



Fort Saskatchewan Urban Agriculture Plan

What We Heard Report – I

January 2024

Fort Saskatchewan Urban Agriculture Plan

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1. Project Introduction

The City of Fort Saskatchewan (the City) is creating an Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP). The UAP will guide urban agriculture development at the municipal level and align with the Regional Agriculture Master Plan's (RAMP) policies and directions. The UAP is intended to identify how urban agriculture can be encouraged, supported, and incorporated in the city, as well as to determine the role of urban agriculture in Fort Saskatchewan's future.

2. Public Engagement Overview

The UAP project consists of four phases, residents and interested parties will be engaged throughout the project. Phase I is the data collection and analysis stage. Phase I engagement intends to raise public awareness and gauge residents' understanding, interest, aspirations, and perceived challenges associated with urban agriculture practices.

Phase I Engagement:

Phase I engagement includes an online survey and pop-up engagements. The City utilized a variety of promotional tools to advertise the UAP project and the pop-up engagements. The project webpage was set up to provide information about the overall project, engagement activities, and the online survey. The online survey and pop-up engagements were promoted through social media, newspaper advertisements, the City's webpage, and email notices.

The online survey was available on the project website for interested parties and residents to share their insights between October 30 and November 20, 2023. The City's survey consisted of 12 questions, including a mix of multiple-choice and open-ended questions. Many of the questions included an 'Other' option which allows respondents to enter comments that are not listed in the provided selections.

The City hosted four pop-up engagement booths at varying locations and times to accommodate various schedules (Table 1). The material presented can be found in Appendix A. Based on the conversations we felt mostly those interested in the topic, were more inclined towards filling out the survey. These booths were set up in the community at venues with the intention of meeting people where they are. The booths were staffed by 2 – 4 City employees and NAIT students who engaged with community members, explained the project, promoted the online survey, gathered written survey responses, and answered residents' questions regarding the project.

In total, 184 residents visited the survey website and the City received 88 survey responses.

Table 1: Pop-up engagement location and time.

Event / Location	Date	Time
Freson Bros. Fresh Market	November 7, 2023	4 – 7 PM
City Hall Main Lobby	November 14, 2023	4 – 7 PM
City Hall Main Lobby	November 16, 2023	10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Dow Centennial Centre	November 16, 2023	4 – 7 PM

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3. What We Heard Summary

The following captures the summary of feedback received during the UAP phase I online survey.

Please be advised that both partial and complete submissions were included in the data analysis. Therefore, the questions may not have been answered by the same number of respondents. The complete written responses to the open-ended questions are included in Appendix B.

Question 1. Have you ever thought about growing food in the City?

A total of eighty-seven (99%) participants responded to this question. Seventy-one (81%) respondents indicated that they have thought about growing food in the city, while eleven (13%) respondents selected “a little” and five (6%) respondents selected “no”. This indicates an interest in urban agriculture.

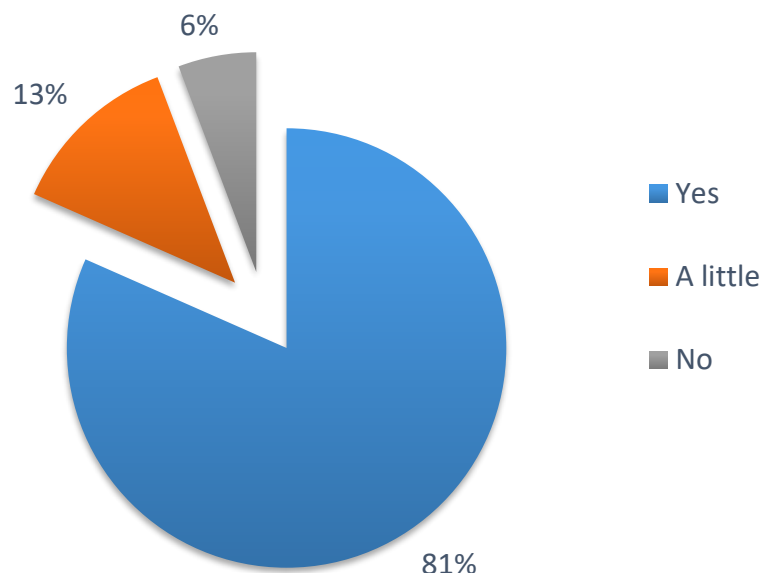


Figure 1. Respondents' thoughts about growing food in the city in percentage.

Question 2. What does Urban Agriculture mean to you? (Open-ended question)

Seventy-eight (89%) participants responded to this question. The most common themes included the production of food, self-sustainability, and land use utilization. The production of food involves growing fruits and vegetables, raising animals and fostering community gardens. Self-sustainability focuses on personal food cultivation to reduce reliance on commercial stores and global transportation, while land use utilization transforms unused urban spaces for agriculture, promoting environmental harmony, and preserving local characteristics.

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Table 2 shows key themes established through the responses. Overall, the responses reflect a diversity of perspectives on urban agriculture, ranging from personal benefits to considerations for community well-being and environmental sustainability. Since this is an open-ended question, each response may touch on multiple themes simultaneously, and the number of occurrences is an approximate value generated based on the relevancy to each main and sub-theme.

Table 2. Themes established regarding the meaning of Urban Agriculture to the respondents. (78 respondents)

Main Themes (# of responses)	Sub-Themes	Explanations
Production of Food (Approx. 36 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing own food (incl. fruits, vegetables, and animal produce) • Poultry/ Raising animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising chickens, bees, and other small livestock. • Integrating animals into urban farming practices. • Planting more fruit trees and more community gardens. • Growing food within the city/ urban area.
Self-sustainability (Approx. 23 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh Food • Food Security • Independence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing one's own food for personal consumption. • Ensuring access to fresh and healthy produce. • Reducing dependence on commercial, potentially pesticide-laden, imported foods. • Addressing local food security issues. • Fostering the ability to meet basic food needs independently. • Reducing reliance on commercial grocery stores.
Land Use Utilization (Approx. 18 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental; Biodiversity • Green spaces; large space utilization • Front lawn; backyard spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using otherwise unused or wasted space for agriculture. • Transforming urban areas to promote food production and biodiversity. • Utilizing front lawns and green spaces for growing food. • Reconnecting with nature and promoting harmony with the environment. • Honoring traditions of growing and consuming locally sourced foods. • Suggesting specific areas for community gardens or markets within the city. • Advocating for the incorporation of agriculture into urban planning.
Well-being (Approx. 13 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using urban agriculture as a recreational hobby and a means of mental wellness. • Sharing excess produce with neighbours, friends, and local food banks. • Building a sense of community through shared gardening and food production.
Economic & Educational Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic • Educational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing affordable options for growing food, such as community garden plots. • Promoting economic benefits and work ethic through urban agriculture.

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(Approx. 8 responses)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating the community about sustainable living and food production.
Concerns & Limitations (Approx. 4 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuisance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about noise and odours from farm animals in urban settings. Varying opinions on the appropriateness of farming within city limits.

Question 3. Is Urban Agriculture important in Fort Saskatchewan?

Seventy-five (86%) respondents selected “Yes” that urban agriculture is important in Fort Saskatchewan and proceeded to answer question 4. Seven (8%) respondents selected “No” and were directed to proceed to question 5 of the survey. Six (7%) respondents selected “It depends” and provided more information before proceeding to question 4 of the survey.

The following are comments related to “it depends” responses:

- *Not animals in backyards*
- *Vegetables, no animals*
- *It’s a personal decision that is not important for the City to manage.*
- *Perhaps providing support with information (e.g., growing zones, regulations, planting programs, etc.)*
- *On how much land you want to give to developers*
- *Depending on the types of urban agriculture*

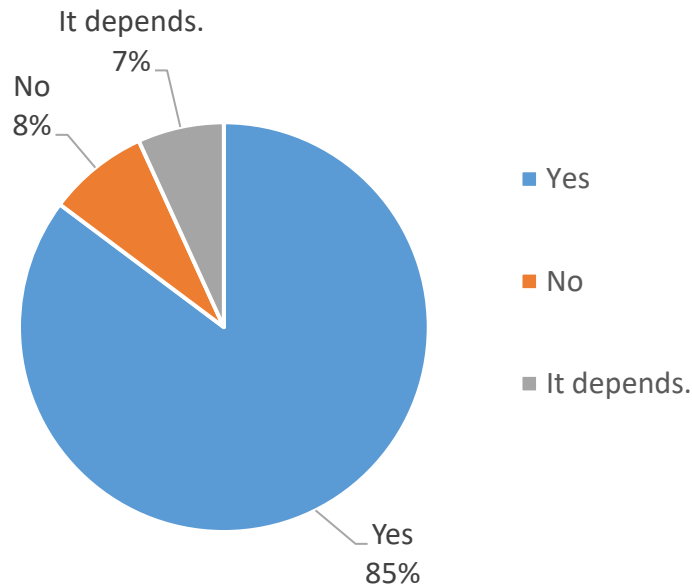


Figure 2. Is urban agriculture important in Fort Saskatchewan responses in percentage.

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Question 4. Why is Urban Agriculture important in Fort Saskatchewan? (Select all that apply)

Eighty-three (94%) respondents responded to this question and could have selected more than one response, which generated 451 responses. The top three selections for why urban agriculture is important in the city were “Locally produced food ensures access to food with less dependence on food imports” (15.5%), “Sustainability produced food is good for the environment” (14.2%), and closely followed by “Urban Agriculture creates awareness about food and farming among the young and urban populations” (13.3%).

Two respondents selected “other”, generating two additional comments which touched on food affordability:

- *People should be able to produce their own food to support their families. Gardening, raising small livestock for personal consumption.*
- *Helps manage the cost of food, especially for larger families.*

83 respondents generated 451 responses



Figure 3. Responses to ‘Why is urban agriculture important in the city?’

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Question 5. What Urban Agriculture activities do you or your family currently participate in? (Select all that apply)

Eighty-seven (99%) respondents provided insight into the types of urban agriculture activities that the community currently participates in. 281 responses were generated because respondents could select more than one response. The top three urban agriculture activities selected by respondents were “Grow our own fruits and vegetables on the property” (23.1%), “Buy locally produced foods at a local grocery store” (21.0%) and followed by “Buy from local food producers directly” (20.3%). One respondent selected “other” which generated one additional response as follows:

- *Plant various flowers for different pollinators*

87 respondent generated 281 responses

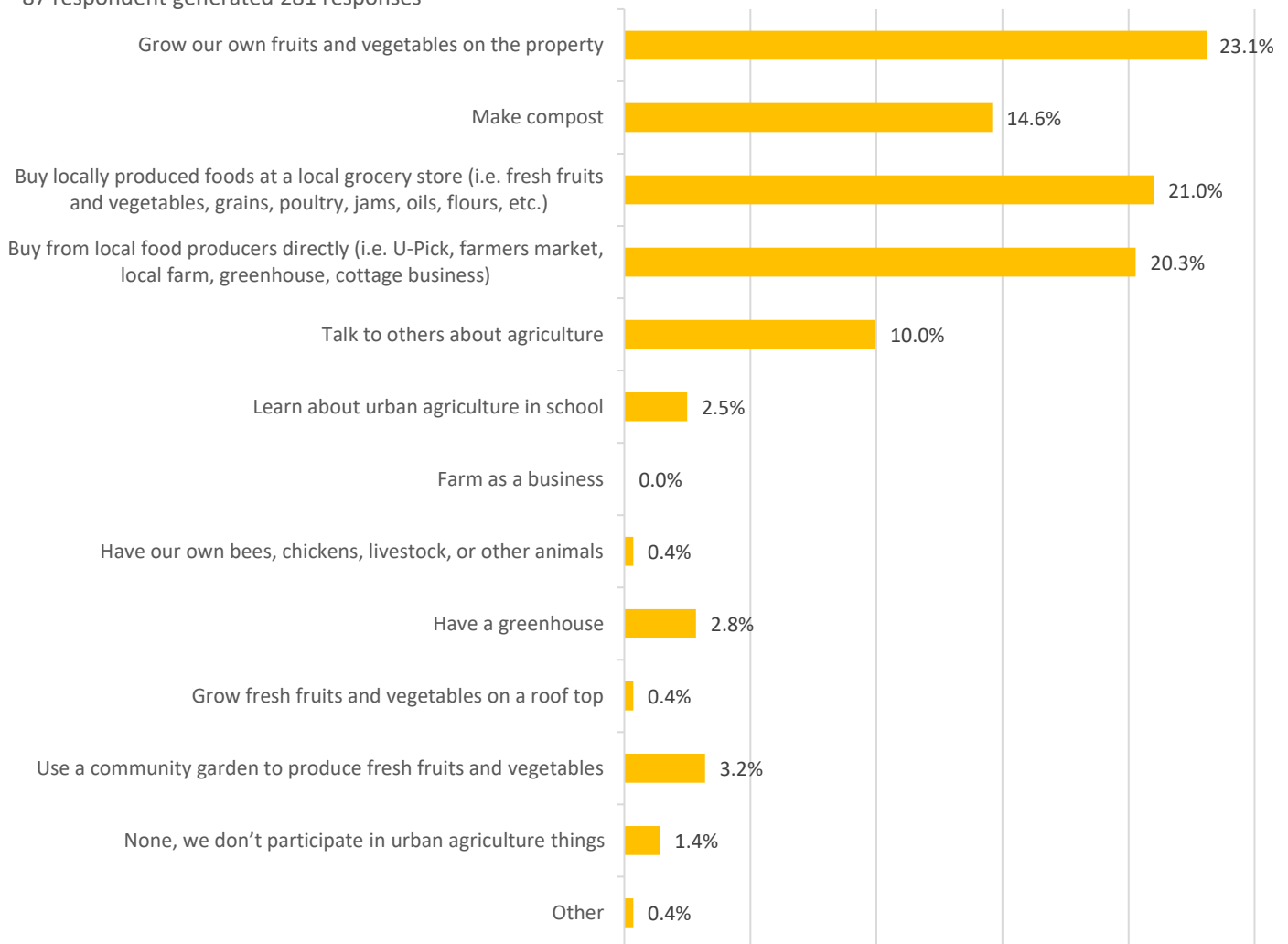


Figure 4. Responses for urban agriculture activities that respondents currently participate in.

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Question 6. My family and/or I would like to participate in the following Urban Agriculture things. (Select all that apply)

Eighty-eight (100%) respondents provided insight into the types of urban agriculture activities that they would like to participate in. Here, the difference in the vote share among various activities was quite narrow, indicating respondents would like to participate in a wide variety of urban agriculture practices. These responses indicate residents wish to grow their own food, want access to locally produced food, wish to keep bees, chickens & livestock, and learn about urban agriculture. Although the responses to the community gardens, farming and rooftop gardens seem low, this is likely because the majority of participants have access to private yard spaces.

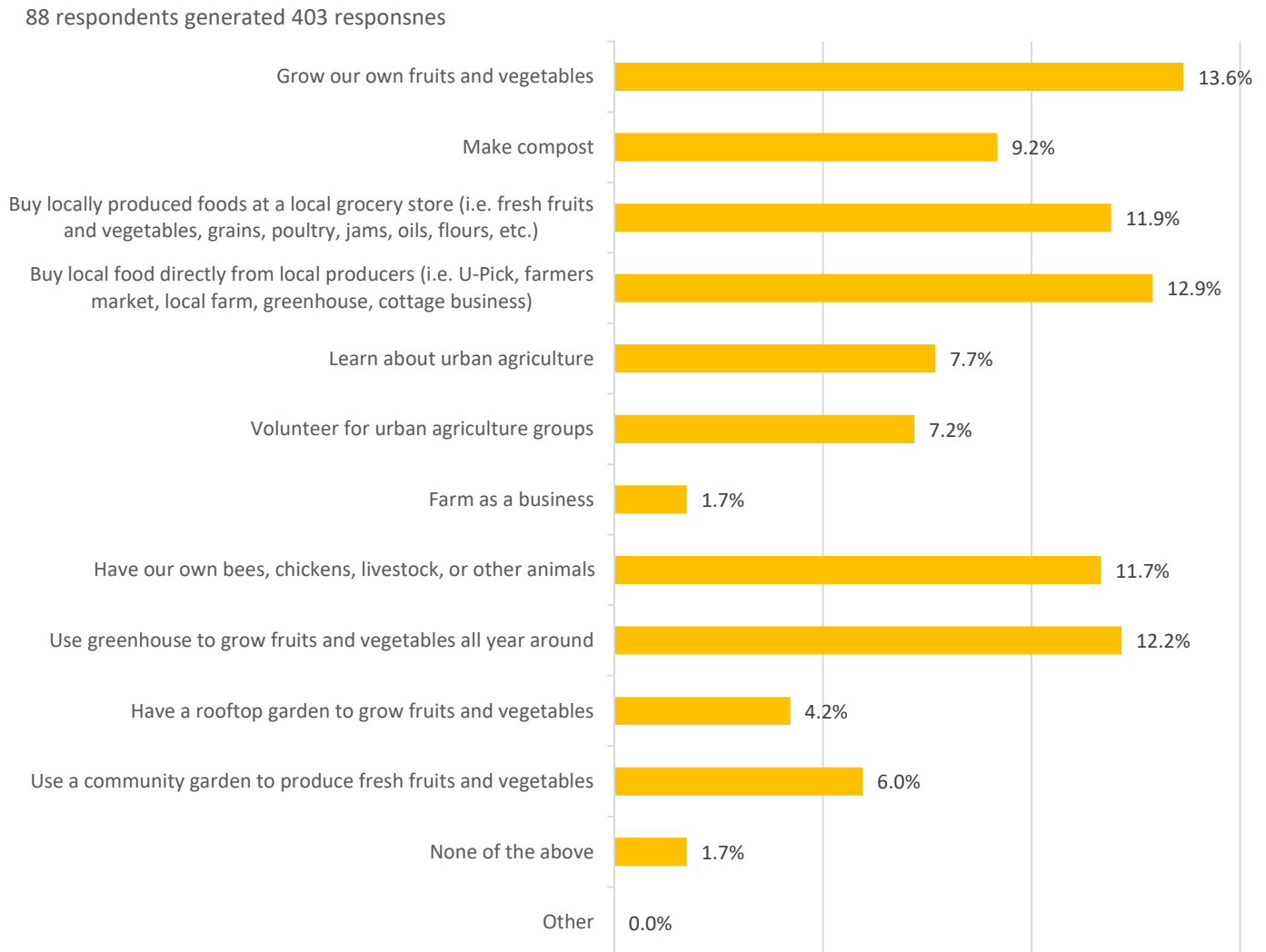


Figure 5. Responses for urban agriculture activities that respondents would like to participate in.

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Question 7. My family and/or I cannot participate in Urban Agriculture activity of our choice, because. (Select all that apply)

Seventy-seven (88%) respondents provided insight into the challenges residents face in participating in the urban agriculture activity of their choice. Respondents could select more than one response which generated 182 responses. The top reasons for not participating in urban agriculture were “There are too many rules and regulations” and “Not enough space for urban agriculture on property”. Each of these selections received twenty-seven (14.84%) votes. The third selection of “Community gardens and greenhouses are not easily accessible” was chosen by twenty-one (11.54%) participants. Based on the findings, over 10% of participants identified potential nuisances (worry about noise and smell, neighbours might not like it, bugs or pests) as a challenge.

77 respondents generated 182 responses

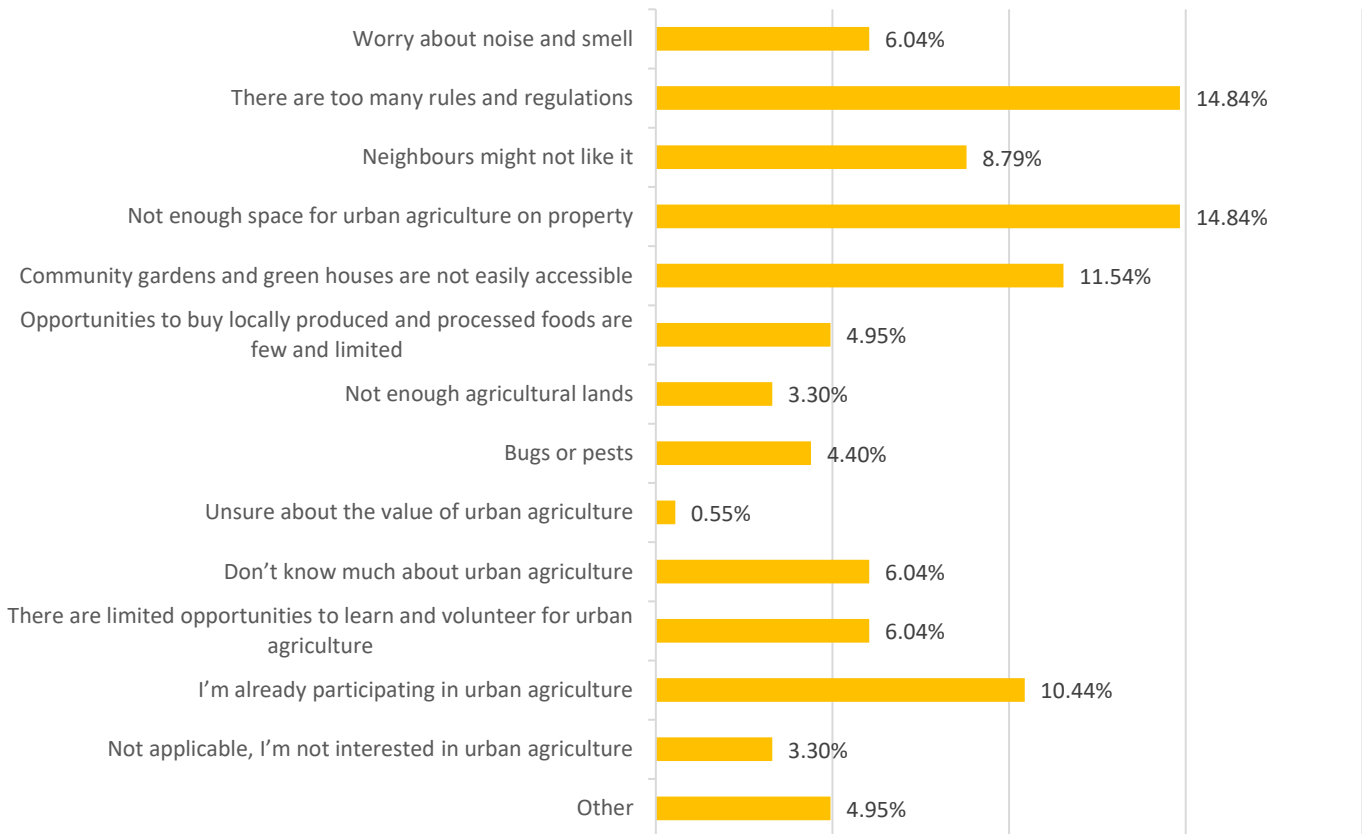


Figure 6. The reasons why respondents cannot participate in urban agriculture activities of their choice.

Nine respondents selected “other” which generated additional responses as follows:

- Used to have a garden on my property but the neighbour's tree grew so tall that no sunlight in the garden area.

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- Long waitlist to get a plot at the community garden by the cemetery. The JRC plots are good for seniors, and small families, but not larger families.
- I would love more information regarding best practices for local gardening.
- Living in an apartment.
- I participate but just by growing vegetables... I am not keen to raise animals in my yard.
- Backyard chickens are not permitted in any communities we have lived in.
- Costs associated with setting up certain urban agriculture facilities. (i.e., greenhouses)
- Would love to be able to have chickens.
- Chickens are not allowed with current laws.

Question 8. Identify which Urban Agriculture activities you believe fit best in the locations noted. (You can pick more than one activity for each location)

Table 3. The top three urban agriculture activities for each location in the city.

Locations	Urban Agriculture Activities		
	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice
Open space, excluding River Valley	Community Gardens (69 responses)	Edible Picking (i.e., U-Pick farms) (54 responses)	Urban Beekeeping (47 responses)
	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (69 responses)		
Commercial Parking Lots (i.e., strip mall, highway commercial)	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (39 responses)	Community Gardens (27 responses)	Greenhouses (26 responses)
Apartment & Multifamily Sites	Community Gardens (67 responses)	Rooftop Gardening (60 responses)	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (52 responses)
Estate Residential Lots	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (61 responses)	Urban Beekeeping (52 responses)	Urban Chicken (50 responses)
Residential Acreages	Urban Chicken (59 responses)	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (58 responses)	Greenhouses (55 responses)
	Urban Beekeeping (59 responses)		

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Single-Family Housing	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (62 responses)	Greenhouses (50 responses)	Urban Chicken (49 responses)
River Valley	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (64 responses)	Community Gardens (44 responses)	Urban Beekeeping (39 responses)
Institutional (School, church, community leagues, etc.)	Community Gardens (71 responses)	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (61 responses)	Rooftop Gardening (41 responses)
Boulevards	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (55 responses)	Community Gardens (26 responses)	Edible Picking (i.e., U-Pick farms) (17 responses)
Light and Medium Industrial sites	Greenhouses (39 responses)	Research and Innovation (38 responses)	Community Gardens (31 responses)
		Processing and distribution plants for agri-products (38 responses)	Edible Landscaping (i.e., apples, pears, tomatoes, berries, herbs, etc.) (31 responses)
			Intensive Indoor Agriculture (i.e., hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities) (31 responses)
Existing Farmland	Livestock Farming (61 responses)	Edible picking (i.e., U-pick farms) (56 responses)	Greenhouses (52 responses)

All eighty-eight (100%) participants provided insight on urban agriculture activities that fit in the locations noted. Table 3 provides the top three urban agriculture activities for each location in the city. The overall statistic selections for each of the locations can be found in Figure 7.

Twenty-one (24%) respondents selected “other” which generated 21 additional responses. Details can be found in Appendix B.

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3464 responses in total

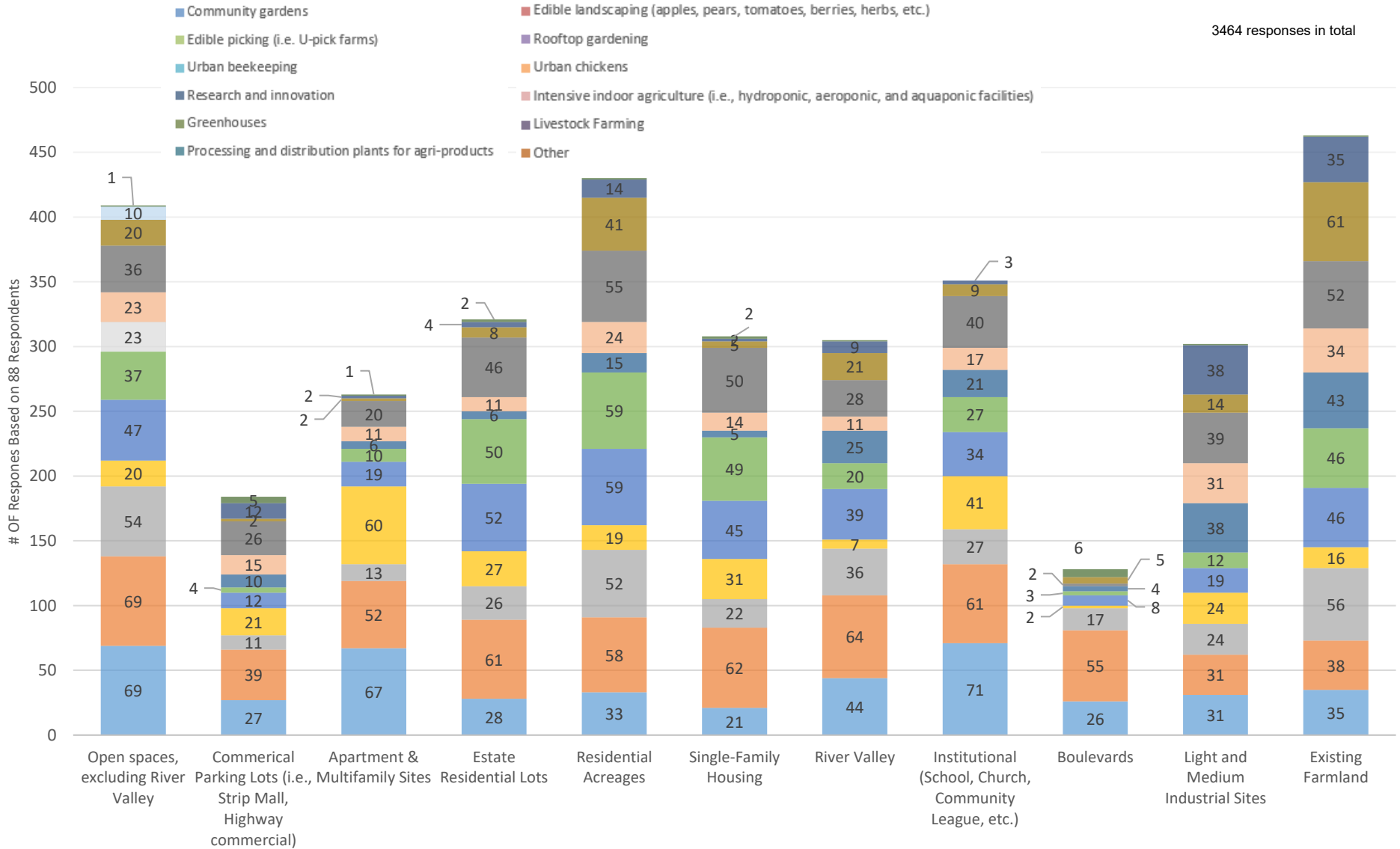


Figure 7. The number of urban agriculture activities suitable for locations throughout the city

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Question 9. What should Urban Agriculture look like in Fort Saskatchewan? (Open-ended question)

Sixty-three (72%) responses were generated for this open-ended question and each response may touch on multiple themes simultaneously. The number of occurrences is generated based on the relevancy to the common themes and preferences that emerged regarding urban agriculture in Fort Saskatchewan. The data established in Table 5 offer subjective themes based on the prominence of certain topics in the data received. Overall, the responses received were diverse with a common thread of interest in promoting urban agriculture in the city while supporting urban agriculture practices. Please see Table 5 for more information about the main themes and explanations, Appendix B has been included to provide all comments received on open-ended survey questions.

Table 5. Main themes from what should urban agriculture look like in Fort Saskatchewan. (63 respondents)

Main Themes (# of responses)	Explanations
Awareness and Communication (Approx. 28 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive attitude and encouragement for urban agriculture initiatives. • Recognition of the benefits of supporting local food production. • Desire for more opportunities, educational programs, workshops, grants, and community collaboration to involve, educate, and support residents in urban agriculture. • Advocacy for reducing the distance food travels by supporting local urban agriculture. • Recognition of the importance of urban agriculture for enhancing food security.
Support for Local Food Production and Food Security (Approx. 25 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong support for community gardens, including edible landscaping in public spaces. • Diverse approaches like rooftop gardens, edible landscaping, and public green spaces. • Encouragement for sustainable practices, such as avoiding pesticides, native planting, composting, and greenhouse use. • Desire for more locally produced and readily available food options.
Acceptance for Urban Agriculture while Reducing Nuisances (Approx. 18 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for residents to have more freedom to engage in urban agriculture with fewer regulations and allow individual choices in backyard activities. • Recognition of the importance of balancing individual independence with considerations for neighbours.
Considerations for the City Regulations (Approx. 10 responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing theft concerns in community gardens through protective measures. • Consideration for the impact of urban agriculture on neighbours, including noise and odours. • Recognition of the need for zoning regulations to prevent disruptions in residential areas. • Concerns about small residential lots and suggestions for larger lots for single family homes.

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Question 10. Select the age group you belong to.

The survey was filled out by members representing diverse age groups. 6% of respondents were under the age of 25 years, 55% of respondents were between 25 to 60 years, and 23% of respondents were 60 years and above. Please see *Figure 8. Age groups that respondents belong to* for more information.

Question 11. My family and I live? (Select one answer only)

The survey asked participants to identify the type of housing development they live in. 93% of respondents have access to the yard space and 7% live in multi-family buildings with common yard space. Please see *Figure 9. The type of residential development respondents lives in* for more information.

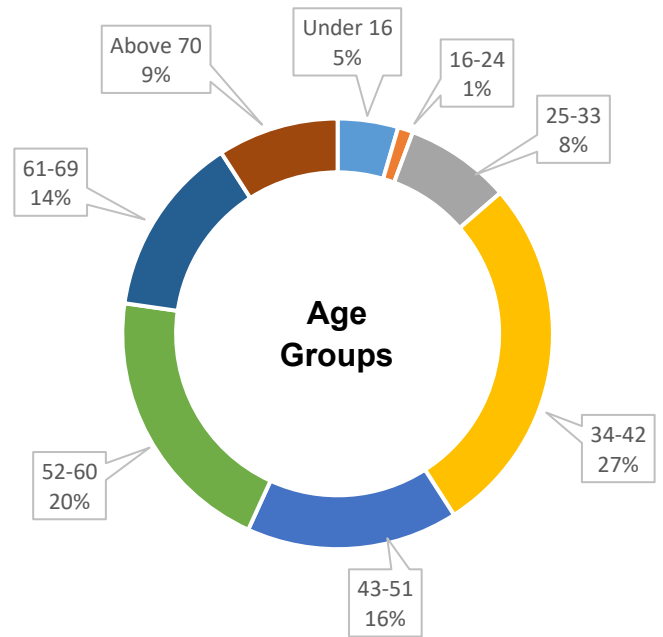


Figure 8. Age groups that respondents belong to.

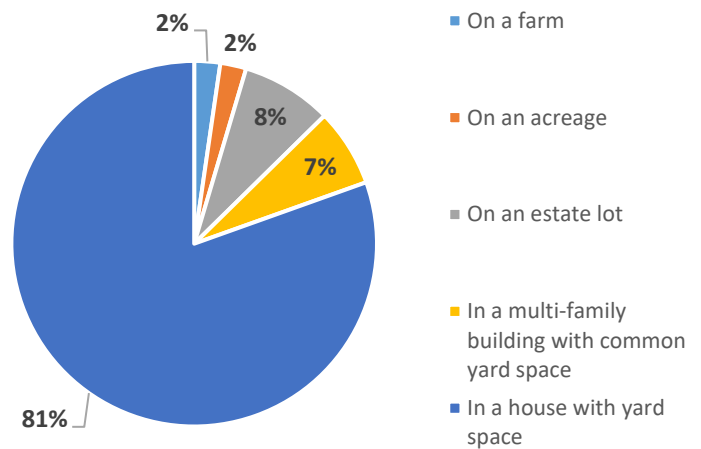


Figure 9. The type of residential development respondents lives in.

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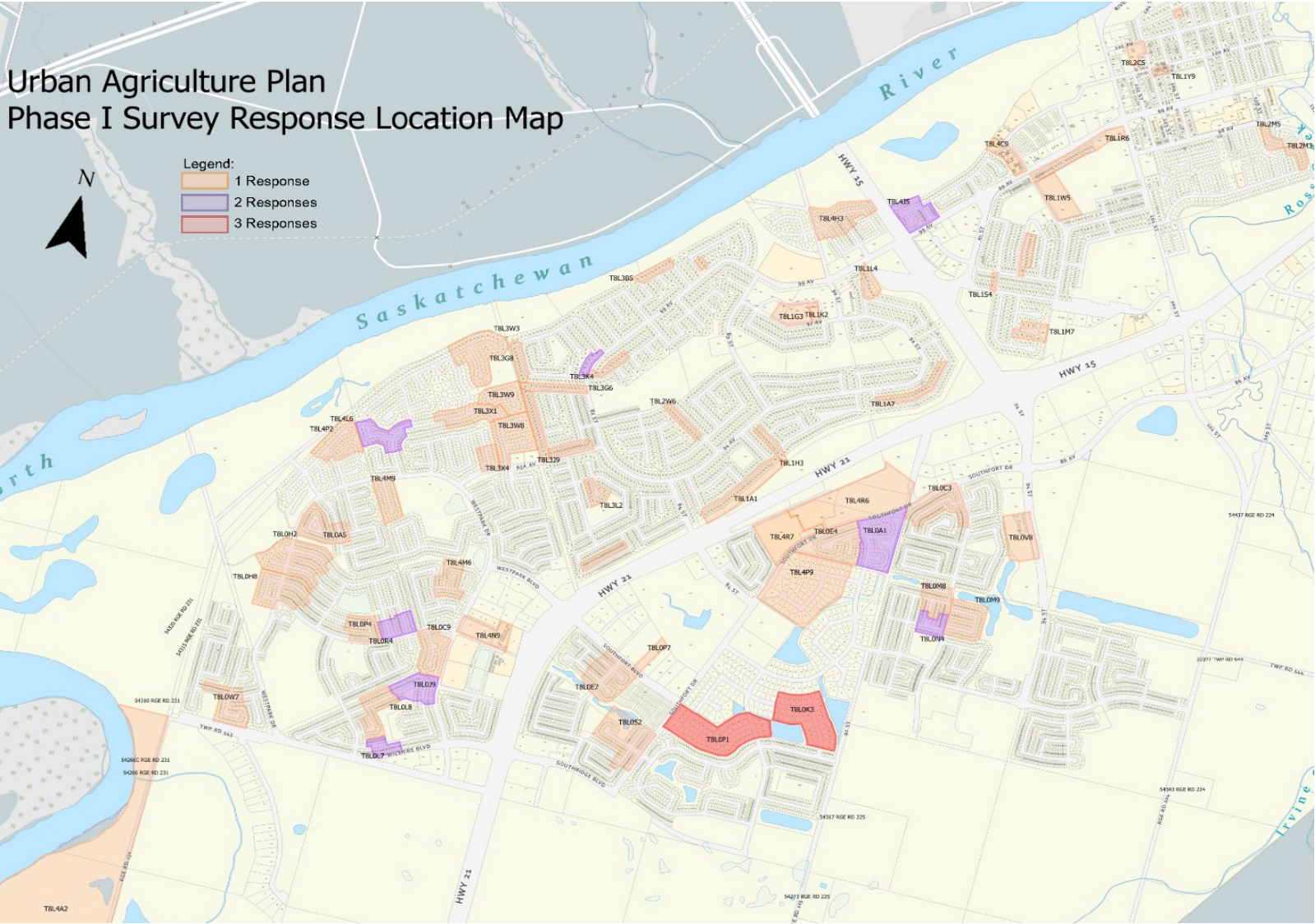


Figure 10. Respondents reside within the city limit.

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Question 12. Postal Code:

Figure 10 displays an intensity map that identifies the number of responses received within each postal code. The colour on the map varies based on the response received, with red indicating 3 responses, purple illustrating 2 responses, and orange representing 1 response within a postal code. Notably, a significant number of responses are concentrated in the Southfort Estate, as depicted in Figure 10. For further details on respondents located within the city limit, please refer to Figure 10.

4.0 Next Steps

Findings from this phase of engagement will be used to inform and develop the vision and principles of the Urban Agriculture Plan. A second round of engagement for this project will be held in early 2024, providing the community with the opportunity to share feedback on and validate the draft vision and principles. The Feedback will then be integrated into the final Urban Agriculture Plan, expected to be completed by the fall of 2024.

For more information on the project and to stay in touch with the process, please visit:

<https://mysay.fortsask.ca/UAP>, or email fortplanning@fortsask.ca to be put on the mailing list.


Thank you to all who participated. We are grateful for your time and appreciate the energy you have put into planning for the future of urban agriculture in the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

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Appendix A – Engagement Material

Pop-Up Poster Boards



URBAN AGRICULTURE PLAN

WHERE CITY AND FARM LIFE MEET



The City of Fort Saskatchewan has begun work on developing the Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP) and is inviting residents to get involved in the planning process.

Urban agriculture is the cultivation, processing, and distribution of food in and around an urban area, such as cities. Examples of urban agriculture may include, but are not limited to:

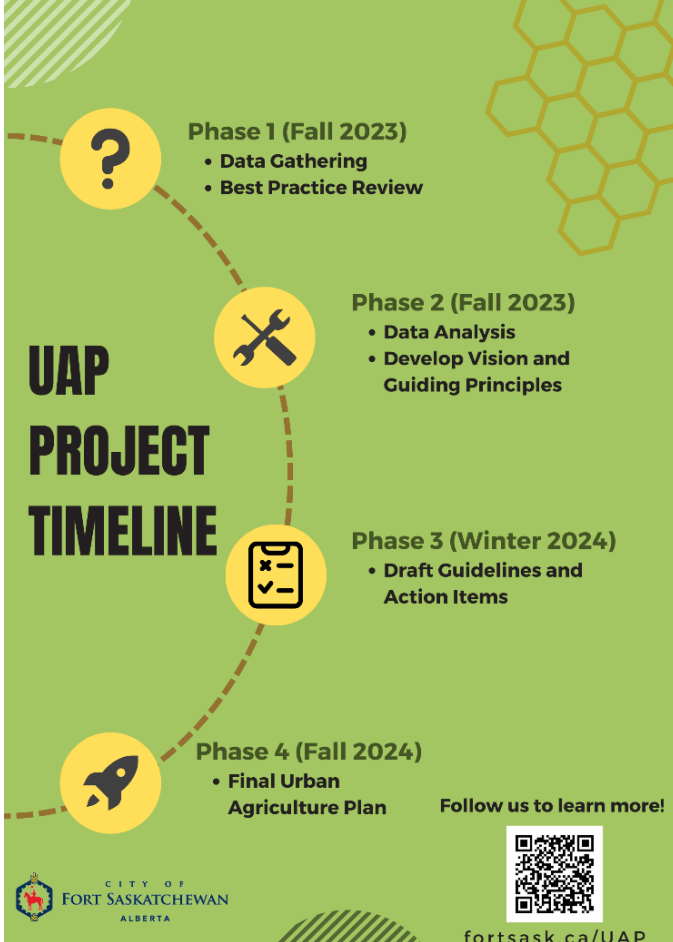
- community gardens,
- green roofs,
- edible landscaping,
- urban beekeeping,
- urban chickens, and more.

The UAP will provide education and tools that create awareness about where food comes from, enhance local food sustainability and diversify the economy through agriculture-related and value-added industries.

Follow us to learn more!
fortsask.ca/UAP



UAP PROJECT TIMELINE



Phase 1 (Fall 2023)

- Data Gathering
- Best Practice Review

Phase 2 (Fall 2023)

- Data Analysis
- Develop Vision and Guiding Principles


Phase 3 (Winter 2024)


- Draft Guidelines and Action Items

Phase 4 (Fall 2024)

- Final Urban Agriculture Plan

Follow us to learn more!



 CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN ALBERTA
fortsask.ca/UAP

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Appendix B: Comments Received on Open-Ended Survey Questions

Question 2. What does Urban Agriculture mean to you?

- Being able to grow food, animals, and medicine of my choosing, at a scale appropriate for an urban area.
- I see Urban Agriculture as a hobby that only appeals to a small minority because of the time, effort and commitment it entails. I plant and tend to a vegetable garden in our yard because I enjoy the satisfaction of a bountiful harvest. Excess produce is given to family, friends and the Fort Sask. Food Bank.
- A chance for fresh food that we know where it comes from
- It's about growing plants or raising animals for food in one form or another.
- a large park area with lots of fruit trees, edible fruit shrubs, community garden with large beds (10x40) for rent under \$20.00
- Ability for residents to garden small plots of land and grow organic crops
- Ability to raise/grow food for family consumption and not resale.
- Self sustainability and honouring traditions.
- Utilizing otherwise wasted space (grass) to grow food, house chickens, and provide water and plants for wildlife habitat.
- Food forests, the ability to use front lawns for growing foods, backyard chickens
- Allowing residents to have the ability to meet basic food needs for their family including gardening, laying hens, etc.
- Growing food in your neighborhood to maximise land use and minimize cosmetic landscaping.
- Backyard garden and maybe a couple of chickens
- Transforming areas within an urban setting to promote food production and habitats for natural biodiversity for pollinators / birds / etc. Our food has become toxic thanks to crony capitalism and we are sicker than ever before. This translates out to how the world is being treated as we are disconnected from nature and this is a chance to move back to harmony with the environment we inhabit.
- "Larger family gardens.
- Unused plots by highway 21 southwest of 15 would make a great vegetable market."
- Fresh food, grown in good soil, healthy alternative to pesticide/herbicide laden crops coming in from foreign places who don't care about our communities' health and well being.
- The ability to grow my own food, raise chickens and bees on my own property, thus enabling me to feed my family nutrient-dense food that I've raised myself.
- Providing myself and my family with fresh, affordable, and sustainable food.
- Fresh food. Outside time.
- Not much
- Growing gardens
- To me it's growing vegetables in a box or garden, not bees and chickens
- Things grown in the city
- Backyard vegetable garden
- Using both residential and commercial land/space to grow food and raise animals is a necessary step to tackle food issues such as access, security, and cost. Urban agriculture makes for a healthy community.
- Back yard gardens, not animals

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- Being able to have hens, bees, and other types of urbanized farming practices acceptable and promoted within the city. It's good economically, promotes passion and work ethic and something you can say I did that and know where it came from and how much it better it tastes
- Growing food in your own backyard. Helping the bees.
- Being able to have gardens and grow fruits and veggies, have livestock like chickens, and raise bees in the city in your backyard.
- Gardens, bee keeping, and raising chickens
- Allows me to be more directly involved in sustainable living.
- Opportunities for residents to grow their own food and attend to their mental wellness through gardening, urban farming, and the care of small animals for food purposes.
- A opportunity for local food security, a fun family hobby
- low quantity mixed animal and vegetable farming within the city
- I disagree with farming and raising farm animals within the city of Fort Saskatchewan.
- "Urban agriculture means overgrown yards, farm animal noise beyond the dog barking that occurs throughout the city, day and night.
- I see it as turning a city into a farm yard.
- I have no issue with growing vegetable gardens in back yards of private homes but I disagree with growing vegetables in front yards of private homes or raising farm animals in front or back yards of private homes within city limits."
- Being able to fend for yourself and supply yourself with some vegetables that are not laced with pesticides and herbicides, like what you get from the Over Profiting grocery stores like Loblaws!
- Being self sustainable and having fresh food in the backyard
- I'd love for the city to plant apple trees or plum or whatever In green areas. A long time ago we would have Saskatoon trees around the city, and people would pick for free. I think it would be nice to see this again.
- Teaching generations to grow and eat their own food. Assist people to gain self reliance and accomplishment instead of buying overpriced groceries.
- Gardening
- food, vegetables but no animals (my preference) ... Let's be realistic: in q.4: Let's not use global justification for this endeavor ... It's not about sustainability, it's not about the "big industry of farming", food imports, employment, etc It can allow individuals to raise some food on their own and/or city property
- Scrapping a traditional lawn for a garden, front and backyard. Being allowed to raise chickens on your property. It's a way to provide for yourself to mitigate the ever increasing cost of food in this economy.
- It means having the ability to grow, and share share food and to fully immerse all willing to be educated in the process, within a residential/urban area for an on going basis. I feel it also increases the ability to assist any foodbanks within the area that may need assistance.
- Ways to save money on daily food ,enhance the city and grow fruit trees etc for the general public
- Natural, home grown, chemical free, fresh.
- It means to be somewhat self sustaining , like planting a garden on my property or renting a plot in town.
- It means blending urban spaces with agricultural techniques to come up with functional and beautiful micro environments in our community.
- "Fruit trees
- Vegetable garden"

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- "growing food year round for personal consumption using outdoor & greenhouse growing
- having chickens for egg production
- having bees for honey production"
- Being able to grow variety of foods in your personal backyard.
- Encourage to setup several garden plots to encourage people to plant.
- Fresh food, Community
- Ability to grow food (garden produce, fruit trees, berry bushes) raise small animals (ex. chickens, rabbits, pigeon) for personal consumption.
- Chickens, bees & livestock will be living in the back yards of homes where there is not enough space. Animals belong on a farm not in the city. If anyone has lived on a farm the smell from animals is not pleasant. If people want to have animals they should buy an acreage or farm. Growing a garden is a good idea if you the space for it.
- couple chickens and a garden
- Growing food in city
- Growing in a urban environment
- Growing food within a city
- Gardening, green space management, pest and insect management.
- Gardening.
- Growing food in populated areas and not on farms.
- Using land to grow food, whether that is by growing fruits and vegetables or hosting bees, chickens and other small livestock.
- "Any form of agricultural cultivation resulting in food production within the city boundary.
- Such as: livestock, growing vegetables/fruit/tubers, apiary etc
- Can be cultivated for personal use or sale to others"
- Any food grown or raised within an urban area. Could be a home garden, a community garden, or even a commercial farm operation.
- Small scale growing of useful/edible plants in a non-rural setting.
- A way to grow your own produce at a great less price than at the stores plus being proud of your results
- Making use of soil and spaces to grow food, including: turning front yards into gardens, planting edible plants in decorative boxes, planting fruit trees, more community gardens, allowing chickens, growing mushrooms with the sheep waste.
- The ability to live more self-sufficiently, by growing food instead of lawns, to be able to share with neighbours and create community around domestic food production.
- Growing food or raising animals for food in or near a city. It's a process that makes the food closer to end users (reducing transport).
- Growing food close to home
- "Community living, health
- providing from the land we live on"
- Urban agriculture means having the ability to grow your own food or be able to access food in city parks/community gardens etc.. it means giving residents the ability to learn more about how to grow food, creating community through shared skills and partnering with local food banks and organizations so that unused food is harvest and distributed equitable in the community

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- Incorporating agriculture into an urban center so citizens can produce local products collaboratively and provide educational opportunities for residents who wouldn't be typically exposed to agricultural practices
- growing food for you or your community
- growing food on your own
- It means fruits and veggies in backyards. Maybe a few hens or bees in yards. Fruit in parks for all to take. U-pick in the city and community gardens for those who need.
- That you can grow your own food in your own area and have fresh food for yourself/ family.

Question 8. Identify which Urban Agriculture activities you believe fit best in the locations noted. (You can pick more than one activity for each location)

Table i. Additional responses based on the “Other” selection related to each location.

Locations	Additional response based on the “Other” selection.
Open spaces, excluding River Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Really love all these suggestions and ideas. I believe with proper education and coaching that this could become a very integral part of who Fort Saskatchewan will be.”</i>
Commercial Parking Lots (i.e., Strip mall, Highway commercial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I look forward to the day that our city will encourage people to collect and use fruit from city trees to help them sustain a healthy lifestyle. (with NO Straying on these trees or shrubs or city lands so people can forage freely and without fear of getting poisoned by herbicides or pesticides)”</i> • <i>“Pollinator gardens”</i> • <i>“None”</i> • <i>“Commercial parking lots are not for urban agriculture, designed for parking.”</i>
Apartment & Multifamily Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I believe if there is space, use it for aiding the community and educate them on how to take care of these sites and keep them tidy and weeded.”</i>
Estate Residential Lots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I’m not sure what these sites are, but boxes can be erected almost anywhere for certain veggies or fruit to thrive in and still be aesthetically pleasing for the community.”</i> • <i>“Meat Rabbit, pigeon”</i>
Residential Acreages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Meat Rabbit, pigeon”</i>
Single-Family Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Depending on the size of the lot, would determine what could be acceptable for planting or what could be kept such as bees, chickens etc.”</i> • <i>“Meat Rabbit, pigeon”</i>
River Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“River valley areas should prioritize maintaining natural habitat and native plants and trees. You would have a heck of a time farming chickens (coyotes) or growing food there as it attracts wildlife and gives them an unnatural source of food, which is detrimental to wildlife.”</i>
Boulevards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I think boulevards should remain grass unless there were raised planters.”</i> • <i>“Boulevards are important industrial properties to maintain line of sight and safety of drivers. Harvesting produce would be dangerous and the soil quality would decrease because of salts on roadways.”</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Native flower gardens/residents expand their own garden. small scale community garden more for enjoyment than veggies.”</i> • <i>“Not really an accessible site for any of these”</i> • <i>“Alternative lawn solutions”</i> • <i>“Unknown”</i>
Light and Medium Industrial Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“None”</i>
Existing Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“No more houses built”</i>

Question 9. What should Urban Agriculture look like in Fort Saskatchewan?

- Food for the people.
- Funds being spent on extended Urban Agriculture in Fort Sask seems a little silly. Beyond wanting to plant and tend to your own or a community garden, I think it should end there. For those interested in roof top gardens, "have at it" but city funds should not go into spearheading these initiatives. Bee keeping and chickens in yards should not be pursued as there are farms close by that provide this service and I believe chickens would just encourage the urban coyotes to stick around town ever more.
- Growth with more opportunities for everyone to partake in the way they would like
- It should encourage edible plant life and beekeeping, with newer, larger buildings taking advantage of rooftops for gardening.
- I believe, people should be able to have a small chicken coop or urban bees if they so wish without all the limitations. Also to be able to plant fruit trees along pathways or green spaces. Too many regulations and rules.
- Allowing residents more freedom to grow their own food to sustain their families with fewer municipal roadblocks.
- Fruit trees and berries planted in all public spaces. Community gardens in every neighborhood. School children learning about and participating in urban agriculture.
- Support knowledge of gardening techniques, perhaps grants to help start people out. Able to raise chickens (hens) in town. Plant diverse forests and landscapes people can harvest things from. Perhaps have a space where farmers and consumers can connect for produce, the farmers market seems to predominantly be a place to sell wares and not necessarily about food.
- Use your imagination
- "Urban Agriculture shouldn't be something to be feared or think it's too hard to attain, rather it is something that we need to aspire to, it should be attainable and easy to learn and grow with. Someone should be assigned to oversee such a project, and a team to see this come to fruition. It should be something that everyone takes pride in and perhaps have contests to see which community's gardens are most bountiful, most appealing etc.
- It's time for this Fort Saskatchewan, be the ultimate community leader.
- * One very important thing though, the Jubilee garden plots which are located next to the skate park may seem like a good location, but the problem that my daughter & I experienced this year with our plots, was less than ideal. 1st, paying for 5 plots, adding compost to plots, seeding, weeding and watering almost every evening, just to have people wander in and take whatever they felt like taking, No regard to people's hard work and stealing their produce. In my case, all our carrots were stolen, a beautiful large green pepper turning red, a cantaloupe which I was babying having it not sit on the ground but on the wood side to mature further, someone took all these things... being the plots aren't huge, it was a great loss which makes us evaluate whether we wish to do this next

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spring just to have someone take what's not theirs. (We also involved my grandkids and they were so looking forward to the carrots, I was devastated!

- (I RECOMMEND A FENCE AROUND THE WHOLE GARDENS WITH A PASSCODE TO GET IN) like other communities do, Edmonton & some towns as small as Plamondon, etc.."
- Working in harmony with nature - stop pesticide use, plant native species, allow and encourage backyard composting, chickens, bees, greenhouses and gardens. Utilize public green space for fruit trees, berry bushes, community gardens and greenhouses.
- Less restrictions should be in place, allowing for people to grow and raise food from their own homes. More edible landscaping throughout the city, especially with native species that grow and thrive here and benefit the environment. More affordable local options and more opportunity for those participating in urban agriculture to participate in the business aspects (buying, selling, trading their goods)
- Live stock
- no animals
- Smelly and messy, people cannot pick up their dog poop it's in sidewalks, cannot imagine chicken poop. We choose to live in Fort Saskatchewan for residential and space.
- "Neighbors need to approve urban agriculture in residential areas as lots are so small it could be impactful to the neighbors.
- The run off of feces and the smell of chickens in town would be a negative for a neighbour. Even having constant bees around could be a nuisance as a neighbor. There needs to be a minimum amount of space between animals\bees and a living dwelling.
- Don't want businesses being formed from residential urban areas because of the increased traffic and parking on residential streets.
- Keep the project up a few main large areas in town like beside the Dow center."
- It should like residents being allowed to have backyard chickens, and bees, and a front yard garden. It is roof top gardens and green space edible trees. Many school grounds are ideal places for community gardens. They have the land, are accessible, and can open up collaborative opportunities for learning. But these types of progressive agriculture ideas need support at the commercial and municipal levels. The City would need to work with local businesses to ensure residents have access to all the materials and supplies needed as well as put systems in place to enable residents to manage the organic waste easily. Larger green bins, more pick ups, support for water use and access are a few that come to mind.
- Plants are fine. Not animals as we know of too many people who do not take care of their yards right now. Don't need animals in their yards stinking up the neighborhoods. Need to think about neighbors who have allergies and sensitivity to smells. Bad enough fire pits pollute the neighborhoods
- "Well first of all. Urban lots in Fort Saskatchewan for single dwelling homes are SO SMALL! I love my house and I don't like my yard because it's tiny, and cramped up against neighbours on all sides (this includes having a public walking path behind my house). So #1. Develop larger sized lots for options of building houses starting 10 years ago!!!
- #2. Backyard chickens needs be be approved!!!!
- #3. Fort Sask has a lot of green space that could be much better managed besides a few trees and a lot of dandelion/grass. Those spaces could be used for community gardens in A LOT of communities making them way more accessible to everyone and much more used so you don't have to travel to the current community garden lot."

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- Encourage and plan to have as much local and readily available foods. Control size of operations within the urban zone to minimize high intensity/impact agriculture.
- It should be equitable, accessible and well thought out to compliment the area and the people who inhabit it. It needs to be good for the landscape and environment while appealing to the public and inquiring minds. The city needs to educate and promote it in a way that prepares and allows people to succeed.
- Be great to turn our front yards into gardens. Be nice to walk around specific areas and pick fruit
- "People being allowed to have gardens, backyard chickens, bees.
- Rooftop gardens where available.
- Schools having community gardens and/or greenhouses to teach children about farming.
- Edible landscaping where possible."
- People should learn to grow and cultivate their own food both to gain an appreciation for the resources involved so as to reduce food wastage as well as to have a supply of healthy food choices.
- Public resources to learn and get involved in how to participate in Urban Agriculture. Allow home owners to have x amount of Urban chickens to support their family with some sort of regulation to safeguard animals to minimum humane requirements (i.e. permit to ensure there is a coop, appropriate heating etc, correct number of animals for social requirements). I would like it to be more focused on family unit sustainability vs small business focused. I.e. not everyone trying to sell eggs but just producing enough of what they need.
- Reasonable guidelines surrounding urban bee keeping and urban chickens, easy access to garden plots for all residents at little to no cost (or subsidies available), gardening workshops for people who want to learn, permits for commercial indoor growing where appropriate, etc
- Accessible to everyone. Easily available information and tips. Local support groups etc
- People should be allowed to grow what they want to. Education should be offered regarding fertilizer use/noise control/odor control. I put up with barking dogs and scooping other peoples dog waste off my yard, litter, neighbors' tree leaves and maple seeds, fire pits, wood fire places, leaf burning, leaf blowers, and human noise. In that context, I think it is extremely unfair that I am regulated about a chicken.
- Beyond growing a private vegetable garden in one's own BACK yard for personal or family use, I disagree with Urban Agriculture. Agriculture and raising of farm animals should be done in agricultural land areas outside city limits.
- Farmland is for farming and agriculture not city land and property.
- More of the Community Gardens be made available to citizens that live here. Being allowed to have chickens around and making container gardens more attractive.
- Backyard gardens and chickens for eggs
- Edible landscape, a tree here and there a bush. someone planted a rhubarb bush near my house on city land and its harvested frequently. I'd also love the city to get back to selling compost, we used it alot over the years and miss it terribly. The cost was amazing but very few people knew about it. Please bring that program back.
- Co-operative effort, not 10% of the population doing the work to feed the other 90%. That would be education from the start. Also who will oversee the upkeep and maintenance of the various projects?
- Community gardens - vegetables (and fruits where it makes sense - need to avoid attracting wildlife from river)
NO ANIMALS
- Community working together for a common goal. Individuals having the freedom to do as they please in regard to agriculture on their own property (ex: chickens, bees, growing food in front yard spaces.
- Neat and organized in certain areas only.

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- Availability and Space to access and add these options.
- It should look like a hive of smaller initiatives that all feed into a common goal.
- "Should not be
- If you want farming ie :chickens bees go to an acerage I do not need chickens next door to me
- Dogs barking are bad enough"
- A mixed landscape that allows for individuals/families to produce their own food as much as they are willing/capable to do so with emphasis on teaching younger generations on food production and allow for ongoing food stability in times of increased food prices and decreased availability. To eat healthier, locally produced, ripe food that is more environmentally sustainable as its not being transported thousands of miles.
- "More opportunities to grow your own food and be able to share that food with the community.
- With personal and community gardens more popular, or feeding chickens or hydroponics, a program/event for residents to get rain barrels would be amazing (similar to Sherwood Park). Rain water yields much better gardens and is healthier for chickens and livestock than tap water.
- Or set up a fruit tree sapling or raspberry bush distribution event like how schools send home a spruce tree with each kid (or used to anyway). Providing little extras to get the ball rolling for urban agriculture would be huge."
- Set up community garden so that people can grow their own food.
- Edible landscape, Community Gardens
- "Home owner garden, fruit trees, berry bushes.
- Urban chickens; a mandatory course on chicken care prior to getting chickens.
- U pick farms near city.
- More edible landscaping in City that is available for foraging by residents."
- What it shouldn't look like is chickens and coops in city limits
- Gardens and greenhouses are fine. Consideration needs to be made when adding chickens and bees and how that is impacting neighbors. Citys are not farms nor are insustrial areas ,land values are far to valuble to justify giving over to urban farming. Zoning needs to be respected. Who looks after all this when no one is longer interested. You have an extremely short season that will not be feezable for any tangible afrument for self sustaing our population.
- Community Gardens.
- Like it does in many other parts of the world where apartment buildings have community gardens next to them. People in apartments without a community garden are encouraged to grow edible plants in pots or boxes on their balconies. Boulevards are planted with fruit trees. Schools are gifted seeds and saplings and encouraged to plant/grow/cultivate.
- A variety of opportunities for community members to access growing food, whether that is by access to a community garden close to your home, fruit bearing bushes and trees or bees and chickens.
- "Residents are able to participate in OR access local agricultural products in a well regulated environment that does not impede other resident's ability to enjoy their property or the city's open spaces. Educational components and permitting must be included to ensure safe agricultural production is practiced by residents.
- It is imperative that policy and framework around urban agriculture in Fort Saskatchewan be developed in an extremely thoughtful manner to ensure risks associated with livestock (disease/bio-security, manure management, land carrying capacity, containment etc) are mitigated. This is very important given the bio security risks which urban agriculture represents when conducted in close proximity to commercial agriculture."
- As much as possible without creating noise and health hazards

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- Community support and information.
- Natural, easy, accessible to all sorts of people. Make it profitable for people to turn their front yard into a garden, make it affordable to have chickens. It should blend in with the city. For example, grow fruit trees in a natural pattern instead of in rows.
- It should look like the Fort is serious about food security, by increasing opportunities for families and organizations to have ownership of some ability to produce food locally.
- Not sure but small pilot projects for some types of ag are good idea before opening it up.
- "Allowing urban chickens
- Making it easier to keep urban bees (no letter to neighbours, offer more urban bee keeping courses as per the permit)
- Allowing the ability to make use of boulevard space (such as season garden boxes or "boulevardening")
- Making a map of public edible trees/shrubs for public to forage
- Offering canning/preserving courses for the community (at a fee)
- Offering planting/gardening (including square foot gardening/roof top or container gardening for those with limited space or renters) courses for the community (at a fee)
- Offering more tree planting volunteer opportunities"
- Less grass more food plants!
- "Community collaboration!
- I imagine it could be an extension of the farmers market where after people purchase local produce they could go to an open area to learn about produce production"
- farming with your family
- Most people growing plants and crops.
- I think growing fruits & veggies in a backyard is an excellent plan. I think a limited number of hens (not roosters) in a yard is fine. Bees are also good for yards. Edible landscaping is a great idea. Livestock like cows and pigs likely need larger areas. Anything we do to produce food is a good plan. People walk dogs on boulevards on residential areas so not really suitable for food production. I would rather hear chickens than barking dogs. The 15 minutes city is ideal and the less we need to drive to or import from other places is good.
- I am not sure. Using open areas for community gardens possibly plant fruit trees on boulevard? Beekeeping, chickens in residential lots that are large enough.