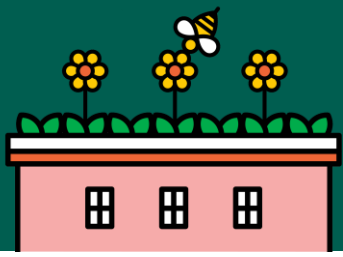




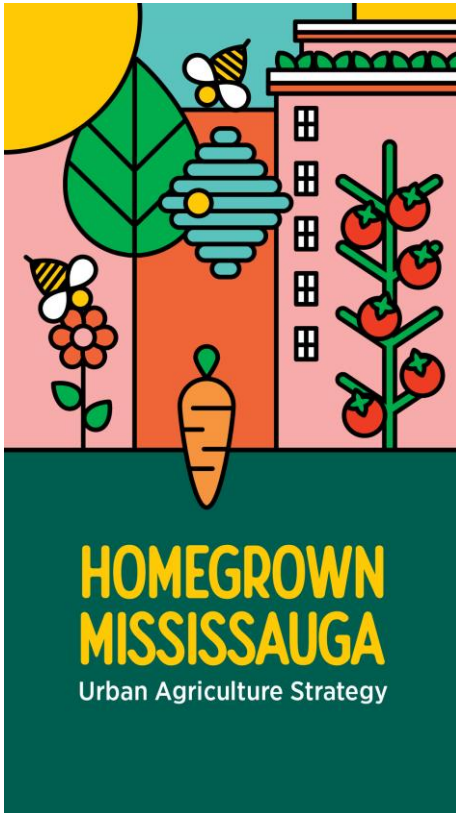
HOME GROWN MISSISSAUGA

Urban Agriculture Strategy

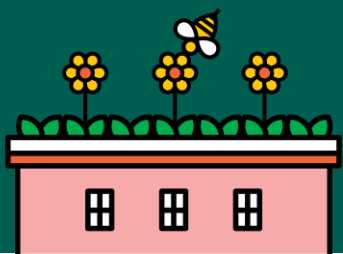
Environmental Action Committee, May 3 2022



WHY AN URBAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGY?^{6.1}



- Enhance and grow urban agriculture efforts
- Promote and support inclusive, culturally relevant, local food initiatives
- Expand and improve food security
- Support efforts to increase local food production
- Support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts



RATIONALE

6.1

From June 2020 to May 2021 almost

26,000

unique individuals visited a food bank in Mississauga



80% of food bank clients are visible minorities (despite being only 57% of the total population)

Over **8,600** individuals utilized the Emergency Food Bank – a

167%

increase from last year

Uzma Shakir, EDI



85% of community garden users report **food access** as primary motivation for gardening

53% of gardeners report an annual income of

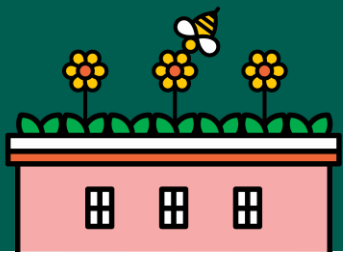
<\$50K



Over **50%** gardeners are born outside of **Canada**

Ecosource, 2021 Urban Garden Impact Survey

Every garden in Mississauga has a waitlist.



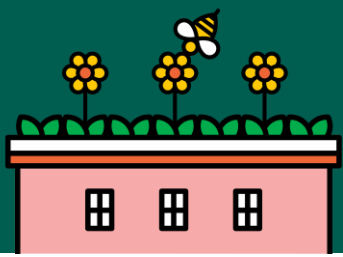
STRATEGY APPROACH

6.1

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lens

- **Through Strategy Development:** supported the contributions of equity-seeking individuals and groups through one-on-one conversations and story telling and offered honorariums, user-friendly technologies and alternative communications
- **In the Strategy itself:** aimed to remove barriers and support communities often under-represented





BENEFITS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

6.1

Environmental

- Supports biodiversity
- Increases green spaces
- Mitigates flood risks and reduces greenhouse gases
- Improves soil health and fertility
- Reduced food miles
- Increase resilience of supply chain
- Plant-based diets are encouraged



Social

- Improves food security
- Provides educational opportunities to increase food literacy
- Provides opportunities to grow culturally diverse food
- Supports community-building and a sense of belonging



Economic

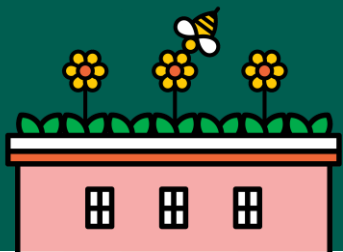
- Supports local food entrepreneurship
- Helps to reduce personal grocery costs
- Enhances tourism
- Strengthens connections between urban and rural communities



Public Health

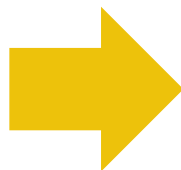
- Encourages eating healthy and nutritious foods
- Offers an enjoyable way to exercise
- Improves physical and mental health
- Reduces social isolation and enhances nature experience





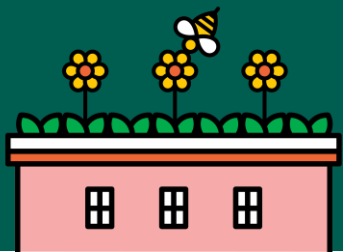
BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS ^{6.1}

- 9 Community Gardens
- 1 Urban Farm
- 330 total garden plots
- 427 gardeners
- 10,447 vol hours contributed



- 10,660 lbs food grown on City land
- 47% donated to food banks
- 381 workshops virtual/in person
- 2,613 residents engaged in urban agriculture and food growing

Ecosource Deep Roots Report, 2021 Highlights Data



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6.1

Concurrent engagement for Urban Agriculture Strategy and Hen Keeping

Who we engaged:

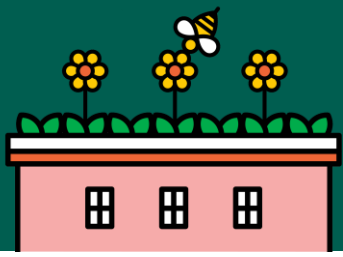
- Community groups
- Gardeners, farmers & hen keepers
- Youth groups
- Urban Indigenous growers
- Farmers Market organizers
- Food banks
- Conservation Authorities
- City staff

How we engaged:

- Public website
- Surveys
- Stakeholder Engagement Sessions
- One-on-one meetings in place
- 311



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	How many?
Community organizations members/individuals who attended ≥ 1 session or conversation	95
Group engagement sessions	4
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	
Impressions on City's "EHQ" portal	6,900
Urban Agriculture Survey	318
Urban Hens Survey	1,858
CITY STAFF ENGAGEMENT	
Staff involved	39
Departments involved	5



THREE ACTION PATHWAYS

6.1



Cultivate Relationships: Encourage Urban Agriculture



Grow and Share the Harvest: Remove Barriers to Urban Agriculture



Plant and Steward Seeds: Enable Urban Agriculture





CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS: ENCOURAGE URBAN AGRICULTURE

1. Strengthen networks

- Work with a broad range of community partners to encourage participation and leadership in urban agriculture

2. City-region linkages

- Align City of Mississauga plans with; Regional, Provincial and Federal policies, strategies, and programs

3. Educate and communicate

- Key to growing public interest in UA and deepening knowledge of the UA community



GROW AND SHARE THE HARVEST:

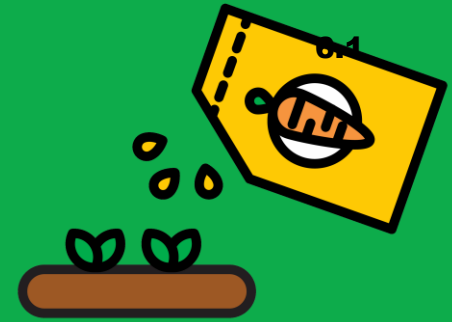
REMOVE BARRIERS TO URBAN AGRICULTURE

4. Enable UA through policies and regulations

- Address barriers to growing and selling locally produced food

5. Facilitate access to land and space

- Expand the Community Garden Program
- Provide and facilitate equitable access to resources
- Strengthen urban agriculture infrastructure, operations and distribution



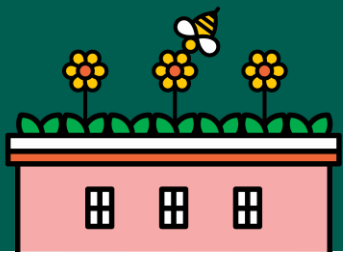
PLANT AND STEWARD SEEDS: ENABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE

6. Provide support, resources and guidance

- Explore financial and/or non-financial tools
- Build community capacity to secure funding opportunities

7. Innovate, cultivate and grow

- Incubation and acceleration programs that support innovation and opportunities across Mississauga

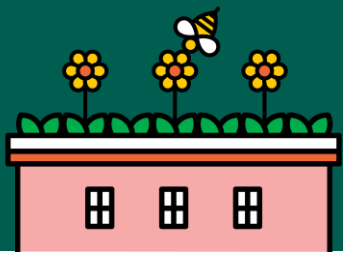


RECOMMENDATION

6.1

EAC Members and the Committee approve the following recommendation:

That the Environmental Action Committee are in support of the Urban Agriculture Strategy and in support of bringing it to General Committee in June of 2022 for endorsement.



THANK YOU!

6.1

Special thanks to the teams at Hoffmann Hayes and Ecosource and all of the urban agriculture organizations and residents that contributed their thoughtful insights.

Additional thanks to City staff across several departments who were essential to the creation of this strategy.





THANK-YOU!

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