



# CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan Progress Report 2017



## Contents

Overview .....	4
Calgary's Food System .....	4
Community Partners .....	7
City of Calgary Current Initiatives .....	8
1. Land Use Bylaw Amendments .....	9
2. Urban Agriculture Project .....	11
3. Fresh Food Markets at Transit Stations .....	13
4. Food and Land Use Planning .....	16
5. Neighborhood Food Plans .....	17
7. Boulevard Garden Guidelines .....	19
7. Web-Based Food Hub .....	22
Ongoing Cross-Corporate Work Contributing to the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan .....	23
Next Steps .....	24
Appendices .....	26
Appendix A: Glossary .....	26
Appendix B: Calgary EATS! Community-led Actions 2017 Status Report .....	27

## Overview

Since 2009 The City of Calgary and its community partners have pursued efforts to support and promote a sustainable and resilient food system for Calgary. With direction from City Council, a city-wide food system assessment and a gap analysis were completed in 2010, the results of which informed the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan. The Calgary Food Action Plan was endorsed by City Council in 2012 and is a shared plan between The City of Calgary and community partners with both City-led actions and community-led actions. The Food Action Plan provides a vision with targets to promote local food; ensure access and a secure supply of healthy food for all Calgarians; and to ensure the food system is environmentally sustainable and supports economic development.

The City-led actions within the Food Action Plan are led by Sustainability Strategies in the Planning and Development Department. Its actions are implemented through policy change, pilot initiatives, research, and program implementation, allowing The City to play a role as enabler and supporter. This requires The City to work in partnership across City departments, with other levels of government, Alberta Health Services, industry and other agencies and organizations to consider the many elements of the food system while reflecting the themes of the City-led actions within Food Action Plan.

This second progress report on the Food Action Plan provides a snapshot of Calgary's food system, an overview of community initiatives, as well as City-led actions to build a sustainable and resilient food system. The report is not meant to provide an exhaustive list of all food system activities taking place in Calgary, but rather highlight some of the community actions and The City's key initiatives in achieving the vision of the Food Action Plan. The report specifically outlines how The City initiatives contribute to the long-term quality of life goals for Calgarians while advancing the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan, the Municipal Development Plan, and Council Priorities.

### CalgaryEATS! FOOD ACTION PLAN VISION:

TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM  
FOR THE CALGARY REGION

*So that every Calgarian has access to local, healthy and environmentally friendly food*

## Calgary's Food System

Calgary's food system does much more than just feed people. The food system impacts and is impacted by everything from urban planning and land use policies, to economic development, to health, diet and well-being. The ripple effects of a vibrant food system are felt beyond grocery sales and local production; it means stronger economic growth and resiliency for our city, it means healthier students who can learn better, a higher quality of life for community residents, and greater equity and social inclusion among residents.

## What is happening in Calgary's Food System?

The food system is a complex set of activities that includes production, processing, distribution, marketing, retail, consumption and waste. Calgary is home to diverse food retailers, food producers and food processors. The city has a sophisticated food supply line that consolidates and distributes to retailers of all sizes.

Citizen interest in community gardens, farmers' markets, urban farms, beekeeping and community food projects continues to increase. At the same time, there is evidence of a growing interest in the quality, freshness, provenance, and price of food, and increasing demand for food that is locally produced and seasonal. Figure 1 highlights food system activity growth in specific areas over a five-year period.



Agriculture and food has inspired a proposal for a new residential neighborhood in Southeast Calgary based on the concept of Agricultural Urbanism. Agricultural Urbanism integrates urban planning and agriculture into community design. The proposed community plan for Rangeview integrates shared food production sites (both indoor and outdoor), community food gardens, greenhouses, a community kitchen and a market square throughout the community.

There are many organizations that are actively engaging citizens on a wide range of food system activities, and many notable advances have been made in Calgary's food system assets since 2012 when the CalgaryEATS! Food System Assessment was completed. Figure 1 provides some examples of food system growth over the last five years.

Food and the food system is increasingly becoming part of the fabric of our city and this has highlighted the need for The City to play a greater role in enabling and supporting food system activities through land use planning, program development and project incubation.

Figure 1: Comparison of Food System Assets highlights growth over a five-year period

Select Food System Assets	2012	2017
Community Gardens	111	149
Community Orchards	4	8
Urban farms	0	2
Farmers Markets	9	12
Breweries	5	20
Food Processors	85 <sup>1</sup>	104 <sup>2</sup>
Hunger Relief Services	31 <sup>3</sup>	46 <sup>4</sup>

## Economic Opportunity

Calgary's population has grown by 126,112 since 2012. As Calgary continues to grow, demand for food production, food processing, grocery stores, restaurants, specialty markets, farmers' markets, and commercial kitchens grows as well. This in turn creates jobs and helps build strong local businesses and

attractive opportunities for both small business entrepreneurs and larger agribusiness investment in our city. Calgary is already home to several international agribusiness corporations and Calgary Economic Development is working to attract more. Agribusiness has been identified as a key focus area in *Building on Our Energy; An Economic Strategy for Calgary* (November 2014). The agriculture and agri-food sector is a major element of Calgary's food system, contributing to the production of food that Calgarians eat while also providing key employment and economic growth opportunities through domestic sale and export and value-added processing. In 2016, Alberta's food and beverage processing sales totaled a record \$14.6 billion and the sector employed more than 22,400 Albertans, while small scale local food sales in direct-to-consumer channels (farmers' markets, restaurants and retail) have more than doubled since 2008 and are expected to exceed \$1.2 billion in 2017. Calgary has experienced tremendous growth in beverage manufacturing, namely breweries and distilleries.<sup>5</sup>

Greater attention is now being paid to the production of food within the urban area. There is increased economic interest in the commercial production of food from small and medium sized businesses and new models of urban food production are emerging. Calgary's seasonal weather is a challenge, and entrepreneurs are exploring indoor vertical growing as a viable solution to year-round food production. Finding vacant land that is affordable and suitable for outdoor growing is also a challenge and this has led to increased public interest in accessing vacant public land for commercial food production activities. Over the past two years, The City of Calgary received 17 requests for information related to permitting and land use for urban agriculture or food production, or to lease city-owned vacant land.

## Household Food Insecurity

Despite the growth in some areas of the food system, there are gaps and vulnerabilities in other areas. Several issues influence Calgary's move forward towards food security and a sustainable, resilient food system. The economic downturn has strained families that rely on precarious work, and low wages make nutritious food hard to obtain. Loss of employment has put families that were previously economically stable at risk as well. Because food insecurity results from a household's inability to access food for financial reasons, the loss of employment for many Calgarians has meant that more Calgary families than ever are food insecure<sup>6</sup>. Additionally, food prices have continued to increase with the cost of a Nutritious Food Basket increasing by more than \$300/month over a three-year period. Visits to *The Calgary Food Bank* have also increased by more than 40,000 over the same three-year period. The most recent data from 2014 show eleven percent of Calgarians are food insecure<sup>7</sup>.

The community is responding to the need through meal provision, education programs, summer food assistance for kids, and food recovery and re-distribution. *The Calgary Food Bank* has also expanded its service and now offers Food Bank Depots in communities most in need, reducing the need for travel to main location to obtain food hampers and other services. Figure 2 highlights the increased need some agencies have experienced over the past 3 years.



Figure 2: Household Food Insecurity Indicators by Agency

Household Food Insecurity in Calgary		
	2014	2017
Cost of a Nutritious Food Basket	\$784/month (family of 4) <sup>8</sup>	\$1089.54/month (family of 4) <sup>9</sup>
Food Bank Client Visits	129,948 <sup>10</sup>	170,093 (2016) <sup>11</sup>
Brown Bagging for Kids	2,200 lunches/day <sup>12</sup>	3,200 lunches/day <sup>13</sup>
I Can for Kids (formed 2015)	N/A	36,000 meal kits/summer <sup>14</sup>

## Community Partners

The CalgaryEATS! Food System Assessment and Action Plan was completed in response to growing citizen demand and community awareness of the value of a sustainable and resilient food system. The City of Calgary values its community partners and works closely with them in achieving the vision of the Food Action Plan. The CalgaryEATS! Community Stewardship Group was formed in 2012 and existed to lead the implementation and monitoring of the community-led actions. In November of 2016, the Community Stewardship Group voted unanimously to dissolve with some members re-organizing into the *Calgary Food System Alliance*. This new group will continue to play a role in coordinating food system actors in activities relating to the community-led actions of the Food Action Plan.

With increasing citizen and economic interest in food system activities, several new community groups have formed and are working in specific food system areas to activate businesses and projects. Community partnerships have expanded and now include leaders from across Calgary's civic and community organizations, businesses, academic institutions and government agencies.

## City of Calgary Current Initiatives

Significant progress has been made in furthering City-led actions in the food system since the last progress report in 2014. The Food Action Plan initiatives seek to affect change through a participatory approach that promotes community engagement, partnership development and policy changes. To maximize a positive impact for the community, key initiatives focus on the tools and levers that The City has direct ability to enable and/or support food system activities. Each initiative contributes to long term goals of increasing urban and regional food production and consumption, ensuring access to healthy food for all Calgarians, and ensuring a secure supply of food for all Calgarians. The current initiatives which are discussed in detail in this section include:

1. **Land Use Bylaw Amendments** – A Land Use Bylaw review to identify opportunities to strengthen and support food system activities in more districts
2. **Urban Agriculture Project** – Development of a process for managing urban agriculture lease requests for City-owned vacant parcels of land; and to establish guidelines for urban agriculture; development of a public information resource for required permits, approvals and applicable regulations
3. **Transit Fresh Food Markets** – A pilot project utilizing the primary transit network to bring healthy food options to food deserts
4. **Food and Land Use Planning** – Completed a comprehensive review of the Developed Areas Guidebook; file management support on the Section23 Rangeview Outline Plan; inclusion of a food system lens in the Sustainability Appraisal Tool; and a review of the Municipal Development Plan for policy alignment and gaps in supporting the Food Action Plan vision
5. **Neighborhood Food Plans** - Support the development of neighborhood food activities and initiatives that contribute to increasing food security
6. **Boulevard Garden Guidelines** – Development of a process through the existing rules in the Streets Bylaw to grant permission to residents who live next to a boulevard to grow food in the boulevard; Boulevard Garden Guidelines as a public resource to support
7. **Food Action Plan Web-based Information Hub** – Development of a web-based information source to share the findings of the food assessment and provide resources to the public
8. **On-going CalgaryEATS! Cross-Corporate Work** – A summary of other initiatives across the corporation that address City-led actions in the Food Action Plan



## 1. Land Use Bylaw Amendments

**Project Description:** A Land Use Bylaw review to identify opportunities to strengthen and support food system activities in more districts

**Municipal Development Plan Alignment:** A Prosperous Economy; Green Infrastructure

**CalgaryEATS! Action:** Review City of Calgary bylaws to determine if amendments would be required for alignment to food vision and principles

**City's Role:** Enabler

**Contribution to Calgary's Quality of Life:** This project aligns with the Council Priorities of "A Healthy and Green City", "A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods", and "A Prosperous City"

**Project Lead:** Legislation and Land Use Bylaw (Calgary Growth Strategies)

**Project Partner:** Sustainability Strategies (Calgary Growth Strategies)

**Customers/Community Partners:** Calgary Economic Development, Agri-business Sector, Community Food Sector, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Consumers

**Timeline:** Q3 2018

**Performance Measures Under Development:** # of Development Permits issued, # Calls to the Planning Services Centre

**Planned Actions for 2018:** Looking at how to accommodate outdoor urban agriculture and rooftop greenhouses in more land use districts

### Context:

The food system landscape is changing in Calgary with increased interest in economic opportunities in food production and food processing. Calgary Economic Development identified agribusiness as a key focus area and has played a pivotal role in connecting entrepreneurs with financial investors and supporting large scale agribusiness in diversification. This has helped to advance the level of interest in commercial food system activities in Calgary.

Existing methods of growing food have improved and new methods of growing food in urban areas have emerged. To accommodate new land uses a bylaw review was required. New models of growing food indoors include aquaponics, aquaculture and vertical farming. Aquaponics is an integrated system where waste created by fish is used to supply nutrients to hydroponically grown plants, which in turn clean the water and return it to the fish. Vertical farming is where plants are grown in layers or on vertical surfaces allowing indoor growing in warehouses, shipping containers and other buildings (see glossary in Appendix A for further information). These methods of growing food are well suited to the urban

environment and support increased business opportunities, employment, economic activity and diversification.

### **City Action:**

Over the past year, a Land Use Bylaw review identified opportunities to support urban food production, processing, and distribution. Broad stakeholder consultation was undertaken to identify issues and gauge support for change. Several topic areas were prioritized as a result. In September 2017, City Council adopted the proposed amendments.

The amendments add a new “Food Production” use to provide opportunity for small and large businesses to grow and distribute food in the Industrial and Commercial districts. This new use includes opportunities for the emerging food production businesses of aquaponics and aquaculture.

The amendments also provided an opportunity to clarify existing food growing opportunities in the “Extensive Agriculture” use to allow for greenhouses and other small buildings to extend the growing season and allow businesses to become more viable and productive.

Finally, the amendments provide a definition for “Intensive Agriculture”, which was not previously defined in the Land Use Bylaw.

### **Outcome:**

Indoor food production is a priority area of interest for stakeholders and the amendments to the Land Use Bylaw are formative to providing increased economic opportunities for both small-scale urban growers and large agribusinesses. Since the introduction of the “food production” use, permits are pending for two indoor aquaponics food production businesses and several small scale indoor modular farms are in the process of getting established and interest is growing in this new economic opportunity. Work continues on how to accommodate outdoor urban agriculture, rooftop greenhouses and other food system activities in more land use districts throughout the city.

### **Impact:**

The amendments contribute to economic resilience and the long term goal of increasing local food production and consumption.

## 2. Urban Agriculture Project

**Project Description:** To develop a process for managing urban agriculture lease requests for City-owned parcels of land, and to establish guidelines for urban agriculture operations, permits, approvals and applicable regulations

**Municipal Development Plan Alignment:** Prosperous Economy; Green Infrastructure; Complete Communities

**CalgaryEATS! Action:** Support urban agriculture at both a city-wide and community level

**City's Role:** Support; Pilot Project

**Contribution to Calgary's Quality of Life:** This project aligns with the Council Priorities of "A Healthy and Green City", "A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods", and "A Prosperous City"

**Project Lead:** Sustainability Strategies (Calgary Growth Strategies)

**Project Partners:** Environmental & Safety Management, Roads, Real Estate & Development Services, Community Planning, Water Resources

**Customers/Community Partners:** Agri-business Sector, Community Food Sector, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Consumers

**Timeline:** 2018 Pilot Projects underway

**Performance Measures Under Development:** # of Development Permits issued; decrease in # of food production and urban agriculture inquiries for information

**Planned Actions for 2018:** Learn, develop and test key deliverables

### Context:

New opportunities for outdoor urban agriculture and indoor food production are emerging that require City support and coordination. Currently there is no system in place to process lease requests for City-owned vacant land for urban agriculture projects. Additionally, information about procedures, required permits, approvals and applicable regulations for urban agriculture is not publicly available. There are multiple models of food production that have emerged that require different approvals. Vacant sites where outdoor urban agriculture is feasible will require soil testing and there is currently no mechanism to ensure that food grown on urban sites is safe for consumption. Many of the rules potentially governing urban food production have yet to be established. This poses challenges for Calgary businesses that need information and direction on land use approvals, licenses and regulations.

### City Action:

The purpose of the Urban Agriculture Project is to develop a process for managing urban agriculture lease requests for City-owned parcels of land, and to establish guidelines for urban agriculture operations, permits, approvals and applicable regulations. In 2017, multiple City of Calgary business units worked together to create Calgary's first opportunity for commercial urban farmers to lease vacant land from the City of Calgary through the creation of the Urban Agriculture Project. Through two pilot projects, community will work in partnership with The City on key deliverables: Leasing Process for Urban Farms on City-Owned Land; Urban Agriculture Guidelines; Soil Health Guidelines and; Approvals and Regulation Information.

### Anticipated Outcome:

This project is in early stages however the anticipated outcome is a coordinated approach to enabling and supporting urban agriculture and food production by facilitating access to City-owned land for agriculture and food production, and providing an information resource to help the public understand commercial urban food production.

### Impact:

This project contributes economic resilience and to an increase in local food production.



### 3. Fresh Food Markets at Transit Stations

**Project Description:** This is a pilot project to determine whether locating fresh food markets at Transit stations will meet multiple objectives

**Municipal Development Plan Alignment:** Sustainability Principle #7; Prosperous Economy; Complete Communities

**CalgaryEATS! Action:** Increase physical accessibility to food retail; Locate fresh food retail along primary transit network

**City's Role:** Enabler

**Contribution to Calgary's Quality of Life:** This project aligns with the Council Priorities of "A Healthy and Green City", "A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods", "A City That Moves", and "A Prosperous City"

**Project Lead:** Sustainability Strategies (Calgary Growth Strategies)

**Project Partners:** Calgary Transit

**Customers/Community Partners:** Calgary Transit commuters, Fresh Food Vendors

**Timeline:** Q4 2018

**Planned Actions for 2018:** Monitoring feedback from Calgary Transit, commuters and vendor; Project close-out report.

**Performance Measures Under Development:** Commuter feedback; Customer visits; Vendor sales,

#### Context:

Over 300,000 people use Calgary's light rail transit system every day. The CalgaryEATS! Food System Assessment revealed that some communities lack multi-modal access to healthy food retail choices. Making healthy food options available to people on their daily commute could increase food access for some food desert communities.

#### City Action:

As part of the Food Action Plan, locating fresh food retail outlets along the primary transit network were identified to support increased access to healthy food for all Calgarians. City of Calgary business units worked together to bring healthy produce markets to select transit stations as a unique way to make food more visible in the urban context and to increase access to healthy food for food desert communities. Using the food desert mapping from the CalgaryEATS! Food System Assessment, four transit stations were selected based on location and transit connectivity to communities in need. The

markets officially launched in September 2017 and operated two days a week during peak commute times at alternating stations, placing fresh healthy food options in commuter routes.

### **Anticipated Outcome:**

The goal of the Fresh Food Markets is to promote fresh healthy food at transit stations by providing pedestrians and public transit riders easy access to fresh food markets retail along transportation routes. The anticipated outcome is increased access to healthy affordable food in neighbourhoods underserved by healthy food retailers. Early measures indicate that commuters appreciate the opportunity to purchase affordable fresh produce at Transit stations.

The pilot project will continue in 2018 and a full evaluation of the project will be completed by December 2018. The evaluation of the project will be provided to Calgary Transit to assist them with future fresh produce retail strategies on their property that would help promote access for commuters to healthier food choices.

### **Impact:**

This project contributes to increasing overall access to fresh healthy food for Calgarians that utilize Calgary Transit.





## 4. Food and Land Use Planning

**Project Description:** Providing a food systems lens to land use policy planning projects to ensure that aspects of local food systems are considered and the Food Action Plan vision is realized

**Municipal Development Plan Alignment:** Complete Communities; Strong Residential Neighbourhoods; Green Infrastructure

**CalgaryEATS! Action:** Embed the food system vision and principles as policies and strategies within growth management, land use planning and design through Land use policy plans, Outline plans, development permit and building permit applications

**City's Role:** Enabler

**Contribution to Calgary's Quality of Life:** This work aligns with the Council Priorities of "A Healthy and Green City" and "A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods"

### Context:

Land use planning and regulation impact the design and character of neighbourhoods, the location of homes, schools, food retail stores, community gardens, urban agriculture and open space. Land use planning therefore has significant potential to ensure the availability of food at the neighbourhood level.

### Developed Areas Guidebook:

A comprehensive review of the Developed Areas Guidebook was conducted through a food systems lens and feedback was provided in six policy areas. Recommended additions included recognition of community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture and farmers' markets as desirable uses in neighbourhoods, provision of sufficient space for food retail outlets and associated infrastructure, and inter-modal transportation access for such uses. Edible landscaping was also identified as an alternative to ornamental landscaping.

### Outline Plan Review:

Sustainability Strategies provided support in the review of the Rangeview Outline Plan. This plan is the first in Calgary to specifically designate open spaces for agricultural activities, community food growing and sharing. This innovative approach to integrating food and agriculture into a residential neighborhood design may require new site-specific standards to be considered.

### Anticipated Outcome and Impact:

This work advances the objectives of the Municipal Development Plan by ensuring early integration of food systems principles into urban design planning. Work will continue on the Municipal Development Plan review and the update to the Developed Areas Guidebook.

## 5. Neighborhood Food Plans

**Project Description:** Support the development of neighbourhood food activities and initiatives that contribute to increasing food security

**Municipal Development Plan Alignment:** Complete Communities; Strong Residential Neighbourhoods

**CalgaryEATS! Action:** Explore issues, opportunities and actions at a community level for supporting the food vision and principles

**City's Role:** Supporter

**Contribution to Calgary's Quality of Life:** This program aligns with the Council Priorities of "A Healthy and Green City" and "A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods"

**Project Lead:** Calgary Neighbourhoods

**Project Support:** Sustainability Strategies (Calgary Growth Strategies)

**Customers/Community Partners:** Residents experiencing household food insecurity

**Timeline:** Unknown

**Planned Actions for 2018:** Continue food conversations to better understand the impact of food insecurity for residents; develop neighbourhood food plans; develop initiatives and activities with residents to respond locally to identified opportunities and needs

**Performance Measures Under Development:** # neighbourhoods hosting food conversations; # of neighbourhoods with food activities and initiatives; # of neighbourhoods with food plans

### Context:

Income related household food insecurity exists in Calgary. In Calgary Neighbourhoods, Community Social Workers (CSWs) work in 23 priority neighbourhoods and specifically engage with populations considered socially and economically marginalized to increase social inclusion and economic participation. Both the CSW program's *Community Economic Development Neighbourhood Strategy* and *CalgaryEATS! A Food System Assessment and Action Plan for Calgary* (May 2012) have the shared goal of increasing food security for vulnerable populations.

### City Action:

In 2016 and 2017, CSWs partnered with residents and community stakeholders in 20 of the priority neighbourhoods to assess the local social issues, needs, conditions, concerns and aspirations of residents and stakeholders. 18 out of 20 neighbourhoods (90 %) identified food insecurity as a social issue impacting residents. The information was gathered through surveys, interviews, focus groups and

community conversations. Findings represent what we heard from these groups, and only represent the views of those we heard from. These are not statistically significant studies.

CSWs then facilitated neighborhood conversations to learn more about what food insecurity means. The number of neighborhood food conversations increased from 2 in 2016 to 13 in 2017 and there will be more conversations in 2018.

### **Anticipated Outcome:**

Twenty local initiatives that focus on increasing food security were implemented in neighbourhoods including: school lunch and breakfast programs, community meals, collective kitchens, community gardens, coordination of good food box, advocating for satellite food depots, and cooking programs.

### **Impact:**

This initiative responds to the need for increased food security for vulnerable populations in some Calgary communities and will contribute to ensuring access to healthy food for all Calgarians.

## 7. Boulevard Garden Guidelines

**Project Description:** Develop a process through the existing rules in the Streets Bylaw to grant permission to residents who live next to a boulevard to grow food in the boulevard and an information resource

**Municipal Development Plan Alignment:** Complete Communities; Green Infrastructure

**CalgaryEATS! Action:** Support urban agriculture at both a city-wide and community level

**City's Role:** Enabler

**Contribution to Calgary's Quality of Life:** This program aligns with the Council Priorities of "A Healthy and Green City" and "A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods"

**Project Lead:** Sustainability Strategies (Calgary Growth Strategies)

**Project Partners:** Roads

**Customers/Community Partners:** Citizens

**Timeline:** Q2 2018

**Planned Actions for 2018:** Monitor program

### Context:

In Calgary, 'boulevard' is the name given to the strip of City-owned land between a property and the street or the sidewalk and the street. Most residential boulevards throughout Calgary are planted with grass, trees and shrubs. However, boulevards may also provide opportunities to grow food, particularly in high density neighbourhoods with multi-unit dwellings that lack spaces for growing food. Residents have indicated interest in boulevard gardens, seeing benefits for communities with multi-unit dwellings.

Boulevard gardens may be permitted under the existing Street Bylaw (20M88). However, until recently, there was no process defined on how and when permission is required as well as what types of plants or structures would be considered appropriate for placement in the boulevard.

### City Action:

A cross-corporate team worked together to create a set of boulevard garden guidelines to support beautification of streets and urban food production. The new set of Boulevard Garden Guidelines clearly define where gardens can occur and other considerations such as height restrictions for plants and structures as well as setbacks for pedestrians and parked vehicles. The guidelines will be published on Calgary.ca in early 2018 in time for the next growing season.

**Anticipated Outcome:**

This project will be completed in 2018 Q1. It is anticipated that The Boulevard Garden Guidelines will streamline citizen's access to information pertaining to gardening on boulevards in Calgary which may increase access to food-growing opportunities throughout the city. Evaluation will occur through a GIS mapping tool as well as tracking any citizen concerns and feedback. This will help to determine if any changes to the guidelines need to be made.

**Impact:**

The guidelines will support more opportunities for increasing local food production.





## 7. Web-Based Food Hub

**Project Description:** Development of a web-based resource for the public with information on Calgary's food system

**CalgaryEATS! Action:** Develop and manage a web-based information source to share the findings of the food assessment and provide resources to the public

**City's Role:** Support

**Contribution to Calgary's Quality of Life:** This program aligns with the Council Priorities of "A Healthy and Green City", "A Prosperous Economy" and "A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods"

**Project Lead:** Sustainability Strategies (Calgary Growth Strategies)

**Customers/Community Partners:** Citizens

**Timeline:** Complete

### Context:

Administration developed a new web-based information source hosted on Calgary.ca to provide resources to the public. Resources include information on growing food for personal use or commercial sale, where to find local food, and emergency food sources as well as information on the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan and current projects. The web-based hub also has information on current City-led projects that contribute to the implementation of the Food Action Plan.

### Anticipated Outcome:

Creating a single access point on Calgary.ca for the Food Action Plan provides a customer-centric approach to food-related opportunities in Calgary. Calgarians will be able to access the information they need in a faster and more efficient manner and The City can ensure the needs of its customers, citizens and communities are supported.

## Ongoing Cross-Corporate Work Contributing to the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan

Many ongoing programs across the corporation contribute to or directly support actions within the Food Action Plan. These include:

### **Community Garden Program (Parks)**

The City has been supporting community garden developments on public lands by working with a variety of community organizations. This program continues to be successful with 149 community gardens.

### **Community Orchard Program (Parks)**

Since 2009, The City has been planting fruit trees and shrubs in locations around Calgary as part of a community orchard research project to increase opportunities for local food production activities. Through pilot projects, The City is testing several orchard models including community orchards, regional orchards and fruit trees along pedestrian routes as well as species of fruit trees and shrubs.

### **Green Cart Program (Waste and Recycling Services)**

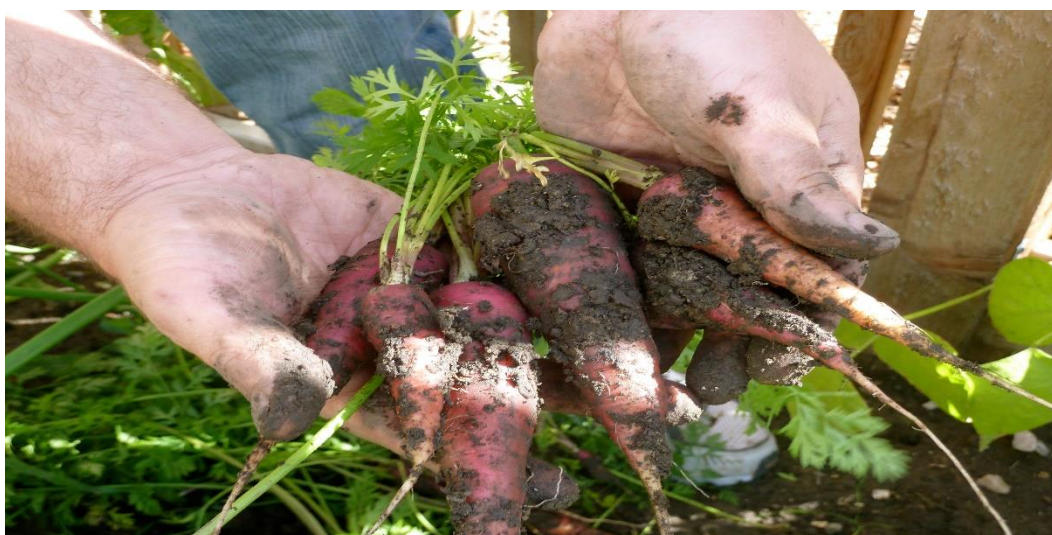
The Green Cart Program was introduced to single-family homes across Calgary between July and October 2017. The program will provide participants with weekly collection of food and yard waste, allowing them to divert this material from landfills. It has been supported by a comprehensive communication and public education campaign to help residents learn to use the program correctly and understand why composting is so important. This included guidebooks and calendars delivered with each cart, information shared through social and news media, and other channels, and public education attendance at various events throughout the city.

Please see Appendix B for a complete status update on the City-led actions in the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan.

## Next Steps

Since 2012, The Calgary Food Action Plan has served as important guidance for priority setting in enabling and supporting a sustainable and resilient food system in Calgary. City-led initiatives contribute towards the Food Action Plan vision of providing all Calgarians with access to local healthy and a secure supply of food, while ensuring the food system is environmentally sustainable and supporting economic development. Work will continue on key City-led initiatives identified in this report with a project focus on The City's role as enabler and supporter.

As the city continues to grow and change food system priorities in the broader community also change. The Food Action Plan will need to evolve in order respond to new and emerging opportunities in Calgary's food system. To remain relevant, a portfolio analysis will be undertaken to acknowledge the wide range of food-related actions currently underway at The City, as well as to consider the broader food system environment in the community. This will ensure that The City continues to play an effective role as an enabler and supporter. A portfolio analysis will also identify opportunities for greater connections to other corporate initiatives and highlight new ways to effectively invest in the programs and strategies that address the needs of Calgary.



## References

- 1 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. (2017). Alberta's Agricultural Processing Industry Directory. Available at: <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/foodindustry>
- 2 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. (2017). *Alberta's Agricultural Processing Industry Directory*. Available at: <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/content/Agprodir2017.pdf>
- 3 The City of Calgary. (2012). *CalgaryEATS! Food System Assessment and Action Plan*; pg. 254
- 4 Alberta Health Services. (2013). *Access to Food in Alberta*. Available at: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/Infofor/hp/if-hp-sn-access-to-food-in-alberta.pdf>
- 5 Tarasuk, M. &. (2014). *Household Food Insecurity in Canada*. Toronto: PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research. Available at: <http://www.proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2014.pdf>
- 6 Tarasuk, M. &. (2014). *Household Food Insecurity in Canada*. Toronto: PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research. Available at: <http://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2014.pdf>
- 7 Household Food Insecurity in Canada. (2014). Available at: <http://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2014.pdf>
- 8 The City of Calgary. (2014). *CalgaryEATS! Progress Report 2014*, pg. 13
- 9 Alberta Health Services. (2017). *The Cost of Healthy Eating in Alberta*. Available at: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/nutrition/if-nfs-the-cost-of-healthy-eating-in-alberta-.pdf>
- 10 The Calgary Food Bank Fast Facts. (2017). Available at: <http://www.calgaryfoodbank.com/about/fast-facts/>
- 11 The Calgary Food Bank Fast Facts. (2017). Available at: <http://www.calgaryfoodbank.com/about/fast-facts/>
- 12 Personal Correspondence Bobbi Turko, Founder I Can for Kids. (2017).
- 13 Personal Correspondence Bobbi Turko, Founder, I Can for Kids. (2017).
- 14 I Can For Kids. (2017). Available at: <http://www.icanforkids.ca/>

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Glossary

**Aeroponics:** The process of growing plants in an air or mist environment without the use of soil or an aggregate medium.

**Agribusiness:** Term used to describe the diverse agricultural economic activities including value-added food and meat processing and manufacturing, crop sciences and animal genetics, beverage manufacturing, agri-technologies, and agri-finance and business services.

**Agricultural Urbanism:** Planning, policy and design framework that focuses on integrating a wide range of food system elements into urban planning projects and Neighbourhoods.

**Aquaponics:** A closed loop system (e.g., water tank) containing plants and aquatic species (e.g., fish, that share a symbiotic relationship, providing food and cleaning functions). A closed loop system is a self-sustaining system whereby wastes/outputs of one system element are used as a resource/input for another system element.

**Aquaculture:** Aquaculture, also known as aquafarming, is the farming of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic plants, algae, and other aquatic organisms. Aquaculture involves cultivating freshwater and saltwater populations under controlled conditions, and can be contrasted with commercial fishing, which is the harvesting of wild fish.

**Community Garden:** The practice of gardening or growing food either as a group or as an individual or family in a shared garden space. Community gardens are often located on public lands and are the result of a group of people coming together to make land available for gardening.

**Food Desert:** A district with little or no access to foods needed to maintain a healthy diet. Often near fast food restaurants or convenience stores.

**Food System:** A set of activities including production, processing, distribution, marketing, retail, consumption and waste.

**Household Food Insecurity:** the inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so. It is often associated with the household's financial ability to access adequate food.

**Hydroponic:** The cultivation of plants in a solution of nutrient-rich water rather than soil.

**Modular/Freight Farms:** Portable pre-built commercial food production system in a freight container like structure.

**Permaculture:** A design approach that mimics patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fibre, and energy for the provision of local needs.

**Urban Agriculture:** The practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in, or around a city.

**Urban Farm:** A portion of urban land where food is grown primarily for sale.

**Urban Farming:** Growing, cultivating and distributing food within a city to generate revenue. Also called Commercial Urban Agriculture.



## Appendix B: Calgary EATS! Community-led Actions 2017 Status Report

Action	Lead	Stakeholders		Status
Planning & Land use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore land-share opportunities ranging from private yards/gardens to large-scale land-owners.</li> <li>2. Explore co-location opportunities and strategies to increase efficiencies and use of resources e.g. co-locating food processing facilities or industrial site waste heat generator co-locates by greenhouse development: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commencement of site design and appropriate land use to enable co-location;</li> <li>b. Fostering collaboration between tenants and landowners in suitable co-location opportunities.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dependent upon sites e.g. yard land share could be lead by Community Sector (community groups)</li> <li>2. a. Government Sector - City of Calgary: Real Estate and Development Services b. Landowners</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>In Progress (Community-led)</b></li> <li>2. <b>Not Started (Community-led and City-led)</b></li> </ol>
Logistics & Transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore and implement Food Hub(s): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Raise awareness, provide best practice examples, coordinate stakeholders;</li> <li>b. Use Alberta Agriculture and Forestry inventory of local brokers and distribution companies to identify potential partnerships</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Government Sector- Calgary Regional Partnership &amp; Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Market Sector and Community Sector</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Calgary Regional Partnership members, Rocky View County and Foothills MD, AARD producers, processors, distributors, retail food service purchasers (restaurants, grocery stores etc)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Ongoing (Community-led)</b></li> </ol>
Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Map the ecological footprint of our local food system built upon mapping at the source, supplier, retailer or restaurant level.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Industry/ Market &amp; Community Food Sector</li> <li>2. Market &amp; Community</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Permitting, water, communities, potential markets, technology firms</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Incomplete (Community-led)</b></li> </ol>

	<p>2. Explore alternative fuel sources e.g. bio-fuels, electric/hybrid, right-sized vehicles etc for food distribution.</p> <p>3. Pilot the development of greenhouse technology in Calgary using sustainable methods such as waste heat.</p>	<p>Food Sector &amp; Distributors</p> <p>3. Market and Community Food Sector &amp; Institutions</p>	<p>2. Community Sectors, City of Calgary – Environmen &amp; Safety Management</p> <p>3. Multiple</p>	<p>2. <b>Incomplete (Community-led)</b></p> <p>3. <b>Complete (Community-led)</b></p>
Economic Development	<p>1. Coordinate and provide information about the availability of shared facilities for processing (equipment, space, transportation, labour, labelling etc).</p> <p>2. Skill building and knowledge sharing as part of green collar employment. Explore and expand opportunities for social enterprise and community economic development.</p> <p>3. Develop a Food Trust Fund and explore vouchers or Calgary dollars to redistribute dollars to food programming and support training school cooks, retrofitting kitchens and developing sustainable foods sourcing and menus (e.g. Jamie Oliver's School Dinners).</p>	<p>1. Government Sector: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</p> <p>2. Community Food Sector</p> <p>3. Community Food Sector</p>	<p>1. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Market Food Sector and Community Food Sector stakeholders</p> <p>2. Community Food Sector stakeholders e.g. Momentum, Trico Foundation, social agencies, YWCA, EthniCity catering and the Retail Council of Canada.</p> <p>3. Community Food Sector stakeholders e.g. Momentum, Trico Foundation, social agencies, YWCA, EthniCity catering and the Retail Council of Canada</p>	<p>1. <b>Incomplete (Community-led)</b></p> <p>2. <b>In progress (Community-led)</b></p> <p>3. <b>Started (Community-led)</b></p>
Community Programs	<p>1. Embed the food system vision and principles and food security as a constellation within the Poverty Reduction Strategy.</p> <p>2. Institutions collaborate on the development of a Farm to Cafeteria/ School etc approach in Calgary.</p> <p>3. Explore issues, opportunities and actions at a community</p>	<p>1. Poverty Reduction Initiative: City of Calgary &amp; United Way</p> <p>2. Community Food Sector</p>	<p>1. All poverty reduction stakeholders and access and preparation food system stakeholders</p> <p>2. Community food sector stakeholders and City of Calgary</p>	<p>1. <b>In Progress (Community-led)</b></p> <p>2. <b>Started (Provincial Gov't)</b></p> <p>3. <b>Unknown (Community-led)</b></p>

	level for supporting the food vision and principles.	3. Institutions and Government Sectors  4. Community Food Sector	3. Multiple  4. Federation of Calgary Communities, community associations and citizens	
Education Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued support by the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) for embedding environmental stewardship and associated programs such as edible gardens within curriculum delivery to an increased number of schools.</li> <li>Mapping of school food gardens, schools with food education programs and those that use produce in school lunches.</li> <li>Education program on seasonal local food nutrition etc e.g. develop a Calgary Seasonal Food Calendar to educate people about what is 'in-season' locally – educate consumers to ask questions of chefs, cafeterias, grocery stores etc (ongoing).</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> party certification (e.g. LEAF) for restaurants and food service providers.</li> <li>Expand labelling and marketing material associated with sustainable food sources e.g. local marketing material in grocery stores.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Sector - Alberta Education and Calgary Board of Education</li> <li>Institutional Sector, Community Stakeholders and Government Sector</li> <li>Community Stakeholders</li> <li>Market and Community Food Sector</li> <li>Market Food Sector &amp; Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple</li> <li>Multiple</li> <li>Multiple</li> <li>Government sector and citizens</li> <li>Government sector &amp; citizens</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In Progress (Community-led)</b></li> <li><b>Not Started (Community-led)</b></li> <li><b>Not Started (Community-led)</b></li> <li><b>In Progress (Community-led)</b></li> <li><b>In progress (Community-led)</b></li> </ol>

Governance	1. Ensure the continuation of the Calgary Food Committee to steward the implementation of the action plan in the context of the imagineCALGARY partnership and the constellation model. Draft revised terms of reference and review of membership based on moving to an implementation mandate. Develop and manage a web-based information source to share the findings of the food assessment and provide resources to the public.	1. Community Stakeholders	1. All stakeholders within the food system	1. <b>Complete</b>
		Community Stakeholders	Government Sector – City of Calgary	2. <b>Complete</b>