



# TOWN OF STONY PLAIN URBAN AGRICULTURE PLAN



September 2022

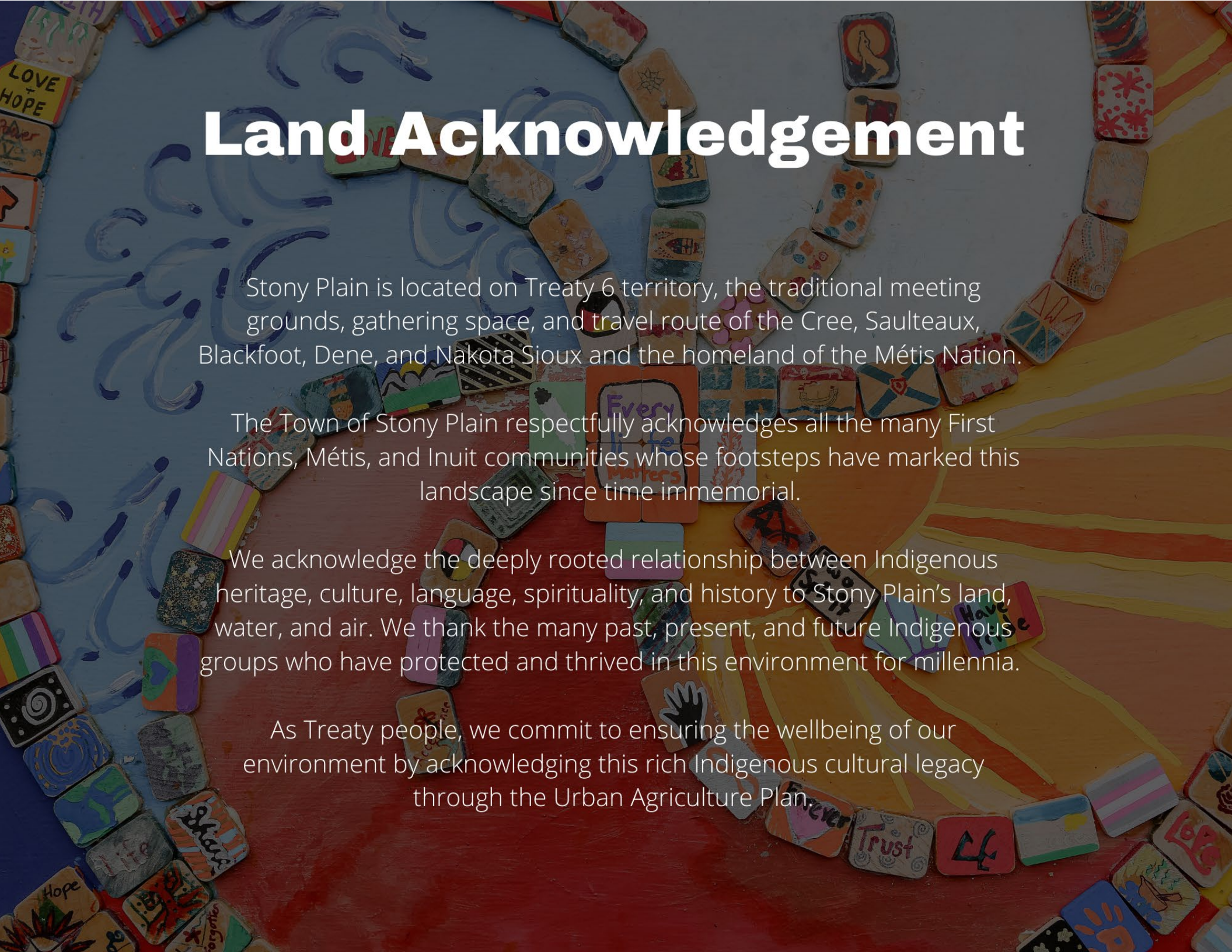




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# Land Acknowledgement

Stony Plain is located on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional meeting grounds, gathering space, and travel route of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Dene, and Nakota Sioux and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

The Town of Stony Plain respectfully acknowledges all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities whose footsteps have marked this landscape since time immemorial.

We acknowledge the deeply rooted relationship between Indigenous heritage, culture, language, spirituality, and history to Stony Plain's land, water, and air. We thank the many past, present, and future Indigenous groups who have protected and thrived in this environment for millennia.

As Treaty people, we commit to ensuring the wellbeing of our environment by acknowledging this rich Indigenous cultural legacy through the Urban Agriculture Plan.

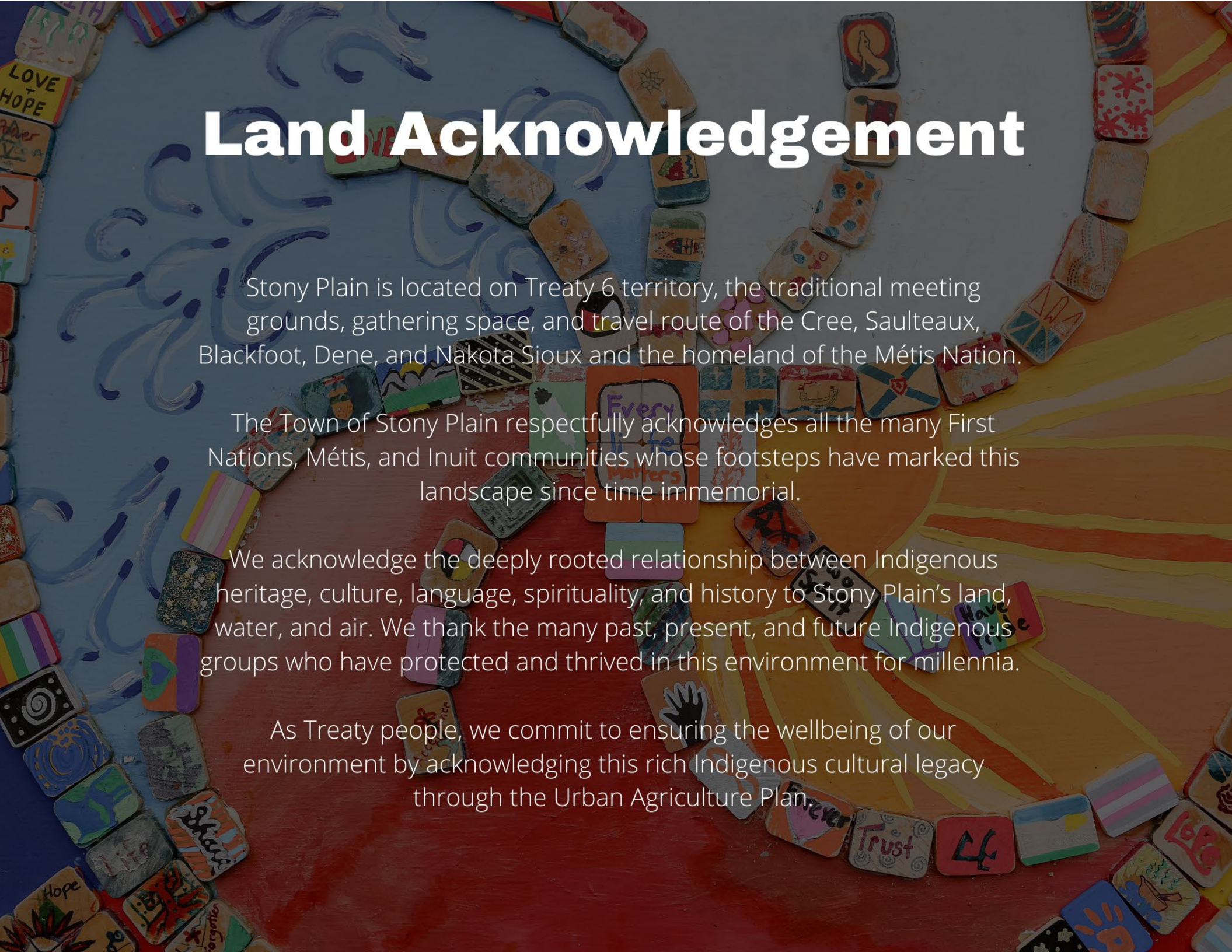
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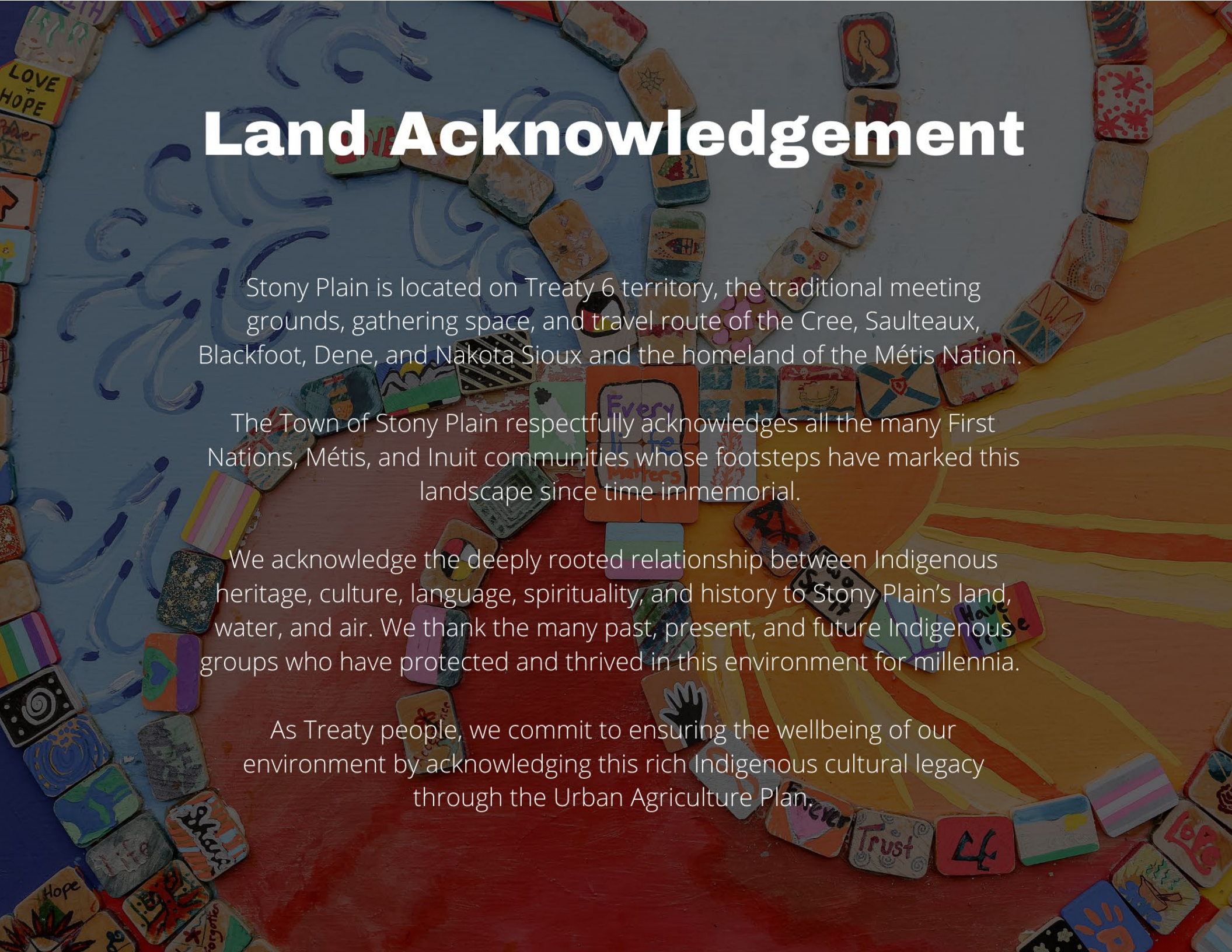
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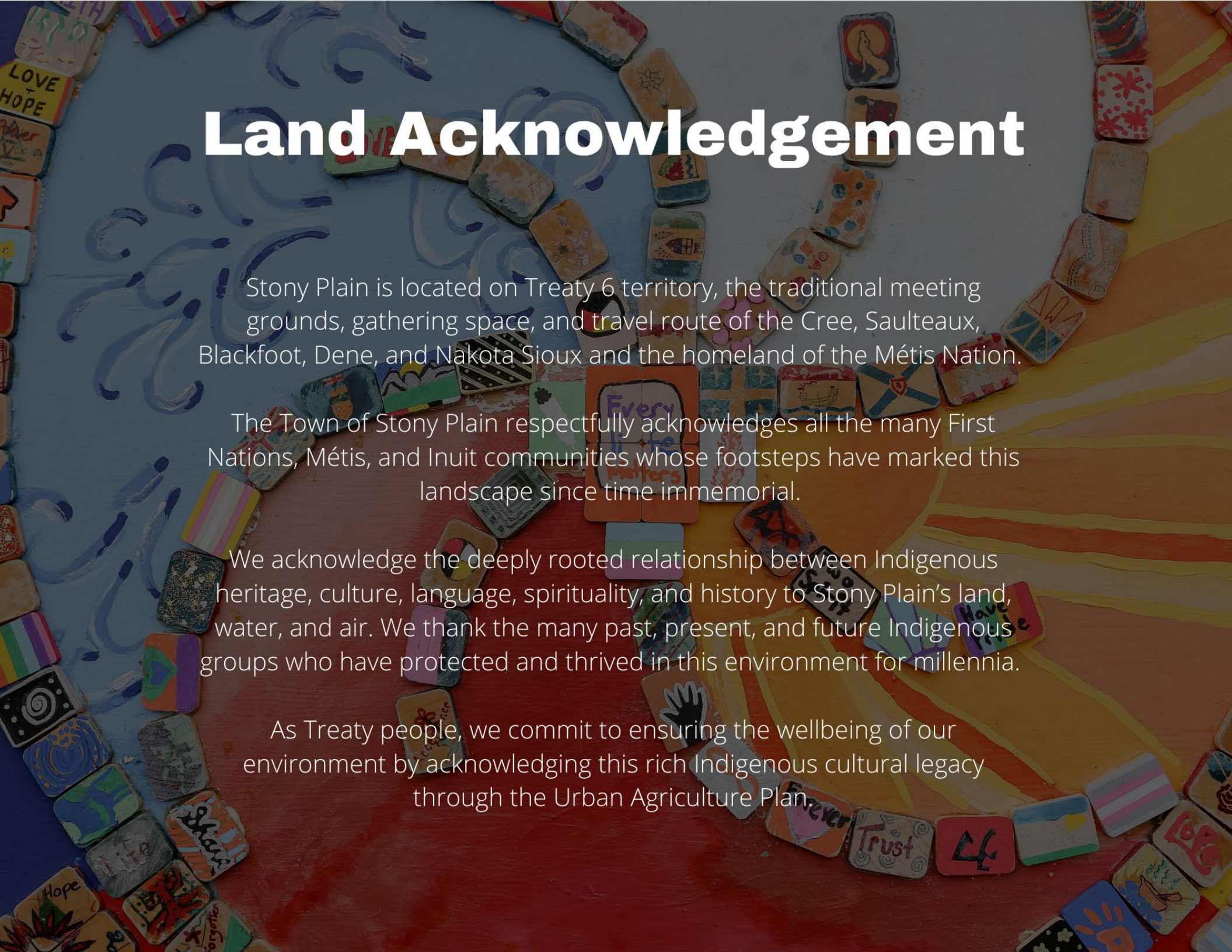
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## Executive Summary

The Town of Stony Plain Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP) sets the direction for Stony Plain to prioritize urban agriculture by establishing a framework to encourage a variety of urban agriculture methods, supporting production of and access to local food, and ingraining the practice of urban agriculture within the community. Following the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) approved by the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB), Stony Plain developed the UAP to achieve the requirement to guide urban agriculture at the municipal level. The UAP examines opportunities and constraints for urban agriculture in the town while considering realistic policies, strategies, and actions to make the plan a reality.

Urban agriculture is important to support because it presents a wide range of opportunities and advantages. Building off the town's agricultural history, it provides opportunities for residents and community members to learn how to grow their own food products and how to sell them for profit. It provides a means to establish a local food system to meet the needs of our community. It can create jobs and promote economic activity by enabling new businesses and industries to enter the community. It acts as a resource to encourage knowledge sharing between past and current generations. It also adds additional green spaces, progresses sustainable living practices, and plays a role in shaping the future of agriculture; all while reconnecting residents with the town's agricultural roots.







Throughout history, growing food was an integral component of individual and community life and was a trade passed down from many generations. Over time, this practice has been lost for many with the rise of industrial farming technology, historic segregation of land uses, and the recent trend towards urbanization. As the cost of food continues to increase and the availability of food in the future is uncertain, offering resources and space for residents to grow their own food is essential for a prosperous future.

Stony Plain is taking a proactive approach to maintain its role as a leader in environmental stewardship. As such, the UAP was developed with a strong emphasis on climate change and the predicted impacts on agricultural practices and production. Strategies within this plan aim to help the town prepare for climate change, using urban agriculture as a major tool to assist with adaptation and resiliency. The UAP also aims to support the town's social, environmental, and economic well-being.

Development of the UAP was supported by the voices and insight of the community through input received on the Urban Agriculture Survey (November-December 2021), as well as an urban agriculture workshop with Town Council (January 2022). Together, this feedback guided the policies and actions presented in the UAP.

The UAP introduces examples of urban agriculture methods that may be feasible for Stony Plain. With increased public awareness and education, greater preparation for future climate impacts, and direction for decision-makers, the UAP is a road map outlining how Stony Plain can introduce the concept of urban agriculture to the community to generate action now and into the future.



## Objectives

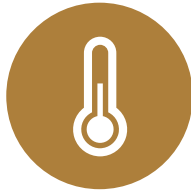
The UAP presents four overarching objectives that are intended to be achieved through plan implementation:



Public awareness  
and interest



Create public awareness and interest for urban agriculture in Stony Plain by providing information about the importance of urban agriculture and highlighting local experts and educational facilities that teach skills related to urban agriculture.



Prepare for  
climate change  
impacts



Prepare for agriculture related climate change impacts in Stony Plain by educating the community on potential impacts and encouraging urban agriculture to strengthen the local food system and reduce reliance on global food chains.



Direction for  
decision-makers



Provide direction for decision-makers by recommending policies, strategies, and actions related to urban agriculture to inform future land use decisions by suggesting strategies and actions to be implemented at different times to guide decision-makers when considering land use decisions that impact future growth and development.



Expand urban  
agriculture



Expand urban agriculture by exploring programs and initiatives that provide opportunities for the community to participate in urban agriculture and ensure access to and distribution of healthy, locally produced food.





# Background



## Context

The town of Stony Plain is located approximately 17 kilometres west of the city of Edmonton within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region of Alberta (Figure 1). Covering approximately 35 square kilometres in area, Stony Plain is home to 17,993 residents (Statistics Canada, 2021).

## History and Culture

Stony Plain has a rich history deeply embedded within the agricultural sector. Starting as a productive farming area in the late eighteenth century, population quickly began to grow. This land was a prime location for farming due to its central location along the railway line, which led to it becoming an agricultural service area with five grain elevators.

The small village continued to grow, establishing its name “Stony Plain” and its first post office in 1893. By 1908, the village officially became a town with a population over 1,000 people. Over time, the town has remained an active hub for the agriculture sector.

In 1912, Stony Plain was selected to have one of six provincial demonstration farms. This farm covered 480 acres, which is the land that the Multicultural Heritage Centre sits on today.

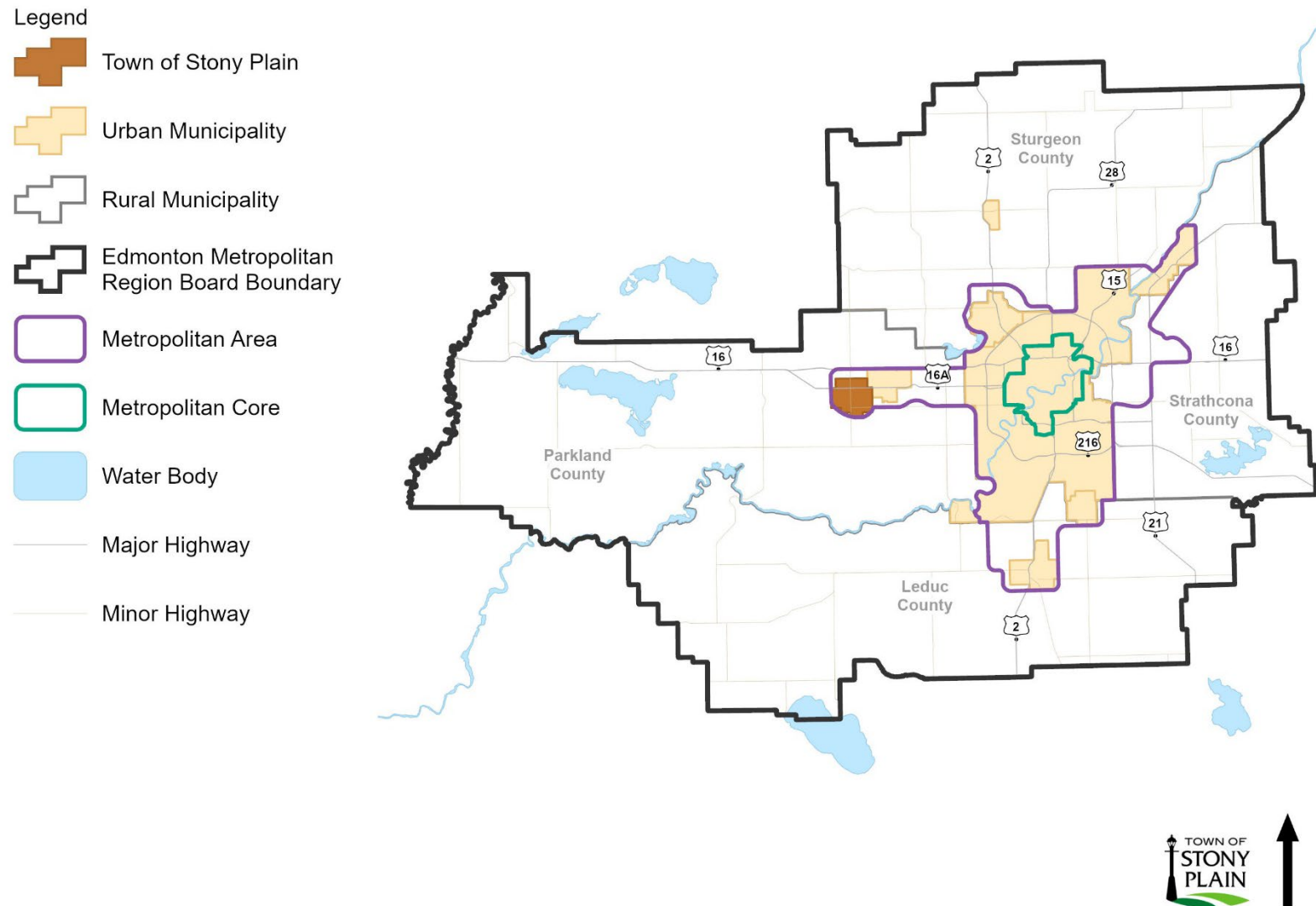
Stony Plain is also home to the Stony Plain and Parkland Pioneer Museum, which offers a hands-on experience to learn about the history of the town. The museum features 23 buildings spread across 14 acres, including several buildings from the original townsite including a former schoolhouse and the teacherage. Among the 10,000 artifacts located at the museum, there is also a

trapper cabin, church, blacksmith shop, and a rural town street that was recreated to show what the community was like in the 1930s.





Figure 1: Stony Plain within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region





## Regional Policy Context

The town of Stony Plain is identified as a metropolitan member municipality of the **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board** (EMRB), which is a provincially mandated growth management board committed to responsible and sustainable growth of the region. As the regional planning authority for the Edmonton region, Stony Plain is required to align with and support EMRB policy direction.

## Regional Agricultural Master Plan

The **Regional Agricultural Master Plan** (RAMP) created by the EMRB and associated member municipalities provides direction on agricultural land use in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. RAMP was approved by the EMRB in August 2021 and was in the process of being approved by the provincial government during the time of writing the UAP.

RAMP aims to conserve prime agricultural land, promote diversification, and protect agricultural land from fragmentation, while simultaneously balancing the need for municipal growth and economic opportunities in the agricultural sector. Upon provincial approval, RAMP will require all metropolitan EMRB member municipalities to complete an **Urban Agriculture Plan** to support the following outcomes:

- Bring awareness to urban agriculture;
- Identify opportunities and constraints for urban agriculture Specific to each municipality;
- Identify how urban agriculture will be supported in the municipality, with particular attention to the needs of public and private forms of urban agriculture; and

- Ensure that urban agriculture is a vital component of complete communities and is integrated into the social fabric of the municipality.

Following regional direction provided by the EMRB, the Town of Stony Plain has created the UAP to guide urban agriculture at the municipal level.





## **Municipal Policy Context**

Prior to development of the UAP, the Town had four municipal policy documents that provided general support and direction for agriculture and related uses.

### **2022-2025 Strategic Plan**

Stony Plain's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan outlines priorities for the five pillars that direct planning and decision-making: Governance and Partners, Economic Opportunity, Supportive Infrastructure, Community Development, and Environmental Responsibility. At a high level, the Strategic Plan identifies an overarching vision for each pillar, including commitments and key actions that are intended to achieve each pillar's vision.

The vision for Environmental Responsibility includes the intent to protect, preserve, and enhance natural systems and environmentally significant areas, while promoting a greener way of living. Additionally, it emphasizes considering the natural environment when planning to promote smart growth and sustainable development patterns. As such, the Town has committed to focusing on environmental sustainability with a key action to develop an urban agriculture plan to align with the RAMP.

### **Uniquely Stony Plain Municipal Development Plan (2020)**

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) provides an inclusive policy framework to guide sustainable growth management and estimate land requirements for the next 30 years.

In 2020, the Town updated the MDP to expand four key policy areas: economic development, environment and sustainability,

housing, and agricultural lands. This update included adding language around value-added agriculture, preventing premature fragmentation of agricultural lands, and directing growth to non-prime agricultural lands before prime agricultural lands, among others, to strengthen policy and inform land use decisions that may impact agricultural resources.

### **Environmental Master Plan**

The Environmental Master Plan (EMP) guides actions to prioritize the health of our environment for current and future generations. Developed in 2021, the EMP provides detailed background information on the importance of agricultural land in Stony Plain and outlines the Town's commitment to food security and agricultural heritage.

### **Environmental Stewardship Strategy**

The Environmental Stewardship Strategy establishes actions to implement the vision and goals of the EMP. It includes an action to support the development of the RAMP, in addition to permitting urban beekeeping, expanding the community garden program, and exploring the feasibility of urban agriculture; all of which are addressed in the UAP.

Together with the UAP, these documents provide the necessary background information, policy, and actions required to prioritize agriculture, protect related resources, and implement change at the municipal level.



## Agricultural Land in Stony Plain

Given Stony Plain's agricultural history, a substantial amount of land in the town is still being used for agricultural purposes. Striking an appropriate balance between community development and protecting natural resources and cultural heritage is becoming a challenge as the town continues to grow. To effectively understand what this balance could look like in the future, we need to recognize where we have been in the past and acknowledge the significant contributions that farming has brought to the community.

To capture these contributions, the Town released the Urban Agriculture Survey (November-December 2021) to give community members an opportunity to provide insight on Stony Plain's agricultural past and what role they envision agriculture playing in the town's future. Survey responses enhanced our understanding of the influence that agriculture had on the community and confirmed that it remains prevalent in our everyday lives.

Most survey respondents indicated that agriculture is a foundational pillar for Stony Plain because of its history and how it shaped our sense of place and identity, as well as its contributions to sustainability and industry to support the economy. Agriculture in Stony Plain takes many different forms and scales including backyard gardens and local farmer's fields on the edge of town, in addition to community garden plots, the demonstration farm, the Pioneer Museum, and farmer's markets. Agriculture is considered a strong and integral part of Stony Plain's past and future, as respondents noted that preserving existing agricultural land is an important factor when planning for future growth and development.



When asked about the future of urban agriculture in Stony Plain, respondents envision a variety of types and opportunities for enhanced sustainability and community resiliency, and new policies to support and inform community development. They hope that it will provide freedom for all people to explore urban agriculture and our existing local food systems, while being embraced as a sustainable way of life and learning for all members of the community to provide their own food. To view the complete responses to the Urban Agriculture Survey, please see the Public Participation Summary in Appendix A.

When considering the future of agriculture in a metropolitan municipality and the policy framework that has been established by the RAMP, it is important to understand what categories of agricultural land fall within Stony Plain's boundary and how they are intended to be used in the future. The three categories of agricultural land in Stony Plain are:

**Prime Agricultural Land:** Land identified as priority agricultural areas through the EMR Lands Evaluation Site Assessment tool (LESA) that meets or exceeds the identified threshold. These areas commonly include large continuous tracts of land containing unique soil conditions suited for specialty crops, a range of intensive livestock operations and grazing, recreation areas, and environmentally sensitive areas.

**Agriculture in Future Transition Lands:** Agricultural land located within the metropolitan area of the growth plan that is identified for future growth. The timing of when these lands will be required for

development depends on the growth rate of the region, which is based on the regional, provincial, and national economies.

**Urban Agriculture:** Urban centres within the region that have necessary assets to support agriculture growth within built-up areas.

*Table 1: Categories of agricultural land in Stony Plain*

Category	Area (ha)
<i>Prime Agricultural Land</i>	1,012.9
<i>Agriculture in Future Transition Land</i>	2,391.7
<i>Urban Agriculture</i>	1,283.2

*Prime Agricultural Land overlays areas of Agriculture in Future Transition Land*

Figure 2 shows the location of agricultural land in Stony Plain as categorized under the RAMP policy framework.



Figure 2: Agricultural land in Stony Plain

Legend



Town Boundary



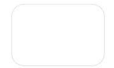
Prime Agricultural Land



Agriculture in Future Transition Land



Urban Agriculture



Parcel



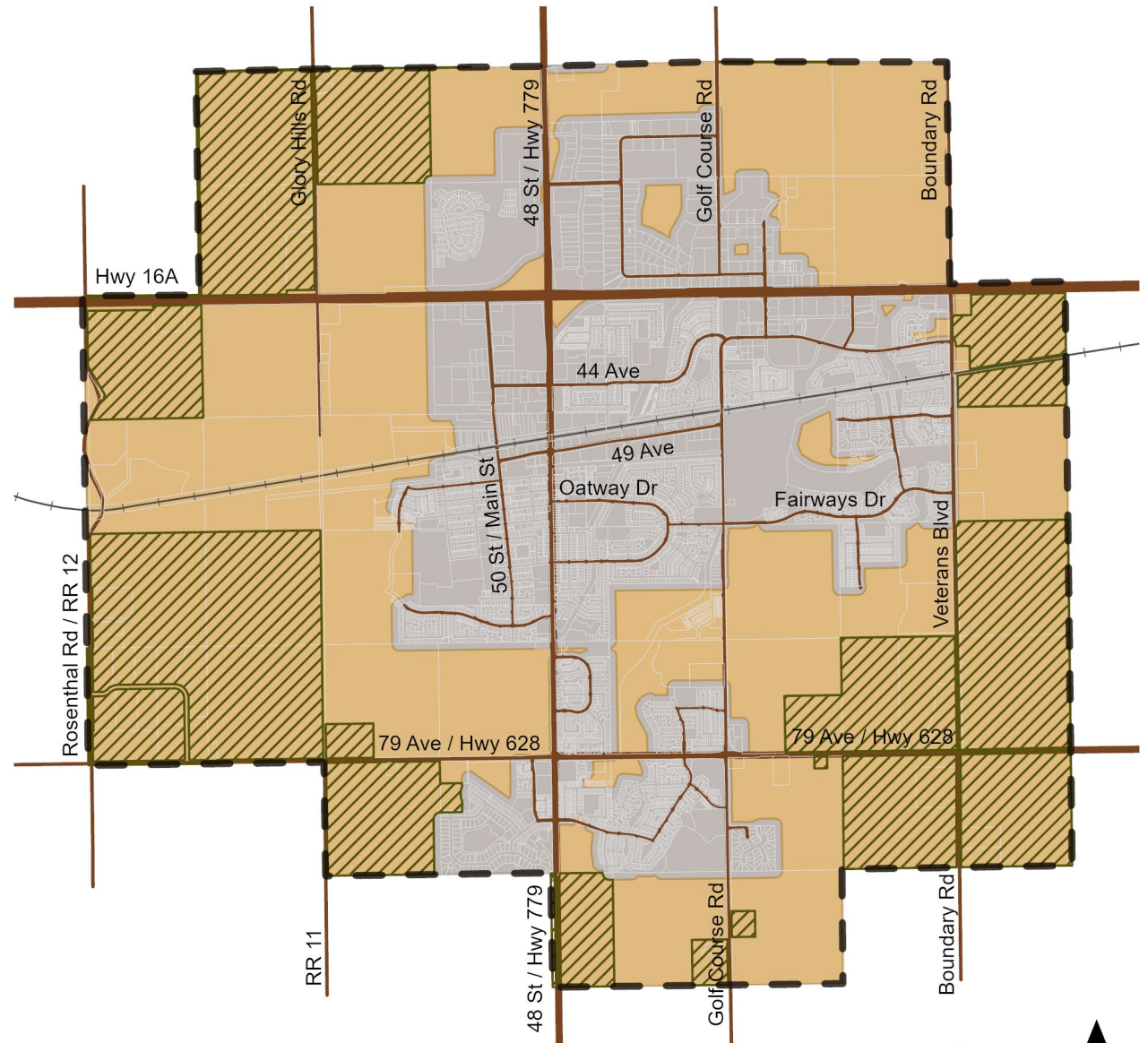
Railway



Major Highway



Major Road









## What is Urban Agriculture?

Urban agriculture can be defined as:

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*"Activities that grow food or raise livestock within urban areas of which the products are intended to be distributed off-site and consumed locally"*

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There are numerous different types of urban agriculture, including but not limited to:

**Community gardens:** A shared piece of land designated to the collective work, harvest, and maintenance of a garden space that produces fruits, vegetables, and other plants to increase access to healthy food.



**Green roofs:** A roof of a building with partial or complete vegetation cover to absorb rainwater, provide insulation, lower urban temperatures, provide an aesthetically pleasing landscape, grow food, create habitat for wildlife, or any combination of these.



**Fruit-bearing vegetation:** Planting trees/shrubs that bear edible fruit.



**Sharing backyards:** A program that connects people who have extra yard space with those who would like to grow food, but do not have the space.



**Urban beekeeping:** The keeping of bees within an urban area for honey, pollination, or both.



**Vertical farming:** The practice of growing produce in vertically stacked layers using soil, hydroponic, or aeroponic growing methods to reduce the amount of farmland required to produce food.



**Urban chickens:** The raising of chickens within an urban area for eggs, meat, or pest eating.







## Benefits of Urban Agriculture

Research has shown that urban agriculture can provide numerous benefits for individuals and communities.

### Environmental

Increased green spaces provided through certain types of urban agriculture can absorb stormwater run-off, reducing the frequency of flooding events and replenishing groundwater aquifers. Improvements in air quality, biodiversity, and waste reduction are additional benefits commonly observed from green spaces. Producing food locally using urban agriculture can lessen reliance on global food supply chains, reducing the amount of carbon emitted through common food transportation systems.

### Social

Urban agriculture allows communities to come together through sharing food, resources, and community green spaces. Other benefits may include improved mental health, and the maintenance of Stony Plain's cultural heritage.

### Economic

With an increase in the production and distribution of local food, individuals are given the opportunity to gain income through participating in agriculture themselves. Selling eggs from backyard chickens, honey from beehives, or produce from plots in the community garden are all potential sources to generate income that stays within the local economy. The practice of urban agriculture can also generate jobs and attract new businesses and industries to the community.



## Educational

Learning where food comes from and how it is grown is important to inform decisions about food choices and consumption habits. Residents and visitors can benefit from educational opportunities about agricultural history and techniques, particularly related to hands-on approaches that residents can participate in. In the past, it was common for households to grow and preserve food, but fewer people have this knowledge and skillset today due to the convenience of grocery stores and rapid urbanization. Increasing education on this topic will provide individuals with agency and self-sufficiency when growing, obtaining, and preparing food.

## Physical Health

Urban agriculture is an excellent way to boost physical activity in the outdoors. Tending to your garden, cleaning your chicken coop, and picking fruit from fruit-bearing trees are great ways to get your body moving.







## Climate Change

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but human activities have been the main driver of climate change since the 1800s, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.

As the global temperatures continue to rise, natural disasters are predicted to increase in frequency and severity, including strained conditions for good crop yields due to intense heat and altered growing seasons. It is important to start planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation at the community level to be prepared for future climate change-induced disasters.

Urban agriculture is one approach to help individuals, families, and municipalities prepare for the impacts of climate change on food production. The ability to grow food allows for less reliance on global food supply chains, therefore contributing to greater food security. Additionally, urban agriculture can allow for greater resistance to pest infestations and crop disease in comparison to commercial agriculture.

Everyone needs to eat and with questionable food availability for the future, it is essential to start preparing alternative ways to sustain Stony Plain residents. A changing world demands innovative solutions, today.



# Urban Agriculture in Stony Plain



## Fruit-Bearing Trees and Shrubs in Stony Plain

Stony Plain has a variety of fruit-bearing trees and shrubs that grow fruit that is available for public consumption. Table 2 describes the variety of fruit yielded from edible trees and shrubs in Stony Plain, which is supplemented by Figure 2 (pg. 24) showing where it can be found.

*Please follow a reputable plant identification guide to ensure safety when selecting edible plants to eat.*

Table 2: Edible fruit-bearing trees and shrubs in Stony Plain

Common Name	Location	Availability	Description
<i>Pear tree</i>	- Meridian Trail along stream course (North of the gazebo)	August - September	Only produce fruit bi-annually. Fruit is bitter.
<i>Crab Apple tree</i>	- Meridian Trail along stream course - Willow Way small greenspace - Woodlands stream course trail - Graybriar playground	Mid July - September	Fruit has a tart taste and firm texture.
<i>Spire Crab Apple tree</i>	- Shikaoi Park	Mid July - September	Fruit has a tart taste and firm texture.
<i>Evans Cherry tree</i>	- 52 St (along arena parking lot) - 50 Ave (East of the 5 <sup>th</sup> meridian) - Briarwood turn-around	June - July	Bright red cherries with a sour taste and fleshy texture. There is an inedible pit which will need to be removed. This fruit is often used in jams and pies.
<i>Haskap berry</i>	- Jutland Ridge Park (East trail entrance)	Mid June - August	Indigo blue in colour, these berries look like an elongated blueberry. The initial flavour of the berry is sweet, then finishes sour.
<i>Saskatoon berry</i>	- Trail between Brookview and Silverstone	Mid July - August	These berries have a sweet, nutty almond flavour.
<i>Rosehip shrub</i>	- Willow Park trail system	Fall	Best after light frost, but before first hard frost
<i>Raspberry bush</i>	- Woodlands	July - September	Red berries that are both tart and sweet.

*Below are some edible native plants that may be found in your own backyard. Foraging for food locally is great for your health, and your wallet. Please remember to thoroughly clean all the food you find.*

- Soak fruit in a mixture of cold water and apple cider vinegar. Scrub the outside of fruit in the mixture. Gently swish berries in the mixture.
- Soak leaves and flowers in cold water for 10 minutes. Spin in a salad spinner.

*Table 3: Native plants that may be found in Stony Plain*

Name	Description
<i>Spruce buds</i>	Pick buds off old spruce trees to make jellies and add to salads.
<i>Black poplar buds</i>	Pick from older trees. The buds can be used as an anti-inflammatory.
<i>Clover</i>	Flowers can be eaten raw, cooked, or dried. Eating too much can cause an upset stomach.
<i>Dandelion</i>	All parts of dandelions can be eaten raw. Dandelions can be used in salads, tea, and wine. The roots can be boiled or roasted.
<i>Lambs quarter</i>	Leaves can be eaten raw in a salad in moderate quantities. This plant can usually be found in garden beds.
<i>Pineapple weed</i>	Flowers are very sweet and can be eaten raw. They can be added to salads, or dried and used in tea. This weed is often found in sidewalk cracks or disturbed areas.
<i>Plantain</i>	The leaves are very similar to spinach – they can be eaten raw or boiled. This plant is often found in sidewalk cracks or disturbed areas.
<i>Sunflower</i>	Seeds can be dried or roasted and consumed.
<i>Wild mint</i>	Can be found in wet areas. It will smell strongly of mint. Leaves can be eaten raw or added to tea and other beverages.  <i>Careful not to confuse with stinging nettle.</i>



*Please refer to the Town's Municipal Development Standards (2020) for a complete list of approved tree and shrub species that are suitable to plant in Stony Plain.*



Figure 3: Location of fruit-bearing trees and shrubs in Stony Plain



## Opportunities and Constraints

Originating as a farming community, Stony Plain continues to embrace agriculture as part of its culture and identity. As such, urban agriculture presents a number of potential opportunities and constraints for the Town to consider when thinking about future implementation.

### Urban Chickens

Some municipalities permit residents to keep chickens on their properties, often regulated by bylaws and programs. An urban chicken is a hen that is at least 16 weeks of age kept in an urban area. Having urban chickens allows for many opportunities, including:

- The ability to have fresh eggs;
- The ability to sell eggs for profit;
- Improved mental health, as chickens can be embraced as pets or therapy animals; and
- Education in coop building, maintenance, and chicken care.

There are also challenges to consider in allowing urban chickens in Stony Plain, including:

- Potential for increased noise complaints;
- Potential for improper care;
- Potential for exclusion due to lack of property space; and
- Potential for health and safety risks due to insufficient waste cleaning or on-site processing of meat.

Examples of ways to combat potential issues with implementing an urban chicken program include:

- Requiring program participants to attend a course about urban chicken care;
- Requiring program participants to inform their neighbours of their interest in having chickens prior to obtaining chickens;
- Requiring participants to obtain a license prior to obtaining chickens;
- Having enforcement controls prepared; and
- Implementing a pilot program before introducing a full program.

Below are examples of educational institutions interested in hosting Stony Plain residents for educational opportunities related to urban chickens:

- “Chickens 101” by River City Chickens; and
- U of A Small Flock Poultry Course.





## Recommendations from nearby Municipalities:



Table 4: Recommendations from nearby municipalities

	Edmonton	Red Deer
<i>Population</i>	1,010,899 (2021)	100,844 (2021)
<i>Date urban chicken program launched:</i>	2014	2014
<i>Number of households participating in the program:</i>	250 licenses	102 licenses
<i>Challenges seen since allowing urban chickens:</i>	There have been some noise complaints. No major issues have been observed to date.	There have been some noise complaints and participants without a license. In 2021, the City had three complaints about chickens without a license, three about keeping a rooster (which is not allowed), and one complaint about a homeowner failing to provide proper care for their chickens.
<i>Benefits seen since allowing urban chickens:</i>	Communities are coming together. Children can learn from urban farms and community forums, and webpages have been developed to discuss chickens. People can know and learn about where their food is coming from and have the opportunity to buy local.	People feel a sense of control and ownership over their food source. Most participants consider their chickens to be pets, similar to dogs and cats. There are several therapy chickens in the city.
<i>How rules &amp; regulations are enforced:</i>	Poultry keeping is enforced under Section 27 of the Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw. Animal Control responds to all complaints.	Rules and regulations are enforced on a complaint basis. The Licensing Inspector does the monitoring and enforcement.
<i>Advice for Stony Plain in launching an urban chicken program:</i>	Start off with a pilot program and monitor the number of issues, as well as the amount of interest shown by residents.	Have enforcement controls prepared and be able to house "stray" chickens, either with a partner organization or internally.



## Urban Beekeeping

Many municipalities are choosing to allow residents to keep bees. There are several opportunities in implementing an urban beekeeping program, including:

- The ability to have fresh honey;
- The ability to sell honey and beeswax products;
- Increased number of pollinators in urban environments; and
- Education in bee health and care.

There are also important challenges to consider regarding urban beekeeping, including:

- Severe bee allergies in the community;
- Increased irritability from bees in hot and smokey conditions; and
- Potential for improper care.

Examples of ways to combat potential issues with implementing an urban beekeeping program includes:

- Requiring program participants to attend a course on urban beekeeping;
- Requiring program participants to get a license prior to obtaining urban bees;
- Requiring program participants to inform their neighbours of the intent to have urban bees before obtaining urban bees;



- Having enforcement controls prepared; and
- Starting a pilot program before introducing a full program.

### **Additional Urban Agriculture Opportunities**

There are numerous opportunities that Stony Plain may pursue to increase urban agriculture in the town. Understanding that not everyone has access to a backyard, below are some ideas that prioritize accessibility for all.

- Promoting community gardens in neighbourhoods;
- Considering rooftop gardens and green roofs for public access;
- Encouraging gardening programs offered through community centers, including;
  - The Multicultural Heritage Centre
  - The Stony Plain & Parkland Pioneer Museum
  - Stony Plain Youth Centre
- Gardening programs offered through schools;
- Providing the locations of fruit-bearing trees and shrubs;
- Implementing a program to allow residents with extra backyard space to connect with residents who want to grow food, but do not have backyard space;
- Encouraging care facilities to develop space for gardening;
- Connecting local farmers with residents to learn from their experiences and skills; and
- Implementing a program for residents who would like to grow their own food but face financial barriers.









# 3

## Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

## Climate Change

The earth is warming. Scientific data shows that our global temperature has risen since the Industrial Revolution. Not only is the earth getting warmer, but it is doing so at an alarming rate. In the past century, the global temperature has risen at a rate ten times faster than any historical warming trend.

Climate change is expected to have many effects on agriculture in the near future. For some regions, these effects may be mostly positive with longer growing seasons and increased temperatures. Other areas may experience devastating effects such as natural disasters, wildfires, drought, and floods that could have a negative impact on agriculture and hinder our ability to supply food to the world.





## Potential Climate Change Effects on Agriculture in Alberta



More frequent weather events  
(i.e., tornados, wildfires, flooding)



Dry growing conditions



Flooding



More pests surviving the winter



Decreased access to water



Crops survive in northern zones  
(growing zones shift northward)



## Climate Change Today

Many effects of climate change are already being observed in the Canadian Prairies. Frost-free seasons have lengthened to more than 25 days in central regions, the number of hot days (35°C and higher) have increased, the number of cold days (-35°C or less) have decreased considerably, and winter advantages are decreasing (i.e., killing off pests).

Commercial agriculture is essential to sustain life today, however, it does have substantial negative environmental effects that contribute to climate change. Considerable water use, pesticide use, degradation of soil, and greenhouse gas emissions from manure, equipment use, and transportation are all factors to consider. Urban agriculture is one way that individuals can alleviate these negative impacts.







# Direction and Policy Recommendations



## The Policies

This section includes policy and strategy recommendations for each of the four UAP objectives:

- Increase public awareness and interest;
- Prepare for future climate change impacts;
- Provide direction for decision-makers; and
- Expand urban agriculture.



## Increase Public Awareness and Interest

### Direction 1.1

#### *Provide access to education about urban agriculture*

1.1.a. The Town will explore and encourage a range of educational opportunities related to urban agriculture programming and participation.

1.1.b. The Town will prioritize accessibility of educational and public input opportunities related to urban agriculture.

### Direction 1.2

#### *Increase interest in urban agriculture*

1.2.a. The Town will promote the advantages of urban agriculture and highlight successes observed in surrounding municipalities.

1.2.b. The Town will encourage and support urban agriculture best practices and the protection and enhancement of local food production and distribution.

1.2.c. The Town will promote Stony Plain's roots in the agricultural sector to encourage connection with our cultural heritage.







## Prepare for Future Climate Change Impacts

### Direction 2.1

*Expand and diversify the Town's plan for adaptation and mitigation*

2.1.a. The Town will promote the use of urban agriculture as a tool to prepare for climate change impacts on agriculture.

2.1.b. The Town will support residents and stakeholders in pursuing urban agriculture opportunities as a means to increase community resiliency.

2.1.c. The Town will strive to collaborate with stakeholders, residents, and organizations to offer environmental initiatives that prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### Direction 2.2

*Provide support for community farmers*

2.2.a. The Town will acknowledge the contributions that farmers make to the town and encourage farming techniques that lessen environmental impacts.



## Provide Direction for Decision-Makers

### Direction 3.1

*Provide a policy framework to prioritize initiatives*

3.1.a. The Town will support urban agriculture initiatives led by the province and the region.

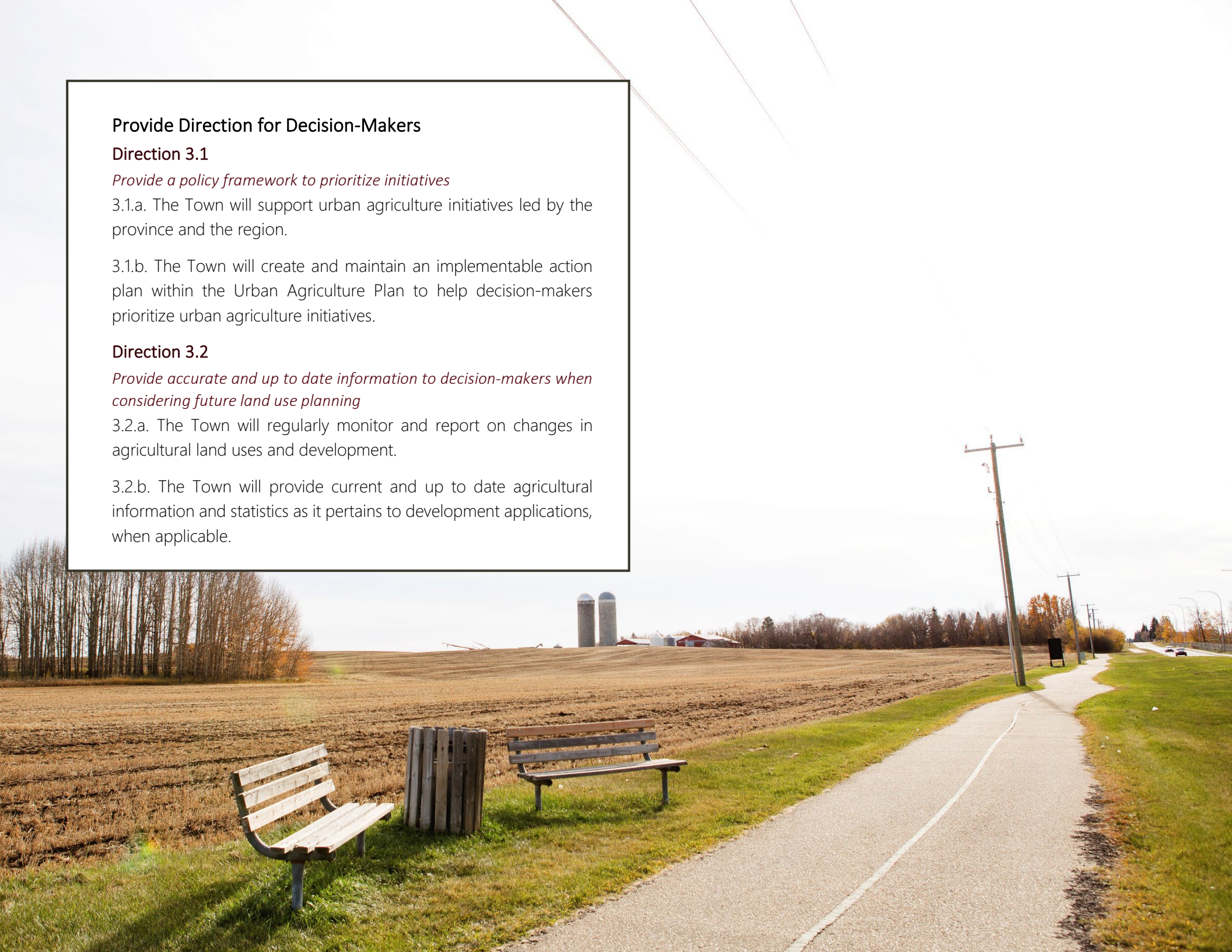
3.1.b. The Town will create and maintain an implementable action plan within the Urban Agriculture Plan to help decision-makers prioritize urban agriculture initiatives.

### Direction 3.2

*Provide accurate and up to date information to decision-makers when considering future land use planning*

3.2.a. The Town will regularly monitor and report on changes in agricultural land uses and development.

3.2.b. The Town will provide current and up to date agricultural information and statistics as it pertains to development applications, when applicable.







## Expand Urban Agriculture

### Direction 4.1

*Promote and enhance existing urban agriculture opportunities*

4.1.a. The Town will strive to involve the community in initiatives and projects that support the maintenance of existing agriculture types.

4.1.b. The Town will promote expansion of existing urban agriculture opportunities.

4.1.c. The Town will encourage the use of community gardens by identifying suitable land in accessible locations for additional plots.

### Direction 4.2

*Explore potential urban agriculture programs and initiatives*

4.2.a. The Town will encourage the introduction of new urban agriculture types and uses in Stony Plain.

4.2.b. The Town will consider suitable urban agriculture opportunities in existing and developing neighbourhoods.

### Direction 4.3

*Incorporate urban agricultural considerations into the municipal land use planning process.*

4.3.a. The Town will ensure urban agriculture is incorporated into municipal planning documents, where appropriate.

4.3.b. The Town will strive to enhance the public realm through a diversity of food activities.

4.3.c. The Town will integrate and connect land uses that may be suitable for urban agriculture.



# Action Plan






## Actions





The Town developed an action plan with short, medium, and long-term actions to provide a roadmap for how directions and policies can be successfully implemented over time. This high-level prioritization of actions is based on current capacity, anticipated feasibility, and complexity of implementation. Actions are intended to be completed through department work plans, Corporate Plan initiatives, or external funding, depending on priority and resource availability.

### Objective 1 — Increase Public Awareness and Interest





Policy	Action	Timeframe		
		Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
Direction 1.1 Provide access to education about urban agriculture				
<i>Explore and encourage a range of educational opportunities related to urban agriculture programming and participation.</i>	Create a section on the Town website that provides information and resources related to urban agriculture.	X		
	Develop and launch a communication campaign for regular education and awareness of urban agriculture and related opportunities.		X	
	Create and distribute a guide for sustainable residential yard planting and gardening practices.			X
	Create and distribute a guide to support bee safety and promote and enhance pollinator habitat.	X		

	Partner with regional municipalities to facilitate information sessions with industry leaders and qualified professionals to provide accurate information on urban agriculture.			
	Partner with neighbouring municipalities and local organizations to attend the Tri-Municipal Region Info Nights to promote urban agriculture.			
<i>Prioritize accessibility of educational and public input opportunities related to urban agriculture.</i>	Promote educational opportunities related to urban agriculture using multiple methods including but not limited to: Town website, social media platforms, email groups, newspaper, community bulletin boards, Town signs, events, etc., as appropriate.			
	Provide public input opportunities for the community to get involved with urban agriculture initiatives led by the municipality.			
Direction 1.2 Increase interest in urban agriculture				






<i>Promote the advantages of urban agriculture and highlight successes observed in surrounding municipalities.</i>	Partner with regional municipalities to host information sessions on municipal urban agriculture programs.			
<i>Encourage and support urban agriculture best practices and the protection and enhancement of local food production and distribution.</i>	Work with neighbouring municipalities to host regular Tri-Regional urban agriculture events.			
	Encourage information sharing about urban agriculture initiatives led by residents, the Town, and neighbouring municipalities.			
<i>Promote Stony Plain's roots in the agricultural sector to encourage connection with our heritage.</i>	Promote collaboration between Town departments to incorporate Stony Plain's agricultural history in Town events, projects, and marketing, and support agriculture-related business development.			




## Objective 2 — Prepare for Future Climate Change Impacts

Policy	Action	Timeframe		
		Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
Direction 2.1 Expand and diversify the Town’s plan for adaptation and mitigation				
<i>Promote the use of urban agriculture as a tool to prepare for climate change impacts on agriculture.</i>	Develop and launch a communication campaign to establish and strengthen the connection between climate change and the agricultural sector.			
	Create and distribute a guide for environmental benefits related to urban agriculture activities.			
<i>Support residents and stakeholders in pursuing urban agriculture opportunities as a means to increase community resiliency.</i>	Identify and explore grant opportunities for urban farmers and community-wide urban agriculture initiatives to assist with program start-up and supporting infrastructure.			
<i>Strive to collaborate with stakeholders, residents, and organizations to offer environmental initiatives that prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation.</i>	Regularly research initiatives that can be led by the Town to progress climate change adaptation and mitigation; recommend when appropriate.			





	Explore ideas provided by the community for new educational opportunities and programming related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.			
Direction 2.2 Provide support for community farmers				
<i>Acknowledge the contributions that farmers make to the town and encourage farming techniques that lessen environmental impacts.</i>	Conduct a stakeholder survey among the farming community to better understand their concerns and needs.			
	Work with the farming community to increase knowledge and understanding of agriculture best practices by participating in local events and information sessions.			





### Objective 3 — Provide Direction for Decision-Makers

Policy	Action	Timeframe		
		Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
Direction 3.1 Provide a policy framework to prioritize initiatives				
<i>Support urban agriculture initiatives led by the province and region.</i>	Remain current with urban agriculture initiatives taking place at the provincial and regional levels and support them at the municipal level, as required.			
<i>Create and maintain an implementable action plan within the Urban Agriculture Plan to help decision-makers prioritize urban agriculture initiatives.</i>	Suggest realistic directions and policies to be implemented using a variety of methods including but not limited to: department business plans, Corporate Plan initiatives, and partnerships with regional partners, stakeholders, organizations, and residents, where possible.			
	Provide annual updates on progress towards urban agriculture actions.			













Direction 3.2 Provide accurate and up to date information to decision-makers when considering future land use planning				
<i>Regularly monitor and report on changes in agricultural land uses and development.</i>	Provide annual updates to Council to convey major changes to agricultural land uses and development.			
<i>Provide current and up to date agricultural information and statistics as it pertains to development applications, when applicable.</i>	Provide and consider agricultural information when making decisions on development applications, as required.			

## Objective 4 — Expand Urban Agriculture





Policy	Action	Timeframe		
		Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
Direction 4.1 Promote and enhance existing urban agriculture opportunities				
<i>Involve the community in initiatives and projects that support the maintenance of existing agriculture types.</i>	Conduct public input opportunities to gather community feedback when proposing changes to existing agricultural programs or opportunities, when appropriate.			
	Inform the community of new opportunities related to existing urban agriculture types and programs.			
<i>Promote expansion of existing urban agriculture opportunities.</i>	Create a spatial dataset showing the location of existing urban agriculture types to inform land use decisions for future urban agriculture opportunities.			
	Work with community partners and stakeholders to expand the community garden program to suitable public and private lands.			






	Conduct a spatial analysis to identify municipal land that could be suitable for a community orchard and associated programming.			
<i>Encourage the use of community gardens by identifying suitable land in accessible locations for additional plots.</i>	Conduct a spatial analysis to identify municipal land that could be suitable for future community garden uses.			
<b>Direction 4.2 Explore potential urban agriculture programs and initiatives</b>				
<i>Encourage the introduction of new urban agriculture types and uses in Stony Plain.</i>	Establish guidelines for urban agriculture that provide standards for the development and implementation of urban agriculture types.			
	Explore options to create and improve pollinator habitat and safety and introduce urban beekeeping into the community.			
	Explore the feasibility of introducing an urban chicken program.			

	Explore and encourage urban agriculture uses and programs that provide agri-tourism opportunities.			
<i>Consider suitable urban agriculture opportunities in existing and developing neighbourhoods.</i>	Conduct a spatial analysis to identify existing, unprogrammed parks and open spaces that have the potential to be used for urban agriculture purposes.			
	Consider potential urban agriculture uses in newly proposed parks and open spaces via the Parks and Open Space Guidelines.			
<b>Direction 4.3 Incorporate urban agriculture considerations into the municipal land use planning process</b>				
<i>Ensure urban agriculture considerations are incorporated into municipal planning documents, where appropriate.</i>	Review the Land Use Bylaw to identify suitable amendments for reducing barriers to and encouraging implementation of urban agriculture.			
	Update the Municipal Development Plan to include specific direction for urban agriculture.			



	Incorporate the Urban Agriculture Plan into the administrative review process for land development applications to ensure objectives and policies are being followed, including but not limited to the following processes: land development inquiries, area structure plan applications, and subdivision applications.			
	Require Agricultural Impact Assessments for proposed area structure plans that include prime agricultural areas or future transition areas.			
<i>Enhance the public realm through a diversity of food activities.</i>	Create a spatial dataset showing the location of all commercial establishments that sell food or food products.			
	Conduct a spatial analysis on the distribution of food resources within the community to identify			

	gaps to target with future food initiatives.			
	Partner with local food producers and vendors for local events.			
<i>Integrate and connect land uses that may be suitable for urban agriculture.</i>	Add the connectivity of parks and open spaces as a criterion to evaluate future area structure plans and subdivision plans in the Parks and Open Space Guidelines.			
	Conduct a spatial analysis to identify greenfield areas and vacant infill land that may be suitable for urban agriculture related uses, businesses, and industries (e.g., residential agrihoods, value-added agriculture, etc.)			

## Monitoring & Reporting

The UAP is intended to evolve as urban agriculture expands at the municipal level. As such, policies and directions within the UAP should be reviewed regularly and actions should be reported on annually through the Town's regular reporting process. The UAP will be updated on an as needed basis to reflect progress and accommodate changing priorities in regional and provincial agricultural policy.





## Appendix A: Urban Agriculture Survey – Public participation strategy, results, and analysis



# Urban Agriculture Survey:

Public participation strategy, results, and analysis

October 2022





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## Introduction

Stony Plain's Urban Agriculture Plan (UAP) sets direction to prioritize urban agriculture by establishing a framework to encourage a variety of urban agriculture methods, support production of and access to local food, and ingrain the practice of urban agriculture within the community for generations to come. An integral component of developing the UAP was capturing the voices and insight of the community through a series of public input opportunities, including an Urban Agriculture Survey ("the Survey") to meaningfully engage the public and incorporate feedback into the UAP.

The Survey was available for public input between November 10 and December 10, 2021, receiving a total of 187 responses including 69 complete responses and 118 partial responses. The Survey was promoted through the Town's social media channels, an urban agriculture informational video, and a news release.

The following sections of this report present a preliminary analysis of the responses to the Urban Agriculture Survey.



## Survey Questions, Results & Analysis

Stony Plain's Urban Agriculture Plan Survey consisted of 15 questions, including a mix of multiple choice, Likert Scale (agree/disagree), and open-ended questions. This survey was designed to gather feedback from the community on what the future of agriculture looks like in the town, considering both the changing climate and our role as an urban metropolitan within the greater Edmonton region.

*\*Please be advised that both partial and complete submissions were included within the data analysis so questions may not have been answered by the same number of respondents*

*\*Complete written responses to open-ended questions are included in Appendix A*

### *Question 1. What does agriculture in Stony Plain look like to you?*

Question 1 was asked to determine what comes to mind when residents think about agriculture in Stony Plain. This was an open-ended question that generated 68 responses across the following topics:

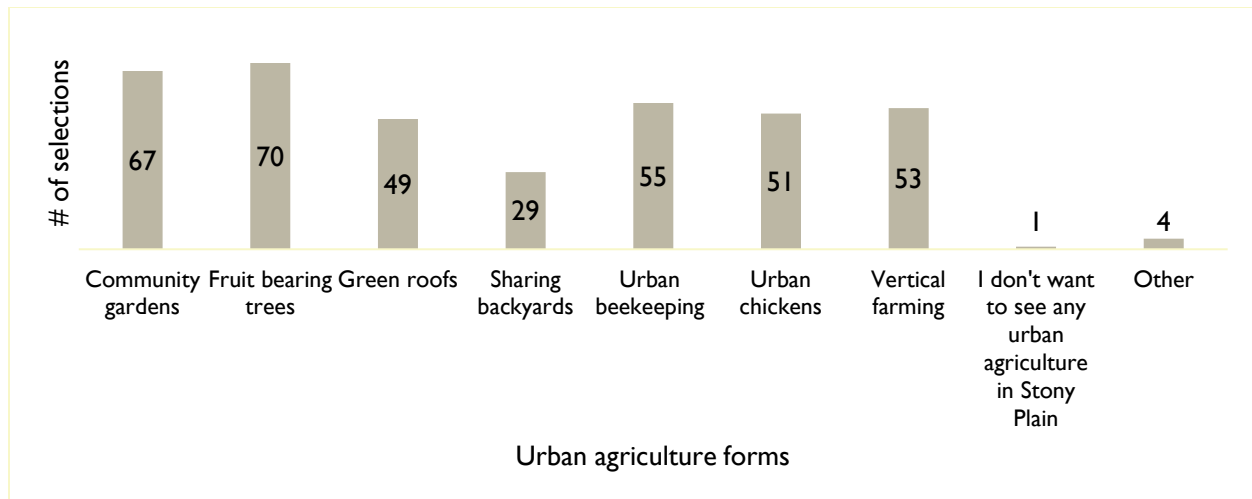
- Urban agriculture types (38)
- General (10)
- History (6)
- Town look/feel (6)
- Programs/services (4)
- Sustainability (4)

### *Question 2. What forms of agriculture are you aware of that currently operate, or used to operate in Stony Plain?*

Question 2 provided insight on the forms of agriculture that residents know or have seen operating within Stony Plain. This open-ended question generated 68 responses. The top three most used terms in the survey responses were **community gardens, farmland, and home gardens**. Based on the responses to this question, a word cloud was generated using key words from respondents:







Question 4 provided insight on the forms of urban agriculture that the community would like to see in Stony Plain. The top three urban agriculture forms selected by respondents were fruit bearing trees, community gardens, and urban beekeeping, closely followed by vertical farming and urban chickens.

Four respondents selected “other”, generating four additional comments:

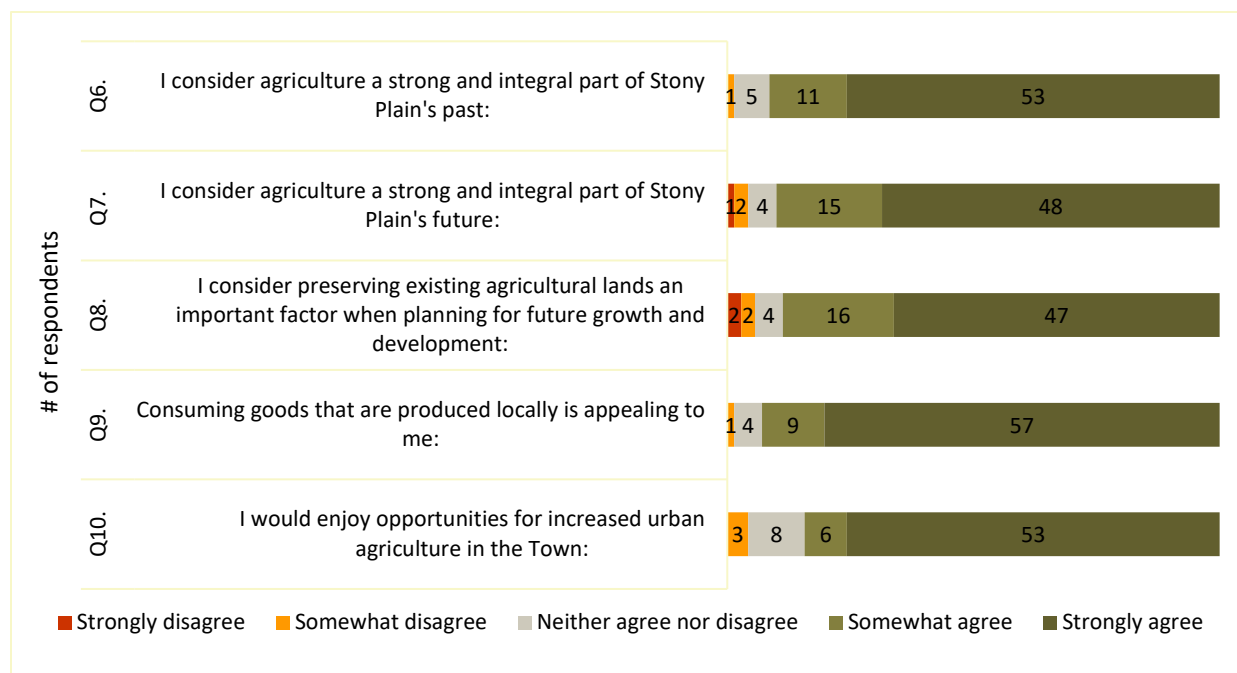
- Increased focus on the demonstration farm – the Town should purchase the field east of the museum grounds
- No concern with any urban agriculture options listed above being carried out in town
- More opportunity for value-added agriculture (list of commercial kitchens for rent, more classes to teach residents how to do things like preserve their food at the end of the growing season, etc.)
- Keep the fields that still exist around the edges of town

*Question 5. What do you hope the future of urban agriculture looks like in Stony Plain?*

Question 5 was asked to capture what the community hopes urban agriculture will look like in the future in Stony Plain. This was an open-ended question that generated 68 comments across the following topics:

- Urban agriculture types (23)
- Sustainability/resiliency (19)
- General (19)
- Policy/Community Development (7)

### Questions 6-10:



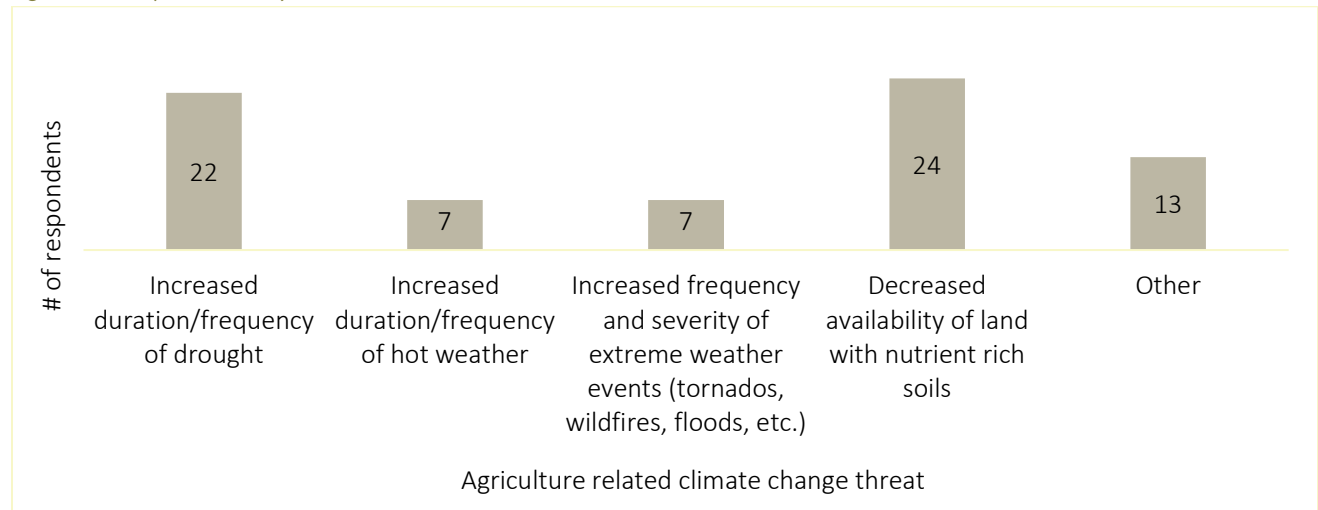
Questions 6 through 10 were asked to determine respondents' level of agreement or disagreement with statements related to Stony Plain's agricultural past and future, as well as agriculture-related factors and opportunities.

- 91% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree that agriculture is an integral part of Stony Plain's past.
- 90% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree that agriculture is an integral part of Stony Plain's future.
- 89% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree that preserving existing agricultural lands an important factor when planning for future growth and development.
- 93% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree that locally produced goods are appealing to them.
- 84% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree that they would enjoy opportunities for increased urban agriculture in the town.

Although the percentage of respondents who consider agriculture an integral part of Stony Plain's past was slightly higher than the percentage of respondents who consider it an integral part of Stony Plain's future, the response to these questions was generally positive.



*Question 11. What agriculture-related climate change threat do you think is most concerning for agricultural productivity:*

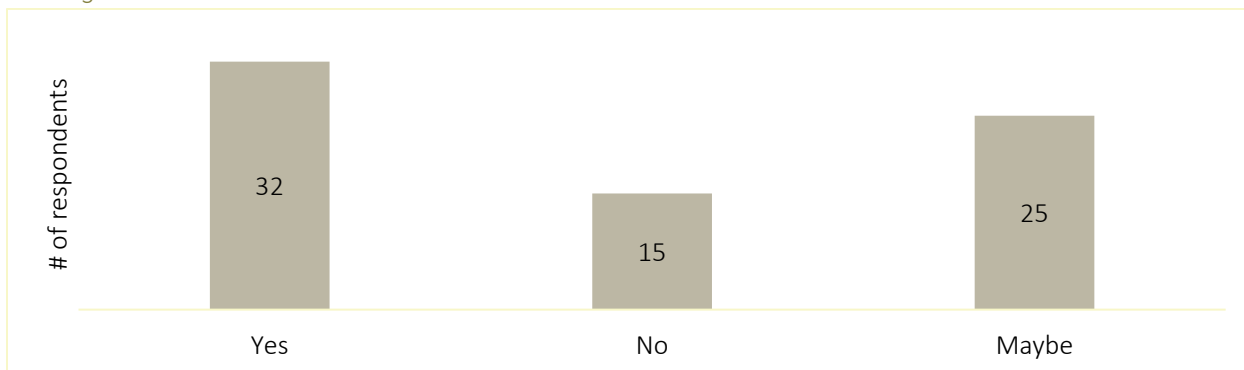


Question 11 was asked to identify what climate change threat respondents consider to be most concerning for agricultural production. 33% of respondents (22) indicated that the decreased availability of land with nutrient rich soils is the most concerning climate change threat for agricultural productivity, closely followed by increased duration/frequency of drought, which was selected by 30% of respondents (22).

18% of respondents (13) selected "other" that generated eight additional comments/considerations across the following topics:

- All of the above
- Historically, agriculture has been very adaptable to changing conditions as new methods are being used all the time. Traditional agriculture is often performed by big corporations who have resources to adjust to changing conditions. Use of prime agricultural land for development, but this is not caused by climate change
- Hysteria about weather, which is an everchanging entity
- Unsure, recognize the threat of all concerns
- Loss of biodiversity
- Policies created that hurt local farmers and are not achieving reasonable goals
- No threats/none (2)

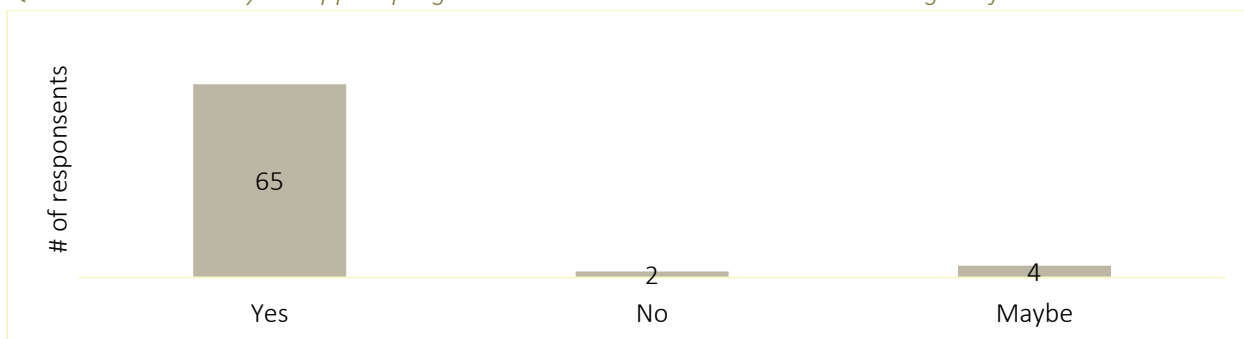
*Question 12. Would you be willing to volunteer to help harvest fruit from local trees, make fruit products (jam, fruit leather, apple chips, etc.), or distribute these products if the Town invested in planting fruit bearing trees?*



Question 12 was asked to determine if respondents would be willing to help harvest fruit from local trees. 44% of respondents (32) indicated that they would be willing to help harvest fruit from local trees, while 35% of respondents (25) selected “maybe”, generating 19 additional comments across the following topics:

- Time/scheduling (10)
- Having clear organization/instructions for volunteers (4)
- Being able to keep the harvested fruit (3)
- Health/mobility challenges (1)
- Access (1)

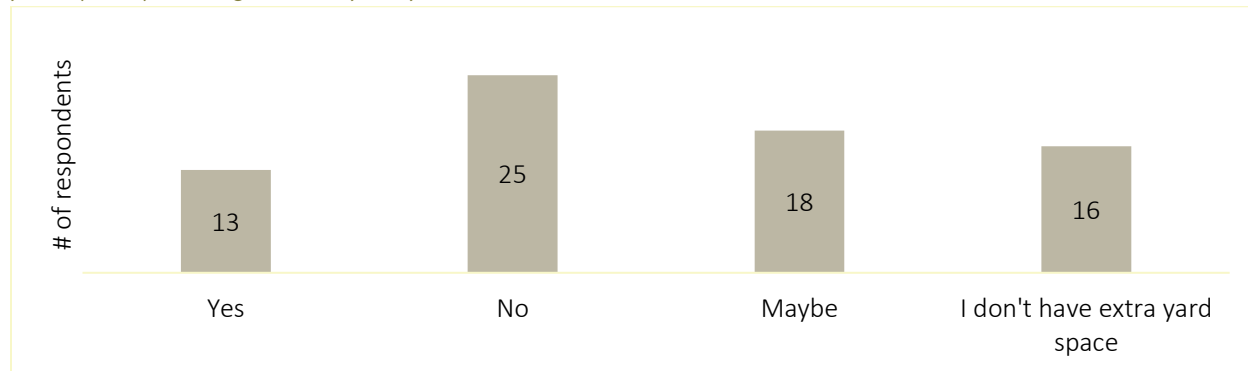
*Question 13. Would you support programs in schools to teach children how to grow food?*



Question 13 was asked to determine if respondents would support school programs to teach children how to grow food. 92% of respondents (65) indicated that they would support programs in schools to teach children how to grow food. 6% of respondents (4) selected “maybe”, generating two additional comments:

- Dedicated paid staff person responsible for fully harvesting and cleaning gardens; school year does not align with harvest schedules for all vegetables (1)
- Be included within existing curriculum or be an extra curricular; should not be offloaded onto teachers who are already busy (1)

*Question 14. If you had extra space in your front or backyard, would you allow residents with little to no yard space plant a garden in your yard?*



Question 14 was asked to determine respondents' level of interest with letting residents use their yard to plant a garden. 18% of respondents (13) indicated that they would allow residents with little to no yard space to plant a garden in their yard, compared to 35% (25) who responded no, and 22% (16) who do not have extra yard space. 25% of respondents (18) selected "maybe", generating 16 additional comments across the following topics:

- Relationship with the user/level of landowner comfort (8)
- Responsible and reliable user (5)
- Clear plan for use of the garden space, resource sharing, and mitigation of access and liability concerns (3)

*Question 15. Do you have any other comments you would like to add about urban agriculture in Stony Plain (optional)?*

Question 15 was asked to capture any additional comments from respondents related to urban agriculture in Stony Plain. This was an open-ended question that generated 37 additional comments across the following topics:

- General Comments/Questions (19)
- Livestock (11)
- Education (3)
- Community development (2)
- Environmental health (2)

## Council Workshop

Stony Plain Council was engaged to provide their perspectives and knowledge on urban agriculture in Stony Plain. The workshop included interactive questions, viewing a video about urban agriculture, a presentation about the project, and group discussion questions. General topics arising from the discussion questions are presented and summarized below:

*Question 1: What types of urban agriculture does Stony Plain currently have that you are aware of?*

- Fruit trees on public land
- Community gardens



- Gardening on private land
- Demonstration Farm
- Farms

*Question 2: What are the benefits of having urban agriculture in Stony Plain?*

- A fun thing to do for all ages
- Urban gardening helps create ecosystems
- Enhances community sense of place/enables us to be more grounded in community
- Education and learning opportunities
- Enables opportunities for innovative ideas and solutions
- Helps connect people with the land and retains our history

*Question 3: What are the potential barriers/obstacles to implementing, promoting, and actioning urban agriculture in Stony Plain?*

- Bylaws/lack of proper regulations
- Districting, land use, etc.
- Opposition from neighbours
- Community buy-in
- Difference between growing vegetables and raising livestock
- Enforcement
- New developments resulting with smaller lots

*Question 4: What strategies and approaches could be used to overcome the previously identified obstacles/barriers to urban agriculture?*

- Ensure proper rules and regulations are in place
- Highlight opportunities that are already available
- Increase education and communication
- Ensure access to appropriate training
- Utilize datasets and lived experiences of other municipalities
- Employ a stepped/staged approach for feasible implementation and monitoring

*Question 5: What types of policies might need to be put in place to make urban agriculture accessible to all?*

- Policies for fruit bearing trees and planting, and community gardens
- Architectural controls for landscaping
- General policies encouraging what residents can do
- Education around what residents can do and how they can do it

*Question 6: In your opinion, what steps should the Town take to ensure the intent of the Urban Agriculture Plan is pursued in the future?*

- Explore ways for everyone to benefit from urban agriculture

- Understand what has worked and what has not in other municipalities
- Explore urban agriculture initiatives
- Enable opportunities for innovative ideas or solutions

## Summary of Council Workshop Findings

Overall, feedback provided by Town Council aligns with survey responses received from the community. A predominant topic of discussion during the Council workshop was the importance of agriculture for the Town's history and how education and communication will be essential to promote the different aspects of urban agriculture. Additionally, several obstacles/barriers were noted in relation to implementing, promoting, and actioning urban agriculture which highlighted localized challenges that will be considered when recommending policies, directions, and actions in the Urban Agriculture Plan.

## Conclusion

The public input opportunities for the Urban Agriculture Plan provided an opportunity for the Town to capture and assess how the community views agriculture in Stony Plain, both in the past and for the future.

Through the survey, we heard that agriculture in Stony Plain is viewed as a broad term that encompasses many different elements such as backyard gardens, farmer's fields on the edge of town, community gardens, the demonstration farm, farmer's markets, and the Pioneer Museum, among others. Agriculture was identified as a foundational pillar for Stony Plain because of its history and how it has shaped our sense of place and identity, as well as its contributions to sustainability, resiliency, economy, and industry.

When asked about the future of urban agriculture in Stony Plain, the community expressed general support and excitement for the numerous possibilities it could bring for living and learning, in addition to freedom for people to explore local food systems and provide for themselves. Of the urban agriculture types presented, fruit bearing trees, community gardens, and urban beekeeping were the top three types that survey respondents would like to see in Stony Plain in the future. Additionally, feedback from the community indicates that agriculture is considered an integral component of Stony Plain's past and future, although the way it looks and the how it operates may change as the community continues to grow.

We thank all participants who contributed their time to help create Stony Plain's first Urban Agriculture Plan.

## Appendix A: Comments Received on Open-Ended Survey Questions

### 1. *What does agriculture in Stony Plain look like to you?*

- community gardens, farmers market, Pioneer Museum events.
- 330 farms, pickup trucks on main street, beautiful acreages annexed into Stony Plain, fields growing with grain, harvested fields, busier stores, downtown shops with more customers, full restaurants, busy Farmer's Markets.
- A smaller community with farmland on the fringe.
- A Town employed and full vertical integration of all services (cultivation-harvesting-sales of products). A holistic service to the community to provide affordable food and products (compost, soil amendments, etc.) In a sustainable regenerative system generating a profit for further expansion and self sufficiency for employment and operations.
- Ag is a very important part of Stony Plain and surrounding area as this is where the town started and grew from. It is important that those in town can have the opportunity to grow their own food, however, there are certain types that could possibly impact larger farmers in the area if not practiced correctly ex: beekeeping, backyard chickens.
- Agriculture in Stony Plain looks like Farmers markets, community gardens, and back yard chickens.
- Agriculture is why stony plain is a thriving community. The surrounding farms and farmland are beautiful. My own favourite is canola, what a sight to see.
- Agriculture represents the honoring of farmers, the land itself, food security, water use and Indigenous peoples. I love how the Town of Stony Plain protects its relationship to agricultural spaces and food production.
- An absolute necessity! It will income and sustainability in difficult economic times.
- Boulevard Trees, lawns, flower beds, community garden and the big one - the demonstration farm at the museum.
- Chickens and gardens in. The back yards....but people will need to clean up after their chickens.
- Chickens!!!
- Community garden.
- Community outdoor projects.
- Community gardening.
- Community gardens in EVERY subdivision with a water supply. More fruit trees planted on public land. Agricultural belt that surrounds the community. Smaller development subdivisions divided by agricultural land which keep shelter belts of trees in place.
- Community gardens, planting by the Town along roadways, maintenance of grass, trees, and plants in parks and trail system.
- Crops only. No animals.
- Don't know.
- Encouraging market gardens, farms, backyard chickens, and horticultural growing within the town limits. Both for profit and for personal use.



- Farmland.
- Farm lands left for farmers.
- Farmers Days.
- Farming demonstrations.
- Urban farms (chickens, gardens).
- Community gardens, orchards.
- Farmers' Markets.
- Farming.
- Farming - wheat and canola fields around the town.
- Farms outside of town.
- Flowers, gardens, trees, and being surrounded by farm landscapes
- From large scale farmers to public spaces, to personal backyards
- From the perspective of the Pioneer Museum, the urban agriculture that we take part in is the crop we plant in our field and the garden that our volunteers tend.
- Fruit bearing trees, garden boxes, compost programs, maybe chickens/bees, grass spaces are used productively (plant something).
- Generally, an increase in residents' ability to be self sufficient/grow food locally
- increased access to community gardens with some municipal support (e.g. temp use of undeveloped land, water provided, perhaps some municipal support with start up.
- I would support a limited number of poultry in residential spaces.
- Support for increased for gardening on residential lots: information, show case front/back yard gardens, public education by experienced gardeners. Mimic a local ""communities in bloom"" but for gardens. Encourage /supporting planting of food bearing crops (berries, fruit trees, etc.)
- Incentives for green roofs or other shared ""garden space"" in public or commercial buildings
- "Natural" medians. Lethbridge has some examples of native grass medians that don't require mowing.
- Having a lot of gardens, fruit trees like in St. Albert where anyone can pick from. We need to provide more green space to residents. Ideally every subdivision should have green space with enough space within that to have plots for everyone to grow a garden. This is crucial now with supply chain issues.
- Having beautiful farm fields right in the centre and edges of town. Community gardens.
- Historical more than current. Huge potential for urban agriculture awareness though. Some organizations celebrating Ag for the region such as the Multi and the Pioneer.
- I don't tend to think of the two together actually, so currently agriculture in Stony Plain doesn't really exist in my mind.
- I like seeing the fields right in town but eventually this land should be houses and stores
- I see the fields between communities and that border the town being actively cultivated and farmed every season.
- It looks like fun harvest day events and community building.

- It varies widely. There is a physical component to UA, from huge operations to family-sized gardens. There is a financial component because the region has to be competitive. There is a well being component because some Ag practices are good for our ecosystem and for those of us who rely on its continued success, but much urban Ag looks very destructive to me, and represents a threat to our health and future prosperity.
- It's the very foundation that this town was built upon, it runs through the heritage and culture of your town and its inhabitants.
- Just like the picture...outside of town.
- Large gardens in front and back yards.
- Chickens!
- Community gardens.
- Local farms that help feed the world and sustain the economy - a vital part of our heritage and an important industry that must be protected.
- More garden spaces and chickens for residents.
- More gardens for growing vegetables. Protection of fields around the town encouragement of businesses that grow trees etc.
- Option to have garden spaces, chickens, public fruit orchards making us more self sufficient.
- Organic market garden, no pesticides or herbicides, no animal manure!
- Value added food processing.
- Hydroponic vegetables.
- Other than Rural forms of agriculture. Urban agriculture to keep looks like an urban Bee keeping program, Urban Hens program, carbon tax off sets for homeowners with gardens and trees on the property. Legislation to support green house structures and development of front yards and backyards into urban agricultural settings.
- People being able to grow no invasive crops on any part of there property. Not the housing of life stock in town.
- People having the opportunity to have small livestock and support for gardens in their yard.
- Presently agriculture happens out of town.
- Programs that support residents' ability to produce their own food (produce, eggs, chickens). For example, Spruce Grove has a great rain barrel program, and saint Albert has a great compost program for residents.
- People being allowed to raise chickens. Community gardens and self-sufficient town gardens (more perennials, less water sucking annuals). Expanding local public fruit trees and shrubs.
- Similarly to Edmonton's and other towns, having a cap of animals and having strict guide lines regarding them.
- The urban hen project in Edmonton has been super successful.
- Small backyard gardens , town beatification that is eatable.
- Small-scale produce gardens, mixed gardens, fruit trees, community gardens, and ideally permits for honeybee boxes and chickens for eggs, produce greenhouses.
- some small gardens, some fruit trees, and an awful lot of grass.

- Something that can be done in close proximity to people, there are agricultural activities that should not be done in towns.
- Stony Plain agricultural appears to me as a representation of how even the smallest parcel of land can be used in a productive and sustainable fashion.
- The more, the better. I love having a yard and planting my own garden each year, and going for walks along the fields near the edge of town. It is important to me to keep that connection to "nature" in an urban environment.
- The Town of Stony Plain is an agricultural community that has strongly supported the farmers of Parkland County for generations, and we are fortunate to have the town supporting us.
- This question makes no sense.
- Too late.
- The houses are all on the best black soil in Alberta. Stop spreading out.
- Urban agriculture in Stony Plain could include incorporating food-bearing plants into community spaces (like the newly landscaped area at Rotary Park. I think there is also a growing number of people who are interested in urban beekeeping and backyard chickens as well. With the isolating effects of Covid, I think there is a huge opportunity for community gardens to bring people together again. I would also love to see a move to getting rid of front lawns in favour of more front yard agriculture/gardens.
- Utilizing undeveloped land for agricultural purposes (until it is time to develop), leveraging organizations like the Multi-Cultural Centre and Pioneer Museum to increase opportunities for urban agriculture, continuing to allow and even encourage residents and businesses to grow food, keep bees and chickens, and then encouraging opportunities for value-added agriculture of products grown in and around Stony Plain.
- Various forms. Small to large scale family farms. Farmers' Markets, roof top, back yard, and community gardens. Farmers' Days.
- In the future, we should be promoting both producers and processors to be in the community to help local urbanites source locally developed food.
- Vegetable and fruit crops.
- Working as a community and individually.

2. *What forms of agriculture are you aware of that currently operate, or used to operate in Stony Plain?*

- Grain farming.
- In the past most houses had backyard gardens.
- Community garden beds for purchase.
- Farm, community gardens and OMG program on the multi land, Pioneer Museum site, Hennig farm still in town limits. Mostly mixed grain and livestock in the past.
- Crops harvested on local fields.
- Same as above.
- Some shared garden at the multicultural place.
- Many different types.



- I am not overly familiar with any initiatives in town but have recently joined the Stony plain Horticultural Society. I also noticed there are Saskatoon bushes in a green space near my neighbourhood and harvested them last year!
- Just local farmers. There are community gardens at the perk building and chickens have been voted out.
- Gardens.
- Grains, livestock and market farms, community gardens and family gardens.
- Community garden at the perc building, produce boxes that used to go out, planting fruit trees/shrubs in parks.
- Fruit trees, community garden.
- Small community garden by multicultural site. Surrounding farms to the east have already been sold to developers. This consultation needs to re look at their proposals.
- Community gardens by PERC building.
- Fruit trees by public works yard.
- Pioneer museum harvest demonstration.
- Canola, wheat, bison, cattle (I'm sure there is more).
- There is at least one form currently used by each person.
- Community gardens.
- Farms, greenhouse, community garden, backyard gardens.
- Community garden plots.
- Hay fields, community gardens, bee keeping, fruit trees on public and private lands.
- Personal gardens.
- Crops.
- There is a community garden at the Heritage Centre. Substantial commercial potato farming and mixed farming in the surrounding area.
- Well established Farmers Market with lots of quite local vendors.
- Gardens.
- I don't know - I'm not a farmer... There are fields around the edges of town, I believe also some bison or cattle of some sort. I know chickens are allowed for a limited number of households, and I think maybe bees as well? There's a community garden by the Multicultural Heritage Center, and some sour cherry trees (delicious!!!) near the arena and outdoor pool.
- Farms with barley, oats, alfalfa, wheat, canola, vegetables, fruit, eggs, flowers, berries.
- Farms with cattle for beef, dairy, pigs, horses, llamas, chickens, roosters.
- Beekeepers, greenhouses.
- None.
- Same as above. However, some fields that were planted by farmers have been sold and changed into home sites now.
- Home Grown Foods, Canola, Bee Pollen, Honey, etc. and alfalfa.
- Beekeeping, backyard chickens, organic master gardening program, community gardens.
- Community gardens.
- Horticulture.

- Private farmland.
- Other than in ground and garden box gardens. Nothing.
- None.
- My understanding is that agricultural livestock is not permitted among residents of Stony Plain unless they are zoned agriculture.
- People used to have large gardens and be able to have chickens or bees.
- Community gardens.
- Gardening.
- Cattle, poultry, hog, grain, oilseed, hay. Gardening. Ranching. Machinery dealerships. Input providers. Butchers & Packers. Ag Lending institutions. Historically - Alberta Wheat Pool terminal.
- Roads that catered to larger equipment being moved around.
- Community gardens, I have seen trees that produce fruit planted.
- Master Gardener program at the multicultural center community gardens.
- There used to be farm demonstrations.
- We have a wonderful pioneer museum.
- Farmland and lots of it.
- The Multi Centre should lose its funding as it does nothing it claims too. Just wants grants.
- There used to be a packing plant.
- Market garden.
- Community gardens.
- I know there is beekeeping, but other than that, I'm not really aware of agriculture within Stony Plain. I know the building that houses Wheat Nothings has a kitchen garden, there's the farmer's market, and the composting program.
- None.
- I actually have no idea.
- Community gardening.
- Livestock farming and produce.
- Stony Plain has been the site of many different kinds of agriculture from ranching to large multi-crop farms since the first settlers arrived in the area. Even now the town of Stony Plain is surrounded by fertile farmland as well as the beginnings of local gardens.
- I'm not aware of the town specifically operating anything except maybe the Multicultural Centre. Residents have gardens and fruit trees. There's also businesses like Home Grown within the town.
- Just the garden plots up by the Multi.
- Programs at the multicultural centre.
- Lots of people gardening in their own spaces
- A few local farms (Somerset ...).
- I know Stony does have a Farmers Market and I believe the Multicultural Heritage Centre has a community garden.
- Seed mill, gravel, farms.

- Home gardens.
- Backyard gardens.
- I'm not aware of any besides people planting things in their own yards.
- Grain, dairy, poultry, beef cattle.
- Buffalo elk market gardens.
- Grain, some animals on the fringe lands. Some yards with fruit trees and gardens
- Probably the most significant agricultural activity in the town's history would be the demonstration farm.
- Some of the land currently within the town was previously farmland.
- The Multicultural Heritage Centre runs programs with an agricultural element to them. They also have allotments.
- At the Pioneer Museum we plant a field and use it to demonstrate how food is produced. The grain from our field is then sold to a local farmer for animal feed. We also have a garden that our volunteers use to grow produce for their families and for our Tea House.
- Small mixed gardens, produce gardens, fruit trees.
- The nut trees and garden boxes.
- Certainly cattle and corn and wheat.
- The main population of people in surrounding areas all contribute to Parkland county and the town of Stony Plain they fund our economy and are the farmers that feed our families. The perk demonstration farm was and still can be something that is extremely crucial to the future of urban agriculture. I'm not sure why it's not up and running. The perk building and the demonstration farm should be number one priority to encourage any other further Urban agriculture development.
- Not sure.

3. *Can you discuss the importance of agriculture for the town of Stony Plain (optional):*

- Not sure of this question - do you mean would I join a discussion group then the answer is yes.
- 1. Agriculture is a foundational pillar to the community - many residents come from farming backgrounds and many businesses were built in the farming industry. 2. It provides us with our raw materials and food. 3. Agricultural exports can bring in a lot of wealth into a community. 4. Provides employment. 5. The soil around Stony Plain is prime for growing.
- Absolutely! We are facing supply chain issues. Plus, climate change is bringing in more disasters. Add on higher access to processed foods and more people getting diseases, the importance of being able to grow our own food is 10/10.
- Again, I think in light of covid and disasters such as the flooding in BC impacting haul routes has really highlighted how detrimental it is to our community to not have local systems in place to meet some of our needs. Apart from the obvious nutrition benefits, having a connection to your food and the process to cultivate it from start to finish has so many advantages - the education, nutrient value, environmental impact, community, intergenerational teaching and the relationships fostered are all so important.



- Agriculture is a founding industry of Stony Plain and continues to play a vital role in our economy.
- Agriculture is a very important component of the town's economic viability. The majority of business operating within Stony Plain rely on agriculture, and agriculture relies on the services that these businesses provide.
- Agriculture is important for Stony Plain because it can help bridge the gap between rural and urban areas, and help the urban population know where their food comes from. Agriculture is many things but in the case of this question I assume you mean industrial Ag. I believe there are two goals of industrial Ag:
  - marketable commodity production
  - profit
- They are somewhat important, but this is Agriculture that has been reduced to the base needs of a Capitalist culture. Urban Ag has the potential to be much more:
  - productive
  - intergenerational
  - relaxing
  - educational
  - holistic
- Agriculture is what built this Town, we all know that Stony plain residents and Parkland County farmers all contributed to the growth of this wonderful little place we all like to call home! I also believe that if this program is something that the town feels strongly about, then I encourage the town to get schools and children involved as well. They are the future of what kind of impression this town will portray, why not include them!
- Agriculture is what made the town.
- Chickens for fresh eggs and to make my wife happy.
- Despite its growing population, Stony Plain is culturally still very much a "small town" and has close ties to agriculture in the traditional sense of the word, i.e. working farms. The Pioneer Museum has an emphasis on agriculture because it has been so fundamental to our community.
- Many towns and cities have lost their ties to the farming community, and so the concept of urban agriculture may have a different meaning for their people compared to Stony Plain. Maybe it will mean that those towns will embrace a less traditional view of agriculture more readily, or maybe Stony Plain people will be better prepared for the vagaries of weather and other local conditions which may contribute to the failure of such an effort.
- Encouraging urban agriculture is good for the environment (when sustainable practices are used). It also allows people to be more self-sufficient, strengthens the community's food sources, and brings people together in a meaningful way.
- Heritage of the region, primary retirement local for farmers.
- I believe it will bring the community more together.
- I believe that Canada as a nation and the Town of Stony Plain have to commit to a visionary role in shaping the future of agriculture, food security and food distribution. The Town of

Stony Plain is known for its relationship with Indigenous peoples, active travel, environment and its farming past. I think this makes it unique and I respect their desire to move away from the typical urban sprawl feel of a city.

- I feel this helps people become more self-sustaining but could provide food and perhaps jobs for those in need. In addition, the knowledge acquired by past generations could be shared.
- I strongly believe that we should as a community do everything in our power to keep the smaller farms/ farmer operational. We have learned many lessons in the past two years and I believe keeping agriculture local and away from the greedy large corporations is the healthiest business strategy for Stony Plain.
- I think for the people interested having access to fresh food, vegetables, eggs and more is very important. From an environmental standpoint it severely impacts our carbon emissions for productions of goods that can quite literally be produced in our own backyards.
- I think it would be a lovely way to expand on the "sweet small-town vibe" we have going here. It also is important for the development of community, knowledge of sustainable living practices, and it is good for the environment.
- I think it's important for people to be able to raise their own food if they should choose to.
- I think small scale agriculture supports local environmental (as well as personal) health and sustainability, can improve community connections, and builds a bit of financial resilience for residents by helping us be more self-reliant and community-minded in hard times. Stony Plain was an agricultural community and has successfully maintained that "small town" feel, especially in its downtown core. There is good history to build on.
- In particular, space for Community gardens is very important to allow all individuals access to garden space.
- It is very important, but should for the most part remain outside of town limits
- It would or I hope it would help with feeding the less fortunate and producing our own food in our backyards will make for healthier eating at least during the summer.
- It's an important part of its identity.
- Keeps the history alive.
- Local sustainability is going to be the key to growth in the immediate future. Supply shortages and cost of living will further highlight the immediate need for solutions both short-term and long.
- Our heritage as illustrated in the murals throughout town. Best way to know where you've going is to know where you've been. It's our history.
- Our town was grown by farms and the support system needed by the rural space that surrounds it.
- Parkland residents keep your town alive. They shop in town more than new Stony people do.
- People have been getting more connected to their food for quite some time but COVID has increased the need for local food economies to be built, sustained, supported and celebrated.
- So many of our businesses need the farming community as customers. Farm implements, truck sales, car sales, mechanics, tires sales, gas sales, all need farm business, farm families.

- Stony has the opportunity to take a lead in re-connecting consumers with their agricultural roots. Our cities were formed by those who mostly left family farms at one time and as people have become more removed from farms, they have become more disconnected with food production and the sustainable practices farmers use to produce the basic form of their food.
- Stony Plain grew from families anchored in agriculture. Our town celebrates FARMER'S DAYS, we should have a very flexible Urban Agriculture program that allows homeowners and families more opportunities to grow their own food.
- Stony Plain is historically a farming community and continues to play this role to the surrounding county despite our recent growth. The opportunity to share knowledge and experiences is enjoyed by young and old. The opportunity to participate should be something all can participate in.
- Stony Plain was built on the farming community, very productive lands surrounding the town.
- This is a farming community. People move here because of that connection. To have massive development tracts that do not keep natural lands and have urban sprawl do NOT promote an ecological balance. Retention ponds are needed with natural land surrounding them.
- Very important for our economy.
- We are starting to experience food insecurity like NO OTHER TIME in this town. We are craving FARMERS MARKERS AND local grown produce like never before. There are no huge industries in stony plain. The town is there for the farmers and HOMESTEADERS.
- With supply chain issues and pandemics showing the problems with current food supply a town with citizens able to provide for themselves to an extent would allow the town to flourish.

5. *What do you hope the future of urban agriculture looks like in Stony Plain?*

- 1. Anyone who wants to be growing food at their home has the access to the resources they need to learn how to do that. 2. It's common to walk down a street and see gardens in front yards. 3. Farmer's markets are made up of urban farmers as well as traditional farmers. 4. Kids growing up in Stony Plain know and understand what urban agriculture is and the importance of it. 5. Schools are running urban agriculture educational programming.
- A community that is known for self sustaining green food production.
- A green town. Saving water. Natural kids playgrounds. Sensory park.
- A healthy mix of businesses and individuals participating in a wide range of horticultural and agricultural activities that benefit everyone in the community.
- A place for people to be able to grow some of their own food.
- A regenerative community supported multi faceted plan encouraging youth development and education while being operated independently by locals as a sustainable business model, with full support from town assets.
- Above.
- Abundant and thriving!
- Planting, growing, harvesting, and selling local food to local people. No one should go hungry in the tri-community! ) or the world for that matter).



- Again, I can't speak for the Pioneer Museum on this without some discussion with our Board and members around what further agricultural activities on our grounds would look like for the Museum. One of our mandates is to educate people about our history, so any agricultural activity that was commonly carried out in this area before around 1950 could be acceptable as a possible display at the Museum. Personally, I would like some of the produce in our stores to be grown very locally. However, I'm not sure how realistic it is to grow produce in large quantities within the limits of the town, when we take into consideration space constraints and pollution levels in urban settings versus rural settings.
- All developments set aside space for urban gardens, fruit trees and green spaces. New developments focus on putting as many houses as possible on as little land as possible when they should set aside spaces for parks, playgrounds, trails, gardens and orchards.
- ALL OF THE ABOVE AND LOTS OF SIGNAGE!!!! Celebrate this!
- All of the above! While there need to be some parameters, I think there are many successful examples of all the above strategies, and many people with expertise to share with others in and around our community.
- An opportunity for growing fruits and vegetables for sharing (e.g., donating) and personal consumption. I am lucky to have developed my own growing space but others could benefit from access to growing spaces.
- Answered in question 4.
- Stop as much as possible urban sprawl onto the best topsoil in the world. (like Spruce Grove is doing) If we must expand go towards the north of town, into the hills and sandy soils there.
- Anything but urban chickens.
- Approval of all of the listed and proposed programs with clear bylaw requirements to keep biosecurity and order to the production of agriculture foods and products. Including permitting and bylaw officers involvement if one such person's establishment becomes of a concern of another resident of the city.
- Backyard chickens.
- Bee keeping.
- Community gardens.
- Building solar efficient, electric car ready, recycled grey water into agricultural gardens in the community. Qualico actually has a geothermal development already in Okotoks. I counted 40 trucks in one block in Westerra. Instead of a new 8 lane highway into the city, we need other methods of transport including a rail option.
- Continued inclusion of all forms selected above.
- Crops only. No farm animals.
- Encouraging townspeople to grow and share food. Encouraging local farmers to attend markets, promoting/expanding our markets, allowing (regulated) expanded opportunities to grow/raise food.
- Food for all.
- Freedom for people to explore urban agriculture and creation of local food systems.

- Generational, putting practicality, education, nutrition, and long-term sustainability as important focal points to support members of the community.
- Growing more fruits and vegetables.
- Having chickens and gardens and bees will help out community as well as the environment and with the push to be greener it will help with moving stony plain into a green community. It will also be a great learning opportunity for our youth to give them activities outside of school rather than getting into trouble.
- Having more options.
- Hope to see it grow.
- I hope it expands.
- I hope it is an open, flexible policy that allows people to experiment with how they could incorporate more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. Not a ton of restrictions and rules and hoops to jump through to participate.
- I hope it is embraced as a sustainable way of life and learning.
- I hope that Stony Plain continues to look for methods that are innovative and protect our climate, plus provides sustainable methods of providing food to all individuals living in our area.
- I hope that urban agriculture will eventually become synonymous with Stony Plain and its fertile agricultural land that has sustained generations of Stony Plain residents.
- I hope that we can be self sufficient and teach younger generations on how to produce their own food.
- I hope that we can have chickens and bees.
- I love all these ideas!! And hope they are a part of our future!
- I really hope Stony Plain's future for urban agriculture includes incorporating more edibles into community spaces, urban gardens to foster relationships and community, and the ability for people to keep bees and chickens for their families. I would also love to see learning to grow food incorporated into school programs. Time in nature has such huge benefits for all people including children, and there is so much satisfaction in growing, caring for and harvesting.
- I support residents of Stony Plain having the option of exploring non-livestock agriculture.
- I would hope that residents that want to be more self sufficient through urban gardening and farming would be able to do so, with a reduction in the 'barriers to entry'. There can be a high cost involved in setting up a successful garden, or a thriving chicken coop. Hopefully the town of stony plain can provide supports and education to people wanting to do so.
- I would like to see all of the above brought into Stony plain. It is also an excellent educational experience for residents and children in the area.
- I would love to see all the above ideas implemented!
- I would love to see continued growth in local food production. Forward-thinking with respect to how we can grow what we eat in a changing climate.
- I would love to see more garden and less wasteful lawns.

- I would not want diseases to spread from urban chickens if the owners do not know how to care for them and the town has problems enough already with pets running loose and not vaccinated, except some coyotes may be killing a few. Also fruit bearing trees are a problem if they need to be sprayed for insect infestation and no one cleans up the fruit when it falls it attracts more bugs. In the town's natural areas there is also a lot of black rot fungus on trees. So I hope the rules and practices take into consideration all that is required for people to be responsible about agriculture.
- I'd love to see as many people as possible doing as many of the things defined above as possible. I don't want to personally keep chickens or bees myself, but I would welcome my neighbors doing it.
- It doesn't matter just no livestock as most people really don't know what it takes to care for chicken or bee!
- It would be nice if Stony could add in more urban agriculture projects. Start small and slowly build on the pieces that are successful. Be sure to consult experts in areas that need it (beekeeping and backyard chickens) so that people are safe. I know that activity near beehives can cause the bees to become defensive, so placement of urban hives would need to be carefully thought out.
- Keep what's here. No added animals or bees.
- Keeping the farmland here in town (don't replace it with more housing and businesses). Turning our front yard into a garden.
- Make it easy for people to grow as much food locally as possible. Bees and honey count as food.
- Many, many fruit trees on public lands... Arbour Day planting of fruit trees, berry bushes.
- Mentioned a little of this in one of the questions above.
- More of it...
- More shareable gardening, trees such as the cherry trees that have since died out in and around town.
- More water capture in the building code for growing food and flowers, helping reduce storm runoff and reducing demand on the town water supply. Winter hydroponic food production would create employment and local food security.
- Not good as you keep using urban sprawl.
- People having gardens in their backyard.
- People having more options to grow their own food.
- People will set aside their entertainments for a while and pay attention to the earth for a while. I hope the County and Province turn their funding towards those goals. I hope the Town will invest in more than low maintenance planting in the beautiful new beds on Main Street, and raise the bar for urban planting, urban planning, and park maintenance.
- Residents of Stony Plain able to grow their own food and food that will help the community.
- See above.
- That it grows strong.
- That it increases.



- That people are able to use their properties to be more self sufficient and sustaining as well as to contribute to the greater good of the community.
- The more, the better! Plants and bees are not only essential to the survival of the human species, but they also have a huge number of health benefits, provide food, etc. The more we can integrate agriculture into urban development, the better it will be for everyone.
- The only way the "town" of stony plain will be a successful urban agricultural Hub is if we STAY A TOWN! Also, if the zoning was better. We need more walkable spaces and less car dependant neighborhoods and commercial spaces. That also will make sure that an urban agriculture thrives here.
- Urban Chickens!!!
- We are WAY BEHIND EUROPE in having rooftop BEE farms .... We need to have more workshops to help people to plant trees that produce fruit like cherries and apples. Community gardens are necessary but also VERMICULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING. We need to attract tourism to see a real back to REAL FOOD and playing our strengths as a HEALTHY place to live. There is a long way to go. More corn stands. More farmers markets.

*15. Do you have any other comments you would like to add about urban agriculture in Stony Plain (optional):*

- 100% for increased urban agriculture and backyard chickens/bees.
- Absolutely no farm animals in town. The smell and noise is unmanageable and cleanup by those responsible is always at best hit and miss. And who pays for the cleanup when the owners leave it. We can't wait for weeks for bylaw officers to do anything like they take with weeds and dog noise issues.
- All of the answers to Question 11 are concerning.
- Allow the chickens. Allow the bees. Encourage water saving. Help residents wanting to grow their own by providing mulch/compost/tool rental. Create a space for sharing ideas and getting people together.
- As an owner of urban hens in the city of Edmonton as well as multiple gardens on my property I think this program should be implemented immediately. Edmonton's program provided clear direction and expectations. I think all other municipalities should follow Edmonton example.
- At some point in time the grain farms in the town should be developed.
- Chickens are dirty animals that need to live on a farm, not in town.
- Comment on question 14: I would suggest that this should be achieved by a community garden on the people of Stony Plain's corporate town land and not their individual properties.
- Congratulations to Stony Plain for moving forward on these important initiatives. It is imperative that our town continues to move forward on promoting urban agriculture to ensure that available space is maintained and that plans made now will last into the future. It would be wonderful if Stony Plain becomes known as a town that promotes and supports urban agriculture. Engaging with citizens through this survey is a great first step.

- Disincentives for large lawns, large homes, and large families must be included in this discussion. Thanks.
- Encourage seniors to be part of this - many are from ag and sit in their rooms with very little activity.
- Frankly I am sick and tired of people who want urban agriculture assuming climate change makes it necessary to do more gardening etc. but don't understand that the ideas take a lot of work or imagining someone else will do the work without getting paid.
- I am the largest commercial beekeeper in Parkland County, located near Holborn Hall. We have had bees in the Tri Municipal region since 1978 and are proud to call this our home. I do not support urban beekeeping within Stony Plain. The primary reason for this is the fact that bees are social insects and as we have seen in other urban regions that allow it, the residents that take up urban beekeeping have little to no knowledge regarding honeybee health and what is required to keep bees healthy. When this happens, the diseases and pests that occur will then spread to other beekeepers in the region due to the bee's ability to fly over 2 miles. As my livelihood depends on my colonies remaining healthy, this poses a significant risk. Also, bees fly. You cannot control where bees will forage, and this causes issues in urban settings. In the spring before the trees or spring flowers yield, bees will attempt to forage for fresh pollen and nectar. This means they will go after things such as saw dust, pet food, etc., as it can look like the nutrition they are seeking. Also, during extreme periods of drought/heat, bees become desperate for water. This results in bees invading people's garden/lawn watering systems, pools, hot tubs, pet water sources, etc. All of this leads to bees becoming a nuisance to the people near them, and there is little to nothing that a beekeeper can do to prevent this. In rural agricultural settings this is generally not an issue, but in urban centres it becomes a massive problem. Bees are curious insects, and each hive can have upwards of 80,000 bees per hive in the active season. In our experience once you have bees near acreages/towns/etc., people complain. This can be for a number of reasons, but the primary cause of complaint is due to people being allergic to bee stings in addition to the issues I listed above. If the town approves urban beekeeping, these issues then no longer fall on the urban beekeeper but on the town and its staff. *[privacy information removed]*
- I look forward to the development of this plan.
- I think agriculture is a very important skill to have and our children should definitely be taught the importance if it as well. Its also good for individual health as well.
- I think the growth of agriculture is great but needs to be done with caution for agriculture that includes livestock - bees and chickens. If not managed correctly there is a great risk for the spread of disease and pests which could then spread to those farmers in the area who depend on those specific livestock as a main source of income.
- I want CHICKENS!!!
- I would caution against urban chicken farming unless there were strict controls in place for odour control, perimeter, etc.
- I would like to see certain pesticides and herbicides banned.

- I would love to explore some local community garden opportunities (i have small vacant lot beside my house that I suspect will go undeveloped (and may not even be available to develop any longer) that would be a brilliant local as its close to both single and multifamily housing, a nearby day care, and not far from the hospital LTC (great for day trips) and a fair number of seniors. Some experienced gardeners in the neighbour could make this a great project.
- If asked I could explain why urban beekeeping is a very bad idea.
- I'm really glad our community is exploring this option. While I love the idea of an urban farm, I do have concerns about how that would look. For example, my family would love to have chickens, but we would also love some guidelines/advice as to make the effects of having poultry, not a burden to our neighbors. I am also grateful for the educational opportunities we currently have at the multicultural center and would also love to see continuing education in these areas of urban farming available. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in exploring this option and putting the survey together. And thank you for reaching out to residents.
- It is working amazing in many other towns and cities all over the world. It has also been show to increase community involvement. I truly believe that it will bring neighbors closer together and help stony plain become a place people will want to move.
- No.
- No urban chicken program...
- People need direction and help to grow more food
- Please implement it as fast as you can :)
- Please let us have urban chickens so we don't have to move out of Stony Plain.
- Please plant more trees! and plant perennial flowers so the town isn't spending money on planting flowers every year. We need to revamp the natural areas that used to be beautiful along the fifth Meridian. If the town wants to be in urban agricultural society, we need to focus on the insects that provide such results. So, encouragement of pollinating insects is crucial. \*Please plant trees between the roads on the 5th Meridian!
- Stop building on prime agriculture land! For example, on highway 628 east of golf course road. Make it a condition of land permit development that a specific percentage of land be set aside for community gardens, parks, trails, and playgrounds - we all need more green space not endless rows of houses. Require multi-level buildings to include underground parking avoiding extensive parking lots with no green space. Require school property to include green space and gardens where children can learn how to nurture vegetables and feed themselves and their families. Halifax had a very successful gardening program that resulted in the children appearing on Dragon's Den with homemade products they made from their school garden. These children ended up funding their advanced education and learned business skills in addition to gardening skills.
- Teach children to garden and promote the love of growing things.
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
- Thanks for looking for feedback and including the focus on agriculture.



- This is VERY exciting.
- We need this as a community to grow and move forward
- What about people allergic to bees? Do they face additional risk, how could it be mitigated?  
Chickens stink, how could that be mitigated?
- What is going to cost? We are trying to grow our community with new innovations, but we are having a hard time sustaining current service levels.