

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jun13_2023

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Agriculture Master Plan 2023 update****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the work done to date in relation to the Agriculture Master Plan.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Economic Prosperity

Goal 1 Priority - Promotion of a diverse agricultural market that supports the local economy

Report

Agriculture has historically been the largest land use in Strathcona County with a significant economic impact in our community. Agriculture will continue to be an integral part of Strathcona County's historical, cultural, economic, and environmental fabric. It is ever-changing and unique to our community and requires ongoing review of supporting policies and programs in order to ensure its long-term success.

In 2015, Strathcona County developed an Agriculture Master Plan (AMP) to provide long-term priority for agriculture. Since this time, the AMP has been used as a guiding document to support decisions that impact agriculture throughout the organization. Four planning principles assist in the decision-making process:

- supporting policies
- agriculture land conservation
- shared leadership
- proactive agriculture

Ongoing initiatives include:

- Tourism Strategy
- Regional Agriculture Master Plan implementation
- Agricultural Service Board modernization
- Agriculture and Food Sector Development Strategy kick off

Agriculture continues to remain a priority to our community and our organization.

Council and Committee History

Jun 8, 2021	To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the implementation of the AMP and its associated strategies.
Nov 29, 2016	THAT the Urban Agriculture Strategy, as set out in Enclosure 1 to the November 29, 2016 Transportation and Agriculture Service report, be approved.
Jun 23, 2015	THAT Council approve the AMP.

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Other Impacts**Policy:** n/a**Financial/Budget:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** n/a**Interdepartmental:** The implementation of the AMP engages most departments within the organization at different levels to ensure ongoing cooperation and support**Master Plan/Framework:** Agriculture Master Plan**Communication Plan**

Communication is currently focused on the Agriculture and Food Sector Development Strategy. Stakeholder engagement with processors and producers began in March, with targeted interviews continuing this summer. A survey for residents launched May 25, and the project team will be at local farmers markets in June. Communication goal: Strathcona County is recognized as a regional leader in the provision of agricultural and food opportunities – a business friendly, agricultural sector friendly, community of choice.

Enclosure

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Agriculture Master Plan 2023 update presentation