

Planning & Development Report to
Calgary Planning Commission
2017 March 07

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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
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Enabling Urban Agriculture and Local Food Sales

Development Permit Requirement

1. It is recommended that Urban Agriculture be exempt from needing a development permit where there is:
 - No required landscaping being removed;
 - No local food sales on-site; and
 - A maximum of one ancillary building that is 10 square metres or less in area (i.e. a small shed that does not require a building permit).
2. Greenhouses are key to extending the growing season. Where a greenhouse is larger than 10 square metres, a development permit and a building permit will be required.

Finally, Administration has developed Urban Agriculture Best Practices for Growing and Selling Local Food (The Best Practices) to inform the development and operation of safe, neighbourly and productive Urban Agriculture uses in Calgary (Attachment 2). The Best Practices will create a consistent approach to urban farm inquiries, clarify City of Calgary process and provide best practice guidance.

Outcome

The new Urban Agriculture use increase opportunities for local food production and consumption of local food for all Calgarians. Calgary follows other cities across Canada (Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax) and North America (Denver, Baltimore, Boston, Portland and San Francisco) in adopting similar enabling regulations for Urban Agriculture.

Local Food Sales

Context

An important aspect of promoting Urban Agriculture and the consumption of local food is providing more opportunities for urban growers to distribute their produce and more places for Calgarians to purchase local food. Small local producers often have limited market opportunities to sell their vegetables due to the scale of what they produce. Pathways to market traditionally include selling direct to restaurants, at community markets, or through produce box subscriptions. Local food sales provide small businesses needed pathways to market while at the same time enabling more healthy food to be sold directly to Calgarians.

Bylaw Amendment Recommendation

Administration recommends creating a new definition "Local food sales" to create an opportunity for local food producers to operate a temporary outside stand to sell their produce either on the parcel where it was grown, or on City-owned land with permission. ~~Interesting, has the city-group that will need to provide permission reviewed this report and is okay with it?~~