

11.2 Urban Agriculture and Local Food Production

OBJECTIVE 11.2

To support urban agriculture and local food production to reduce reliance on imported food from outside the region.

City expansion presents a challenge to conserving our agricultural land base. By integrating urban agriculture into land use planning and design, at the site, neighbourhood, city and regional scale, we can ensure that the benefits of urban agriculture are realized. These benefits are many and varied, including positive impacts to health, ecology and the local community. Urban agriculture reconnects people with where their food comes from while increasing access to healthy food choices, resulting in improved human health. A reduced need for food imports and increased biodiversity lowers the city's ecological footprint. Continue to use farmer's market and potentially Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, to support local agricultural producers in the Lloydminster Region and encourage local economic development.

POLICIES

The City of Lloydminster:

11.2.1 Local Food Production

Should encourage local food production by maintaining and expanding farmers' markets and facilitating the development of community gardens and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

11.2.2 Premature Fragmentation of Farmland

Should promote orderly and efficient urban expansion to prevent premature subdivision and fragmentation of agricultural lands within areas designated for future urban expansion within the City's boundary.

11.3 Sustainable Landscaping

OBJECTIVE 11.3

To develop and implement landscaping standards and maintenance procedures that are environmentally sustainable and cost-effective.

Soft landscapes are often places of recreation and enjoyment. They are often managed in ways that create an unnecessarily large ecological impact, consuming vast quantities of water to sustain non-native species of vegetation. Additionally, the application of pesticides to keep them lush and green poses health risks to our children. Alternative management techniques can be applied instead. Xeriscaping is planting to avoid unnecessary irrigation or watering, preferring native plants suitable to the precipitation levels of our climate. Reusing water from stormwater overflow for example, ensures potable water is not unnecessarily wasted. Finally, applying Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques eliminates or minimizes the amount of pesticides needed by applying an ecological approach based on a three stage process: prevention, observation and intervention.