

Update on the Toronto Agricultural Program

Date:	June 6, 2014
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	Deputy City Manager, Cluster A
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS # 18956

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on work to date on the Toronto Agricultural Program (TAP). The report identifies progress on the 2013-2014 TAP Work Plan and indicates next steps for the program as it broadens its focus from short-term objectives and activities to include long-term goals. The report identifies three key activities moving forward:

1. supporting promotion of agricultural activities;
2. facilitating access to land for agriculture; and
3. identifying and addressing policy barriers to the expansion of agriculture in Toronto.

The report also addresses directions to staff from Council, including: identifying funding sources to support the TAP; a review of insurance issues for Farmers' Markets; a definition of Urban Agriculture Centres; and the best means to estimate the quantity of food produced in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager for Cluster A recommends that:

1. Parks and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

Financial Impact Statement

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendations included in this report. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Equity Impact Statement

Urban agriculture is an effective mechanism to engage diverse communities and build strong neighbourhoods. The promotion of urban agriculture in Toronto recognizes the potential for these activities to contribute to social outcomes and community benefits such as increased engagement, employment, health, environmental sustainability, volunteerism, capacity building, safety and learning opportunities. Consequently, when designing and implementing urban agricultural activities, the City will consider barriers faced by members of equity-seeking groups to equitable access, participation and benefit.

To support these outcomes, the City of Toronto's Equity Lens will be applied where appropriate, to guide equitable allocation and distribution of resources, help set priorities, address the needs of the most disadvantaged and facilitate social development in neighborhood improvement areas through the strategic use of various City planning tools and resources.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of November 13, 14, 15 and 18, 2013, City Council adopted the Toronto Agricultural Program consisting of the City-Sector Steering Committee, Working Group and 2013-2014 Work Plan. Council also provided several directions to staff related to activities to scale up Toronto's urban agriculture.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.PE23.1>

At its meeting of November 27, 2012, Toronto City Council adopted GrowTO: An Urban Agriculture Action Plan for Toronto. City Council requested the Deputy City Manager for Cluster A to report on mechanisms for promoting and expanding urban agriculture including identifying where the City is already supporting the community, what opportunities are available to enhance support, what resources would be required and ways to coordinate City operations. The following is a link to the decision.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.PE17.5>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Communities across Toronto have been expressing growing interest in, and support for, the production, consumption and sale of locally-grown food. This interest has resulted in rising demand for farmers' markets, waiting lists for space at City community and allotment gardens, and new urban farms, social enterprises and new partnerships. As the market for local food expands in Toronto, new opportunities for urban agriculture are emerging, creating a compelling case for advancing City support and coordination.

GrowTO: An Urban Agriculture Action Plan for Toronto, the result of over three years of collaborative work by community and institutional stakeholders with participation from various City Divisions and Agencies, was adopted by City Council in November, 2012. The recommendations were based on the 2010 Metcalf Foundation report "Scaling Up Urban Agriculture in Toronto: Building the Infrastructure" and identified six priorities for scaling up urban agriculture in the city of Toronto:

1. Link Growers to Land and Space
2. Strengthen Education and Training
3. Increase Visibility and Promotion
4. Add Value to Urban Gardens
5. Cultivate Partnerships
6. Develop Supportive Policies

The GrowTO Action Plan established a framework to help the City of Toronto realize the full potential of urban agriculture. A specific work plan was the next step. Toronto City Council adopted this work plan as the Toronto Agricultural Program (TAP) in November, 2013. The TAP identifies a series of immediate and short-term activities aligned with GrowTO priority areas that can be implemented within existing resources. It also presents longer-term opportunities and potential for extending existing partnerships to promote growth of the agricultural sector across the city. This report provides an update on activities to date, and specifies the next steps to move the TAP forward.

COMMENTS

Progress on the Toronto Agricultural Program

The Council-approved framework of the Toronto Agricultural Program consists of three main elements: a City-Sector Urban Agricultural Steering Committee, a staff Working Group, and a 2013-2014 Work Plan of activities.

The City-Sector Urban Agricultural Steering Committee is composed of senior staff from key City divisions and agencies, and stakeholders from Toronto's urban agricultural community. It is led by the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A. The primary role of the Steering Committee is to plan and coordinate strategic City activities, actions and priorities, to identify opportunities for new initiatives and partnerships, and to leverage existing or prospective opportunities. The Steering Committee has held two meetings and has begun articulating a strategic vision that will define activities for the Toronto Agricultural Program beyond the initial 2013-2014 Work Plan.

The Steering Committee is supported by a Working Group comprised of staff from participating Divisions and Agencies. The Working Group is responsible for leading implementation of the work plan. For this report, Working Group members have provided progress updates on all the activities identified in the Toronto Agricultural Program's work plan for 2013-2014. This information is included in the table attached as Appendix 1: Update on 2013-2014 Urban Agricultural Work Plan Activities.

This short-term work plan consists of activities that were identified as being able to be implemented with existing City resources. Almost all of these activities have been completed or are well underway. Progress on the work plan has led to improved collaboration and partnership with community organizations and institutions, concrete emerging ideas for scaling up agriculture in the city, and increased coordination and improved documentation of the City's activities supporting urban agriculture.

In addition, other supporting activities addressing directions from Council have been completed or are underway. A review of insurance issues for Farmers' Markets has been completed, the findings of which are presented in Appendix 2. The City-Sector Steering Committee and Staff Working Group have developed a definition of Urban Agriculture Centres. In support of this work, staff are working with FoodShare to determine whether any of the City's property holdings might be a match for FoodShare's needs for a new location. Staff have researched the best means to estimate the amount of local food production—a discussion of this research is included as Appendix 3.

Continuing coordination of the City's urban agriculture activities remains an important element of the Toronto Agricultural Program, and a new work plan for 2015 and beyond will be developed upon the completion of the 2013-2014 Work Plan. However, with the formation of the Steering Committee and Working Group, attention is now being turned toward longer-term initiatives that support the scaling up of urban agriculture in Toronto.

Next Steps for the Toronto Agricultural Program

In its initial meetings, the City-Sector Steering Committee has gravitated toward three key activities that will drive continued implementation of the Toronto Agricultural Program:

1. Supporting promotion of agricultural activities;
2. Facilitating access to land for agriculture; and
3. Identifying and addressing policy barriers to the expansion of agriculture in Toronto.

Each of these key activities addresses one or more of the GrowTO priorities. The first supports the priorities *Strengthen Education & Training* and *Increase Visibility & Promotion*. The second maps directly onto the priority *Link Growers to Land & Space*, and the third maps directly onto the priority *Develop Supportive Policies*.

The GrowTO Action Plan and the Toronto Agricultural Program (TAP) acknowledge that various scales of urban agriculture activity are possible across the city. Each of the key activities, and indeed much of the work of the TAP, will need to consider how to operate at a range of scales, from small community gardens and mid-scale market gardens right up to larger commercial farms and enterprises.

Promoting agricultural activities

The key focus of the work surrounding promotion of urban agricultural activities has been around defining the idea of Urban Agriculture Centres (UACs). The City-Sector Steering Committee discussed a draft definition of UACs prepared by the Toronto Urban Growers.

Some key characteristics of UACs were identified through these discussions. Urban Agriculture Centres are hubs which serve multiple functions within their communities. This means that UACs can fulfill a wide range of objectives which cut across economic, community, health, and environmental impacts of urban agriculture, such as:

- Providing education and training;
- Augmenting green infrastructure and environmental protection;
- Increasing food literacy and access to healthy, local food;

- Promoting social cohesion across diversity;
- Creating safe, vibrant public spaces;
- Increasing citizen engagement and support emerging leaders;
- Building community capacity to take action on local issues;
- Strengthening community and individual resiliency;
- Improving physical and mental health outcomes;
- Leveraging funding from multiple sources for community projects;
- Providing economic opportunities and pathways to employment in the food sector; and
- Positioning Toronto as a leader in the field of social, environmental and economic innovations.

Any effective definition of an Urban Agriculture Centre must acknowledge the dynamic nature of agricultural activity. Each UAC could operate at a different scale, ranging from a small, tightly local scale or a neighbourhood, to a large, city- or even region-wide resource. . At a smaller scale, a UAC might involve wrapping urban agriculture promotion activities around existing hubs and organizations. In some instances there might be a need to establish a new UAC while in others existing organizations and infrastructure is already in place and would thus only need to be networked. Working with FoodShare on their relocation needs will help to define what UACs might look like at the larger end of the scale.

What is key is that UACs offer interconnecting services to provide resources; develop human capital; promote urban agriculture; and support agricultural entrepreneurialism. This would thus build on existing community and agricultural infrastructure in the City. Building a complete inventory of the breadth of community agriculture resources in Toronto is therefore a necessary step to assessing specific areas where hubs might be supported, and the role of supporting City services.

Facilitating access to land

A key piece of work will be to identify areas of land where the City can help facilitate access for local farmers, community groups, or residents for the purpose of agriculture. To an even greater extent than for Urban Agriculture Centres, there are diverse scales of activities related to land access. Work in this area could range from working with Parks Canada to identify a large site within the Rouge National Urban Park, to supporting and/or promoting gardening at medium smaller scales such as on hydro corridors, suitable City-owned spaces, or community spaces such as school spaces or apartment towers included in the new Residential Apartment Commercial zoning sites. These various areas of land are also owned by diverse players—not only City divisions but also agencies, corporations and private land-owners. Each of these potential urban agriculture opportunities present its own specific challenges. The Working Group, under the guidance of the Steering Committee, will use its shared expertise to facilitate land access at these varied scales.

Identifying and addressing policy barriers

As work on the Toronto Agricultural Program proceeds, challenges and barriers will be clearly identified. Activities at different scales will also reveal different types of barriers. It will be necessary to engage both broad policy and site-specific strategies in order to address these barriers. A review of municipal planning barriers will be one significant area of work, but

discussion at the Steering Committee also suggested that an Urban Agriculture Policy for the City of Toronto would be helpful to guide urban agriculture-related decision-making across the city. This is exactly the sort of work which will require the broad skills and interests represented at the Steering Committee and the staff Working Group.

Funding future activities

Securing resources to support the Toronto Agricultural Program will be necessary for some of the longer-term activities identified in the framework. Staff have been working in partnership with Toronto Urban Growers and other stakeholders to identify sources of funding. Ontario's Local Food Fund is one possible such source, and a proposal titled "GrowTO: Partners for Local Food Production" was submitted at the end of February, 2014.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food is reviewing the application and a decision is expected in the coming months. The proposal represents an ongoing partnership between the City of Toronto, the Toronto Urban Growers and Greenest City. Local Food Fund proposals require matching funds from their applicants, and the City is supporting its share of matching funds (\$33,000) through grant applications to Live Green and the McConnell Foundation, existing dedicated funds and Economic Development & Culture (through the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farm Alliance), all funded at net zero impact to the City. A proposal has also been submitted by Toronto Urban Growers to the Metcalf Foundation for \$4,000 to further support the activities in the Local Food Fund proposal. Committee members continue to monitor other funding opportunities.

The proposal seeks to increase consumption of Ontario-grown food through the development and implementation of three key components:

1. Build public food literacy and practitioner capacity through an Urban Agriculture Knowledge Centre that promotes knowledge exchange, encourages collaborations and innovations in local food production and acts as a catalyst for economic and social development;
2. Undertake partnerships with neighbourhood-based organizations to develop a plan for Local Urban Agriculture Hubs in communities in the north, east and west ends of the city; and
3. Establish a Replication and Innovation Process that shares best practices between organizations in Toronto and across the GTA and Golden Horseshoe.

Assessing the impact of the Toronto Agricultural Program

The potential for urban agriculture in Toronto is significant. A 2012 study showed that scaling up urban agricultural activities in the city of Toronto could supply ten percent of the city's commercial demand for fresh vegetables¹, and in the process create jobs and economic opportunity, engage diverse communities, and enhance the urban environment.

¹ Rod MacRae, Joe Nasr, James Kuhns, Lauren Baker, Russ Christianson, Martin Danyluk, Abra Snider, Eric Gallant, Penny Kaill-Vinish, Marc Michalak, Janet Oswald, Sima Patel, and Gerda Wekerle, "Could Toronto Provide 10% of its Fresh Vegetable Requirements from Within its Own Boundaries? Part II, Policy Supports and Program Design." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*, Feb. 2012 (pp. 147–169)

The TAP is exploring the best indicators to assess the impact of the City's efforts to scale up urban agriculture in the city. One indicator is the amount of locally grown food produced in Toronto. Another indicator is the amount of land dedicated to food growing in the city. A discussion of approaches to assessing this impact is provided in Appendix 3.

It is important to note that the Toronto Agricultural Program anticipates benefits beyond increasing the yield of locally grown food within the city. A range of indicators that reflect of the anticipated benefits of urban agriculture, be they economic, community, health, and environmental, will be a necessary part of the work moving forward. Work on indicator development is included in the work plan, is still underway, and will be included in a report back in the next term of Council.

While the scale and scope of support the City of Toronto is currently providing to the development of urban agriculture in the city is substantial, the growing interest, momentum, knowledge and capacity amongst stakeholders has generated additional expectations of, and pressures on, City of Toronto resources and services. City divisions will continue to review the activities undertaken as part of the Toronto Agricultural Program that impact the urban agricultural agenda. Staff will report back in the new term of Council on the progress being made and suggest a possible organizational model to strengthen the work, if required.

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Update on 2013-2014 Urban Agricultural Work Plan Activities
Appendix 2: Insurance Considerations for Farmers' Markets
Appendix 3: Estimating the Amount of Food Grown in Toronto

Appendix 1
Update on 2013-2014 Urban Agricultural Work Plan Activities

GrowTO Priority	Division/ Agency/ Corporation	Activity	Update
Link Growers to Land and Space	PFR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, PFR is supporting the development of two community gardens, bringing a total of 57 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFR developed two additional community garden sites in 2013 in Wards 33 and 36.
	PFR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014, three-to-four new community gardens are planned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of completed community garden installations for 2014 will be available by year end.
	EED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote urban agriculture on rooftops through the Eco-Roof Incentive Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eco-Roof Incentive Program promotes the installation of green roofs in Toronto by offering financial incentives to property owners. Applicants proposing green roofs on their buildings are encouraged to consider growing food producing plants on their rooftops. Staff are investigating changes to program eligibility criteria to allow for more green roofs to be used for food production.
	City Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop best practices/guidelines for growing food on rooftops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Best Practices/Guidelines for Rooftop Agriculture based on survey of six case studies, including examples of container gardening, green roof systems, and hydroponic (soilless) gardening.
	SDFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014, develop and provide information to apartment property owners on best practices in supporting community and allotment gardens on their sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to include current gardens, areas of need and opportunities in the assessment for, and to incorporate urban agriculture toolkits as a resource in, the STEP program. STEP is designed to incrementally build the capacity of property owners to undertake increasingly substantial projects in a variety of areas.
Strengthen Education and Training	EED & PFR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the Volunteer Horticulture Program (VHP) is in place there is an opportunity to link with the Live Green Toronto Volunteers program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Volunteer Horticulture Program (VHP) has not yet been developed by PFR. EED is prepared to participate when it is, and will link it with the Live Green Toronto Volunteers program.
	ED&C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the quarterly 'How to Start a Food Business Seminars' for individuals interested in starting up food production operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ran the first seminar in March of this year. 75 individuals attended the seminar and we donated \$1220 to the YMCA Food Service training program at Metro Hall. The next seminar is planned for June 9th, 2014 and about 60 individuals are expected to attend.

GrowTO Priority	Division/ Agency/ Corporation	Activity	Update
	TPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the World Crops Learning Gardens initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPH and the Toronto Food Policy Council have partnered with Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and the Toronto Urban Growers in a project to link locally grown World Crops to food retailers across the City. A business plan for this initiative is being developed through funding received from The McConnell Foundation.
	TPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Nurses support existing and new school food gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Nurses continue to support the development and maintenance of school food gardens, supporting school communities to make links between these gardens and broader health issues.
	SDFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, deliver Recipe for Community initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, continued to deliver the third Recipe for Community project site in Weston-Mount Dennis. Planning is now underway in collaboration with Toronto Community Foundation for a fourth project site, with an announcement due soon.
	PFR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver children's garden programming in High Park and staff program and garden training at additional 14 expansion garden sites, and education and demonstration at its existing community gardens and greenhouses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014 there are 18 sites in the City, including High Park, where Children's Garden Programming is delivered by City Staff or in partnership with others e.g. Toronto Botanic Garden, Greenest City. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toronto East York: 5 North York: 3 Scarborough: 4 Etobicoke York: 6 In 2013 Garden Programs were attended by approximately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 Children and Youth; 30 City and Community Partners; 80 Volunteers; 1,000 Community Members.
	TRCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop additional private/public partnerships for building community capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRCA is supporting the development of the Black Creek Community Farm, a partnership initiative between TRCA and Everdale through on site and infrastructure improvements – i.e., greenhouses, trails, planning and approvals. Expression of Interest circulated for The Living Farm, Vaughan for a new farm partner. TRCA is in the process of negotiating a lease agreement with a new farmer for The Living City Farm. TRCA continues to serve on the Toronto Food Policy Council, Markham Agriculture Advisory Committee, the Greater Toronto Area Agriculture Action Committee, and the Toronto Urban Agriculture Steering

GrowTO Priority	Division/ Agency/ Corporation	Activity	Update
			<p>Committee and Working Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRCA's Black Creek SNAP issued a Request for Expressions of Interest for a surplus harvest donation program in the Black Creek Neighbourhood. • The Black Creek Community Farm is supplying fresh produce to Black Creek Pioneer Food Services, demonstrating sustainable institutional procurement models. • TRCA is contributing to the discussion around the future of agriculture within Rouge Park. • Surplus Harvest Donation: collect donated excess produce harvested from Black Creek SNAP neighbourhood homeowners via truck and distribute to a local food program (e.g. at San Romanoway) or food bank. • Gardening Assistance: provide gardening help from individuals or organization to Black Creek SNAP neighbourhood homeowners, who have vegetable gardens and fruit trees, in return for an established share of the harvested produce for the individual or organization. • Donate Your Backyard: Black Creek SNAP is working with homeowners interested in offer their backyards and are matched with an individual (from the Black Creek SNAP neighbourhood) or organization for them to farm the vegetable gardens and/or tend the fruit trees in exchange for an established share of the harvested produce, with the individual or organization taking the bulk of the harvest. At least 55-60% of the harvested produce must stay in the neighbourhood.
	TRCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop formal education and general stewardship as part of TRCA's programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRCA is working with FoodShare on a balcony gardening program at San Romanoway as part of the Black Creek SNAP Program. • Black Creek Urban Orchard Group: For the last 6 months residents having been meeting and organizing workshops around maintaining fruit trees in the Black Creek SNAP neighbourhood. • The Black Creek Community Farm is working with TRCA's Stewardship staff on pollinator education at the farm. • TRCA's SNAP Program is developing designs for a new community garden and fruit orchard at San Romanoway, to be implemented in spring of 2015. Skills training and social enterprise programs will be offered.

GrowTO Priority	Division/ Agency/ Corporation	Activity	Update
Increase Visibility and Promotion	EED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote urban agriculture and local food through the Live Green Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live Green Toronto promotes urban agriculture at all outreach events and on its website. The Get Growing Toronto guide was created as a resource for residents interested in growing food in the city and it is made available at events and online.
	TFPC, EED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating maps (i.e., expanding and adding more information to Live Green Toronto Map community shared agriculture, community gardens, farmers' markets) and create an interactive online map of all community gardens and urban farms in Toronto and eventually, include land most suitable for new urban farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Live Green Toronto map is continually being updated to include the most recent urban agriculture points of interest including community gardens, community shared agriculture and farmers' markets. The map is dynamic and able to be updated with new urban agriculture categories and data points as required. The TFPC is working with the Toronto Urban Growers, TPH and the EED to build on the current inventory of city supported urban agriculture initiatives, and include more community and institutional projects, as well as to document the amount of space currently being used for urban agriculture. The format for an interactive online map is being researched.
	EED, TFPC, TPH, SDFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building upon the existing urban agriculture information on the Live Green Toronto website (e.g., add additional information to the existing sections on local food and growing your own food) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Live Green Toronto website will be updated to include more information about urban agriculture and local food. Existing urban agriculture information will be re-organized to make it easier to find and access.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All RFPs and RFQs to purchase food for City operations to include language on a policy objective to increase percentage of locally grown food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All RFPs and RFQs to purchase food for City operations include language that it is a policy objective of the City to increase percentage of locally grown food purchased for its operations.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Make It Local recipe book and Local Food procurement policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Make it Local recipe book, which contains 14 local food recipes developed for City-run child care centres, is promoted at all outreach events that Live Green Toronto attends. It is also promoted in 52 City-run child care centres to parents and has been provided to over 900 child care centres in Toronto. The recipes are available online to download in nine different languages. The Local Food Procurement policy is promoted in all RFPs and RFQs to purchase food for City operations.

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	ED&C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently involved in a working group at the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance that is putting together a Mapping of all food and farming assets in the GH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase one of the Mapping project is complete and an application has been submitted to the Growing Forward fund for phase 2. Phase 2 will develop a way for various regional partners to collaborate and share data between jurisdictions in order to identify gaps in infrastructure for the food and farming sector and to develop programs and facilities to fill these gaps.
	TFPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a companion to the Get Growing Toronto Guide to promote all City work on urban agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is being compiled by the TFPC to create a companion to the Get Growing Toronto Guide that promotes all City work on urban agriculture
	TPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Black Creek Community Farm on a Health Impact Assessment that identifies quantitative and qualitative indicators suitable for documenting the impacts of urban agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPH is leading the Healthier Harvest Research Consortium to document the health impacts of urban agriculture at the Black Creek Community Farm (BCCF). The research consortium includes the TFPC, Everdale, Toronto Urban Growers, York University, Ryerson University and the University of Toronto. The 2013 Health Impact Assessment of the BCCF is being compiled and preparations are underway to collect 2014 data. Indicators for urban agriculture of different scales will be created in 2014-2015 and shared with urban agriculture stakeholders. These indicators will enable urban agriculture stakeholders to collect and communicate the impact of their activities.
	SDFA / City Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with stakeholders to raise awareness of changes in zoning for apartment sites, which include new permissions for sale of food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six consultations were held in March and April 2014 for the Residential Apartment Commercial (RAC) Zoning by the City of Toronto, United Way, Centre for Urban Growth & Renewal. The Final Report on Areas for Proposed Residential Apartment Commercial (RAC) Zone is being considered by Council on June 10, 2014.
Add Value to Urban Gardens	EED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Live Green Toronto Community Grants have funded over 40 Urban Agriculture related projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Live Green Toronto Community Grants program continues to accept and approve applications for eligible urban agriculture related projects. The 2014 grants recipients have not been awarded at this time. In the past over 40 urban agriculture projects have been funded and it is anticipated that a portion of funding for 2014 will be provided to projects with a focus on urban agriculture. Grant recipients for this year will be notified by the end of June 2014.
	EED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green roofs used for food production and built to meet Toronto's Green Roof Construction Standard are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eco-Roof Incentive Program continues to accept applications for green roof projects growing food and provides funding for eligible projects.

GrowTO Priority	Division/ Agency/ Corporation	Activity	Update
		eligible for funding through the Eco-Roof Incentive Program. All building types (including residential) are now eligible.	
Cultivate Relationships	TPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of the Black Creek Community Farm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPH has supported the development of the Black Creek Community Farm through the Healthier Harvest Research Consortium, a partnership between the Everdale, Toronto Urban Growers, TPH, York University, Ryerson University and the University of Toronto.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and private spaces for urban agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Toronto Food Policy Council is working with the Toronto Urban Growers, Parks People and the TRCA to negotiate access to Hydro Corridor land for market gardening activities.
Develop Supportive Policies	City Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify options for encouraging more enterprise-based farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work underway
	EED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramp up promotion of UA as green infrastructure through our outreach avenues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live Green Toronto promotes urban agriculture at all outreach opportunities and on its website. Events that are scheduled for 2014 with a focus on green infrastructure where urban agriculture will be promoted include the Canada Green Build Conference, the Grey to Green Infrastructure conference, International Home and Garden Show and The Green Living Show.
	EED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote UA applications on green roofs as part of the Eco Roof Incentive program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eco-Roof Incentive Program continues to accept applications for green roof projects growing food and provides funding for eligible projects.
	TFPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop case studies of urban agriculture activities to be used in the policy development process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies of 5 urban agriculture initiatives were developed and shared with City Planning.
	TFPC, TPH , others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Guide to Growing and Selling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in Toronto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPH, EED, ED&C, and City Planning have contributed to the development of a Guide to Growing and Selling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in Toronto. Urban agriculture stakeholders have reviewed the guide and it will be published in 2014.
	TPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch and promote Guide to Soil Testing for Urban Gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guide to Soil Testing for Urban Gardens has been launched and promoted through local and global urban agriculture networks. The Guide won a Canadian Urban Institute "Brownie Award" in the category of Legislation, Policy and Program Development.

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	TPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review mid-scale composting guidelines under development by the Ontario Ministry of Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPH is convening community stakeholders to provide information on mid-scale composting to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is currently reviewing the regulations related to mid-scale and community composting.
	PFR & TPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new policies to provide more opportunities for lower income communities to access healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food on park lands and in recreation facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFR has had a Community Gardens policy since 2002 that is applicable to any group in the City regardless of income, and a Community Engagement Framework since 2013 that acknowledges the difficulty of engaging vulnerable populations such as newcomer and low-income groups. An update to the existing policy for Community Gardens is being drafted and will be presented to the next term of Council in 2015.

Appendix 2

Insurance Considerations for Farmers' Markets

Background Information about farmers' markets and Insurance:

1. The majority of farmer's markets in Toronto are held on city-owned lands.

- A 2008, study on farmers' markets in Toronto found that 70% of the City's 27 markets were held on city property:
 - 10 were located in city parks
 - 6 in municipal squares or buildings
 - 3 on city-owned parking lots
- The remaining farmers' markets were located in municipal squares (5) or buildings (1), public institutions such as universities, schools or hospitals (3), parking lots owned by a city corporation (3), church grounds (2), or commercial or private spaces.

2. Insurance requirements for farmers' markets

In City parks

Insurance is required to host a farmers' market in a City park.

- The Market Operator/Coordinator acquires liability insurance for injuries incurred on the property. The City permit approval process requires that an *organizer* of a farmers market on park land acquire and submit a certificate of insurance (min. \$2M liability) as part of permitting process (or can purchase through Parks, Forestry and Recreation).
- Business insurance of each vendor protects against actions arising from illness associated with consumption of foods/products.

Insurance for other City-involved activities

Insurance is also required for other activities/events taking place on City property, such as:

- **Toronto Special Events – Food Vendor Opportunities;** must maintain proper Commercial General Liability Insurance of \$2,000,000 per occurrence, listing City of Toronto as an additional Insured party.
- **Toronto Food Business Incubator** – The Toronto Food Business Incubator arranged a blanket liability form for all the clients that used the incubator. Each vendor pays \$450 annually for \$3M liability.
- **Toronto Parking Authority** requires nothing for the use of their parking lots except a \$2500 damage deposit per market and proof of insurance.

Insuring other non-City involved farmers' markets

Two types of liability insurance are required for the running of a farmers' market:

- Vendors must have their own liability insurance to cover any claims of illness caused by their food
- the Farmers' Market must have liability insurance to cover on-site injuries
- For farmers' markets run by a larger organization or by the City, the insurance costs are covered by a larger insurance policy

- For smaller, community or vendor-run Farmers' Markets, insurance is often bought from FMO (Farmers' Markets Ontario) for \$475.00 plus the required annual membership fee (\$125.00 plus taxes for a Farmers' Market with 0 to 25 vendors; \$210 for a Farmers' Market with 26-50 vendors and so on).

Appendix 3

Estimating the Amount of Food Grown in Toronto

Food is being grown all over the Greater Toronto Area, in different capacities and in both visible and hidden lots, indoors, outdoors and on roofs, and on both private and City-owned lands. There is a broad range of agriculture activities that include both for-profit and not-for-profit operations. This diversity of activities that makes it difficult to estimate how much food is being produced in the City.

The best proxies for estimating the amount of food grown in the City is a) the land and space is available for production (acres), and b) the average yield. Any current estimate would be conservative because a full inventory of the land and space under production is not complete. There is data on the number and location of City-supported urban agriculture activities (compiled in 2013 for the TAP Staff Report – Appendix 5), which includes community and market gardens. This data, however, does not include the acres of land under production, which would be necessary to estimate the amount of food produced. Furthermore, this data does not capture food production activities not supported by the City.

The work of MacRae et al. (2010) gives us a preliminary estimate of the amount of land and space currently under production in the City. There is an estimated 1,606 acres of private garden plots in the City of Toronto, which comprises 1% of the City's area (p. 4). There is an estimated 479 acres of land growing fruits, berries, and nuts and 311 acres growing vegetables on census farms that are located within City boundaries, and there is an estimated 786 acres of land zoned for agriculture that are farmed in the Rouge Park (p. 5)². MacRae et al. estimate that there are at least 1000 community garden plots, and 2,500 plots in municipal allotment gardens, but this data does not include the area of land under production. It is not known how much green roof space is being used to grow food.

The 2002 Seeds of Our City study found that 8 community gardens produced an average yield of 10.25 pounds of vegetables per square meter (Baker, p. 51). This is comparable with the average yields of vegetables grown in 67 community gardens in New York City in 2010, which was estimated to be 12.96 pounds per square meter (p. 20)³. These figures are above national average agricultural yields, pointing to the productivity of urban agriculture⁴. Average yields for more intensive production farms operating in the City, such as the Black Creek Community Farm, would provide useful data for estimating the amount of food that can be grown and sold on larger scales. This data should be forthcoming in 2014. Yield should not be considered the only indicator of success for agricultural activities in Toronto, as yield does not describe the additional contribution of food growing activities across the City, such as the ecological and community benefits. Yield can be an unreliable measure because of multiple variables, including the type of crop, soil quality, and growing techniques⁵.

² These estimates were gathered from multiple sources, reflecting the information that currently exists, but they do not necessarily reflect an accurate number of the acres being farmed within City boundaries.

³ The estimates in Toronto and New York City were gathered through gardeners weighing and recording the food they harvested (for two years in Toronto, and one year in NYC).

⁴ Cited in both Baker (2002) and Urban Design Lab (2011).

⁵ Other variables include environmental conditions and growing techniques (Urban Design Lab, 2011)

The most significant way to increase the amount of food produced within City limits is to increase the amount of land and space available for growing.

To more accurately assess the impact of urban agriculture in Toronto, the city could conduct an inventory of the land that is currently used and that has the potential to be used to grow food. This would provide the data necessary to accurately estimate the amount of land under production, and to facilitate access to land. Components of a land inventory would include compiling a list of existing and potential growing sites through consultation with the stakeholder groups and City divisions, analyzing existing GIS data⁶, analyzing site viability, as well determining the potential use of the sites through policy analysis and site visits. (Vancouver Island report and MacRae).

MacRae et al. (2010) have conducted a preliminary land inventory to identify potential new sites for agriculture. Through their study, they determined that Toronto could have the capacity to produce "10% of its fresh vegetable requirements from within its own boundary" if more land were available for urban agriculture. They determined that there does exist enough land (2,652.7 acres) to achieve this, but that achieving this goal would depend on a range of land and space opportunities being made available for urban agriculture. This includes larger tracts on census farms, on public and institutional lands (including hydro corridors), and smaller plots dispersed throughout the city and on rooftops (p. 18). MacRae et al. and multiple municipalities have conducted land inventories, providing useful methodologies for Toronto⁷. Several City of Toronto divisions are working with community partners to develop a land inventory.

⁶ GIS software was used to analyze Toronto lands for potential parcels for growing by MacRae et al. in 2010.

⁷ Other municipalities who have conducted Land Inventories include: Vancouver Island, Oakland, Seattle, New York City, Portland, and Cleveland.