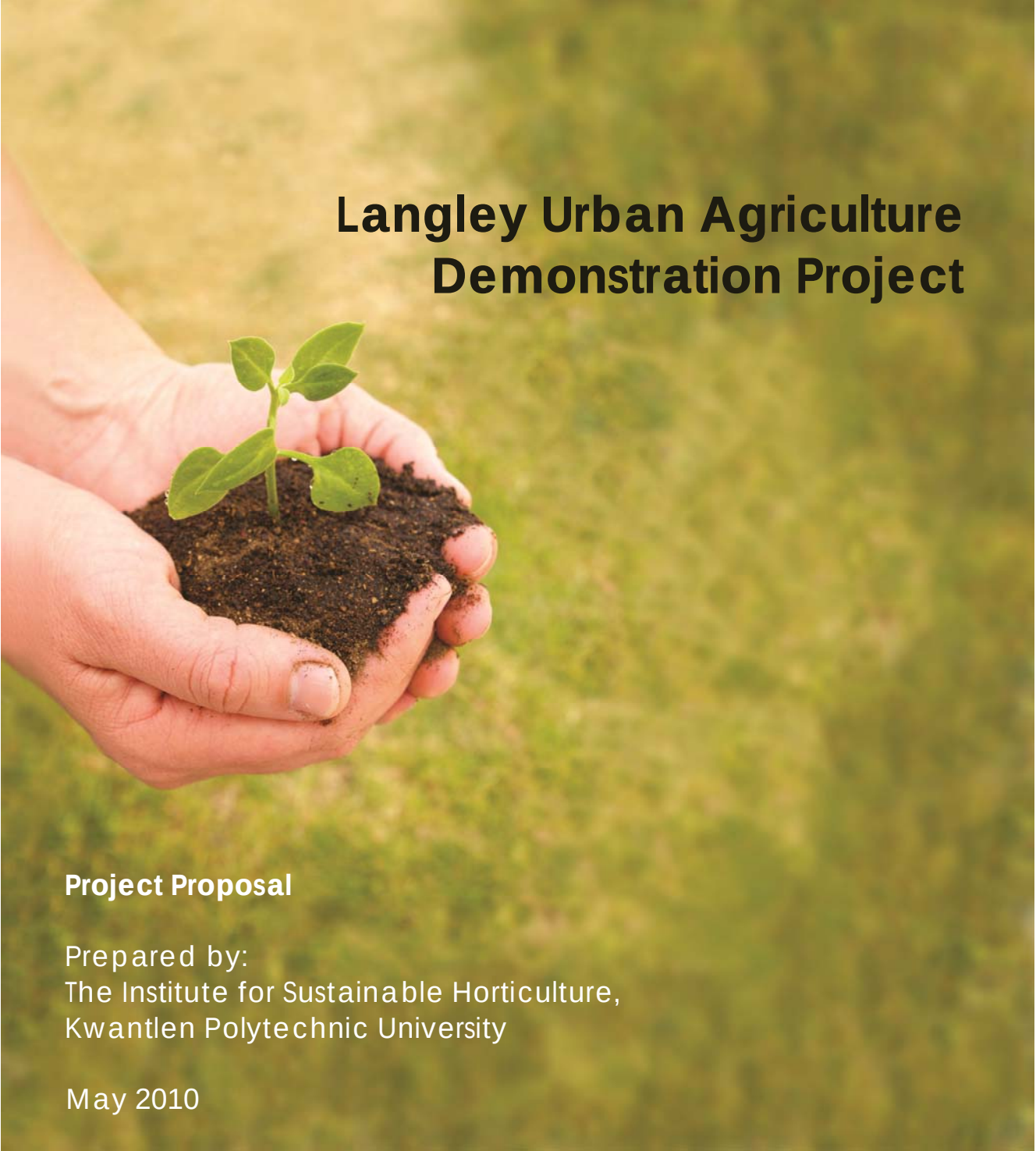




Langley Urban Agriculture Demonstration Project

Project Proposal

Prepared by:
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May 2010

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Project Summary

The City of Langley has entered into a partnership with the Institute of Sustainable Horticulture (ISH) to develop a detailed implementation plan and associated cost structure of a Municipally Enabled and Supported Agriculture (MESA) demonstration project utilizing a BC Hydro Right-of-Way. This project has the potential to meet identified goals and opportunities highlighted under several focus areas in the City of Langley's Sustainability Framework.

- Energy, Climate Change and Air Quality
Opportunity: Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing transportation demands through providing local food provisions thus building resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Health, Safety and Well-Being
Opportunity: Exploring opportunities to develop a food policy to encourage the development of local food systems and support local farmers and support local food distribution networks.
Opportunity: Exploring partnership opportunities for developing urban farms within the City.
- Local Economy
Opportunity: Strengthening and diversifying the local economy and increasing the number of local jobs
- Natural Areas, Parks and Recreation
Opportunity: Establishing more community gardens
Opportunity: Creating stewardship programs for parks and natural areas
Opportunity: Developing and maintaining greenways
- Solid Waste
Opportunity: Developing composting programs
- Water
Opportunities: Reducing water use in the landscape to conserve water supplies and reduce load on the stormwater system by developing water-wise demonstration gardens, rain barrel programs, and education programs

Initiated over two years ago, ISH partnered with the Collaborative for Applied Landscape Planning (CALP) to produce a concept plan for the City of Langley providing a possible vision for the, nearly 25 acre (10ha), BC Hydro Right-of-Way site. The concept plan divides the site into four distinct zones described below. Please see attached drawing for further detail.

Zone 1: The Entrance - an area for public interaction, sustainable accessibility features, and space for a farmers market;

Zone 2: Demonstration and Research - an area dedicated for research, education and demonstrations of sustainable market crop production;

Zone 3: Production – the location of community focused, market farms and incubator farm space for aspiring direct market urban farmers as well as community gardens;

Zone 4: Natural Systems - an area that will increase the ecological integrity of the farmscape, biodiversity of the local area and ecosystem services. The entire site will connect adjacent greenways and habitat corridors.

Project Rationale

The Langley Urban Agriculture Demonstration Project in the BC Hydro Right-of-Way will be a tangible, powerful, and highly visible project showcasing MESA and the City of Langley's leadership in sustainability.

Innovative repurposing of underutilized urban lands that facilitates and reflects a cultural shift in our relationship to nature, place, agriculture, and to food is a sustainability imperative. Such transformations will guide us toward nurturing new and sustainable relationships with the land, to our food, and to those with whom we build and share community. The implementation of MESA, a compendium of concepts tools, and strategies developed by ISH, will result in the actualization of local and bioregional agri-food systems that genuinely afford food security (supply) and sovereignty (control) for people and communities.

In an era when more people live in cities than ever before, there is an increased disconnect between humans and the agri-food systems in which they are depended - a consequence of the 20th century industrialization and economic globalization. Today with rising food prices, peak oil, peak water, climate change and environmental degradation it is pertinent that we create resilient, bioregional food systems that are fully integrated within the planning, design, function, and economy of our communities.

Project Goals

- To demonstrate leadership in sustainability
- To create an urban agriculture project in the City of Langley
- To convert underutilized land into a community amenity for local residents
- To demonstrate the potential of urban agriculture to contribute to the local economy through urban direct market agriculture and increased employment with green collar jobs
- To demonstrate the potential of urban agriculture to contribute to community resiliency through local food provision
- To provide a venue for experiential agriculture education and incubator farm space
- To partner with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, a leader in urban and peri-urban agri-food systems research and education

Project Scope and Timeline

As the project lead, the ISH team will explore the feasibility of an Urban Agriculture Demonstration Project in the City of Langley utilizing MESA concepts, tools and strategies. The project will be outlined by the following six phases.

Phase 1: Project Start-Up (September-October 2011)

Phase 2: Fundraising for Detailed Project Plan (October-December 2011)

Phase 3: Detailed Project Planning (January-June 2012)

Phase 4: Fundraising for Implementation (June 2012-Until target is reached)

Phase 5: Implementation (September 2012-Feb 2013)

Phase 6: Program Development and Site Management (January 2013-Ongoing)

Phase 7: Evaluation (January 2013-Ongoing)

Phase 1: Project Start-Up (September-October, 2011)

- Gather and develop descriptive materials and project narrative to convey the nature, elements and purpose of the project
- Construct a general project overview document to share with prospective partners and supporters
- Identify programs and organizations to which the City could apply for funding

Phase 2: Fundraising for Detailed Project Plan (October-December 2011)

- Prepare and submit preliminary grant applications and requests for funding to support the Detailed Project Plan
- Continue research on potential partnerships and funding sources: target 50k

Phase 3: Detailed Project Planning (January-June 2012)

- Research relevant policy context

- Conduct Site Assessment
- Refine Concept Plan and create a detailed Site Plan
- Develop and Implementation Strategy and Operations Plan
- Develop budgets for Implementation and Operations

Phase 4: Fundraising for Implementation (June 2012- Until target is reached)

- Detailed Project Plan will set target

Phase 5: Implementation (September 2012-Feb 2013)

- Site preparation – grading, drainage, design layout (June-Sept)
- Site construction – structures, fences, fields, etc (Sept-Dec)

Phase 6: Program Development and Site Management (January 2013-Ongoing)

- Market garden, community garden, farmers markets, school programs etc

- Programming will depend on Detailed Project Plan

Phase 7: Evaluation and Adjustment (January 2013-Ongoing)

- Development of an evaluative framework to assess project components
- Evaluate project components
- Make any necessary adjustments to project components

Budget, Roles and Responsibilities

Phases	Budget Amount	Roles and Responsibilities
1: Project Start-up	\$5000	Lead: ISH
2: Fundraising for Detailed Project Plan	Included in Phase1budget	Lead: City of Langley Supported by: ISH for preliminary 2-3 applications
3: Detailed Project Plan	\$50,000	Lead: ISH Supported by: City of Langley
4: Fundraising for Implementation	TBD by Detailed Project Plan	City and ISH partnership TBD
5: Implementation	TBD by Detailed Project Plan	City and ISH partnership TBD
6: Program Development	TBD by Detailed Project Plan	City and ISH partnership TBD
7: Evaluation	TBD by Detailed Project Plan	City and ISH partnership TBD