




GROWING IN THE CITY

Expanding Urban Food Production

CONTEXT: CITY OF VICTORIA



GITC consultation

- June 2015 - January 2016
- Goal:  urban food production
- Response to community interest & City plans



Focus areas

1. Growing food to sell (commercial): Bylaw amendments
2. Community food production (public realm): New policies & programs

Amendments to City Bylaws

Urban farming now allowed in all zones

Restricts pesticide use

Exemptions for small rooftop greenhouses

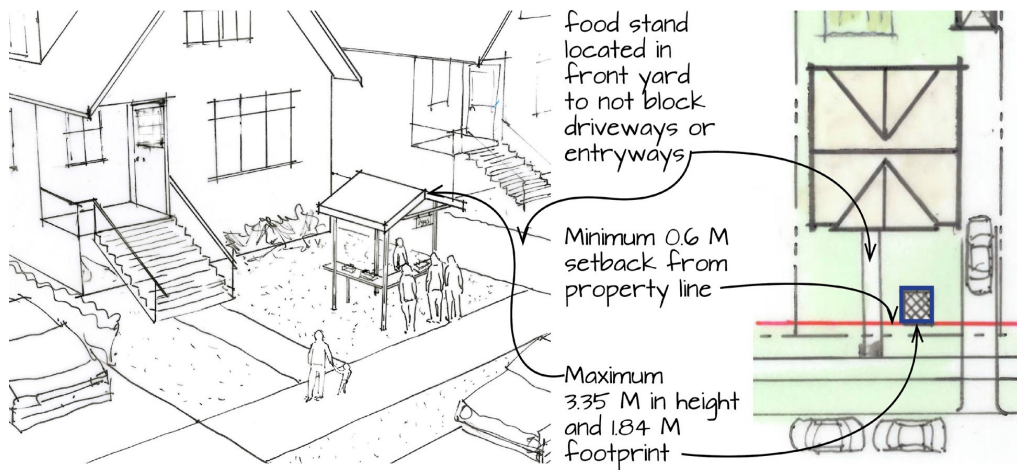
Can sell raw, unprocessed:

- Fruits, vegetables & mushrooms
- Seeds, seedlings & plant cuttings
- Fibres
- Nuts
- Flowers
- Eggs
- Honey



1. URBAN FARMING & GROWING FOOD TO SELL

Business licence depends on point of sales



On-site at food stands (allowed throughout City)



Off-site at farmer's markets, restaurants, retailers, other

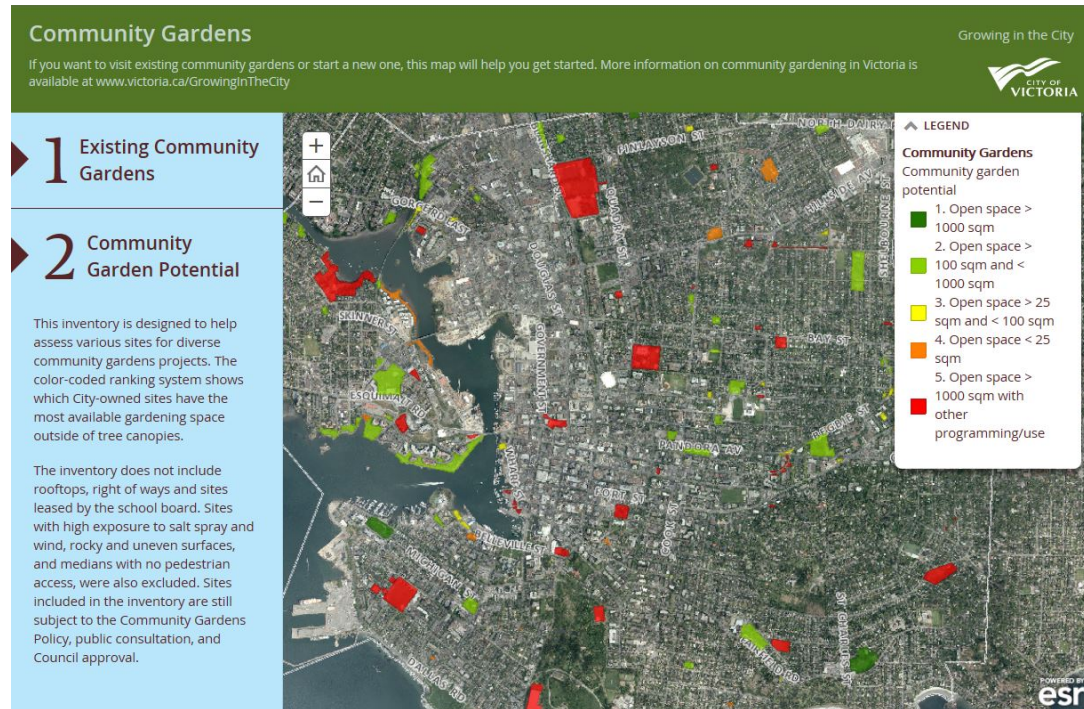
2. COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION

Revised Community Gardens Policy



2. COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION

Inventory of City land with community gardening potential



Community Gardens Feature Map: vicmap.victoria.ca/CommunityGardens

2. COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION

Boulevard Gardening Guidelines



2. COMMUNITY GARDENING AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Urban Food Tree Stewardship Pilot Program



Results

Table 2. Number of new community gardens, food trees, boulevard gardens, business licences and rooftop greenhouse since February 2016

Community gardens	1 allotment and 2 commons with pollinator and native plantings
Food trees on City land	10 apple and hazelnut trees
Boulevard gardens	Present in all 13 neighbourhoods of the city. Number unknown.
Business licences	10 – mostly fruits & vegetables, 1 flower CSA
Rooftop greenhouses	No rooftop greenhouses proposed as of May 2018

Success factors: 5 C's

Community, Council, Collaboration, Communication, Coordination

Challenges

- Balance farmer needs & urban fabric (e.g. permits)
- Balance food with other community priorities (e.g. housing)
- Volunteer fatigue
- Limited land base

Possible solutions

- Voluntary guidelines for food production in developments (City-led)
- Creative partnerships (Community-led)

EXAMPLES OF CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



TOP SOIL – a portable urban farm located on vacant lots waiting to be developed (DockSide Green)



Learning Farm at Victoria High integrates commercial food production & educational opportunities

Lessons Learned

- Community involvement & feedback = determining factor
- Communication & collaboration with community, health authority & amongst City staff is essential
- Ongoing process

More info?

www.victoria.ca/growinginthecity

www.victoria.ca/foodproduction

Thank you!