



URBAN AGRICULTURE PLAN

2023



TREATY AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Beaumont respects the histories, languages, and cultures of all First Peoples of this land, whether they be of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit descent, and appreciates that their presence continues to enrich vibrant communities across the land.

For countless generations, Indigenous communities, within the place commonly known today as Beaumont and the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty Six Region and the homeland of the Métis, have fostered meaningful relationships with the land, plants, and animals, fulfilling a sacred duty to maintain healthy, interdependent connections with their environment. In our pursuit of a sustainable and equitable food future for Beaumont, we are committed to drawing upon the wealth of Indigenous food-related knowledge, values, and wisdom, which have been nurtured over thousands of years.

We acknowledge the disruption of traditional food systems brought about by colonial forces, resulting in increased food insecurity among local First Peoples. We recognize the need to address these disparities and support initiatives that restore regenerative land management, enhance food security, and promote food sovereignty through agriculture while integrating Indigenous knowledge, culture, and teachings.

Embracing urban agriculture as a means of healing and unity, we commit ourselves to the ongoing process of reconciliation, recognizing that we are all Treaty people and that we have collective responsibilities to protect and honor the inherent rights of all Indigenous Peoples, and the land on which we stand.



Urban Agriculture Plan - 2023

The inaugural Urban Agriculture Plan was developed with significant support and input from City of Beaumont staff and the broader Beaumont community.

Prepared by



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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. To foster a culture of community support for agriculture while contributing to long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability in Beaumont, the City has developed an Urban Agriculture Plan. To accomplish this, the plan provides guiding principles, a long-term vision and set of goals, and a detailed approach to implementation supporting community involvement across 12 key actions. The plan builds on direction from the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board's Regional Agriculture Master Plan and the City of Beaumont's Environmental Master Plan.

Urban Agriculture Vision

Beaumont is a nimble agricultural innovator and supporter which empowers the community to engage in urban agriculture on public and private lands, and connects new local initiatives to Beaumont's rich agricultural heritage in a just and sustainable way. Urban agriculture and the whole food system are visibly integrated across the city, contributing to local food security, and the economic, ecological, and social well-being of Beaumont.



Principles

The Urban Agriculture Plan integrates influential global and regional trends through a commitment to five key guiding principles which set the basis for the document:

- Food security
- Community health
- Sustainable food systems
- Climate change
- Reconciliation

Goals and Supporting Actions

The Urban Agriculture Plan is intended to be an adaptable and empowering document that builds on the community's interest and support for urban agriculture while being responsive to the City's evolving priorities. The Plan's strategic vision is supported by eight key goals that meaningfully depict an ideal future state for various urban agriculture components. These goals will drive overall progress towards the vision by defining Beaumont as:

- A food-secure community where all residents have access to growing and purchasing affordable and nutritious food.
- A community knowledgeable about local food.
- A connected community of producers, distributors, and consumers.
- A growing food economy that supports local businesses and value-added agriculture.
- A culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in urban agriculture.
- A resilient ecological system, which leverages food production to support biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Supporting the retention and continued presence of agriculture in the community, including but not limited to the protection of agricultural lands until necessary for future population or employment needs to expand.
- A supportive and equitable regulatory context for urban agriculture.

Impact across these goals is realized through their alignment with the Plan's 12 key actions.

Prioritizing Community Implementation

The Plan provides a defined implementation structure to help City administration implement the plan, build partnerships and collaborate with the community to develop more urban agriculture in Beaumont.

The implementation framework is predicated on an approach to continuous improvement and learning that will accelerate progress along the Plan over time. The structured approach includes four steps: (1) Act, (2) Report, (3) Assess, and (4) Adjust. Together, these steps provide the basis for frequent review, reflection, and adjustment in support of the vision.

As the Urban Agriculture Plan is the first comprehensive approach to urban agriculture in Beaumont, it necessarily contains several foundational actions that will form the basis of implementation. These actions promote organization, collaboration and stewardship of the Plan, reflection on action delivery and overall progress, and continual alignment with the overarching vision and goals. The framework, together with the 12 key actions, provides a comprehensive and structured approach to collaborative action between the City, residents, community groups, agricultural societies, and regional partners towards community urban agriculture in Beaumont.

WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around an urban area. This can include growing plants or raising animals on public or private property. Some examples of urban agriculture can include community gardens, edible landscaping, indoor herb gardens, backyard chickens, beekeeping and more. You may have seen examples of urban agriculture programs in other regional municipalities, including Edmonton.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTEXT

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. In 2022, the City began to establish direction towards this future by commissioning the City's first Urban Agriculture Plan.

The Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP) is supported through direction established by the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board's Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) and the City of Beaumont's Environmental Master Plan. As a result, this plan 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.

The Urban Agriculture Plan stands on the shoulders of the people, projects and policies that are implementing urban agriculture initiatives in Beaumont today. To describe the impactful directions influencing this plan and Beaumont's urban agriculture context, the following section presents the various local policies and plans, directional research and community initiatives supporting the implementation of urban agriculture.

Guiding Policies and Plans

Within Beaumont and the surrounding Edmonton Metropolitan Region, a series of guiding documents exist which influence urban agriculture development. Of the documents investigated, the most influential policies are described below. Underlying policies for urban agriculture in Beaumont were developed from the direction available within these plans and can be found in [Section 2.4](#).

Regional Agriculture Master Plan

The Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Board's RAMP (2021) designates lands within Beaumont under two primary agriculture types: Agriculture in Future Transition Lands and Urban Agriculture (see *following page*). Agriculture in Future Transition Lands are defined as lands

which are currently intended for agricultural use, but which are identified as areas of future urban development in the region. Urban Agriculture is defined as the built-up area in Beaumont. Policies from both of these land use designations informed the development of this plan and should inform any policy updates made to City documents.

Our Complete Community: Beaumont's Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

Beaumont's MDP (2019) is a statutory plan which establishes the long-term vision for how Beaumont grows and develops through local policies for land use across the city. In this plan, Beaumont's existing agricultural areas and operations are to be conserved until the lands are needed to accommodate future development and urban agriculture is encouraged in existing urban areas.

Our Environmental Management: Environmental Master Plan (EMP)

Beaumont's EMP (2021) establishes the strategic direction to create Beaumont's Urban Agriculture Plan, including community- and home-based gardens, urban farming, public agriculture and edible landscaping, pollinator pathway development and education and awareness campaigns. This plan describes urban agriculture as a community-centric approach to integrating environmental efforts in Beaumont.

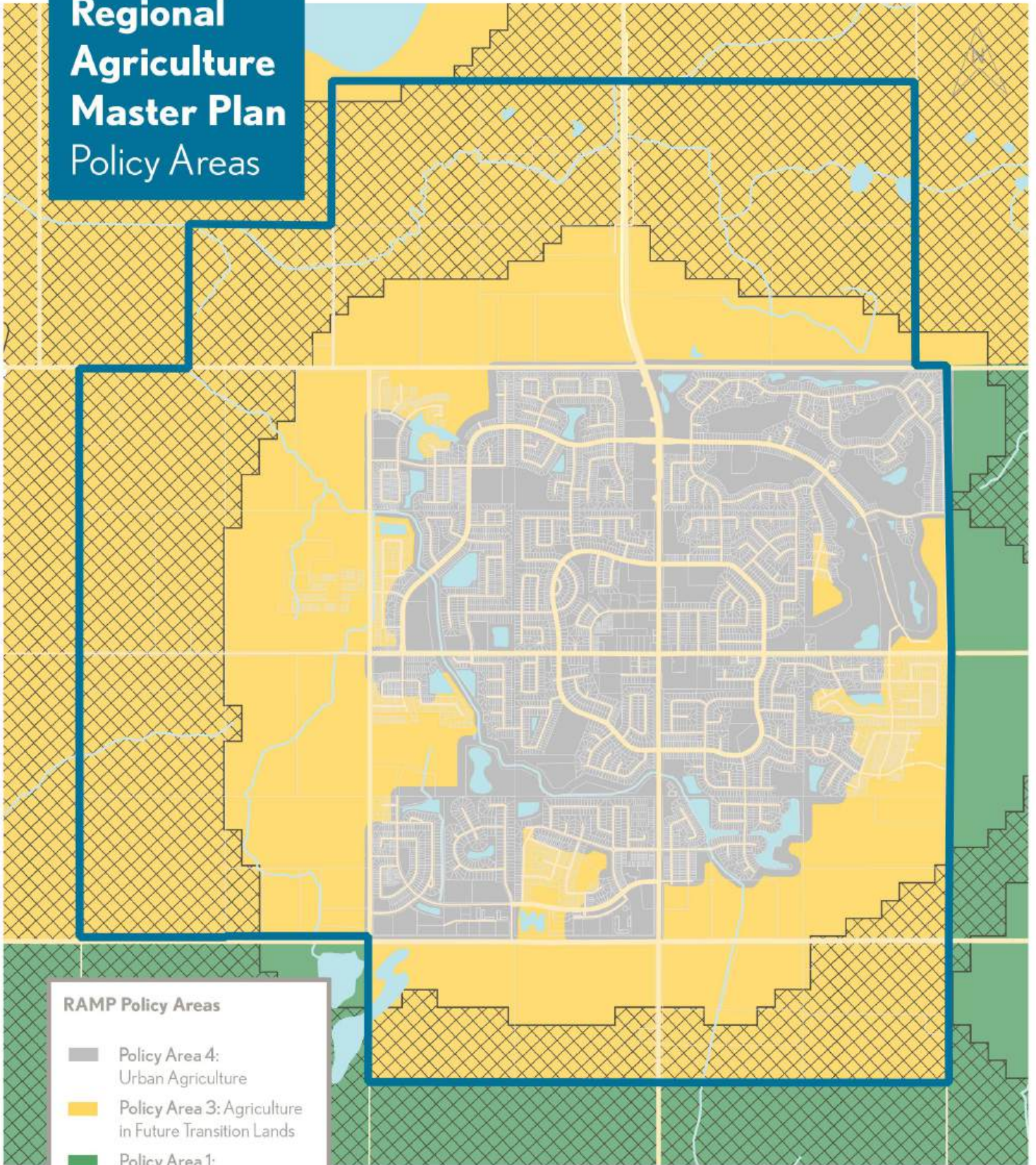
Our Zoning Blueprint: Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

Beaumont's LUB (2019) is a regulatory document which implements the policies outlined in the MDP. The LUB defines and governs agriculture at three separate scales: Agriculture-General, Agriculture-Intensive, and Agriculture-Urban. Each form of agriculture is permitted in differing land use districts, with the Agricultural Holdings district allowing for all three types.

Bylaw #851-15, "Animal Control Bylaw" (ACB)

Beaumont's ACB (2015) is a bylaw which enforces the control and regulation of animals within Beaumont.

Regional Agriculture Master Plan Policy Areas



RAMP Policy Areas

- Policy Area 4: Urban Agriculture
- Policy Area 3: Agriculture in Future Transition Lands
- Policy Area 1: Rural Agriculture
- LESA Prime Agricultural Lands
- City of Beaumont

0 500 1000
metres

The EMRBs Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) designates lands within Beaumont under two primary agriculture types – Policy Area 3: Agriculture in Future Transition Lands and Policy Area 4: Urban Agriculture. Definitions of each policy area can be found in RAMP.

Learn more at: www.emrb.ca/agriculture

The City of Beaumont
Urban Agriculture Plan

Created: July 2023



Other Plans and Policies

There are a series of other local policies and plans which direct urban agriculture to align with these higher-order levels of policy, which include:

- Our Places and Play: Beaumont Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan
- Bylaw #1024-22, "Community Standards Bylaw"
- Beaumont Winter City Strategy
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines
- Urban Forest Management Strategy
- Our Inclusivity: Beaumont Social Master Plan
- Our Connectivity: Transportation Master Plan
- Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan
- Municipal Strategic Plan, 2022-2026

Directional Research

The creation of the Beaumont Urban Agriculture Plan builds upon local investigations undergone by students at the University of Alberta in two reports: the Beaumont Urban Agriculture Report (2018), and BADAS: An Urban Agriculture Hub (2023).

Beaumont Urban Agriculture Report

A report documenting the utility of urban agriculture, including social, economic, environmental, and health benefits in Beaumont, completed by students in their final year of a Bachelor's in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Alberta in 2018. This report was referenced for definitions and considerations regarding urban agriculture in Beaumont throughout the development of the plan.

BADAS: An Urban Agriculture Hub

A research report focusing on the role of agricultural societies in supporting the advancement of local food systems, outlining pathways the Beaumont and District Agricultural Society (BADAS) could take to develop as an agricultural hub for the Beaumont region. The research was conducted by Terra Pombert as part of a masters thesis in fulfillment of a Master of Arts in Community Engagement at the University of Alberta, completed in 2023, and developed concurrently with the Urban Agriculture Plan. This report found alignment with community values

and the draft vision, goals, and background themes and information presented in this plan, highlighting the importance of collaboration between the City of Beaumont, provincial agricultural organizations, citizens and farmers in working towards a sustainable food system.

Community Initiatives

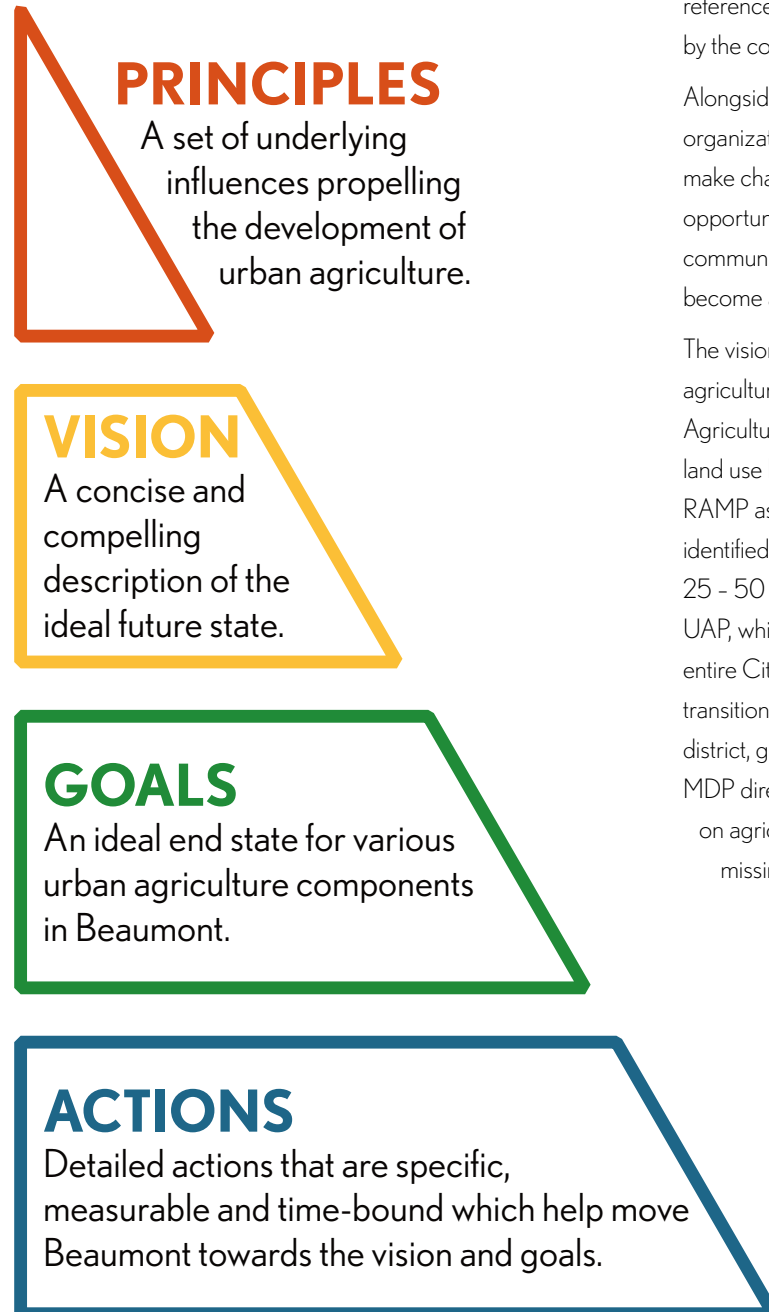
Many Beaumont residents are highly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about urban agriculture and are actively engaged in various community initiatives that enhance urban agriculture and the local food system, including but not limited to:

- The Beaumont and District Agricultural Society (BADAS);
- Two community gardens, one non-profit, and one privately owned, located outside of Beaumont's urban areas;
- Various agricultural producers, primarily in the Agricultural Holdings District;
- Beaumont Farmers' Market;
- Commercial restaurants with locally-sourced agricultural products;
- A variety of food markets, full-service restaurants, and other food sales;
- Food manufacturing businesses, and a community kitchen;
- Business service centres;
- Publicly accessible edible landscaping;
- Various community organizing groups related to urban agriculture and local food; and
- A satellite extension of the Leduc & District Food Bank.

This plan will utilize the existing momentum being built within Beaumont and the Edmonton Metropolitan Region for improving access to urban agriculture and the greater food system.

1.2 STRUCTURE

The Urban Agriculture Plan is organized under a complimentary set of plan components to help realize the community's aims for urban agriculture:



1.3 SCOPE

The Urban Agriculture Plan addresses urban agriculture items the municipality has significant ownership or influence over. This document is one of the first steps for the municipality in formally creating meaningful change for urban agriculture and acting upon existing community demand. The City is not limited to the initiatives described in this plan and instead should use the UAP's goals as a reference guide for new initiatives as they are proposed by the community, administration and Council.

Alongside the City, a series of other community organizations and resident groups are working to make change in urban agriculture. In particular, the opportunities underway through BADAS and other community groups ensure that urban agriculture can become a reality in Beaumont's unique context.

The vision, goals and policies are intended to guide agricultural decisions across the City, including the Agricultural Holdings district as identified in Beaumont's land use bylaw. These lands have been identified by EMRB's RAMP as Agriculture in Future Transition Lands and are identified as lands designated for future growth in the next 25 - 50 years by both RAMP and Beaumont's MDP. The UAP, while providing urban agriculture direction for the entire City of Beaumont, does not dive in-depth into the transition of agricultural lands from the agricultural holdings district, given the existing alignment between RAMP and MDP direction for these lands. Instead, the plan focuses on agricultural elements and policies that are currently missing from Beaumont's regulatory context.

OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE IN BEAUMONT



Opportunity

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

Leverage support from the Environmental Master Plan, and Municipal Development Plan to integrate urban agriculture land across the city.

Limitation

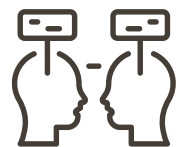
EXISTING POLICIES AND BYLAWS

Existing municipal practices and bylaws limit the implementation of urban agriculture, particularly for those wishing to start into animal husbandry.

Opportunity

ECONOMIC INVESTMENT

A supportive and equitable zoning and regulatory context could attract urban agricultural economic investment to the community.



Opportunity

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Residents are passionate about supporting urban agriculture, with many success stories and local champions to draw inspiration from. Phase 2 saw 70% of respondents agree or strongly agree with all proposed actions.

Limitation

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Raising animals for agricultural purposes is a polarizing topic in Beaumont, with public concerns around perceived noise, smell, mess, and allergies.



Limitation

MUNICIPAL CAPACITY

There is limited municipal capacity to take on the implementation and enforcement of new urban agriculture initiatives.



Opportunity

A REGIONAL NETWORK IN SUPPORT OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

Several neighbouring municipalities have already developed and implemented urban agriculture plans, and the majority of EMRB members have piloted or implemented urban hen and bee programs, creating the opportunity to share resources and lessons learned through collaboration.



Limitation

WORKING IN SILOS

There is a lack of coordination between agricultural initiatives in Beaumont, limiting their potential impact.



Opportunity

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES:

The ability to leverage existing local programs and organizations (BADAS, rain barrel sales, existing community gardens, water reduction days, the farmers' market, etc.).



Limitation

FOOD SECURITY

With the increasing supply chain impacts of global issues such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, access to affordable and healthy food is a challenge.



Opportunity

EDIBLE LANDSCAPING

There are various edible tree and plant species maintained by the City including: Amur Cherry, Elderberry, Flowering Crabapple, Honeysuckle, Juniper, Lilac, Linden, Mayday, Mountain Ash, Plum, and Schubert Chokecherry.



Opportunity

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

Agriculture is a celebrated pillar of Beaumont's heritage, and can play a pivotal role in enhancing the community's future.



Limitation

ACCESSIBILITY

Existing community gardens have poor walkability and are located outside of the City's existing urban areas.

Opportunity

LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES

Several existing food-related businesses could support urban agriculture initiatives.



Opportunity

PUBLIC LAND

There are ample public lands (223 ha) within the built-up area of Beaumont that are within walking distance of civic and cultural buildings.



Limitation

PUBLIC UTILITY LOTS

Many public lands have restrictions, which limit the permanence and feasibility of urban agriculture initiatives.



Opportunity

TECHNOLOGY

There are various applications and resources that support agriculture (fruit rescue apps, yard sharing, composting apps, etc.).



Limitation

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

Intensive forms of urban agriculture, including hens, bees and livestock, are currently restricted to the agricultural holdings district, with limited agricultural initiatives occurring within urban areas.



1.4 PROCESS

The 2023 City of Beaumont Urban Agriculture Plan was developed from August 2022 - September 2023 in two phases.

Phase 1: Project Understanding

Phase 1 looked to understand the underlying current state and community aspirations for urban agriculture. With the many factors that influence urban agriculture, a dynamic and multifaceted approach was required to ensure the Plan is grounded in a solid foundation of information and insight.

Phase 2: Urban Agriculture Plan Development

With the foundation of understanding developed through Phase 1, Phase 2 shifted to develop a strategic direction for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont.

PHASE 1

Engagement Planning (August - September 2022)

Integrated findings from the context exploration to inform gathering ideas on the opportunities and challenges for urban agriculture, and visions for the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont.

Context Exploration (August - December 2022)

- Opportunity and asset mapping of urban agriculture opportunities
- Thematic analysis into fundamental principles underlying urban agriculture
- Policy review of relevant plans and policies within and surrounding Beaumont
- Review of existing practices for agriculture master planning

Phase 1 Engagement (October - December 2022)

- Online and print public survey
- In-person and online workshops
- Youth pop-up and school classroom engagements at Centre Chantal Bérubé Community Youth Centre, and École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School
- User experience interviews with local agricultural enthusiasts
- Indigenous relationship discussions with surrounding Nations.
- In total, 340 community members contributed their thoughts to Phase 1.

Strategy Sprint (March 2023)

A 2-day Strategy Sprint workshop, where the core elements of the plan were collaboratively developed with 15 City staff, over 202 hours, resulting in 12 actions to build clarity on the initial direction using community feedback and research from Phase 1.

Strategic Issues Workshop (February 2023)

Workshop held with staff and community partners to identify the high-level threats, scope, vision and goals for the project.

PHASE 2

Phase 2 Engagement (May - June 2023)

An online survey implemented to gather community feedback on the level of support for the plan's draft strategic actions, goals, and vision (116 responses).

Plan Finalization (June - November 2023)

- Business and Industry Partner circulation and review of the plan.
- A Council update presentation on the draft vision, goals and actions.
- The final submission of the plan to Council in November of 2023.

2.0 PLAN DIRECTION

The following is a holistic overview of the plan principles, vision, goals and policies that inform the actions that have been set out to guide meaningful change for urban agriculture in Beaumont.

2.1 PRINCIPLES

The Urban Agriculture Plan responds to influential social, economic and environmental trends underlying urban agriculture in Beaumont through a commitment to five key guiding principles. Together, these principles have influenced the development of the project vision, key goals and actions for the plan's implementation.

Food security

Household food security is a well-established social determinant of health, with disproportionate vulnerabilities to those with lower socioeconomic status. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has compounded food insecurity in the interconnected systems that keep us fed, significantly impacting the cost, availability and stability of food. Through urban agriculture practices, the City can take positive action towards creating a food-secure community where all Beaumont residents have access to a diversity of local, healthy and affordable food options.

EXAMPLES: Food banks, community gardens, food literacy programs and grocery delivery programs to ensure everyone has access to local, healthy and affordable food options.

Community health

Urban agriculture has been shown to contribute to improving individual well-being and community health in a myriad of ways. Community food production increases social capital, creates connections to the natural environment, and provides opportunities for integrating newcomers and building community connections in Beaumont. Through a holistic approach to food production and naturalized spaces, the City can support ecosystem services, carbon sinks, and biodiversity while contributing to the health and well-being of residents and the community.

EXAMPLES: Community gardens, community harvesting events, boulevard gardening, and educational programming can all work towards growing a healthy and connected community.

Sustainable food systems

Urban agriculture is one contributing factor to the greater food system, a complex network of actors and activities involving the production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, and resource and waste recovery of food products. The City has a key role to play in building a sustainable local food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in a way that remains economically profitable, provides broad-based social benefits, and positively impacts the natural environment for future generations.

EXAMPLES: Backyard gardens, farm to table restaurants, farmers markets and composting initiatives all support a more sustainable food system.

EXAMPLES: Pollinator pathways, increased vegetation cover, boulevard gardening and community gardens contribute to more climate-ready communities.

EXAMPLES: Traditional food practices, community gardens and medicine gardens can create tangible cultural connections in the community.

Climate change

Urban agriculture practices can have positive contributions to climate mitigation and adaptation in Beaumont. For example, the amount of greenhouse gases being produced locally can be mitigated through local urban agriculture practices which reduce reliance on long distance transporting of food and goods. Urban agriculture also helps to adapt to changing climate conditions through improving stormwater runoff management, improving drought resistance, conserving local soils, increasing biodiversity, and reducing heat island effects through enhanced vegetation cover. Implementing climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly urban agriculture practices in Beaumont has the potential to significantly reduce vulnerabilities to climate change while building the social capital necessary to respond to times of climate crisis.

Reconciliation

When considering urban agriculture practices in Beaumont, it is critical to acknowledge the history of the land and the interconnections to the social, political, economic and spiritual contexts of its people. Food sovereignty and the act of restoring and enhancing access to traditional Indigenous foods and medicines is an important step for the City to further their movements towards reconciliation. Supporting local Indigenous populations to ensure they have the ability to establish agriculture projects under their own leadership and reclaim the ability to choose what should be grown, taught, consumed and shared in partnership with Indigenous knowledge holders is an act of food sovereignty.



2.2 VISION

'Beaumont is a nimble agricultural innovator and supporter which empowers the community to engage in urban agriculture on public and private lands, and connects new local initiatives to Beaumont's rich agricultural heritage in a just and sustainable way. Urban agriculture and the whole food system are visibly integrated across the city, contributing to local food security, and the economic, ecological, and social well-being of Beaumont.'

2.3 GOALS

The vision for urban agriculture is underpinned by eight goals that portray an envisioned future state for different aspects of urban agriculture. These goals have been shaped by inputs from citizens and business and industry partners and in-depth research. They will serve as the driving force behind the overall progress towards the vision. A set of policies and indicators has been established to support each of these goal areas. These policies and indicators will continually guide and measure the implementation of methods to ensure the successful realization of the objectives.

Policies

Detailed considerations for implementation of urban agriculture initiatives and development when considering land applications, economic development applications, partnership opportunity evaluation, and further plan development.

Indicators

measures by which progress towards urban agriculture action can be tracked and understood over a period of time. Should additional indicators be developed as part of future updates to the Urban Agriculture Plan, they must meet the following criteria to be effective:

- **Meaningful:** Does the metric reveal something important about the progress being made on the UAP? Will it promote understanding of the direction and magnitude of change over time?
- **Measurable:** Is it possible to obtain data on the state of this indicator? Is the level of resourcing required to implement these measures appropriate to the municipality?
- **Understandable:** Is the indicator easily understood by the intended audience, and will it motivate action and encourage reflection and adaptation over time?

Food Security



GOAL:

Beaumont strives to be a food-secure community where all residents and commercial food retailers have equal opportunities to access, grow, sell, and purchase affordable and nutritious food.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Recognize urban agriculture as infrastructure contributing to ecological benefits and food security.
- Encourage local food production and use for distribution and consumption in municipal and commercial retail operations.
- Support and facilitate partnerships between local food producers, food banks and food recovery organizations.
- Support First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities to define their own food systems.

INDICATORS:

- Household food insecurity (HFI) as monitored in the Canadian Community Health Survey.
- The number of publicly available community growing lots.
- The percent of utilized community growing lots.
- The number of commercial retail units that promote, utilize, or sell locally or regionally produced goods.

Awareness



GOAL:

Beaumont is a community knowledgeable about local food.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Support existing agricultural operations in Beaumont through education, land policies and partnerships.
- Connect residents with public education regarding the operational needs of agriculture to increase awareness and understanding and reduce conflict.
- Promote urban agricultural successes to improve public awareness of agricultural potential.
- Acknowledge the deep rooted cultural significance of food beyond production. For Indigenous Peoples food ensures wellbeing; it is a way of sustaining culture and community; and it is a way of reconnecting to the land.

INDICATORS:

- The number of agriculture-related inquiries and outreach to the City.
- The number of available local food education programs.
- The number of local food education program participants.

Community



GOAL:

Beaumont is a connected community of producers, distributors, and consumers.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Encourage integrated urban agriculture systems and programs which are publicly accessible.
- Build partnerships with local community groups, residents and businesses to support new opportunities for urban agriculture throughout Beaumont.
- Connect potential and new agricultural producers and distributors to existing agricultural network representatives.
- Encourage local retailers and food service vendors to provide locally sourced agricultural products for sale to compliment their existing retail inventory.

INDICATORS:

- The number of local community food assets (e.g. community gardens, edible landscaping sites, agricultural programs).
- The number of participants in community food programming.
- The number of retailers that actively promote or have visible marketing that they offer locally sourced products.

Innovation



GOAL:

Beaumont fosters a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in urban agriculture.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Retrofit existing urban spaces and landscaping with urban agriculture-supporting infrastructure.
- Encourage a diversity of urban agriculture initiatives, from small scale community gardens, to large scale hydroponic facilities where appropriate.
- Encourage innovative partnership strategies for urban agriculture production and maintenance with other forms of business (e.g. eco-industrial parks).

INDICATORS:

- The number of urban agricultural businesses.
- The diversity of urban agricultural initiatives (e.g. community oriented initiatives, intensive agricultural initiatives such as hydroponics, or private land programming availability).



Ecology



GOAL:

Beaumont is built upon a resilient ecological system, which leverages food production to support biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Encourage alternative landscaping to promote healthy soil with native and drought-tolerant plants, trees and shrubs.
- Encourage pollination crops and native plantings within community gardens and public park landscaping as an alternative to invasives and mono-cropping.
- Ensure agricultural compatibility and connectivity to natural areas through the ecological integration of biodiversity, wildlife corridors and conservation of ecological areas.
- Prioritize agricultural and coverage opportunities that work to: protect and restore local biodiversity, improve healthy riparian areas and wetlands, encourage local food production, promote ecological resilience to climate change and improve or maintain air quality.
- Embed the Seventh Generation Principle into decision making processes for sustainable energy, water, and natural resource management.

INDICATORS:

- The percent of public lands with native plantings and tree species diversity.
- The percent of community gardens with pollinator crops embedded.

Economy



GOAL:

Beaumont has a growing food economy that supports local businesses and value-added agriculture.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Support and provide opportunities for value-added agriculture (agri-innovation) throughout Beaumont and the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.
- Connect urban agriculture's role to sustainability initiatives when approaching funding opportunities.
- Encourage agri-tourism initiatives to support local business partnerships.
- Support food commercialization opportunities within Beaumont.
- Support urban agriculture social enterprise initiatives within the Beaumont community and across the region.
- Support business development capacities for farmers.
- Consider amendments to the Land Use Bylaw that would permit agricultural intensive uses within commercial land use areas.

INDICATORS:

- The value of farm-gate sales.
- The value of value-added agriculture sales.
- The value of farm receipts.
- The number of agriculturally-related businesses.
- The number of people employed in agricultural industries (number of people employed in NAICS labour codes identified in [Appendix D](#) of the RAMP Monitoring and Reporting Framework).
- The number of commercial lots that have actively engaged in agricultural operations on site.



Agriculture



GOAL:

Beaumont supports the retention and continued presence of agriculture in the community, including but not limited to the protection of agricultural lands until necessary for future population or employment needs to expand.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Retain agriculture as a complementary land use and minimize fragmentation of land.
- Apply Smart Growth principles to the considerations of new developments to manage urban growth with limited loss of Prime Agricultural Lands.
- Maximize the long term opportunities for the continued presence of agriculture.
- Ensure that agricultural lands and associated landscapes are sustainably managed.
- Provide public education about the daily and seasonal operational needs of agriculture and agricultural operators, to increase awareness and reduce conflict.
- Maintain agriculture use until lands are needed for population and/or employment growth.
- Ensure that existing agricultural operations continue to have access to land, including access to agricultural lands through field approaches and local roads sufficient to accommodate agricultural machinery.
- Consider keeping existing agricultural operations as an existing land use.

INDICATORS:

- Changes in agricultural land area (number of change occurrences, land area, land type, zoning/ designation):
 - Redesignation to agriculture through rezoning and redesignation.
 - Redesignation from agriculture through rezoning and redesignation.

Regulation



GOAL:

Beaumont has a supportive and equitable regulatory context for urban agriculture.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

- Encourage the integration of urban agriculture into city owned land and redesigning facilities such as community centres, schools and parks.
- Encourage the incorporation of communal gardening space and edible landscaping into multifamily developments and new neighbourhood design.
- Encourage pilot programs which support agriculture initiatives such as, but not limited to, community gardens, edible landscaping, beekeeping, or rooftop gardens.
- Consider soil management, including its reuse and recycling, as a part of Area Structure Plans for greenfield areas.
- Prioritize reclaimed lands as a benefit to the agricultural system with consideration for the environment, land, water resources and surrounding agricultural operations.
- Identify water access needs and requirements for new public urban agriculture initiatives, and propositions going through development processes.
- Promote the responsible use of resources in agricultural operations including: efficiently capture and reuse rainwater, stormwater, treated wastewater and greywater where possible and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- Integrate urban agriculture into broader sustainability strategies.
- Evolve definition and allowances for urban agriculture as pilot studies and feasibility studies produce learnings overtime.

INDICATORS:

- The percent of municipal plans which include considerations for urban agriculture in line with the UAP.
- The number of Land Use Bylaw amendment applications that support urban agriculture initiatives.
- The number of approved Land Use Bylaw amendments that support urban agriculture initiatives.



3.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 ROLES

Urban agriculture is a unique community initiative stream as implementation requires inputs from the City, agricultural community groups, and individual community members and businesses. Residents, BADAS, and interest groups in Beaumont have already been implementing many urban agriculture initiatives throughout the City. Given the multi-partner nature of urban agriculture, the initiatives selected were those in which the City has an active role in facilitating.

The City's role in urban agriculture

Through the initiatives below, the City's role varies from funder, implementer, convenor, planner/regulator, and advocate for urban agriculture. Across most actions, the City's collaboration with interest groups and residents is essential to ensuring successful implementation of urban agriculture across Beaumont.

Cultural organizations and agricultural society's role in urban agriculture

Multiple cultural organizations (including the agricultural society) in and surrounding Beaumont support the urban agriculture system through implementation, advocacy, knowledge sharing and convening those wanting to implement their own urban agriculture initiatives. These groups are often the driving force behind education and are seen as important partners for the City in implementing urban agriculture.

The community's role in urban agriculture

Residents and businesses in Beaumont are the primary implementers and advocates for urban agriculture. The implementation steps of this plan are intended to ensure that community members have access to the information, resources, and regulatory context necessary to implement urban agriculture that is appropriate for Beaumont.



3.2 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

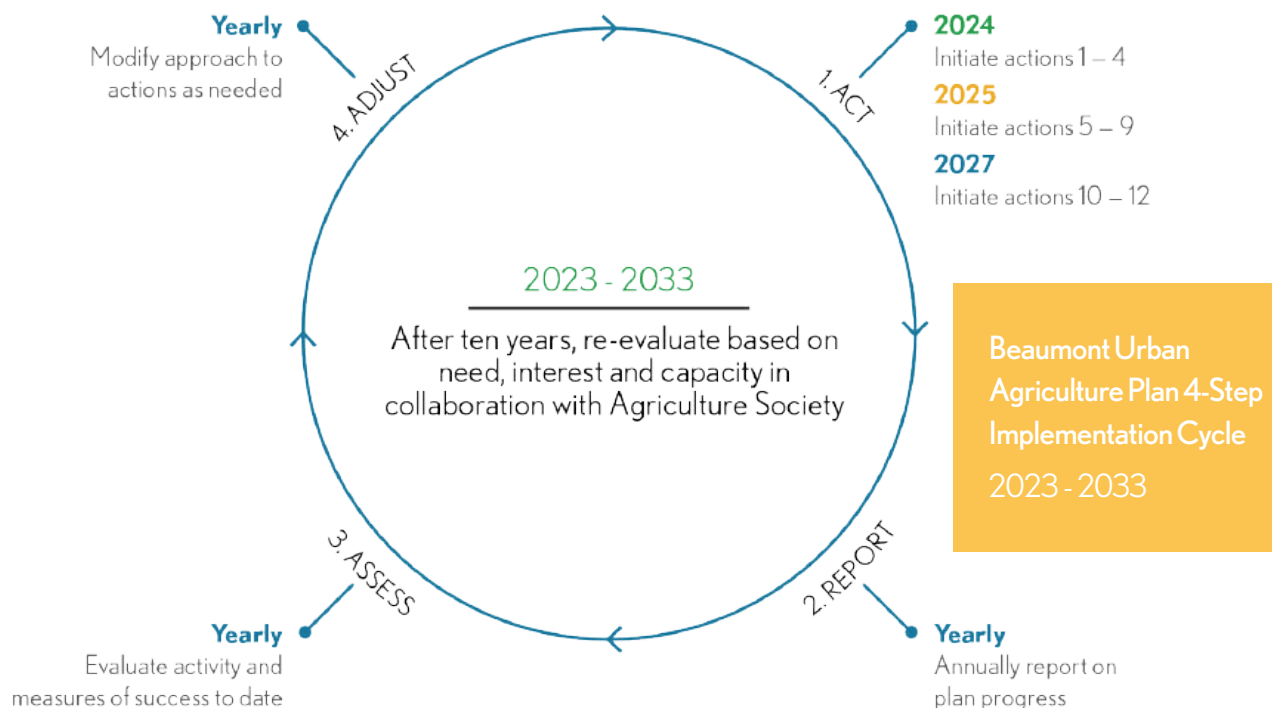
To ensure effective action, it is important to be adaptable and agile while staying true to the established goals. Implementation is planned for a ten-year period, but unique actions should be monitored annually once they are underway. This fosters a culture of continuous learning, iteration, and improvement, supporting progress and accommodating emerging challenges and opportunities. Each implementation interval includes four distinct steps: **Act, Report, Assess, and Adjust**. The steps progress each year, as follows:

Act: Through key actions listed in this plan and emergent opportunities, the City will build on existing community momentum, learn from implementation, and adjust as needed to realize progress towards the vision.

Report: The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will prepare and deliver annual progress reports to ensure transparency and accountability, and to update leadership, staff, and others on progress towards the future, detailed urban agriculture implementation, and highlights from the past year.

Assess: Through the planned ten-year interval, there is time allocated to assess the state of implementation. This includes those resulting from shared effort, the difficult challenges that remain unresolved, and the available and emerging resources, among others. It will also address outcomes from assessment in the forthcoming year of work. This will ensure challenges can be mitigated, opportunities may be capitalized upon, and progress may continue towards the vision.

Adjust: Urban agriculture initiatives are highly collaborative in nature, subject to many outside influences. The Urban Agriculture Plan will remain relevant and responsive to the organizational and community context of Beaumont through the adaptive potential revealed in both annual and ten-year milestone plan review periods.



3.3 KEY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

3.3.1 Action Selection

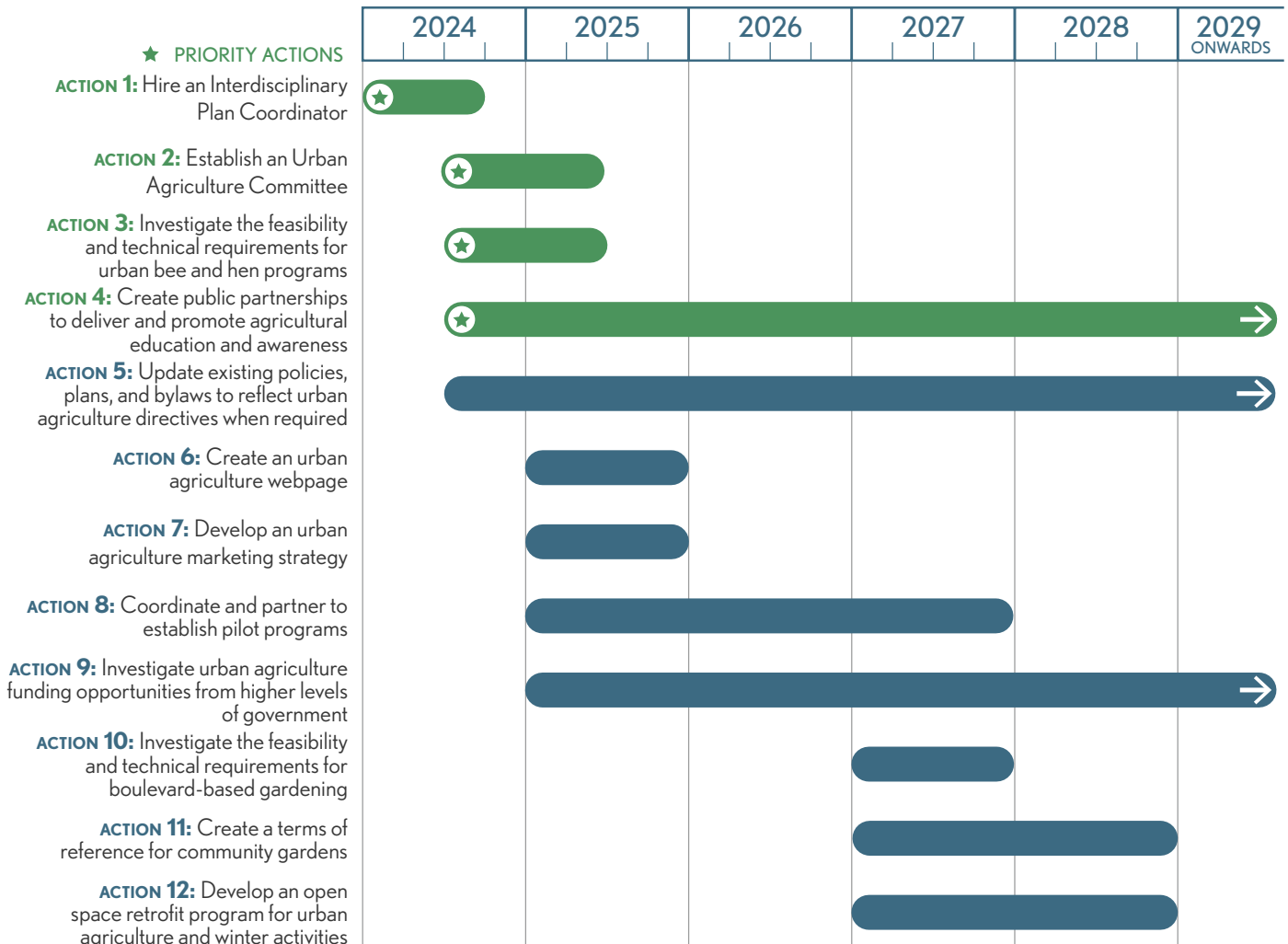
Initial actions recommended in this plan stem from existing policies, case studies, subject matter expertise and community engagement. These actions were selected using the following selection criteria:

- Is the action in line with RAMP, Beaumont’s MDP and other legislative requirements?
- Is the action within the control or influence of the City?
- Will the action build momentum for future urban agriculture actions?

To see a list of all actions and action areas proposed through research and engagement, see [Appendix E](#).

3.3.2 Action Phasing

The four-step approach to implementation listed in [section 3.2](#) supports continual progress, learning and adaptation in the delivery of the comprehensive set of actions. The following chart displays actions currently proposed for Beaumont’s context to initiate action towards urban agriculture. While the following action phasing has been proposed to facilitate strategic movement towards achieving the UAP’s vision and goals, outside of the four priority actions identified in [section 3.3.4](#), actions may be initiated in the order deemed most appropriate by the City.



3.3.3 Action Structure

Each of the key actions include a number of consistent supporting details to promote clarity, sharpen focus, and encourage prioritization of effort. Within the body of the document, each action contains the following information:

Description: A detailed explanation of the action to be taken.

Rationale: Supplementary information describing why the action is important.

Completion / Progress Indicator: The state in which the action can be considered completed.

Potential Partners: Potential groups, departments, and external partners in the broader community that can aid in implementing the action.

Comprehensive and complete versions of each action are presented in [Appendix B](#). Appendix B is intended for use by those implementing, overseeing or otherwise supporting the delivery of the Plan. The document contains a summary of the overall plan framework to support quick reference, a description of the four-step implementation approach and a comprehensive explanation of each of the 12 Plan actions.

Each action included in Appendix B includes the same description, rationale, and potential partners, with further detail on:

Goal Alignment: A display of the action's alignment with one or more of the goals identified in [Section 2.3](#).

Action Dependencies: A list of actions which are required to make progress on the action

Key Steps: The essential steps necessary to realize the action, with anticipated timing.

Estimated resources: The expected range of resourcing needed to deliver this action.

Role of the Municipality: The municipality's role in delivering the action.

Role of the Community: The role community organizations and residents would play in delivering the action

Action Owner: The lead department responsible for delivering the action.

Measures of success: Identified indicators to track progress towards the desired end state.

Plan and Policies: Plans and policies which directly support the creation and/or execution of this action OR that should be referenced in executing this action.

3.3.4 Action Summary

As the UAP is the first comprehensive approach to urban agriculture action in Beaumont, it contains several priority actions that will form the basis of implementation. These actions promote organization, collaboration and stewardship of the Plan, reflection on action delivery and plan progress and alignment with the overarching vision and goals.

These priority actions concern the establishment of an Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator position ([Action 1](#)), the development of an Urban Agriculture Committee ([Action 2](#)), the investigation of urban bee and hen programs ([Action 3](#)), and public partnerships to deliver and promote agricultural education and awareness ([Action 4](#)).

Delivery of the actions is intended as a complementary and comprehensive effort, where progress in one area of action supports the generation of momentum or progress in another. While this is a way to maximize effort, it also means that progress must be consistent across all 12 actions. Actions have been logically sequenced by time and priority to reflect this.



ACTION 1

Hire an Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator

Description:

Create an *'Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator'* position. The person in this position will act as the primary connector for all urban agriculture matters, providing all citizens and business and industry partners with a centralized City administrator. The person in this role will lead and assist with various elements of the Beaumont Urban Agriculture Plan and EMRB Regional Agriculture Master Plan implementation and evaluation, providing the City with a new wealth of dialogue, networking capacity and knowledge. Situated within the Planning and Development Department, they will also oversee the implementation and evaluation of other interdisciplinary plans, such as the Winter City Strategy and Age Friendly Strategy.

Rationale:

An Interdisciplinary Coordinator position is required to ensure the urban agriculture plan's implementation and realization of the plan's vision and goals. The person in this position will: direct plan implementation, coordinate existing resources, advocate for, identify and source new resources, provide feedback on planning and development applications, collaborate with citizens and business and industry partners across Beaumont and the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, and review plan progress and outcomes.

Completion:

An Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator has been hired, with the Coordinator assuming a lead role in stewarding the implementation of the urban agriculture plan.

Potential Partners

- Human Resources Department

ACTION 2

Establish an Urban Agriculture Committee

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will oversee the design, recruitment and facilitation of an advisory committee that offers community experts, City administration and residents the opportunity for ongoing involvement in Beaumont's urban agriculture planning. This small group of individuals will meet on a regular basis to lend their insights and ideas, as well as their network of fellow experts and enthusiasts, to sustain the equitable evolution of urban agriculture in Beaumont.

Rationale:

The committee would be the primary connector between City administration and the public for program development and implementation. The committee's intent is to ensure that urban agriculture programming is progressing and for Beaumont's knowledgeable and enthusiastic community residents and implementers to connect, ask questions and share knowledge and programs with the greater community.

Completion:

The first meeting of the Urban Agriculture Committee is held. However, recurring committee meetings will be an ongoing action.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4, Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, or other Indigenous governance
- Community and Social Development Department
- Recreation Department
- Development Industry
- Residents
- Business and Industry partners
- Schools
- Regional Partners

ACTION 3

Investigate the feasibility and technical requirements for urban bee and hen programs

Description:

City Administration will investigate the feasibility and technical requirements of keeping both urban bees and hens in Beaumont, leveraging learnings from existing programs in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. Findings from the feasibility and technical assessments will provide key considerations to pilot and implement urban bee and hen programs. Continued community engagement on urban hens and bees is recommended as part of this process.

Rationale:

Throughout the project engagement, urban chickens and urban bees were a polarizing topic in Beaumont. While the majority of residents expressed support for creating urban chicken and urban bee programs in Beaumont, a vocal minority are opposed to the idea, highlighting concerns around perceived noise, smell and mess. A feasibility and technical requirements study will inform City administration and key decision makers on risks and best practices of implementing urban bee and hen programs, with the intent to launch pilot programs, or pause further investigations if the programs are deemed unfeasible.

Completion:

Decisions have been made to launch pilot programs, or pause further investigations, for both urban bee and hen programs.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Planning and Development Department
- Communications Department
- Municipal Enforcement
- Regional partners

ACTION 4

Create public partnerships to deliver and promote agricultural education and awareness

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will partner with new and established organizations, experts, educators and First Nations and Métis groups to deliver urban agriculture education and awareness activities in Beaumont. Activities can span from educational programming and materials, to community events and awareness building initiatives that spotlight agriculture in the community, empowering all interested residents to have the ability to grow their own food to improve local food access.

Rationale:

Lack of agricultural knowledge was mentioned frequently as a barrier to aspiring agriculturalists. Establishing partnerships to deliver programming through established community events, schools and new educational methods will allow agriculture experts to connect and inspire local residents looking to get a start in urban agriculture. Educational programming will be necessary to ensure citizens and business and industry partners are aware of the relevant policies, needs, and requirements of urban agriculture initiatives.

Progress Indicator:

Number of partnerships created.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural Society
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4, Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, or other Indigenous governance
- Urban Agriculture Committee
- Communications Department
- Community and Social Development Department
- Economic Development Department
- Action for Health Communities

ACTION 5

Update existing policies, plans, and bylaws to reflect urban agriculture directives when required

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will align and update existing policies, plans and bylaws as required to support the content of the Urban Agriculture Plan and Regional Agriculture Master Plan.

This may include considerations which investigate:

- Definitions for urban agriculture elements, including: value-add agriculture, container farming, rooftop farming, indoor farming, and small plot intensive farms.
- Value-add and agricultural sales considerations.
- Evaluation of incentives and regulations for developments to incorporate urban agriculture and native plantings.
- Updated animal husbandry allowances (see [Action 3](#))
- Embedding urban agriculture as a land use in the municipal planning system of statutory plans and Land Use Bylaws.

Rationale:

Ensuring alignment across all City policies and regulatory requirements will increase clarity and transparency of decision making, reducing barriers to implementing urban agriculture initiatives. Alignment across City departments will result in a uniform and consistent approach to urban agriculture that reflects the priorities of the community.

Progress Indicator:

Number of actions in the Urban Agriculture Plan considered in policy, plan, and bylaw updates.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Planning and Development Department
- Economic Development Department
- Municipal Enforcement
- Development Industry
- Business and Industry partners

ACTION 6

Create an urban agriculture webpage

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will develop and maintain a webpage on the City's website that offers resources for the community to connect with one another, and access information on local agricultural resources, regional producers, facilities, community spaces and educational opportunities within the region.

Rationale:

Information sharing was one of the most frequently mentioned actions necessary to connect producers to consumers and to educate those starting into urban agriculture.

Completion:

The urban agriculture webpage has launched, with an updating and maintenance program in place.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Communications Department
- Community and Social Development Department
- Corporate Analytics and Technology Department

ACTION 7

Develop an urban agriculture marketing strategy

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will design and establish an urban agriculture marketing strategy to promote awareness of urban agriculture opportunities, spark interest and involvement in related activities, grow regional agri-tourism, and attract investment to the community.

Rationale:

Sharing ongoing urban agriculture programs and opportunities through marketing strategies and action plans will show what agriculture opportunities are possible in Beaumont in hopes of generating public buy-in, knowledge sharing and inspiration. Marketing will help to ensure that new and established programs are celebrated for their contributions to Beaumont's economy and community life.

Completion:

A marketing strategy for urban agriculture has been created and implemented.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Urban Agriculture Committee
- Communication Department
- Corporate Analytics and Technology Department
- Economic Development Department

ACTION 8

Coordinate and partner to provide pilot programs

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will provide support and direction to citizens, business and industry partners, and local community groups in piloting small and medium scale urban agriculture initiatives on non-municipal lands. Pilots would depend on public interest and regulatory needs but may include:

- Urban bee and hen pilot programs
- Community garden pilot programs (at various scales)
- Biodiverse and bee-friendly gardening pilot programs
- Value-add agriculture pilot programs
- Local production distribution and export pilot programs
- Food bank services

Rationale:

Pilot programs create an environment for citizens, business and industry partners, and local community groups to demonstrate innovative urban agriculture solutions in Beaumont's local context, allowing the City to understand what forms of urban agriculture are possible, publicly supported and appropriate.

Completion:

Pilot programs appropriate to Beaumont's context have been implemented, tested and reported on non-municipal land.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4, Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, or other Indigenous governance
- Urban Agriculture Committee
- Infrastructure and Parks Department
- Community and Social Development Department
- Economic Development Department
- Schools and Neighbourhood Groups
- Business and Industry partners

ACTION 9

Investigate urban agriculture funding opportunities from higher levels of government

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will review federal and provincial funds available to support the implementation of urban agriculture actions in Beaumont. Pursuing funding streams, both with and without partners, where available funds match the intended initiatives and direction of the Urban Agriculture Plan will work towards promoting local investment in agriculture.

Rationale:

Agriculture is often funded by provincial and federal governments for implementation. Utilizing and promoting local funding opportunities has the ability to improve value-add economic development attraction opportunities, support local production, distribution and export, and support initiatives that the City or residents are looking to pursue.

Progress Indicator:

Number of provincial and federal grant opportunities successfully secured.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Urban Agriculture Committee
- Economic Development Department
- Regional Partners
- Communities ChooseWell
- Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board

ACTION 10

Investigate the feasibility and technical requirements for boulevard-based gardening

Description:

Determining if boulevard gardening is appropriate for Beaumont through the completion of a feasibility and technical study for residents planting on residential boulevards which are adjoined to their houses, leveraging learnings from existing programs in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.

Rationale:

To increase the total arable land area in Beaumont, increase biodiverse plantings and respond to resident support for boulevard-based gardening. The permitted allowances for boulevard gardening are currently limited, and given Beaumont's unique neighbourhood style, additional investigations are necessary to clarify definitions, maintenance responsibilities, permissible growing areas and if the amount of area available for boulevard-based gardening is appropriate.

Completion:

A decision has been made to pilot, or pause further investigations, into boulevard gardening.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural Society
- Urban Agriculture Committee
- Infrastructure and Parks Department
- Municipal Enforcement
- Development Industry
- Business and Industry partners
- Regional partners

ACTION 11

Create terms of reference for community gardens

Description:

The City's Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will establish a 'terms of reference' document that outlines the steps to establishing and maintaining community gardens in Beaumont. This action will assist residents and community groups to establish community-led gardens on public lands.

Rationale:

To provide community residents with safe and accessible spaces, and a streamlined process, to establish community gardens while ensuring that City requirements, design and liability needs are met. To establish inspiration and instructions for those implementing a community garden on public land for the first time.

Completion:

A community garden terms of reference and maintenance agreement are completed and available to the public.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Urban Agriculture Committee
- Infrastructure and Parks Department
- Recreation Department
- Community and Social Development
- Planning and Development
- Municipal Enforcement
- Development Industry
- Schools

ACTION 12

Develop an open space retrofit program for urban agriculture and winter activities

Description:

An open space retrofit program would evaluate the possibility of incorporating urban agriculture and winter activity opportunities into existing outdoor spaces when considering neighbourhood renewal projects. This includes the creation of amenity nodes in parks and along trails that provide activities such as community gardens, planters, food pantries, benches, shelters, edible landscaping, medicine gardens, fire pits and lighting, among other opportunities identified by the program.

Rationale:

To ensure that public spaces align with the values of the Urban Agriculture Plan, consideration should be given to converting spaces and landscape elements to include urban agriculture features and opportunities for the public.

Completion:

An open space retrofit program has been created and implemented.

Potential Partners

- Agricultural society
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4, Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, or other Indigenous governance
- Urban Agriculture Committee
- Infrastructure and Parks Department
- Recreation Department
- Development Industry
- Planning and Development





4.0 MOVING FORWARD

In the fall of 2023, the Urban Agriculture Plan is to be presented to Council for consideration and approval. Once approved, the process of hiring an Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator should begin. This position will be responsible for implementing and overseeing the urban agriculture initiatives outlined in the plan. In 2024, the coordinator and long-range planning staff will collaborate with relevant departments to integrate the plan into the budget process, ensuring the allocation of necessary resources and funding.

Simultaneously, the City can lead key activities such as community outreach, education programs, zoning changes, infrastructure development, and support for urban farming projects. Collaboration with the newly formed Urban Agriculture Committee and partnerships with local organizations will be crucial to the success of this plan.

Throughout the implementation process, it is essential to monitor the progress of the urban agriculture initiatives and evaluate their effectiveness. This ongoing monitoring and evaluation will help identify areas that require adjustments or improvements, ensuring the plan's success in promoting sustainable food production, community engagement and improved urban environments.

The success of urban agriculture in Beaumont ultimately depends on the commitment and active participation of the community. Engaging and empowering residents is crucial, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for food security. Without genuine community involvement, the full potential of urban agriculture may remain untapped, hindering its ability to create lasting change.

As we embark on this transformative journey, we invite all residents and organizations to join in shaping the future of urban agriculture in Beaumont. Together, we can create a vibrant and resilient community, where agriculture thrives, food nourishes and our connection to the land becomes stronger.

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APPENDICIES

Appendix A

Definitions

Appendix B

Detailed Actions

Appendix C

Research Highlight Deck

Appendix D

Phase 1 WWHR

Appendix E

Phase 2 WWHR

Appendix F

Other Urban Agriculture Actions

Appendix G

Alignment with RAMP Guidelines

