

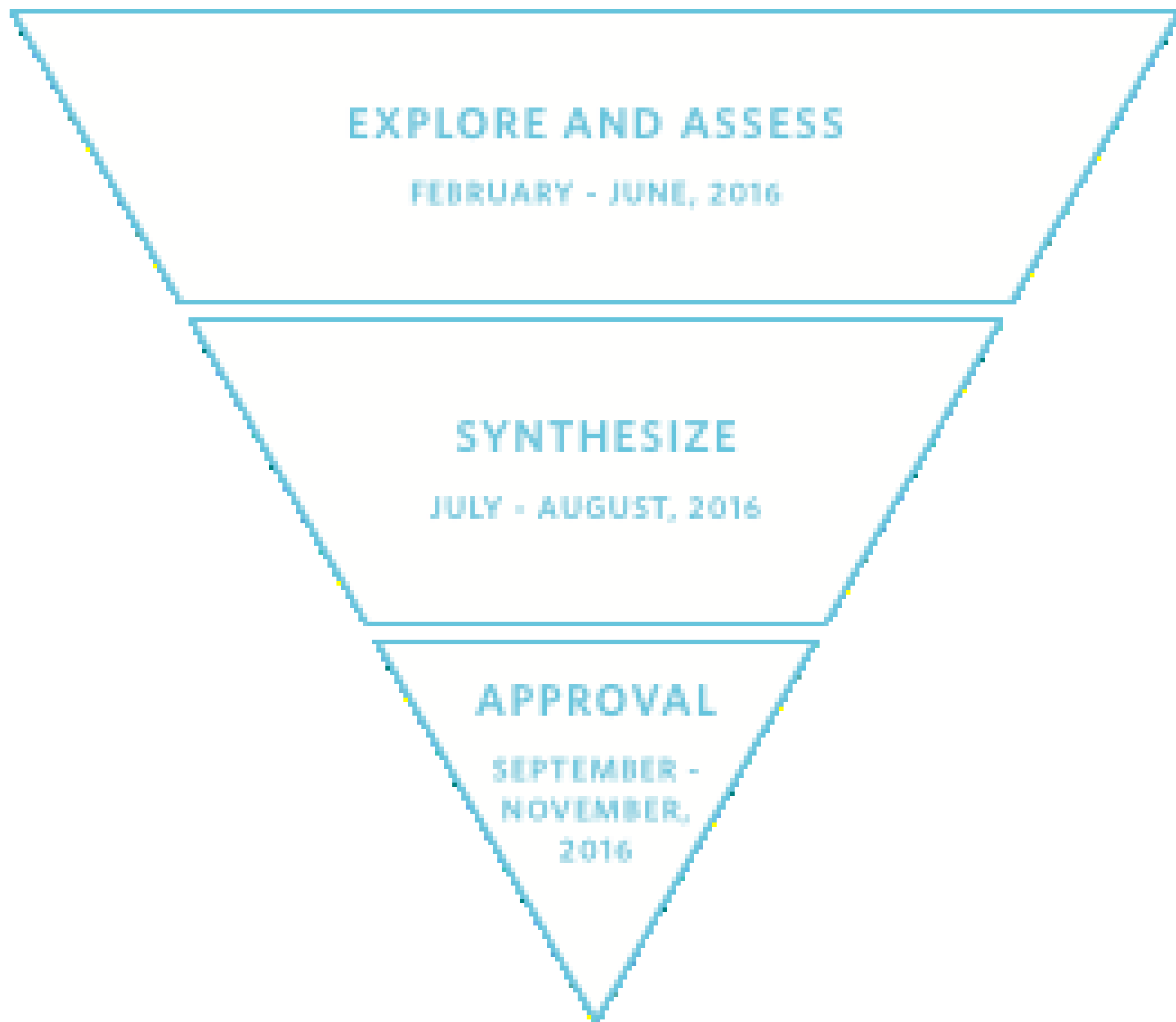
STRATHCONA COUNTY URBAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGY

EXPLORE & ASSESS REPORT
JULY 2016

intelligent futures



COMMUNITY
FOOD LAB
DESIGN. ADVOCACY. ENGAGEMENT.

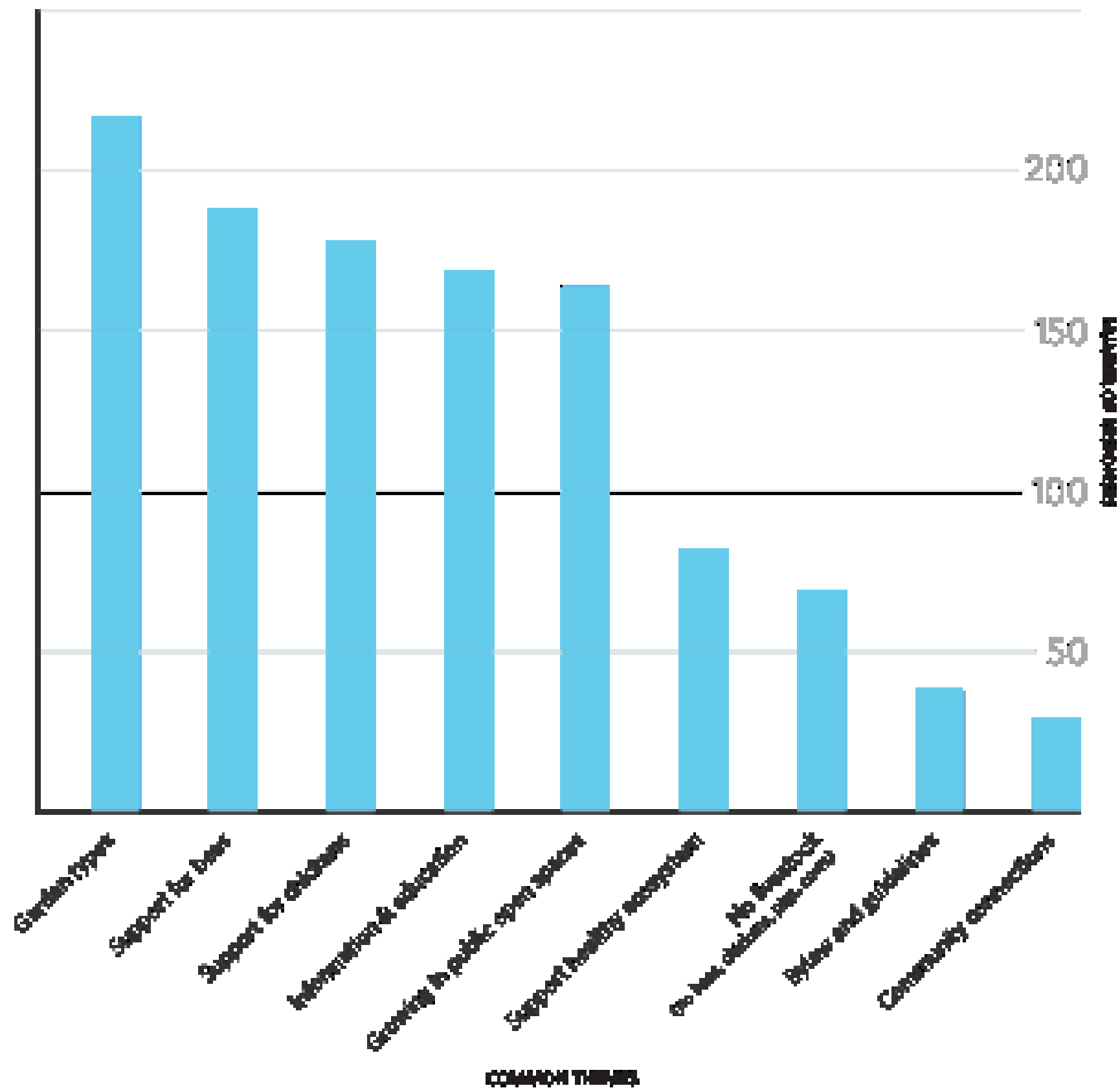




Engaging the community

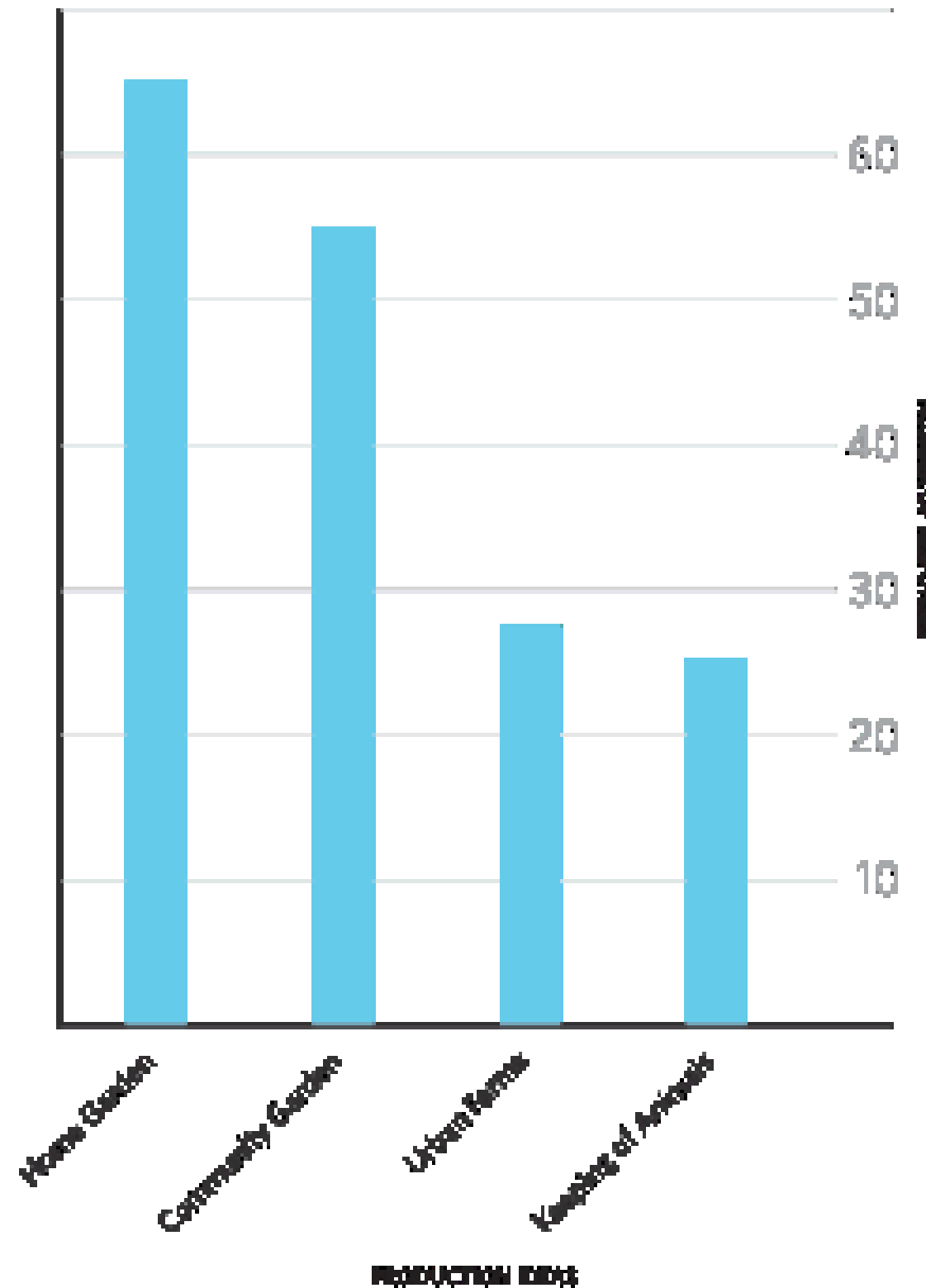
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN PHASE ONE			
Feedback Channel		Participants	Ideas
Attendance at Events & Businesses		979	949
Roadshow Open Houses		45	119
Online	Survey 1	161	184
	Survey 2	1,051 82% of responses from Sherwood Park	7,456
Total		2,234	8,708

What are your great ideas for urban agriculture in Strathcona County?



GROW (PRODUCTION)

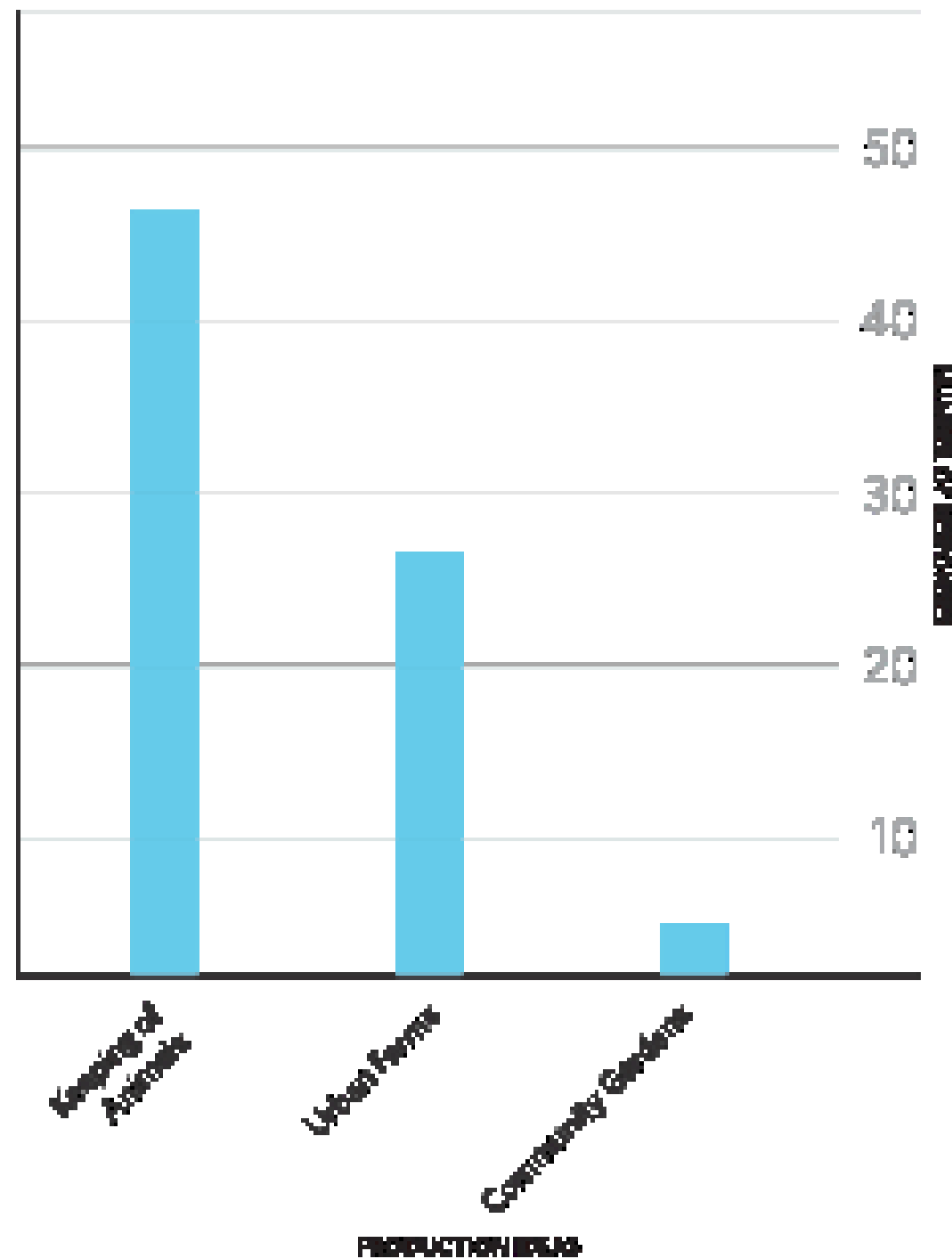
Which of these production ideas do you feel would fit in Sherwood Park and the hamlets of Strathcona County? Why?



GROW (PRODUCTION)

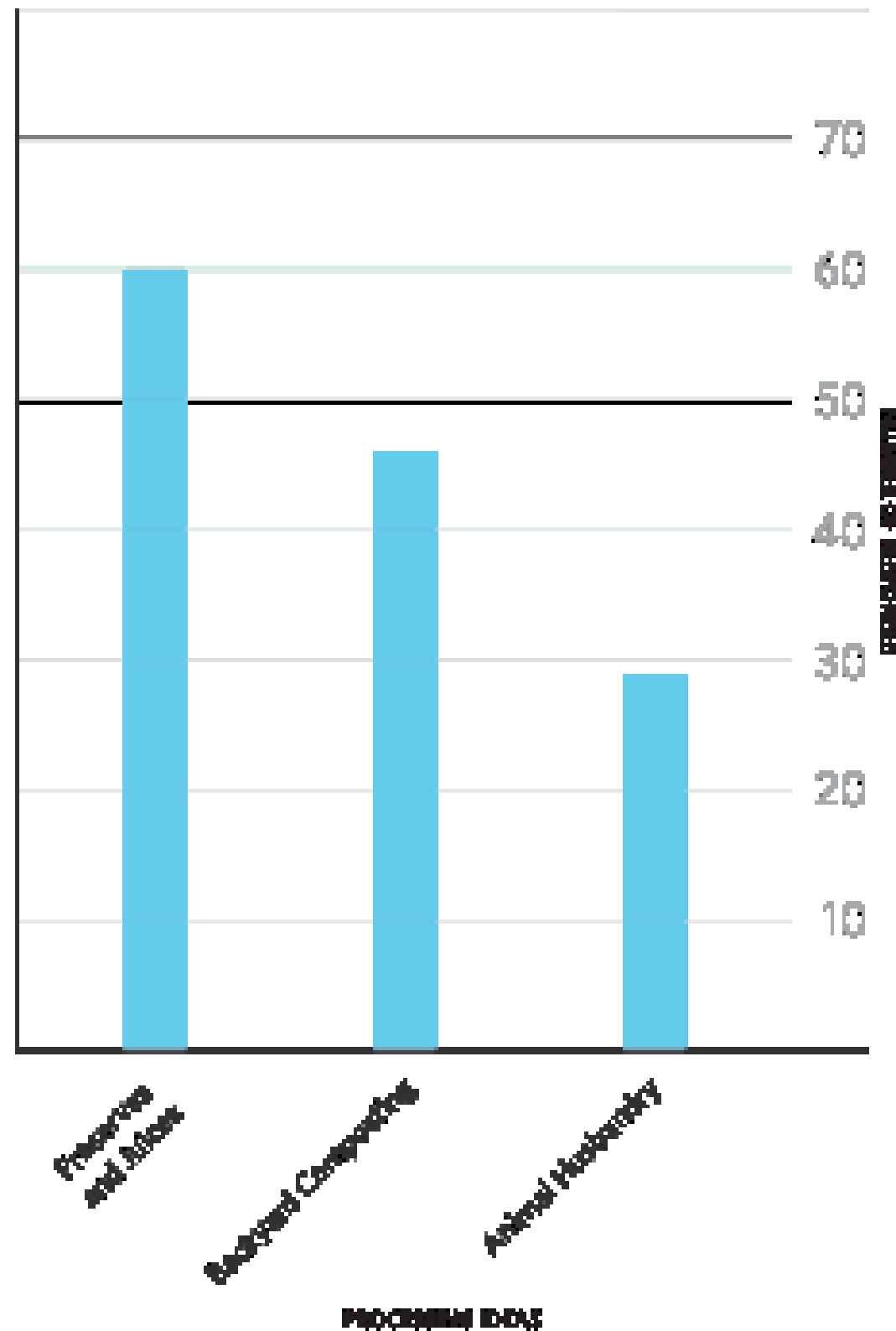
Which of these production ideas do you feel would NOT fit in?

Why?



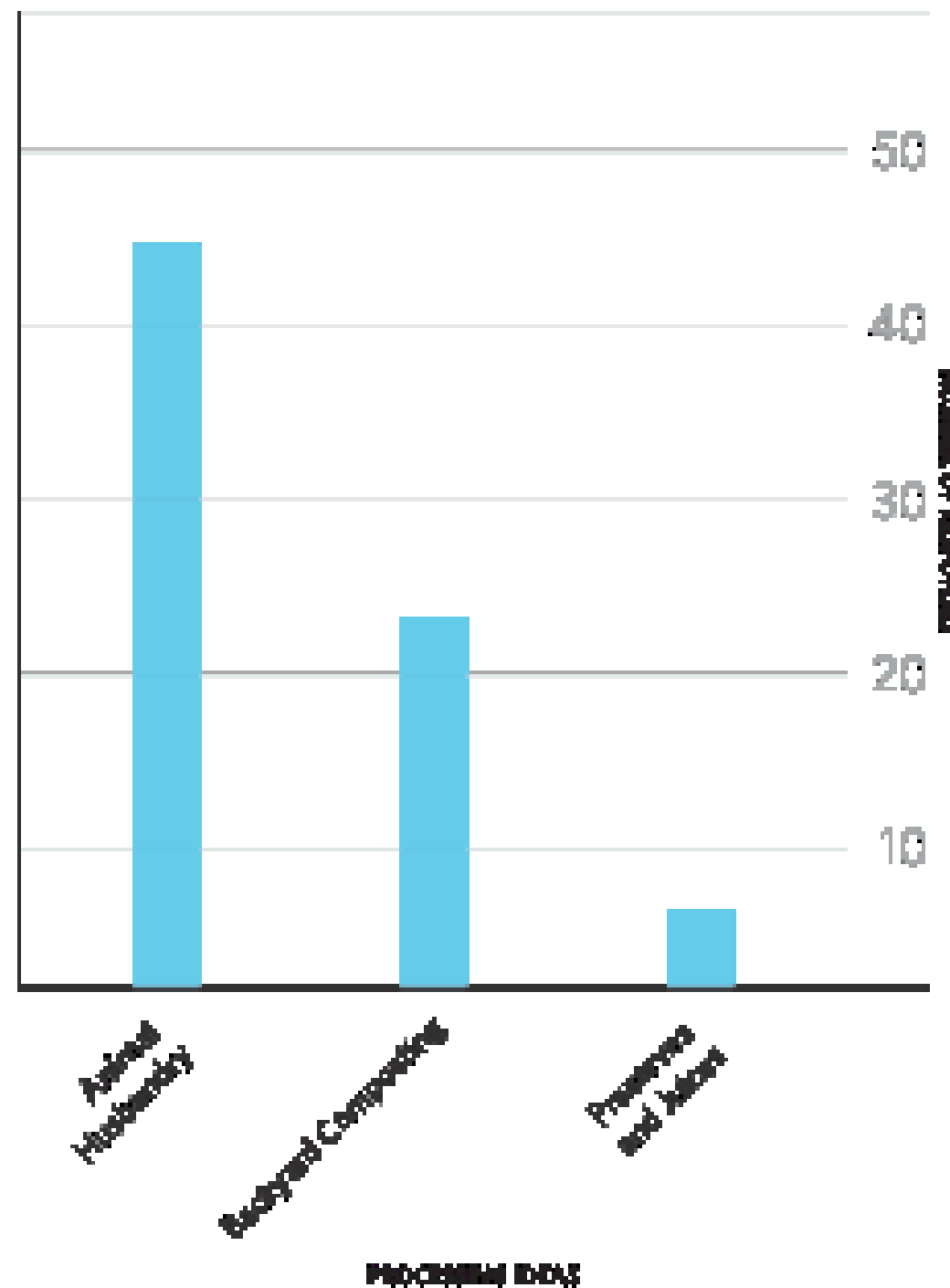
MAKE (PROCESSING)

Which of these processing ideas do you feel would fit in Sherwood Park and the hamlets of Strathcona County? Why?



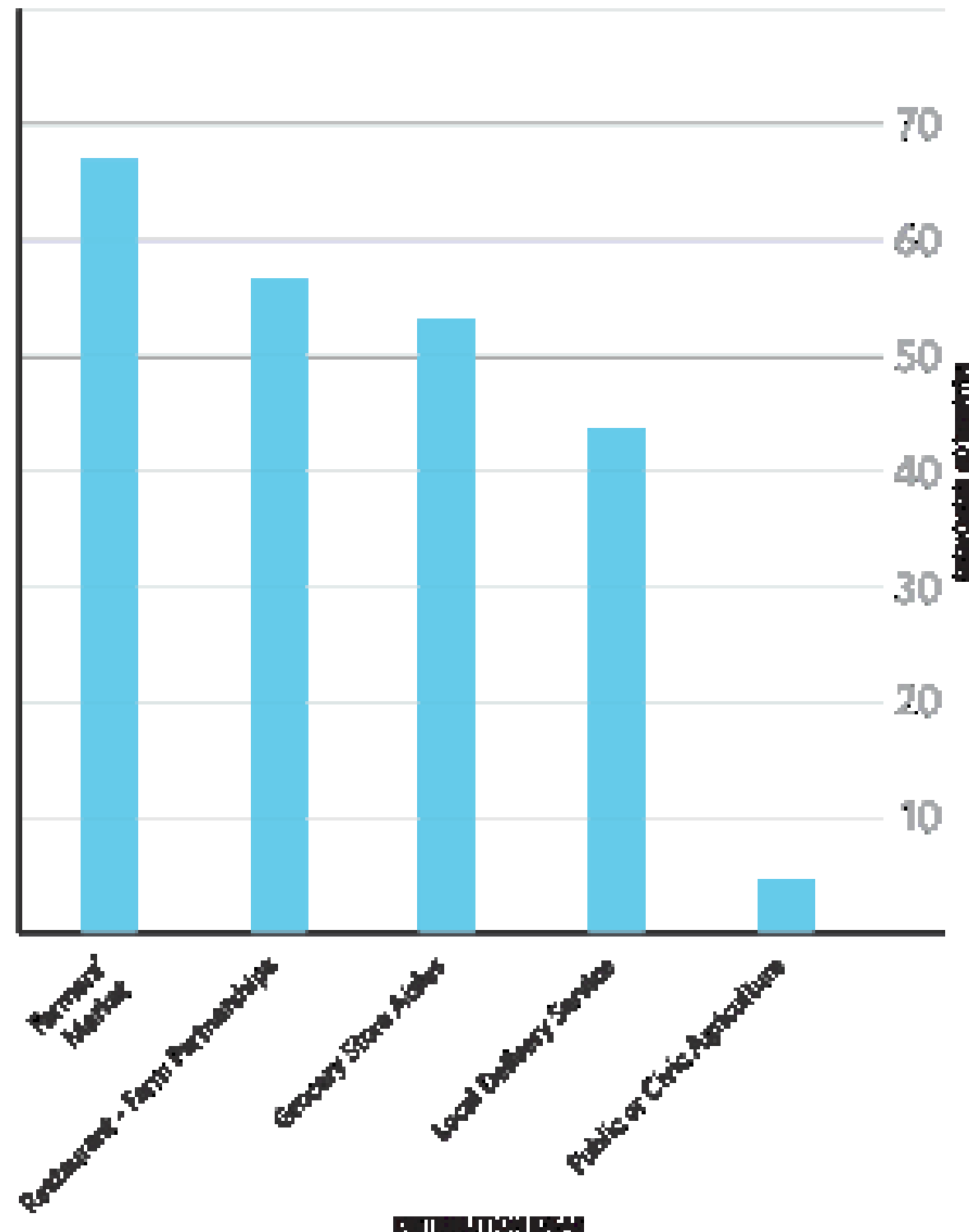
MAKE (PROCESSING)

Which of these processing ideas do you feel would NOT fit in Sherwood Park and the hamlets of Strathcona County? Why?



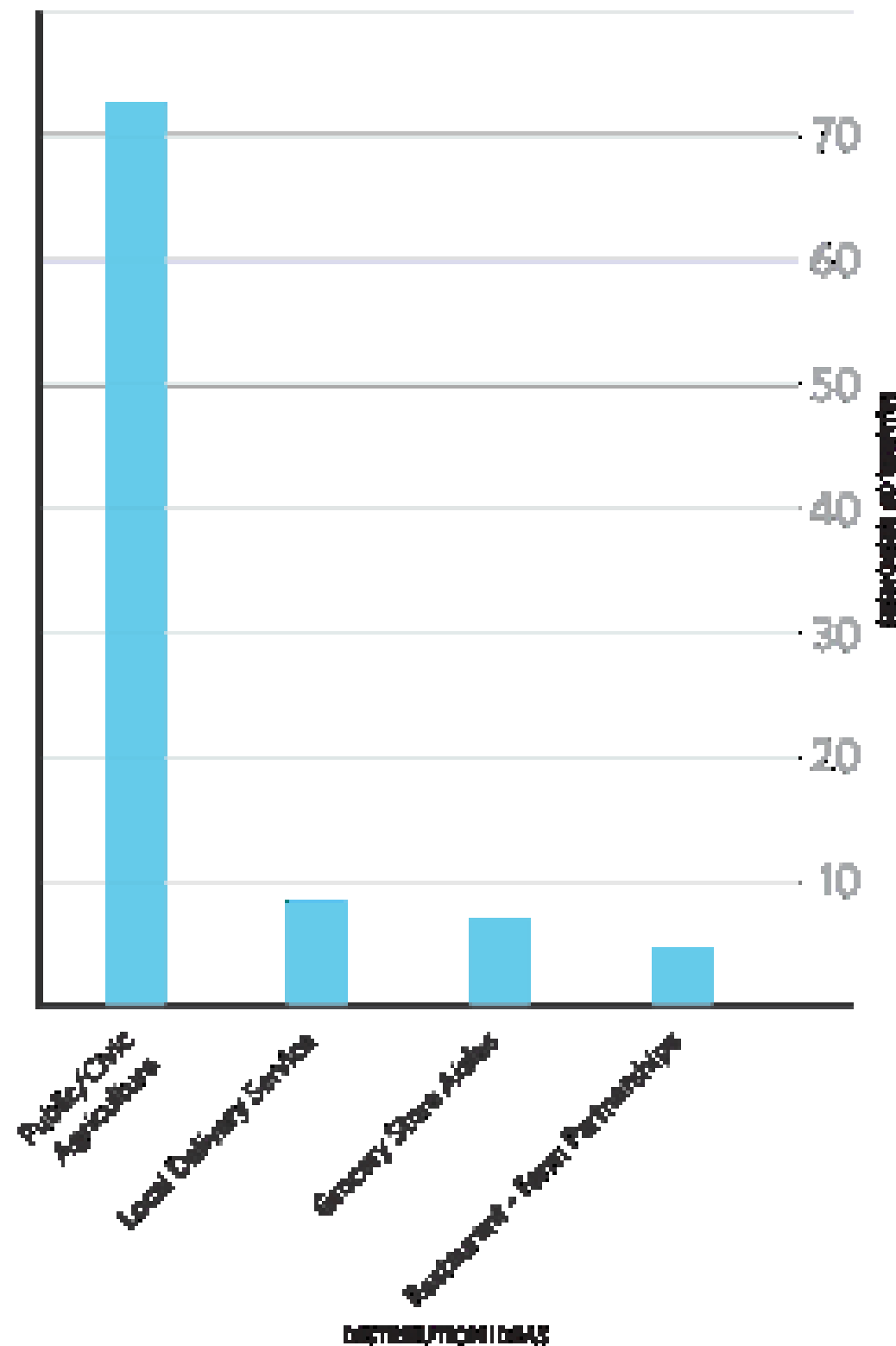
GET (DISTRIBUTION)

Which of these local food distribution ideas do you feel would fit in Sherwood Park and the hamlets of Strathcona County? Why?



GET (DISTRIBUTION)

Which of these local food distribution ideas do you feel would NOT fit in Sherwood Park and the hamlets of Strathcona County? Why?





Our Direction for Urban Agriculture

Our definition

Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating food in an urban area. It can be growing fruits, herbs and vegetables, or raising animals. It's a growing trend in North America as communities look for ways to increase food security. It supports local, alternate choices to the traditional food system, and allows communities to grow niche foods.

(draft) Vision

Urban agriculture is easily accessed and seen in Strathcona County; it contributes to creating a livable community by helping to grow food, relationships, and economy in our community.

(draft) Goals

- Build a sense of community, identity and place
- Bring people together
- Connect urban and rural communities
- Build food literacy and awareness
- Support local economic development
- Expand food production
- Build shared leadership

Emerging Strategy Areas

Based on the conversation with the community and the project team's analysis, these have emerged as the strongest candidates for investigation in the next phase of the project.

Strategy Area

Community
gardens

Public agriculture &
edible landscaping

Urban farms

Farmers' markets

School agriculture
program

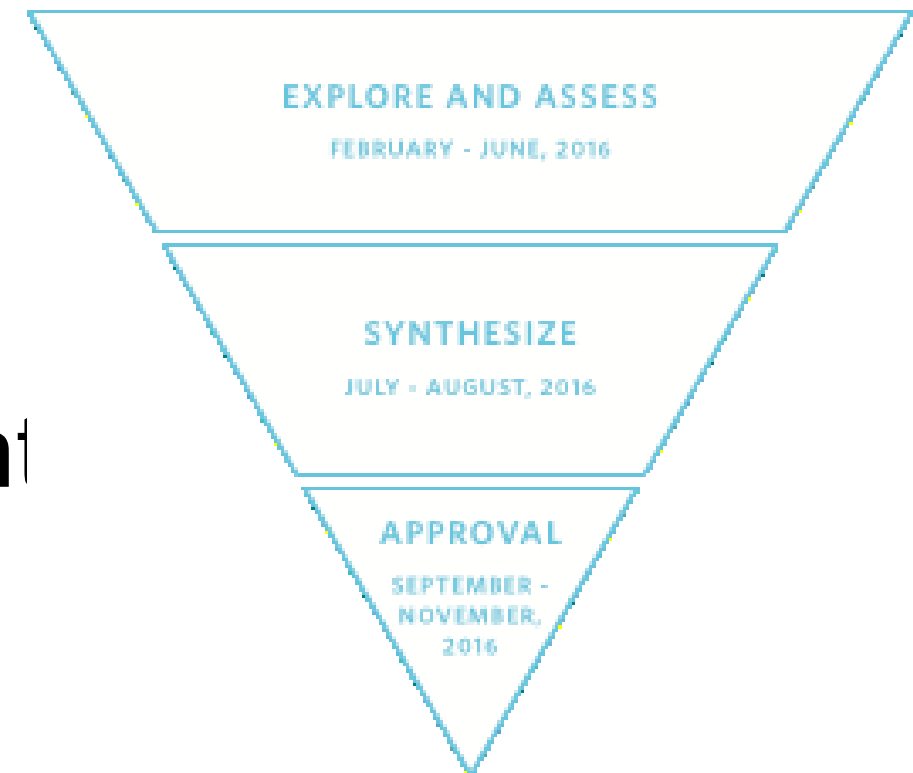
Urban livestock

Home gardens

Strategy Area	Realm of Potential Actions	
Community gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community-led community garden initiative with County assistance • County promotion and support for independent community gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County providing public land access • Amend the land use bylaw to include “Community Garden” as a defined land use
Public agriculture & edible landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt-A-Plot initiative to encourage edibles and pollinator-supporting plants • Pilot projects of urban orchards and permaculture food forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of edible edible trees and shrubs in the public realm • Signage promoting edible plants • Amend the land use bylaw to include “Public Agriculture” as a defined land use
Urban farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add urban farming definitions to the land use bylaw • Launch a County-run urban farm incubator • Develop a brand to promote and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize urban farming • County-supported youth farming and entrepreneurship program with an urban focus
Farmers’ markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and support existing markets • Survey rural and urban farmers and food makers to better understand interest and barriers to selling at markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a board to help understand metrics and help support and improve markets
School agriculture program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School gardens and garden programs at every elementary school in the County • Community gardens on school grounds that are shared with the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses about agriculture, technology, and entrepreneurship in middle and high schools
Urban livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beehives installed as demonstration projects in lower-traffic areas • Creation of a bee habitat throughout Sherwood Park • Pilot project for backyard chickens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the Animal Control Bylaw to incorporate Urban Livestock • Amend Apiculture Bylaw to allow beehives in certain land use districts
Home gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create programs and courses on home gardening • Launch an educational and promotional campaign for home gardens 	

Action Criteria

A tool to evaluate the most promising actions as we move into phase 2 of the project.



Action Criteria

- The actions can be completed within 3 years
- The actions have concrete measures of success – both regarding actions and results
- The actions support and validate the Agriculture Master Plan recommendations and planning principles
- The actions support multiple goals
- The actions creates opportunity for community ownership and empowerment
- The actions establish a foundation for future actions

VISION

Urban agriculture is easily accessed and seen in Strathcona County; it contributes to creating a livable community by helping to grow food, relationships, and economy in our community.

GOALS

- Build a sense of community, identity and place
- Support local economic development
- Bring people together
- Expand food production
- Connect urban and rural communities
- Build shared leadership
- Build food literacy and awareness

STRATEGY AREAS

- Community gardens
- School agriculture programs
- Public agriculture & edible landscaping
- Urban livestock
- Urban farms
- Home gardens
- Farmers' markets

ACTION CRITERIA

- The actions can be completed within 3 years
- The actions have concrete measures of success – both regarding actions and results
- The actions support and validate the Agriculture Master Plan recommendations and planning principles
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NEXT STEPS

Work with project team and key stakeholders to draft a strategy for public review in the fall.

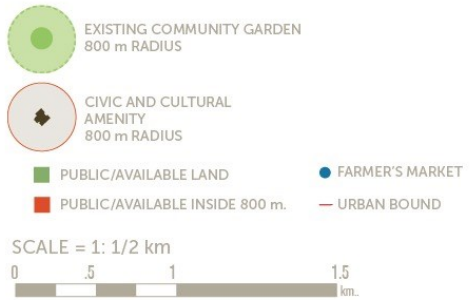




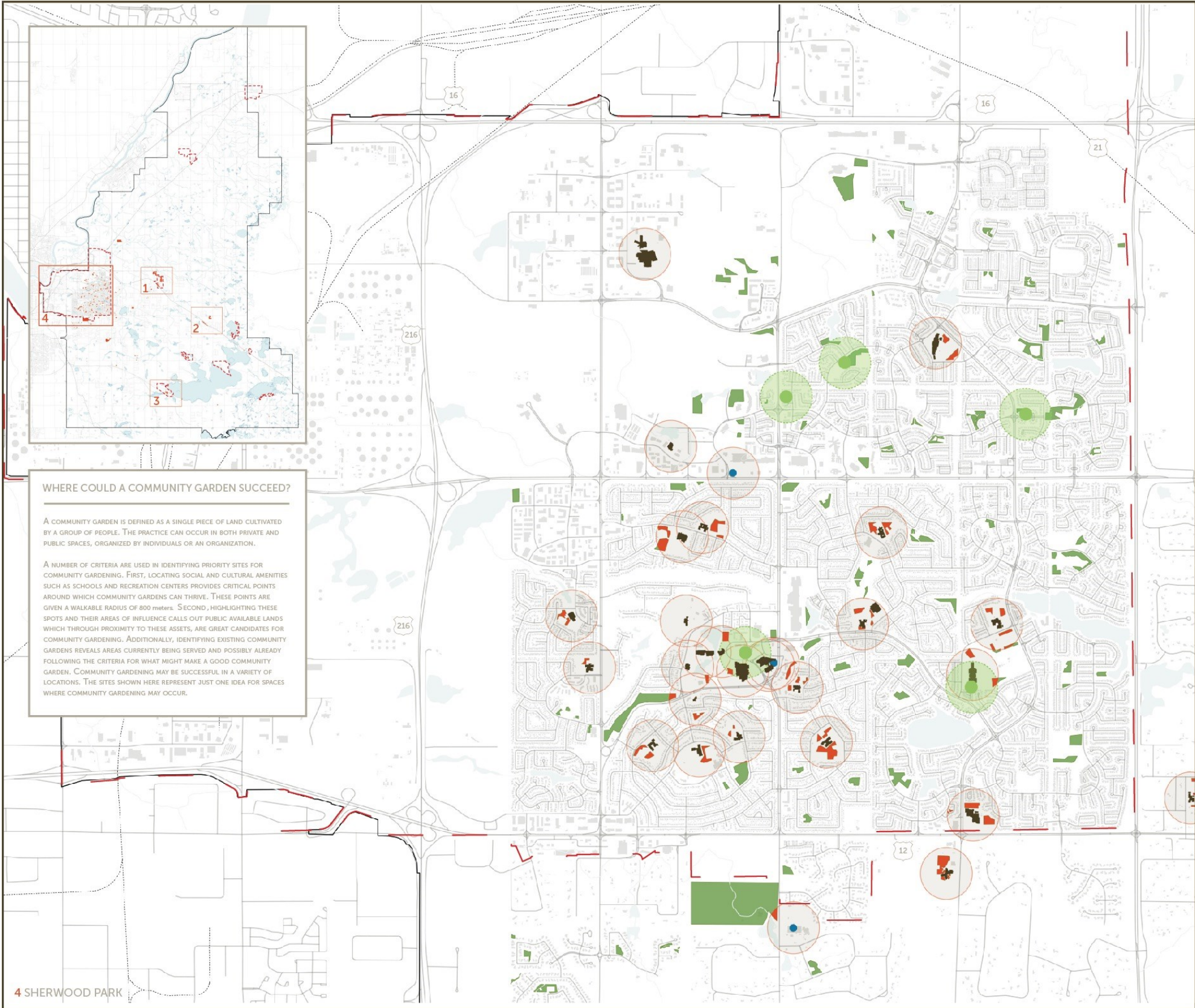
Thank you!

STRATHCONA COUNTY URBAN AGRICULTURE

LAND SUITABLE FOR COMMUNITY GARDENING



SOURCES:
OPEN DATA CANADA (OPEN.CANADA.CA)
NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA (GEOSCAN.CA)
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM - GIS/STRATHCONA COUNTY
(HTTP://WWW.STRATHCONA.CA/DEPARTMENTS/INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY-SERVICES/GIS/)



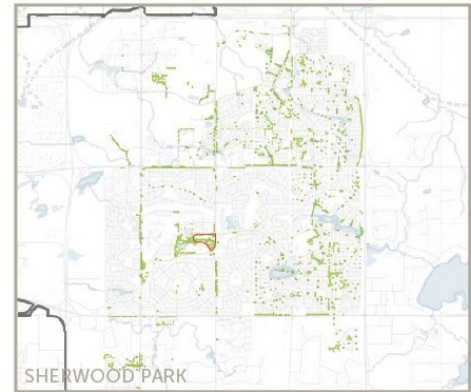
WHERE COULD A COMMUNITY GARDEN SUCCEED?

A COMMUNITY GARDEN IS DEFINED AS A SINGLE PIECE OF LAND CULTIVATED BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE. THE PRACTICE CAN OCCUR IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SPACES, ORGANIZED BY INDIVIDUALS OR AN ORGANIZATION.

A NUMBER OF CRITERIA ARE USED IN IDENTIFYING PRIORITY SITES FOR COMMUNITY GARDENING. FIRST, LOCATING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AMENITIES SUCH AS SCHOOLS AND RECREATION CENTERS PROVIDES CRITICAL POINTS AROUND WHICH COMMUNITY GARDENS CAN THRIVE. THESE POINTS ARE GIVEN A WALKABLE RADIUS OF 800 METERS. SECOND, HIGHLIGHTING THESE SPOTS AND THEIR AREAS OF INFLUENCE CALLS OUT PUBLIC AVAILABLE LANDS WHICH THROUGH PROXIMITY TO THESE ASSETS, ARE GREAT CANDIDATES FOR COMMUNITY GARDENING. ADDITIONALLY, IDENTIFYING EXISTING COMMUNITY GARDENS REVEALS AREAS CURRENTLY BEING SERVED AND POSSIBLY ALREADY FOLLOWING THE CRITERIA FOR WHAT MIGHT MAKE A GOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN. COMMUNITY GARDENING MAY BE SUCCESSFUL IN A VARIETY OF LOCATIONS. THE SITES SHOWN HERE REPRESENT JUST ONE IDEA FOR SPACES WHERE COMMUNITY GARDENING MAY OCCUR.

STRATHCONA COUNTY URBAN AGRICULTURE

ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPING FOR REPURPOSE



■ ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPING

SCALE = 1: 50m



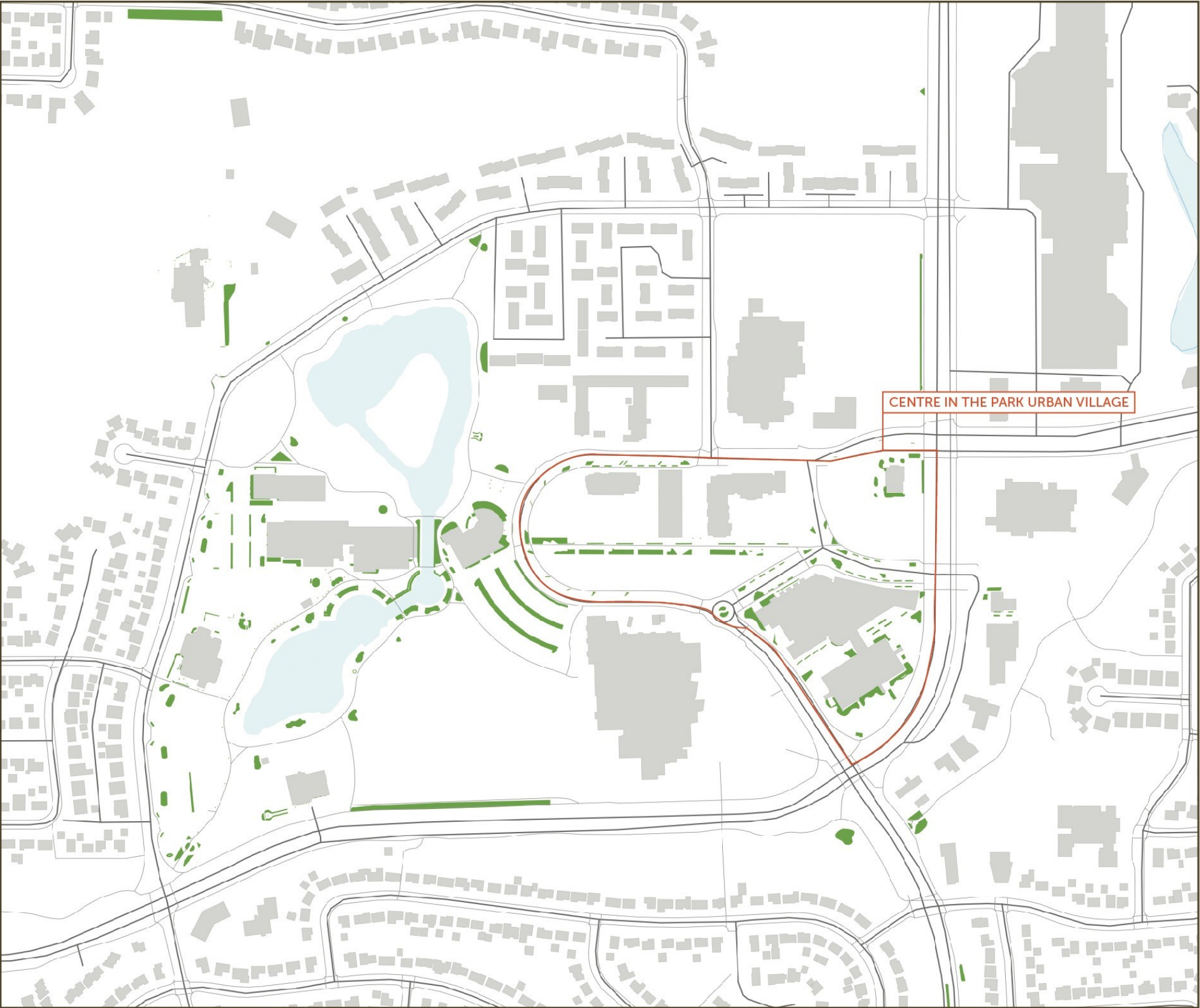
SIMPLE CHANGES WITH BIG RESULTS

THE PRACTICE OF DECORATIVE LANDSCAPING FOR AESTHETIC EFFECT AROUND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS IS PREVALENT IN URBAN AREAS. THIS CAN OCCUR IN THE FORM OF ORNAMENTAL WALKWAYS, HEDGES, YARDS OR FLOWERING TREES. STRATHCONA COUNTY'S URBAN CENTER, SHERWOOD PARK, IS DOTTED WITH THIS TYPE OF PLANTING.

TOTAL ORNAMENTAL LAND IN STRATHCONA COUNTY
7 ACRES

THESE SPACES COULD BE RE-IMAGINED AS EDIBLE LANDSCAPING THAT IS NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL, BUT PROVIDES FOOD FOR URBAN RESIDENTS. THESE MAPS SHOW THE DECORATIVE PLANTING IN THE SHERWOOD PARK AREA, WITH A FOCUS ON THE CENTRE-IN-THE-PARK URBAN VILLAGE, A LOCATION WHERE A SHIFT TO EDIBLE PLANTS WOULD BENEFIT NOT ONLY RESIDENTS BUT ALSO PROVIDE AN APPEALING DRAW TO VISITORS OF THE LOCAL CIVIC AND CULTURAL AMENITIES. THESE ARE NOT THE ONLY LOCATIONS WHERE EDIBLE LANDSCAPING MAY OCCUR. MANY URBAN LOCATIONS MAY BENEFIT FROM BEAUTIFICATION THROUGH PLANTING OF EDIBLES.

SOURCES:
OPEN DATA CANADA (OPEN.CANADA.CA)
NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA (ECOSYSTEMS.GC.CA)
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM - GIS/STRATHCONA.COUNTY
(HTTP://WWW.STRATHCONA.CA/DEPARTMENTS/INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY-SERVICES/GIS/)



STRATHCONA COUNTY URBAN AGRICULTURE
LAND WITH POTENTIAL FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

WHERE COULD URBAN FARMING HAPPEN?

URBAN FARMING IS THE PRACTICE OF CULTIVATING EDIBLE PLANTS FOR SALE. THIS CAN OCCUR IN MANY ENVIRONMENTS AND AT SEVERAL SCALES, FROM SMALL HALF-ACRE INNER-CITY PLOTS TO LARGE PERI-URBAN OPERATIONS.

THESE MAPS SHOW LAND SUITABLE FOR FARMING, CURRENTLY CULTIVATED OR OTHERWISE. THIS LAND INCLUDES BOTH PRIVATE FARMLAND AND PUBLIC AVAILABLE LAND. SOME OF THE LAND SHOWN HERE MAY BE UNSUITABLE FOR FARMING DUE TO A VARIETY OF FACTORS SUCH AS STEEP TOPOGRAPHY, DISTANCE TO 1 WATER SOURCE, ACCESS TO SUNLIGHT, ETC. ASSUMING THAT ONLY 5% OF THE LAND SHOWN AS AGRICULTURAL AND AVAILABLE IS ACTUALLY VIABLE FOR FARMING, THEN OUR TOTAL FARMABLE LAND IN SHERWOOD PARK IS 61 ACRES.

TOTAL URBAN AGRICULTURE POTENTIAL IN SHERWOOD PARK
1,220 ACRES

WHAT IF JUST 5% OF THIS LAND BECAME URBAN AGRICULTURE?
5% OF 1,220 ACRES = 61 URBAN AG. ACRES

IF THESE 61 ACRES BECAME INTENSIVE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
61 ACRES = \$6 MILLION GROSS

AND IF THESE 61 ACRES BECAME GREENHOUSES?
61 ACRES COULD GROW 18,000 TONS
OF FOOD PER YEAR

URBAN FARMING MAY HAPPEN SUCCESSFULLY IN A VARIETY OF LOCATIONS. THOSE SUGGESTED HERE ARE MERELY ONE IDEA FOR WHERE SUCH GROWING MIGHT OCCUR.

SOURCES:
OPEN DATA CANADA (OPEN.GAMMA.GA)
NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA (ECOSYSTEMS.GC.CA)
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM - GIS/STRATHCONA COUNTY
(<http://www.strathcona.ca/departments/information-technology-services/gis/>)

