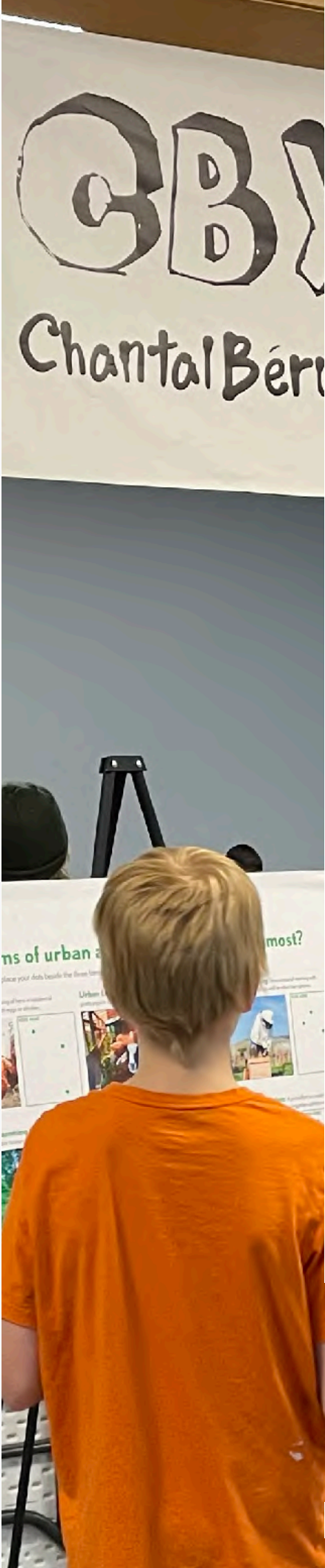
Engaging for urban agriculture in a community with rich agricultural history.

Agriculture is a celebrated pillar of Beaumont's heritage, a history that provides the community with a unique opportunity to support urban agriculture to enhance its future. Urban agriculture contributes to the livability of Beaumont and has environmental, economic and social benefits. The City of Beaumont is preparing an Urban Agriculture Plan to meet requirements outlined in the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP), support the vision of Beaumont set out in Our Complete Community Municipal Development Plan, and respond to community interest in urban agriculture. The Plan will establish a

framework for urban agriculture to ensure that public and private initiatives reflect the unique opportunities and constraints of Beaumont and facilitate the realization of the benefits urban agriculture can have on the community.

The City engaged with Beaumont residents to hear their feedback on the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont. The following report highlights the results of the first round of public engagement, where ideas were gathered on the opportunities and challenges for urban agriculture, and visions for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont.





SECTION 2.0

Process and Participation

From October 11 to November 23, 2023, an engagement process was implemented to ensure residents could share their insights and feedback on the future of urban agriculture, as part of the Beaumont Urban Agriculture Plan. Using interviews, questionnaires and workshops to host conversations about the current future state of urban agriculture, the project team uncovered key themes to inform varied and resilient solutions that foster a culture of community support for urban agriculture. Throughout the course of the project, we heard from 340 community members. This was the first opportunity for the community to get involved in the project. A second round of engagement will be held in the spring of 2023 to gather feedback on the level of support for the various actions of the plan.

2.1 How We Engaged

To share questions, comments and insights, Beaumont residents were encouraged to:

- » Provide feedback online on the City's project website, via an online survey
- » Attend one of the two in-person public workshop sessions held on November 16 and 17 at the Beaumont Sport and Recreation Centre
- » Attend one online public workshop session held on November 23 over Zoom
- » Provide feedback at one of the two pop-up youth engagements, held on November 16 and 17 at Centre Chantal Bérubé Community Youth Centre (CBYC), and École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School
- » Attend one of four school classroom engagement sessions on November 17 at École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School
- » Participate in one of up to five user experience interviews
- » Comment on public facing social media posts (Facebook and Instagram)
- » Initial Indigenous relationship discussions

The following section outlines the objectives and response to each of these engagement options.

Online and Print Survey

The approach to engagement gave residents an opportunity to share their insights for action in a way that allowed for 24/7 access with a relatively minimal investment in time. This enabled the project team to gain a broader variety of insights into local urban agriculture experiences and aspirations. We asked questions about family involvement in urban agriculture initiatives, barriers and opportunity areas in Beaumont's current state of urban agriculture, level of agreement with various forms of urban agriculture, and the community's vision and big ideas for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont.

Between October 11 and November 18, the survey received 207 responses.

Workshops

Workshops invited members of the public to gather with key City of Beaumont staff to explore the questions being asked about urban agriculture, dive deeper into the nuance of Beaumont's current urban agriculture activities, and identify the desired future state and opportunities for urban agriculture in Beaumont. Using a dynamic mix of data, visual precedents and real-time visualization, the aim of the workshop was to inform participants about the project, understand current views, and generate ideas.

Between November 16 and 23, three workshops were held, two in-person at the Beaumont Sport and Recreation Centre, and one online over Zoom, engaging with 22 participants.

Pop-Up Youth Engagements

Pop-up events allowed Beaumont youth at Centre Chantal Bérubé Community Youth Centre (CBYC), and École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School to learn about urban agriculture, and share their views in the places where they already were. We asked questions about interest in different urban agriculture initiatives, and big ideas for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont.

Between November 16 and 17, two pop-ups were held, engaging with 41 youth participants.

Initial Indigenous Relationship Discussions

Throughout the course of this project, City staff have been building relationships with Indigenous groups, including: Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4, Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation, and Louis Bull Tribe. Whilst these relationships are in their initial stages and span a greater time horizon than this phase of engagement, some key learnings have influenced this work from these initial discussions.

Starting in the fall of 2022, the City of Beaumont has conversed with Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4, Montana First Nation, and Louis Bull Tribe.

Student Workshops

Workshops invited students of École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School to explore the most contested forms of urban agriculture in Beaumont, and to dive deeper into the nuance of the subject. Using scenario reflections and a debate-style exercise, the aim of the workshop was to understand some of the underpinning thoughts students had when it came to urban chickens, bees, and livestock.

On November 17, four in-class workshops were held, engaging with 66 students.

User Experience Interviews

When addressing significant systems change, the lived experiences of residents are often missed. This can then lead to a detachment from the proposed change and solutions to the community it is intended to help. To address this issue, we conducted a set of discovery interviews with local residents to understand life in the community in a precise way - leading to a more contextualized understanding of urban agriculture projects and their development in Beaumont, including opportunities, threats, strengths and weaknesses.

Between November 8 and 19, we interviewed four varied stakeholders currently involved in urban agriculture to understand the diversity of lived experiences in Beaumont.

Website

With a web page located on the City of Beaumont website, the team shared project details, advertised engagement sessions, provided means for feedback and displayed ongoing developments as the process unfolds.

2.2 Engagement Communication

Engagement opportunities were communicated through the following methods:

- » Business email list invitation
- » Social media feed posts (Facebook, Instagram)
- » Paid social media advertising
- » Direct invitation and circulation
- » Newspaper advertisements
- » Posters with QR codes
- » Digital billboard
- » Homepage banner & website posting

Between October 11 and November 23, the urban agriculture website received 261 page views.

The engagement process heard from **340** community participants through:

- Online and Print Survey: **207** responses
- Workshops: **22** participants
- Pop-ups: **41** participants
- Student Workshops: **66** participants
- Discovery Interviews: **4** participants
- Website: **261** page views

Below: examples of distributed communication materials



Is Beaumont buzzing for bees?

Share your ideas for the Urban Agriculture Plan by November 18, 2022 using the link below.



BEAUMONT URBAN AGRICULTURE PLAN

Is Beaumont ready for urban chickens?

Have your say and learn where your food comes from by participating in our Urban Agriculture Plan engagement!

Urban agriculture is about growing, processing, accessing, distributing and consuming food.

Some examples include community gardens, edible landscaping, indoor growing using technology like hydroponics, urban chickens, beekeeping and more.

The City of Beaumont offers many Urban Agriculture opportunities and resources for local food, buying and composting our food. From October 18, share what food agriculture are interested in.

To learn more about the plan, scan the QR code or visit beaumont.ab.gov

SECTION 3.0

What We Heard

The following section shares the questions that were asked as part of the community engagement process paired with what was heard from participants in response to these prompts.

3.1 Online Survey

The online survey asked the following questions:

- » What urban agriculture activities do you or your family currently participate in?
- » What urban agriculture activities would you or your family like to participate in, but can't?
- » What are the most important things happening in urban agriculture in Beaumont today?
- » What are some challenges or risks in Beaumont for urban agriculture?
- » What are your big ideas for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont?
- » Where are the opportunities and barriers for urban agriculture in Beaumont? Click on the map below in a location you'd like to map an opportunity or barrier area.
- » Is there anything else you would like to highlight for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont?
- » What is your level of support for these urban agriculture forms in Beaumont?
 - » Urban chickens
 - » Urban livestock
 - » Beekeeping
 - » Protection of agricultural land
 - » Educational programming about growing food
 - » An incubator for agricultural innovation
 - » Community gardens
 - » Composting incentives
 - » Farm to table sales
 - » Edible landscaping
 - » Warehouse farms
 - » Hydroponic, aeroponic and aquaponic facilities
- » Demographic questions

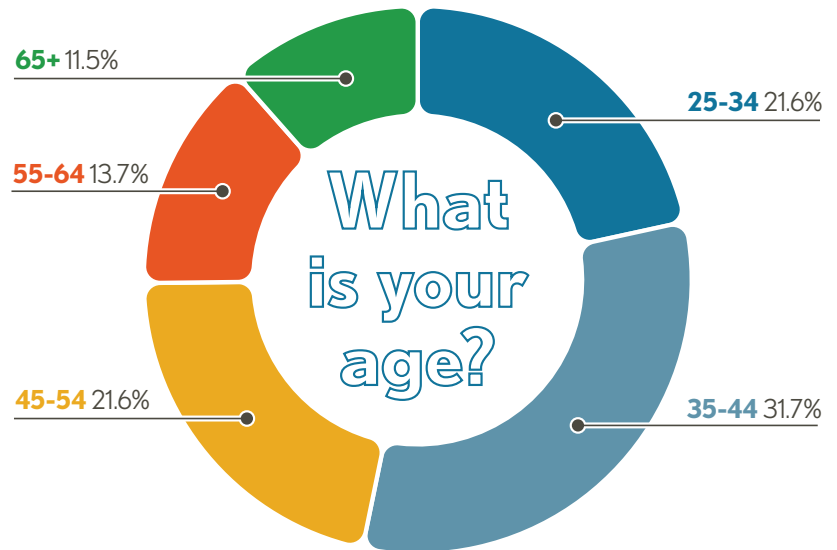
Demographics

Select all the options that best describe yourself.

I am responding to this survey as a

- » City of Beaumont resident **(138 respondents)**
- » Business owner in the City of Beaumont **(14 respondents)**
- » Working in Beaumont but living elsewhere (0 respondents)
- » Visitor (0 respondents)
- » Other (1 respondent)

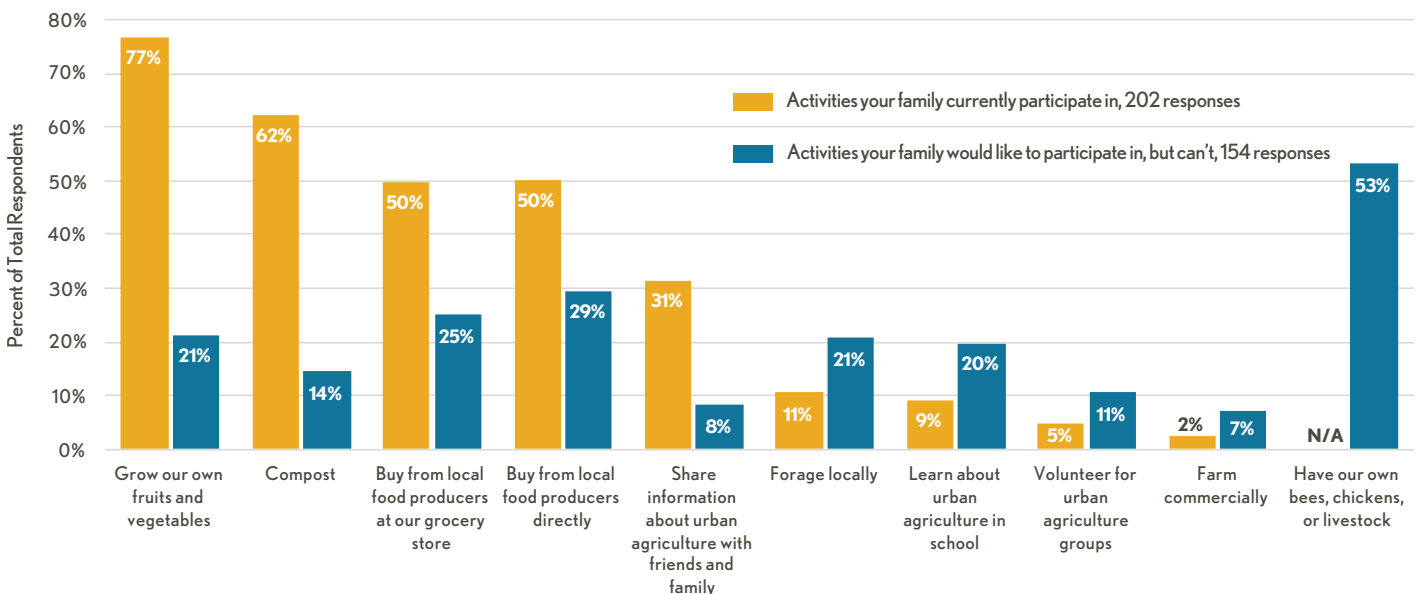
What is your age?



Family practices

What urban agriculture activities do you or your family currently participate in?

What urban agriculture activities would you or your family like to participate in, but can't?



Opportunities and Challenges

Where are there opportunities for urban agriculture in Beaumont?

A series of 114 opportunity areas and 10 barrier areas were mapped in the survey for urban agriculture, found on the following page. The 10 barrier areas were not often accompanied with area-specific comments. For the 114 opportunity areas, the most common geographic themes included:

Opportunities for Urban Agriculture in Beaumont		
Location	Opportunity	Feedback example
Milieu Park	Community gardens and edible landscaping - good sun exposure and availability of open space.	"Parc Milieu has great open space that would make a great community garden"
Centre-Ville	Community gardens and edible landscaping	"There should definitely be more urban agriculture downtown"
St. Vital Park	Community gardens - good sun exposure and availability of open space.	"The area near St. Vital Park that has a hockey rink in the winter would be a great spot for a community garden"
Four Seasons Park	Community gardens and edible landscaping - good sun exposure, and availability of open space.	"Natural creek flow and corridor has opportunities to support urban agriculture and enhance biodiversity."
West Recreation site	Community gardens, livestock, chickens, and bees.	"Beehives, livestock like chicken, goats"
Rural areas	Protect agricultural lands	"I live in this area and it needs to be protected and kept agriculture"

See opportunity map on the following page.

What are some challenges or risks in Beaumont for urban agriculture?

The following themes surfaced as a result of the open responses:

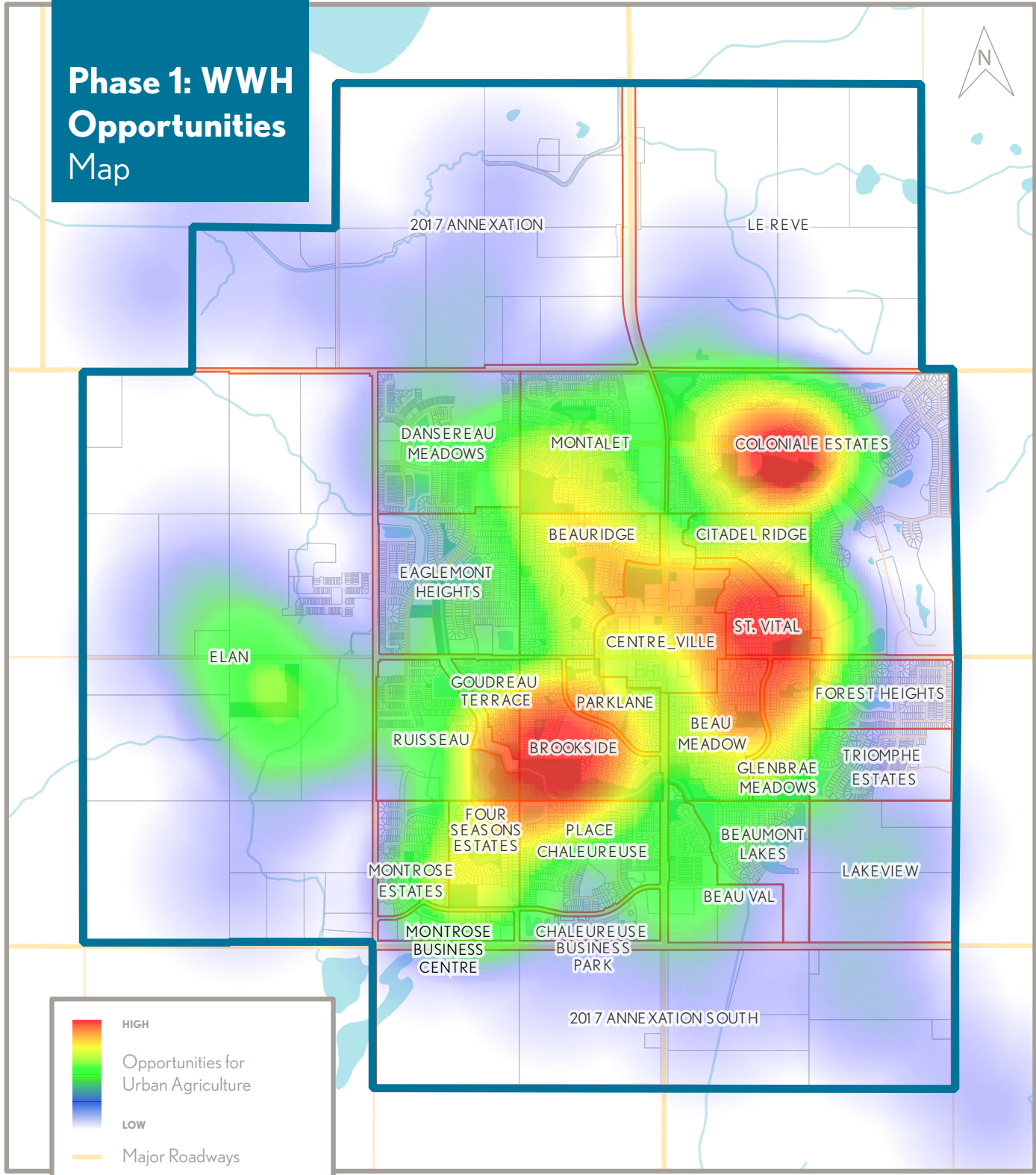
Challenges or Risks in Urban Agriculture in Beaumont	
Key Themes (# of occurrences)	Sub Themes (# of occurrences)
Urban chickens and livestock (38)	Noise (16) Smell (10) Currently not allowed (9)
Lack of education (19)	Caring for animals (6) Value of urban agriculture (5) Pesticide and herbicide use (4)
Complaints / impacting neighbours (19)	
Noise (19)	
Urban development (17)	Lack of space for agriculture(11) Loss of agricultural lands (4)
Pests (12)	
Regulation and bylaws (12)	Lack of government interest (3)
Theft / vandalism (12)	

"I love the idea of having chickens in our backyard but I hear that they're loud and smelly so my concern is that they might annoy neighbours, especially since I have a small yard."

"Peoples perspective on what a 'neighbourhood' should look like instead of what it could look like"

"With the short summers that are often hot and dry it is hard for us amateur gardeners to know what vegetables and herbs (bonus if perennial) we can grow."

Phase 1: WWH Opportunities Map



HIGH

Opportunities for Urban Agriculture

LOW

- Major Roadways
- Waterbodies
- City Boundary
- Neighbourhood Boundary

0 500 1000 metres

This map show where survey respondents identified opportunities for urban agriculture (114 responses)

Learn more at: beaumont.ab.ca/urbanagriculture

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The City of Beaumont
Urban Agriculture Plan

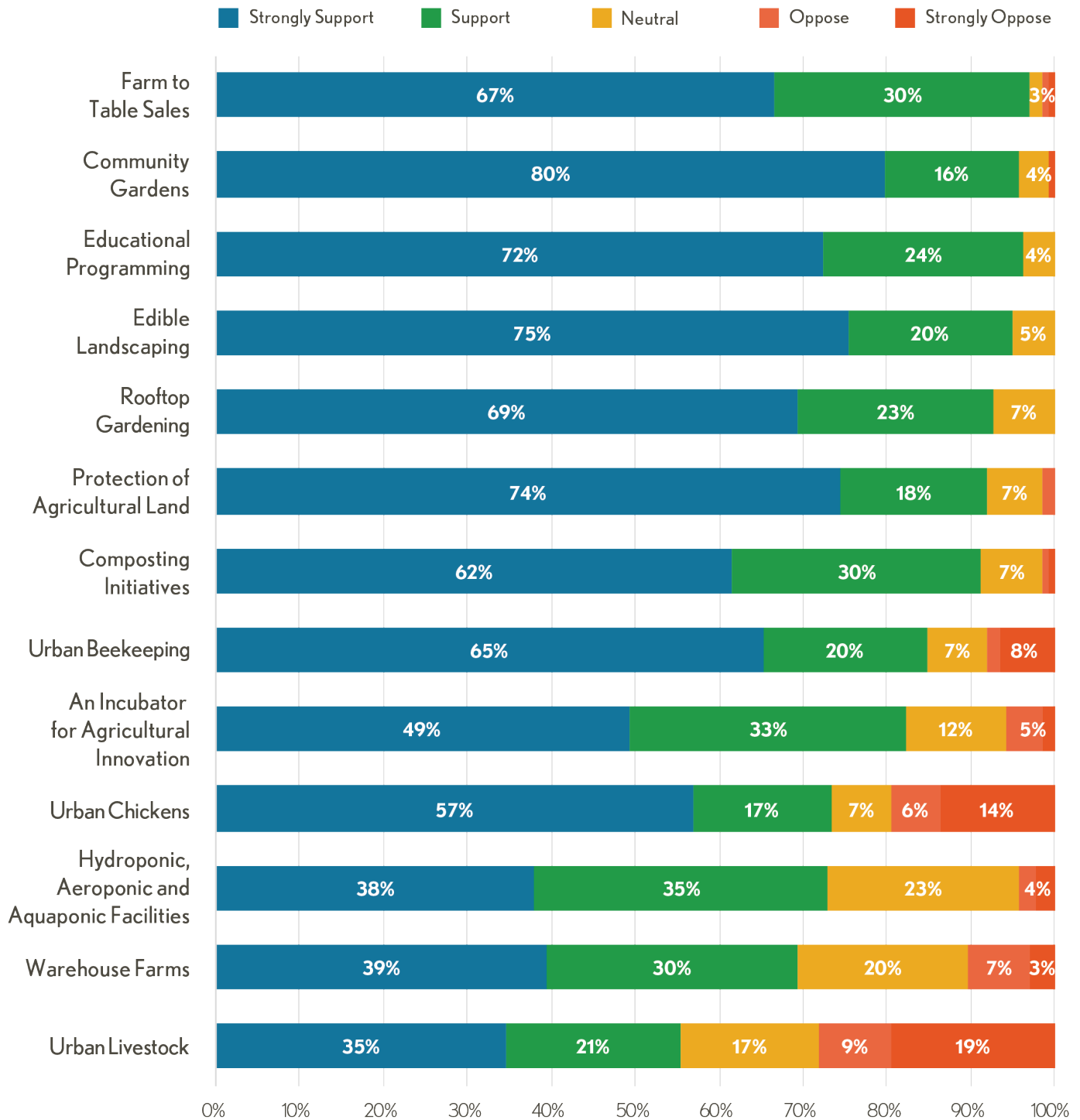
Created: November 2022



What is your level of support for these urban agriculture forms in Beaumont?

Survey respondents were asked to report their level of support for various forms of urban agriculture. The findings for respondent support and opposition can be found in the graphic below, ordered from most supported form of urban agriculture to least.

Of those aged 25-34, 87% strongly support urban chickens, and 97% support or strongly support urban beekeeping.



*Note: the percentages in the graph above are rounded to the nearest integer for readability, and may have some rounding errors as a result.

Do you have any further comments for why you do or do not support certain types of urban agriculture for Beaumont?

The following themes surfaced as a result of the open responses:

Support for Certain Types of Urban Agriculture in Beaumont	
Key Themes (# of occurrences)	Sub Themes (# of occurrences)
Food security (15)	Cost of food (5) Local food (4)
Support all types of urban agriculture (13)	
Urban chickens (13)	Supportive (8) Unsupportive (4)
Livestock (12)	Unsupportive of large species (4)

"I support all community initiatives to keep food sources local and fresh"

"I'd love to support more local producers but cost is a huge factor"

"I'm ok with small animals, but larger animals such as cows and horses don't work well for an urban setting."

What are the most important things happening in urban agriculture in Beaumont today?

The following themes surfaced as a result of the open responses:

Most Important Things Happening in Urban Agriculture in Beaumont Today	
Key Themes (# of occurrences)	Sub Themes (# of occurrences)
Unaware / i don't know (28)	
Private residential gardens (18)	Vegetable / flower gardens (14) Front yard gardens (4)
Community gardens (17)	Aware of existing gardens (10) Need for more (7)
Grow our own food (15)	
Not enough is happening (14)	
Farmers market (11)	Aware of existing market (9) Bigger, better, and more local (5)
Community interest/support for urban agriculture (7)	

"The most important thing is that not enough is happening!"

"I don't know much about it, but would like to become aware. Great initiative"

"Community gardens are good opportunities to grow your own fruits and vegetables but we don't have enough of them. We need more."

"We would like to encourage people to grow their own food in their yards."



What are your big ideas for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont?

The following themes surfaced as a result of the open responses:

Big Ideas for the Future of Urban Agriculture in Beaumont	
Key Themes (# of occurrences)	Sub Themes (# of occurrences)
Community gardens (61)	Supportive (59) Equitable access (5)
Urban chickens (44)	Supportive (41) Unsupportive (3)
Edible landscaping (34)	Supportive (30) Fruit trees (28) Native and fruiting shrubs (7)
Food consumption (29)	Food security (12) Community food bank / sharing (8) Buying and selling local food (6)
Public land (27)	Public parks and green space for agriculture (15) Vacant public land (14)
Urban bees (26)	Supportive of beekeeping (21) Pollinator gardens (8)
Education (24)	Food production / gardening lessons (14) Programming with schools and community organizations (7)
Land management (13)	Lawns / mowed areas for agriculture (7) Invasive species control (4)

"Public raised gardening areas that are accessible to all, including seniors and disabled residents would be amazing."

"Backyard chickens! They not only give a family eggs, but they can help control pests and weeds, reduce compost, provide nutrients for gardens."

"I would like to see more fruit trees grown on boulevards and park areas."

"Community sharing/food bank of locally grown food - we have tons and are happy to share"

"Show and teach people how to grow their own vegetables."

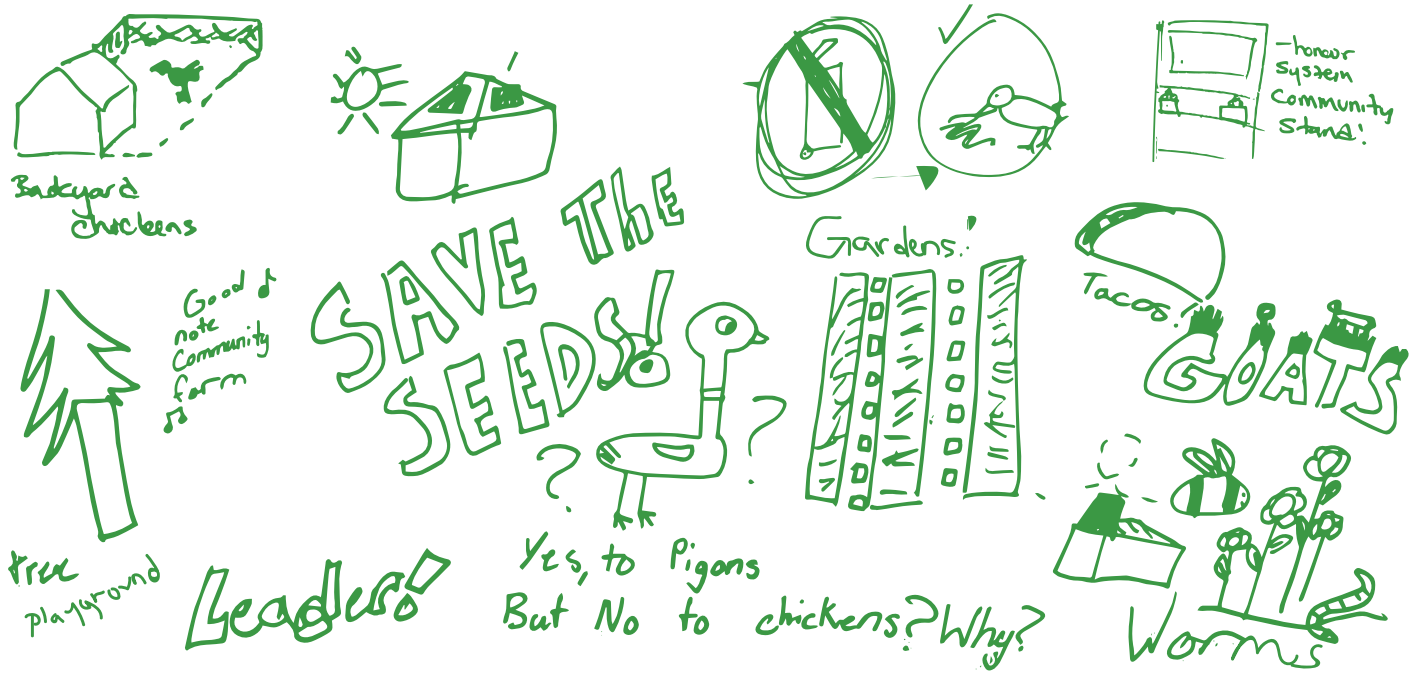
Is there anything else you would like to highlight for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont?

The following themes surfaced as a result of the open responses:

- » Support edible landscaping (9)
- » Support urban chickens (5)
- » Education (4)

"I know many passionate residents who would be eager to get involved. Providing the necessary knowledge, space and materials is all it would take to spark a movement!"

"I would very much like to help and participate. This is an important issue to me."



3.2 Workshops

A series of three workshops aimed to understand the community's current state realities and the future state vision for urban agriculture. The two primary activities focused on understanding:

- » What is and what is not working for urban agriculture in Beaumont today, and
- » Future visions for urban agriculture in 2033.

What is working for urban agriculture in Beaumont today?

- » Urban agriculture initiative being taken by the City through hosting this workshop
- » Beaumont's strong historical roots in agriculture
- » Ideal natural resources, green spaces, water bodies and parks to support production
- » Perfect size community, with space to support new urban agriculture initiatives
- » Local programs, phone applications, and resources exist. Some examples include: fruit rescue apps, composting apps, rain barrel sales, existing community gardens, composting, chip drop, water reduction days, and the farmers' market
- » Open minded and young community
- » Beaumont and District Agricultural Society (BADAS) food forest, community gardens, and educational programming
- » Technological advancement is opening doors that were not

Above image

Graphic depiction of a vision conversation, captured by a workshop participant.



available before now to support urban agriculture

- » Environmental awareness and challenges are putting pressure on traditional agriculture and opening the door to alternatives such as urban agriculture
- » Some local businesses currently have farm to table sales
- » No barriers to produce vegetables on private land
- » Increasing food costs are promoting increased local food production

What is not working for urban agriculture in Beaumont today?

- » Lack of awareness and visibility of urban agriculture possibilities beyond community gardens
- » Current bylaws do not allow for urban chickens or beekeeping
- » Urban management of pesticide and seeds comes with urban agriculture.
- » Slow speed, lack of implementation and excess red tape for approvals has lead to citizen distrust
- » Small lots of new housing developments do not allow space for livestock
- » Lack of coordination and strong relationships between existing groups and initiatives
- » Lack of local processing facilities for agricultural products
- » Convenient disposal practices do not support composting
- » It is expensive to start into urban agriculture
- » No direct location to go and get answers and unknown how to remove barriers
- » Contradicting viewpoints and sharing of misinformation
- » Lack of knowledge of bylaws, and what is and is not permitted
- » Lack of educational programming for urban agriculture in schools, and for all other ages, including what is grown in the Beaumont area
- » Existing initiatives do not adequately consider sustainability or urban agriculture, including: even/odd watering, spray parks not using recycled water, aesthetic regulations on new developments, and restrictive tree requirements
- » Lack of farmers in Beaumont
- » Lack of farmers' market vendors
- » Lack of community gardening opportunities
- » Lack of local food distributors beyond chain grocery stores

What is your vision for urban agriculture in 2033?

In 2033...

Beaumont is a leader in urban agriculture

Leading from Beaumont's historical roots in agriculture, the City is a nimble and flexible agricultural innovator and supportive of new local initiatives in the community. Urban agriculture and the whole food system is visibly integrated throughout the urban fabric of the city, and City and community leaders continue to build off of existing practices locally and internationally.

Unique parks that have urban agriculture featured

City parks are revamped, and new public spaces are planned to have urban agriculture elements including native plantings, food forests, pollinator plants, community gardens, and edible landscaping. There are urban agriculture elements included in every community, at various scales of implementation.

Educational opportunities for students and the general public

Educational providers and the City partner with agricultural experts to routinely teach: how to grow, manage and keep vegetables longer, the value of urban agriculture, seed sharing, what plants grow well in Beaumont's climate and are native to the area, the basics of hydroponics and aquaponics, and how to properly care for bees and chickens. Educational and outreach opportunities focus on community member empowerment, mentorship and increased participation.

Financial incentives

To overcome the costs associated with starting into urban agriculture, incentives are in place for good practices, unique ideas to escalate urban agriculture, and those implementing local food production.

A network of agricultural connections

Existing initiatives, programs, producers, suppliers, manufacturers, restaurants, businesses and residents have a central space to connect and learn more about each other's offerings. The network continuously communicates new agricultural opportunities and technology improvements. Urban agricultural producers are connected to industrial/rural agricultural producers to learn and grow from one another.

It's easy to implement urban agriculture in Beaumont

There are limited policy barriers to retaining urban agriculture, and it is easy to responsibly implement: micro-clover lawns, urban chickens and bees, and sell local produce and eggs. Rules for respectful implementation are clear on the City's website, and residents have a solid understanding of how to get involved into local urban agriculture programs. There are multiple means to produce food locally through vertical gardens, garden socks, no till gardens, and more.

Unique idea: Make agriculture a central focus of a City department, such as a Parks, Recreation, and Agriculture department

Unique idea: Co-create an Indigenous medicine garden filled with medicinal species as a step towards reconciliation

Unique idea: Have teaching facilities for gardens on-site at schools, through partnerships with local farmers. Consider partnerships with other community groups to maintain over summer holiday

Unique idea: A grant for three agriculture demonstration projects to teach residents about different types of urban agriculture

Unique idea: The Beaumont and District Agricultural Society (BADAS) lead's Beaumont's agricultural coordination, and is fully integrated with local urban agriculture food production and management

Unique idea: There are clear bylaws on what you can and can't do in Beaumont, which make rules for urban chickens, urban bees, and boulevard gardening clear and accessible to residents



A local food economy

The local economy is directly linked to the food system. Residents have a decreased dependence on imported food, and there are partnerships between local farmers and grocery stores to allow for a 'grown in Beaumont' section in each local grocer. There are new food production facilities at a commercial scale, as well as a series of smaller-scale community supported agriculture (CSA) projects that are thriving in Beaumont. Youth benefit from new seasonal jobs and opportunities related to agriculture.

Urban agriculture as a year-round community builder

Agriculture is used as a tool to bring communities together to support one another, and build food security year-round. Inventive solutions to instituting a year-round growing season in Beaumont are encouraged both for production, but also as a method to have communities connect with one another.

No one is hungry in Beaumont

Food security is built through local food production, with urban agriculture being used as a proactive approach to make food accessible and affordable. Beaumont is a sharing community for food in all seasons of the year, and agricultural producers have a strong connection with those helping the community's most vulnerable.

New developments include urban agriculture

Developers link urban agriculture with all new developments, including living walls, pollinator plants, food production, publicly accessible boulevard gardens and green rooftops. The greater community has a connected network of pollinator pathways.

Urban agriculture supports municipal services

The City is supportive of unique services related to urban agriculture, including goatscaping for steep inclines, or a local producer collecting from City-owned edible landscaping at the end of the season for juice production.

Unique waste practice

The municipality makes composting and unique waste strategies visible to the public to increase local uptake in composting programs, and to reduce waste. Bulk compost is available to those looking to implement new gardens, and residents are aware of the results of them using less waste and fertilizer.

Urban agriculture as a method to help solve climate change

The connection between urban agriculture, climate change and sustainability is clearly articulated in City plans. There is less focus on manicured spaces, but rather natural spaces that provide an ecological and societal benefit, without detriment to surrounding wildlife.

Unique idea: A food processing warehouse facility to support local food production is established in Beaumont

Unique idea: a year-round indoor farm for community members, in partnership with the local food bank

Unique idea: Support a front yard garden collective within community, that has a centralized community stand for community member to access excess food

Unique idea: require new developments to include urban agriculture

Unique idea: Support a company looking to collect publicly accessible apples for juice and cider manufacturing

Unique idea: create a better process to utilize existing bio-char for gardening supplements

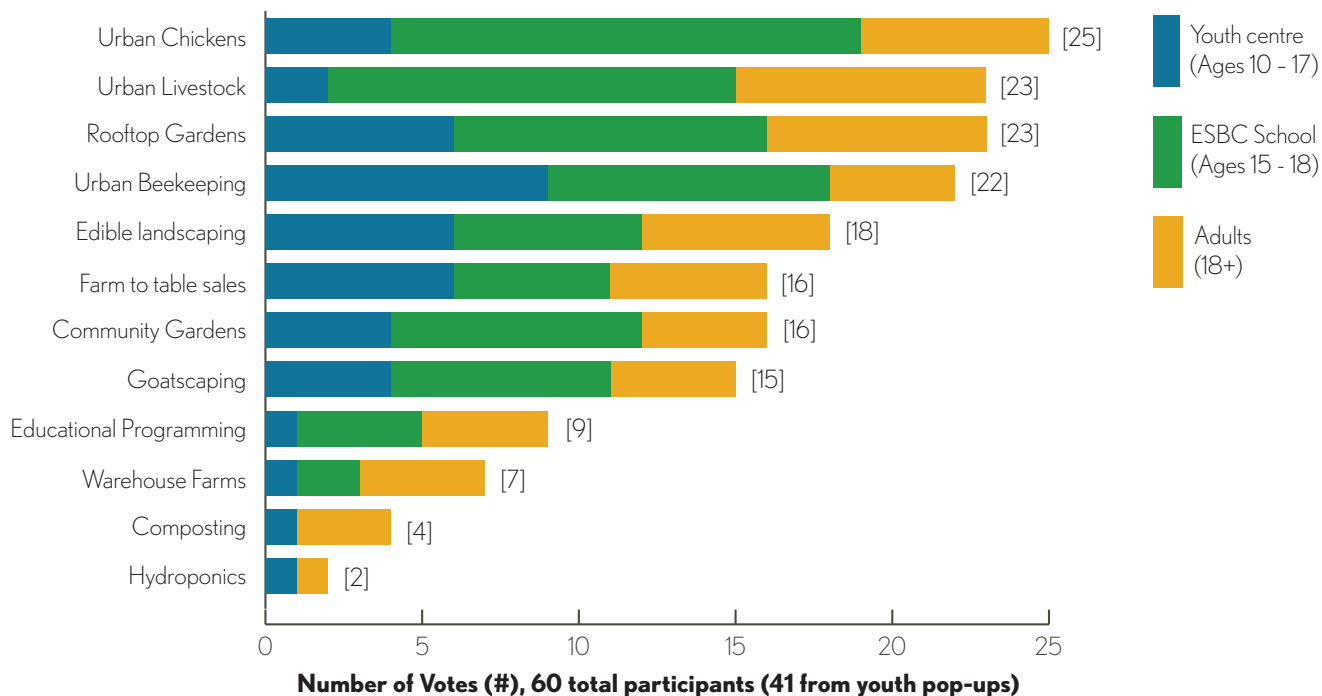
Unique idea: connect urban agricultural messages to climate change and sustainability targets

3.3 Pop-Up Youth Engagements

Pop-up events allowed Beaumont youth to learn about urban agriculture, and share their views in the places where they already were.

What forms of urban agriculture interest you most?

Each participant was given three sticky dots to allocate across 12 different options. Participant answers can be seen in the following graphic.



What are your big ideas for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont?

Some unique ideas for urban agriculture that were brought forward through youth and workshop pop-ups included:

- » Improve composting in City-run facilities
- » Apples and veggies for edible landscaping, and a shared berry garden
- » Performance measures to see if urban agriculture is growing over time
- » Enabling urban farmers to market garden within City limits
- » Being a leader in connecting agriculture in community
- » Micro-clover lawns for pollinators
- » Boulevard gardening, and trees planted with lots of root space
- » Community pantry that is open year round
- » Goatscaping on hill at St. Vital Catholic Church



3.4 Indigenous Discussion Learnings

The following is a summary of learnings with Indigenous groups in regards to urban agriculture and local food:

- » When using a broader lens to look at urban agriculture, food security is an important aspect to Indigenous peoples. Having land to be able to address food resources, practice Indigenous traditional knowledge and treaty rights are important aspects of Indigenous culture and teaching. The Lands for Prosperity Program of the Louis Bull Tribe is an example that includes regenerative land management, addressing food security and food sovereignty through agriculture and integration of Indigenous knowledge, culture, and teachings as well as to create opportunities to connect land to develop economic opportunities for future generations.
- » When looking at social issues, for example, homelessness, it is usually considered as an urban issue and may be addressed by providing more housing opportunities. However, using land or space appropriately would also address social issues such as communal space for good quality food for those in need. Another example could be a family centre for distribution of food to those in need. Therefore, urban agriculture can be seen as a tool to address social issues. Applying this food security to Indigenous perspectives, urban agriculture may be seen as a means of reconciliation.

The City will continue to cultivate relationships with those within Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4 and will continue outreach to the four First Nations of Maskwacis, including Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, and Louis Bull Tribe.

3.5 Student Workshops

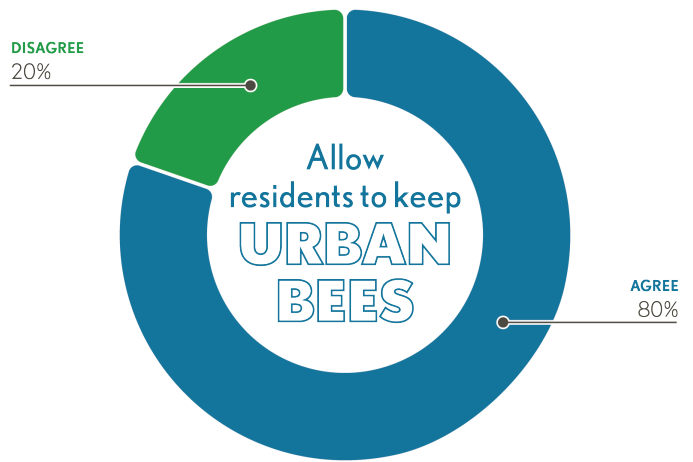
In classroom sessions, students were asked to vote as to if they agree or disagree with statements relating to three of the highest profile forms of urban agriculture in Beaumont, including:

- » Urban bees
- » Urban chickens
- » Urban livestock

Student votes and discussion points are described below.



*Outside circle after removing large animals (e.g. pigs, horses, cows, and donkeys) from definition.



Urban Bees

Student response to: "Beaumont should allow residents to keep urban bees"

	Number of Votes	Rationale	Ideas to mitigate the opposing side's concerns
Agree	53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bees help us to grow food • Gardens thrive • They are fuzzy and cute • Most people aren't allergic to bees • Bees are endangered • Bees don't sting unless provoked • We need bees to live or our crops would die 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach kids not to provoke bees • Require houses with bees to talk to neighbours first • Where hives are in public space, provide signs that indicate that bees are nearby • If you're allergic carry an EpiPen • No hives at schools, playgrounds, or public spaces • Tell people what plantings to avoid if they don't want to attract bees • Put up nets
Disagree	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bees have no use in winter • Little kids will be restricted to indoors • Houses are close together, and yards are too small • People will loose interest in beekeeping and then the bees will run wild • Not a fan of bugs • Bees should be on farms not urban areas • They sting which can cause death to people and the bees themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep them rural/ in country not living in the city so there's less chance of exposure • We need to lobby government/people in power to manage pollinations



Urban Chickens

Student response to: "Beaumont should allow residents to keep urban chickens"			
	Number of Votes	Rationale	Ideas to mitigate the opposing side's concerns
Agree	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They're safer than bees, they are contained • We know from documentaries about factory chicken farms and how unethical large-scale chicken farming is • With people losing their jobs, selling eggs could be a good side business • Dogs are louder than chickens • Growing our own source of food saves money • We have tons of stray cats already attracting predators • Even with raising 20-30 chickens you can avoid smells with proper care • They don't require much space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep allowable number of chickens low (around 3) • Should have education for owners to raise them properly • Bylaw in place for cleaning practices • Require neighbour agreements • Private property only, not public, people are more responsible with their own property • Create rules for how they're housed and cared for • The size of yard could dictate the number of hens allowable • Only mature hens, no roosters • Soundproof coops
Disagree	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No guarantee people know what they're doing • Chickens carry disease • They're not cheap to raise • They smell horrible • People may abuse public chickens • Could cause restless nights b/c noise they create • Attracts predators to town (i.e. coyotes) • It's nice to have them on farms, not in the city • Maintenance of chickens is expensive and intensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not being able to afford eggs is a bigger system issue • Maybe allow at community garden sites • How do we ensure proper care is taking place, who's monitoring responsible ownership?
Neutral	1	N/A	N/A

Urban Livestock

Initially this statement included all urban livestock. Once students identified that it was large animals influencing their ideas, the group did the vote again, this time removing large animals (e.g. pigs, horses, cows, and donkeys.) The initial vote is represented on the inner ring of the pie graph on the previous page, and the second the outer.

Student response to: "Beaumont should allow for urban livestock"		
	Number of Votes	Rationale
Agree	20 (34 after removing large animals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers won't be impacted by a few people growing their own food/meat • Goats can be good food source
Disagree	41 (23 after removing large animals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals need to be handled properly • This is a big province, cities don't need animals. Maybe in smaller communities or rural areas • Needs to be big enough area of land, otherwise it's unfair to the animal • These animals have health issues and need special vet care, we might not have here and/or might cost a lot more to treat issues than a regular pet • Rabbits and turkeys and goats need more space than chickens • Goats are good for the environment, but they can be chaotic • They smell • It takes too many resources to keep them alive
Neutral	6	

3.6 User Experience Interviews

The Urban Agriculture Plan team conducted a series of interviews with different agricultural producers and distributors in Beaumont today to understand how agriculture initiatives are currently produced, and what informs their decisions. The table below summarizes the common themes related to urban agriculture heard through these interviews.

- land practices
- educate & connect
- sales
- financing
- other

Stage in Agricultural Practice	Getting Started	Everyday Considerations	Farming Evolution
Agricultural Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Land chosen based on soil quality, proximity, water availability, and light ● Information is gathered from existing farmers and online tools ● CSAs and farmers' markets are easiest entry for new farms ● Land partnerships with neighbours to expand access to space and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Experimentation to find to find what crops and methods work best locally ● Determining select crops that are good for sales ● Using surveys and experimentation to understand customer wants ● Employing staff for larger operations and markets ● Hosting tours to make people aware of offerings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diversify offerings and use existing product in new ways to ensure crop is being fully utilized ● Fall planting, indoor crops, and underground greenhouses to extend growing season ● Winter recreational value-add opportunities to create new revenue streams
Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Difficulty finding other local farmers ● Limited education locally for growers and neighbours ● Perennial sales require long term planning ● Not allowed to create a farm stand on residential lots ● Lots of food waste with excess product after the market ● Expensive to start and difficult to get commercial loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Difficult to find seasonal staff ● Farmers' markets require a lot of time and energy ● Hard to gauge what markets are good for sustainable product's sales ● Restrictive clients requiring pest-free landscaping imposes pesticide use ● Pest control requires agreements that are subsequent to change ● Difficult to move equipment between quarter lots with road restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New financial issues with diversified products, e.g. Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (AGLC) coordination issues for funding ● Expanding operations requires a lot of space which is difficult to find ● Development surrounding agriculture can initiate noise and odor complaints

Action Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leverage community pride to become a leader for agriculture ● Retain and enable more producers to get a critical mass of growers ● Establish chicken and bee programs ● Messaging and education for benefits and expectations around agriculture ● 'How to' workshops for growing, pruning, and harvesting ● Educate on the value of non-grass front yards, and front lawn gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BADAS to be more visual in the community to coordinate programs ● Connect farmers with the public ● Grants to start and for marketing ● Funding for agricultural tour farms ● Group CSA program ● More farm to plate events ● Create an online farmers' market or 'Farm Etsy' that is easy to use ● Develop a 'grown in Beaumont' label for local food in grocery stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get more local food in grocery stores ● Connect agricultural programs with other land practices including indigenous history and the arts ● Grow more indoors ● Pilot projects for large-scale community and pollinator gardens ● Farming plots in each neighbourhood ● Refillery in Beaumont to reduce waste ● Dedicated indoor farmers' grocery store that doesn't require farm staff
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SECTION 4.0

Next Steps

Findings from this phase of engagement will be used to inform and develop key actions of the Urban Agriculture Plan. A second round of engagement for this project will be held in the spring of 2023, providing the community with an opportunity to share feedback on the level of support for the various actions identified and to declare interest in becoming involved. Feedback will then be integrated into the final Urban Agriculture Plan, expected to be completed by summer 2023.

For more information on the project and to stay in touch with the process, please visit

beaumont.ab.ca/urbanagriculture, or email planning@beaumont.ab.ca to be put on the mailing list.

Thank you to all who participated. We are grateful for your time and appreciate the energy you have put into planning for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont.

