

Urban Agriculture Strategy Development

Report Purpose

To provide Council with an update on the progress of the Urban Agriculture Strategy.

Council History

September 29, 2015 – Council was provided with the Implementation Strategy for the Agriculture Master Plan, outlining that the Urban Agriculture Strategy would be the first strategy to be developed.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Future development of local agricultural endeavors and businesses

Governance: Completed plan will provide policy recommendations

Social: Community building through development of urban agriculture

Culture: Community building through development of urban agriculture

Environment: Supporting and encouraging best management practices

Other Impacts

Policy: Potential recommendations for existing or creation of policy

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Planning and Development Services; Family and Community Services; Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs; Recreation, Parks and Culture; Enforcement Services

Summary

The Urban Agriculture Strategy is the first strategy that is being developed under the Agriculture Master Plan. The first phase of this development is now complete. This phase underwent the following:

Phase One - Explore and Assess

February to July 1, 2016

1. Met with the Administrative Advisory Committee and Agricultural Service Board for project kickoff and primary engagement
2. Implemented public engagement
3. Reviewed background documents, legislation, best practices, and standards set by other municipalities
4. Began the development of urban agriculture vision, strategy outline and topic areas of public interest

Public engagement for this project has been extensive to date, and will continue. We have utilized the following methods:

- Attendance at community events and farmers markets (11 locations)
- Attendance at County events (Bookmobile stops, Rural Living Days and Canada Day)
- Conducted a series of open houses (6 locations)
- Held a special presentation for the public and for staff entitled "Urban Agriculture in Context – The Food and Communities We Want"
- A dynamic online survey that responded to community conversation
- One-on-one interviews with stakeholders
- An iPad kiosk that moved throughout County facilities

Next Steps:

Synthesize – Phase Two

July 4 to Aug 31, 2016

1. Create guidelines and procedures for each urban agriculture topic area
2. Identify existing policies, bylaws and procedures for each urban agriculture topic area
3. Public engagement with stakeholder groups for topic areas to review feasibility and best practices

Approval – Phase Three

September 1 to November 30, 2016

1. Undergo public engagement to review the strategy recommendations
2. Review final draft with Advisory Committee and Agricultural Service Board
3. Presentation to Council at Priorities Committee Meeting
4. Prepare final report
5. Presentation to Council for final approval

Communication Plan

Ongoing communication with residents regarding the progress of this project, including our e-newsletter.

Enclosure

- 1 Urban Agriculture Strategy Phase One "What We Heard" Report (To be distributed at the meeting)