

F5

Food Security

Improve access to healthy, local food.

Access to healthy, affordable food is a significant aspect of quality of life, especially among low income and other vulnerable groups. When healthy food is also produced, processed and distributed locally, there is potential for local economic activity, local employment and reduced greenhouse gases associated with food transport. The concept of food security has several facets, including individual and household health and affordability, along with community resilience to food availability and cost pressures.

The City of Surrey is able to play a role in facilitating access to healthy and local food by creating supportive land use policies for locating food stores, community gardens, urban agriculture and community kitchens and by supporting non-profit agencies whose focus is on distributing healthy, affordable food.

In order to meet Objective F5, the City will:

F5 POLICIES | GENERAL

- F5.1 Improve access to healthy and affordable food, particularly in lower-income neighbourhoods, through the planning and implementation of community gardens, farmer's markets, urban agriculture projects, community kitchens, neighbourhood grocery stores and food assistance programs, as appropriate.
- F5.2 Create a Food Policy Council and Surrey Food Charter to help develop formalized structures for tackling food security issues. Work in conjunction with the Agricultural and Food Security Advisory Committee.
- F5.3 Encourage and support the development of local on-farm markets and urban farmer's markets for local, direct food distribution in appropriate locations.
- F5.4 Examine means of how to integrate locally supported agriculture (e.g. community gardens, community orchards, urban agriculture and small farms) into existing neighbourhoods and new areas of urban development.
- F5.5 Develop an inventory of public lands, including parks, boulevards, Rights-of-Way and rooftops, that could potentially be used for urban agriculture. Develop criteria for selecting optimal locations for new community gardens or other urban agriculture opportunities on public lands.
- F5.6 Partner with local neighbourhood associations, school districts and non-profit groups to encourage, organize, develop and manage community gardens, rooftop farming, fruit trees and other edible landscapes on public and private lands, in suitable urban locations while also using appropriate integrated pest management practices.

F5 POLICIES | GENERAL (cont.)

- F5.7 Encourage mixed-use neighbourhood design and redevelopment to include small and mid-size grocery stores (e.g. 300—1,850 sq. m), seasonal farmer’s markets and open space for community gardens.
- F5.8 Support the efforts and programs of Fraser Health and other non-governmental organizations that promote access to healthy nutritious foods.
- F5.9 Assist non-profit agencies and public/private non-profit partnerships engaging in anti-hunger, nutrition and agriculture activities by sharing data for planning and by implementing and evaluating programs.
- F5.10 Work with non-profit organizations such as food banks, food agencies, food gleaners, and food hamper supporters to ensure healthy food options are available to all residents of Surrey regardless of location or income level.

Hazelnut Meadows Community Park, Community Garden, Newton.



Community gardens used as amenity features in multiple family residential development in Surrey's East Clayton neighbourhood.