

Food Security and Local Food Systems Draft Discussion Paper
Town of Perth Official Plan Review

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Introduction

This discussion paper will provide background information and identify policy options on the topics of food security and the local food systems for the Town of Perth’s Official Plan review. The recommendations for this paper conform and build upon Ontario’s (2020) Provincial Policy Statement, Lanark County Sustainable Communities Plan (2012), and the current Town of Perth (2019c) Official Plan. The goal is to create Official Plan policies that reinforce a resilient and innovative food system while promoting universal access to healthy, local food for present and future generations. Our recommendations are also informed by emerging concept of food sovereignty.

What do the terms food sovereignty, food security and local food systems mean, and why is this important to the Town of Perth? Advocates around the world are adopting La Via Campesina definition of *Food Sovereignty* as “the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.” This concept seeks to achieve food security by fundamentally shifting the way food is conceived as a commodity, instead of a public good, and reclaiming decision-making power across the food system (Food Secure Canada, 2011). A *Food Secure* community exists when all “people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 1996) In this review, we will focus on and define our *Local Food System* as “a chain of activities and processes related to the locally organized production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food.” (Sustain Ontario, 2017) Although concepts of ‘local’ vary, for the purpose of this review we will focus on Lanark County and to a lesser degree the region of Eastern Ontario and western Quebec.

Another commonly used term is *food insecurity* – the “inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so.” (Health Canada, 2020) Food insecurity is fundamentally a question of income as the cost of sufficient healthy food puts it out of reach of many in our community (Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit, 2019). The solutions to food insecurity must therefore be based in addressing issues of income. While not the focus of this paper we do encourage the town to endorse efforts to address income through initiatives such as basic income guarantee, ensuring liveable wages, and reforming social assistance.

Regionally, farmers, growers, community members, organizations, businesses, institutions and local governments are collaborating to nourish a strong, healthy food system for all. This vision and ongoing activities are enshrined with the Food Charter for United Counties of Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark Counties (Foodcore, 2014). In Lanark County (2019a), agriculture is one of the top five businesses and employers in the region. Meanwhile, the Town of Perth is a regional hub brimming with locally owned businesses, restaurants, and grocery stores, a vibrant farmers market, strong grassroots organizations, and festivals celebrating our unique culinary

culture. New value-added producers are building businesses in Perth, spaces for community gardening are flourishing, and municipal composting initiatives are reducing organic materials from filling up landfills. Official land use planning reviews, as well as enforcement policies of zoning and by-laws, further provide an opportunity to increase access to a sustainable supply of healthy, locally grown and produced foods.

Improving food sovereignty and protecting local food systems is a responsibility shared across all levels of government and multiple sectors. Municipal land use planning profoundly impacts residents' access to safe and healthy foods and the long-term sustainability of local food production (Region of Peel, 2019; Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 2014). According to Hayhurst, Hazen & O'Connor (2011), the "thoughtful integration of spaces for production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food into the urban fabric in a socially just and environmentally considerate fashion will ensure that urban and rural communities alike have an opportunity to create systems that enable a thriving local food economy and inclusive local food culture." As a small urban centre with little agricultural land within the municipal boundaries, the Town of Perth is tasked with creatively adapting the land use designs adopted in larger urban centers while recognizing the fluidity of its borders within rural regions of Lanark County and neighbouring Leeds and Grenville.

Following the circular, interconnected cycle of food systems, this discussion paper will provide recommendations under the topics of production, processing and storage, distribution and retailing, consumption, and waste. Each topic will outline specific objective(s), identify existing assets and gaps, and provide policy recommendations by an updated Official Plan as well as zoning and by-laws. Selected case studies are also included. Synergies with existing provincial and county land use planning documents are summarized in Appendix 1.

Topic 1: Production

Objective 1.1 Expanding urban agriculture

Supporting urban agriculture is the leading and most versatile of municipal interventions to improve food security and the local food system. *Urban Agriculture* is a broad term that encompasses all of the following activities: the cultivation of food crops; fruit, berry and nut bearing trees/shrubs, backyard hens and bees, the process of gleanings, edible landscaping, community gardening, and urban farming, the sale of harvests, and the accompanying infrastructure including sheds, greenhouses, rain barrels, and composting units. To enable the full potential of urban agriculture, all of the above undertakings need to be allowed on all institutional, residential, commercial, vacant, and park lands.

Urban agriculture increases intake of fresh produce; encourages food literacy and experimentation; enhances community engagement and inclusiveness; provides physical activity for all ages; contributes to a healthy ecosystem by preserving biodiversity; encourage entrepreneurialism; and increase preparedness for times of crisis (Peterborough Public Health, 2018; City of Hamilton, 2013). The ongoing pandemic provides a clear example - one in five Canadians started a home garden in 2020 (Dalhousie University, 2020). The Table's 2020 survey of community members found a strong interest in gardening including more space to grow,

knowledge sharing opportunities, and access to seeds. The survey also identified lobbying efforts to keep community gardens open as a local success story. During the pandemic community gardens benefited the community, not only as a source of food but as a means of staying in touch with community members safely and as a source of physical activity. At present, a number of Perth residents also have backyard hens with few problems or concerns.

The Town endorses opportunities for localized food production, through the support for community gardens and home gardening. Despite this stated commitment, few parks, institutional, or recreational lands host urban agriculture (Town of Perth, Township of Drummond/North Elmsley, Township of Lanark Highlands, & Tay Valley Township, 2020). Notable exceptions are the Table's Community Garden and Food Forest at Last Duel Park and the Community Allotment Gardens on Rogers Rd. Ample space remains for the expansion of urban agriculture. Especially given the region's soil quality is classified as prime agricultural land - some of the ripest land in Canada for growing (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs [OMAFRA, 2021a; 2021b). Using existing best practises, Perth is well position to exponentially expand growth in front yards, at schools, recreation facilities, fire halls, fairgrounds, urban farms, and beyond.

Recommendations

1.1.1 Adopt broader definition of urban agriculture and integrate under 'Range of Permitted Uses' on lands designated Residential (Section 8.1.3.2 and 8.1.4.3), Public Service and Institutional Facilities (8.3.3.1), Industrial (8.4.3), and vacant lands (Figure 1), in addition to Parks and Opens Spaces (8.1.3.20 and 8.7.4) within the new Official Plan. Within each section, explicitly state the sale of produce acquired through agricultural activities or 'Farm Produce Stands' as a permitted activity.

1.1.2 Amend Parks and Facilities By-law 3849, to expand the definition of park or "garden" into "urban agriculture" activities.

1.1.3 Allow urban agriculture to be eligible for Temporary Use permission (Section 9.12.10) on town owned land (Figure 2) or in-filling on vacant parcels of land (8.1.3.6). Additionally, state the allowance for urban agriculture under Community Improvement Areas (Section 3.7 and 9.12.5) as a means of enhancing local food security and systems.

1.1.4 We recommend amending Zoning By-law No. 3358 (4.19) and updating Animal Control By-law No. 3557 to allow for and put conditions around micro-animal husbandry, including backyard hens and fowl, rabbits, etc.¹ This will safeguard public health and safety in and ensure animal by-law enforcement is provided clarity and resources to enforce bylaws should problems arise.

1.1.5 Create municipal community gardens and food forest/orchard policies. Issuing permits will empower residents to create and maintain new gardens through their own volition. As a part of

¹ See City of Kingston Animal Control By-law 2004-144 as an example <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/16904/Animals%20Bylaw> and <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/city-hall/bylaws/backyard-hens> for addition information on permits, regulations, etc.

development approvals, water connections should be included in new park development to facilitate community gardens.

1.1.6 We encourage the Town of the Perth to continue planting trees and consider a municipal tree purchasing program for residents². We also recommend expanding to planting native pollinator species and edible landscaping throughout the Official Plan in relation to streetscaping, urban beatification (in partnership with Business Improvement Area), in addition to residential and parks landscaping (ie. 8.2.4.8 a)4). A list of acceptable of native, pollinating, and fruit/berry/nut bearing trees/shrubs should be publicly available, incorporated into the Official Plan and Tree By-law No.4132.

1.1.7 The Town of Perth’s ‘The Green Scene’ web page could be used to encourage urban agriculture through sharing information and resources including use of front yards.³

1.1.8 Update Property Maintenance and Occupancy Standards By-law No. 3322 (3.02 – 3.03) and Yard Maintenance By-law 4263 to explicitly state allowances for front yard urban agriculture. For example, in order to ensure materials used for food production are exempt from perceptions of non-compliance (No. 3322 - 7.07, 7.11.3 b) (No. 4262 - 4.1.1, 15) and to protect road allowances/underground infrastructure.

1.1.9 The Town of Perth’s Zoning By-law No. 3358 4.41 allows for community gardens in all zones established within the by-law. We recommend this be updated to the definition of urban agriculture.

Case study

City of Kingston, Ontario

Over the last decade, the City of Kingston has enacted a number of progressive policies and regulations to enhance local food security and resilient local food systems. “Urban Agriculture” is included within the City’s current Official Plan and is allowed on all land use designations (3.2.8). Utilities Kingston (2021) sells and delivers rain barrels to residents and supplies community gardens with rain barrels free of charge. In 2016, Council approved the Community Gardens Development and Operations Policy and Community Orchard & Edible Forest Policy, which both establish a framework for community-led planting, management and harvesting on City-owned lands. A bylaw has been established to permit backyard hens. The municipality runs a ‘Neighbourhood Tree Planting Program’ to incentivise residents to purchase trees at a discounted rate to plant on private property. Finally, the City sells backyard composters to residents to reduce the demand on the city’s waste management system.

² Potential collaboration opportunities with Lanark County and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority’s 1 million trees program <https://www.rvca.ca/component/k2/county-of-lanark-seedling-giveaway> or a program similar to the Township of South Perth’s rebate program <https://www.perthsouth.ca/en/living-here/trees.aspx>

³ See Just Food website for more information on front yard best-practises and regulations

<https://justfood.ca/community-gardening-network/gardening-at-home/front-yard-edible-gardens/>

Objective 1.2 Community farming

There are a number of valid concerns about the direction and future of our food supply. Our current reliance on imported food and an export-oriented agriculture sector leaves people vulnerable to just in time supply chains, market fluctuations, and corporate monopolies (MacRea, 2015). Food imported at lower wholesale prices makes it difficult for farmers to compete in marketplaces. Across Ontario, there are fewer and larger farms with older operators nearing retirement without succession plans, and increasing farm debt (National Farmers Union [NFU], 2019; 2011). Farmers now make up less than 1.7% of the Canadian population and 1.2% of the population in Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2021). A promising trend, however, is the rise of a new generation of female, young (under 40 years of age), and new immigrant operators (Shumsky & Nelson, 2018).

One of the biggest barriers for all new farmers in Ontario remains the high cost of farmland and access to capital (OMAFRA, 2017). Our consultations echoed this concern as well as a lack of reliable / trained workforce. One response to these concerns are municipally supported farmer training programs and community farming projects. In addition to providing space for community food growing activities, community farms provide access to land, shared infrastructure, encourage sustainable agroecology and innovation, and connect future farmers with those transitioning into retirement.

The number of farms in the region surrounding Perth is decreasing (Lanark County, 2019b) though vegetable, poultry/egg, and grain farms have increased. The Town of Perth has strategic land assets that could contribute to improving access to land for training and start up purposes, or ongoing affordable access to land for intensive food production enterprises for the next generation of farmers. Additional assets include Algonquin College's new agriculture program, a strong community of food-based grass root organizations, and the farming community.

Recommendations

1.2.1 Allow community farming (including cold storage, greenhouses, etc.) as a permitted use on land designated 'Parks and Open Space' (8.7.4). Allow for community farms as accessory uses (up to a certain size) in 'Residential' areas, as primary or accessory uses in commercial zones with no size restrictions.

1.2.2 Explicitly state support for local food system as a Principle of Community Sustainability in the Official Plan (Section 5.9.3).

1.2.3 The Town currently owns two parcels of land portions of which could be leased for a community farm project. First, within the 7.7ha (19 acres) of municipality owned land within the North of 7 Secondary Plan Area currently designated 'Special Study Area' (Figure 2), held aside for the development of future recreational and public service facilities (8.8.1 j) (Town of Perth, 2019b). Similarly, the municipally owned land adjacent to the landfill, known as 'Darou Farm' also has potential, with the relief of a sensitive land setback application (No 3358 – 4.27.1 b)). We recognize the existing designation for a park and would recommend partnership to integrate a community farm on the property.

Case studies

Just Food Community Farm, Ottawa

In 2012, the non-profit organization 'Just Food' established a 150-acre Community Farm and Urban Agriculture Hub on a National Capital Commission farm property⁴ (Ottawa Official Plan land use designation: Rural Countryside). In 2013, the Start-Up Farm Program began as a chance for new and young farmers to build small-scale, viable agriculture businesses. The Start-Up Farm program offers access to land, shared infrastructure/equipment, and workshops. It is a low-risk way for new farmers to test their ideas while developing skills, experience, markets, and networks before committing to a larger, longer-term farm operation. This program is in addition to the organization's community gardens, local food guides, and an incubator kitchen (Just Food, 2021).

Black Creek Community Farm, Toronto

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority placed eight acres of land under a management agreement with the City of Toronto, Everdale Environmental Learning Centre, FoodShare, and African Food Basket to create Black Creek Community Farm. The farm houses certified organic vegetable fields, a forest trail, food forest, 4-season greenhouses, an outdoor classroom, pavilion and bake oven, as well as a mushroom garden, chickens, and beehives. The organization offers fresh, organic produce at accessible prices from June to November, outdoor education in the form of camp and farm school programs, seniors programming, a youth internship program, in addition to hosting workshops and public events (Black Creek Community Farm, 2021). The city of Toronto's land use designation is Open Space – Recreational (City of Toronto, 2021).

Objective 1.3 Farmland preservation

The Town anticipates that the population of Perth will continue to grow and has recently expanded the Urban Settlement Boundary to accommodate a predicted population of 8,085 by 2038 and 10,500 by 2041 (Town of Perth, 2013; 2019b). Through careful planning, municipalities can manage growth and development while addressing important social and environmental concerns (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2018).

Recent changes in local land use patterns have mostly been the conversion of crop and pastureland to settlement (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority [RVCA], 2017). Lands surrounding the Town are designated Class 2 and 3 agricultural land (see Figure 3) – provincially designated prime agricultural land. Recent land annexations include agricultural, pasture, and woodland (Town of Perth, 2006; 2013), yet these parcels have not been deemed prime agricultural land according to the Lanark County SCOP or by the Town of Perth (2019b).

Recent land annexations (Perthmore, North Highway 7, Golf Club, and Tay View) continue the trend of urban sprawl with zoning designations of primarily R1 Density (single detached dwelling, linked dwelling, group home, or public use). Favouring high density

⁴ For further information on Just Food's funding stream, please refer to <http://nourishingontario.ca/just-food-ottawa/>. For further information on Greenbelt farms owned by the NCC and rented to farmers, please visit <https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/business/farm-rentals>.

residential development (townhouses, low-rise apartments, triplex, fourplex), will allow for population growth and help preserve adjacent farmland and natural areas for generations to come (Ontario Federation of Agriculture, 2015). Secondly, green space requirements for future subdivision and condominium development needs to be explicitly outlined in the Town's Official Plan. Green spaces will provide opportunities for urban agriculture and wild food harvesting, while reducing pressure on municipal infrastructure, including drainage systems and treatment facilities (United Nations Environment, 2017). Although Lanark County holds approval authority, subdivisions and condominium applications must also conform to local Official Plans (Lanark County, 2021). Municipalities can require developers to convey a portion of the land to be developed so that it can be set aside for parkland or other recreational purposes (Evergreen, 2005).

Recommendations

1.3.1 We recommend that the Town recognize the Province's designation of 'prime agricultural land' in the Official Plan to preserve regional farmland from further development. We also recommend working alongside neighbouring municipalities to reduce development on land surrounding the Town, that may not be currently designated 'Agricultural', but is used for agricultural purposes.

1.3.2 The Town's Official Plan outlines an objective for low density housing ratio of 60-65% (8.1.3.5; 3.2 c). The housing density ratio and zoning should be reconsidered to create compact, walkable, and complete communities and to meet future residential growth past 2041 without further urban boundary expansion.

1.3.3 We encourage the Town to reconsider residential development requirement (8.1.3.7, J)) such as building height and lot coverage to encourage residential intensification and housing mix within existing residential neighbourhoods. This would reduce development on the outskirts of Town and promote compact, walkable, and complete communities.

1.3.4 We encourage the Town's (2019b) efforts to reach the 21.2% of total residential development through infill to meet future residential growth past 2041 without further urban boundary expansion.

1.3.5 If plans for Subdivisions (9.12.15.1) are to be accepted, imposed conditions (9.12.15.1 10) need to require specific greenspace/parkland designation. Parkland dedication for development should be enforced and cash-in-lieu of parkland should *not* be accepted (9.12.13).

1.3.6 We suggest that the Town outline greenspace/parkland as a permitted activity for 'Bonus Provisions' (8.1.3.12) and 'Increased Density Bonus' (9.12.8).

1.3.7 We encourage future development on the 'Special Study Areas' to retain, where soil conditions are favourable, a portion of lands for urban agriculture purposes as allowed under Section 8.8.2 'Range of Permitted Uses.'

Objective 1.4 Water protection and access to water

The foundation of a robust food system, from agriculture to drinking water, rests on healthy aquifers and surface water. The entire Town of Perth sits on an identified Highly Vulnerable Aquifer. Thin soil and fractures in the underlying bedrock make underground water vulnerable to surface contaminants. Additionally, the Province has identified several significant wetlands within the municipality's boundaries that are protected under the Provincial Policy Statement, Lanark County SCOP, and existing Official Plan. Wetlands not only maintain local water quality, recharge aquifers and store carbon, they “serve important functions such as supporting the food chain, and provide fish and wildlife habitat” and are key components for the “watering of livestock and farm irrigation.” (Lanark County, 2012) Since settlement, there has been a 57% loss of wetland cover within the Town of Perth and a 47% decrease in wetland area in the catchment for the Tay River subwatershed (RVCA, 2017). Protection of currently existing wetlands needs to be a priority to ensure critical hydrological and ecological functions.

The Town is diligently working alongside regional conservation authorities and municipalities to protect these natural resources and is seen as a component of the municipality's climate change response.

Recommendations

1.4.1 We recommend the Town of Perth adhere to wetland conservation regulations enshrined in the PPS (2.1.1), Lanark County SCOP (5.5.8) and existing Official Plan Section (8.6.3). Therefore, future request for zoning by-law amendments for any development within provincially significant wetlands and floodplains, including Perth Long Swap, Grant's Creek Wetland, and Blue Berry Marsh should be rejected. This includes requests for Ministerial Zoning Orders.

1.4.2 Land annexed as part of the 'Golf Course' site borders the Provincially protected Grant's Creek Wetland. We acknowledge and continue to recommend the part of the land designated as an 'Environmental Protection Area.' We encourage Impact Assessments (3.6) in coordination the Ministry of Natural Resources and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to ensure future development on 'Residential' and 'Special Study' areas do not disrupt this critical wetland.

1.4.3 Land designated 'Residential' on annexed 'Tay View' property is within the Water Intake Protection Zone (Mississippi & Rideau Conservation Authority, 2020). The area has a vulnerability score of 9 out of 10, meaning it is highly vulnerable to contamination. Development in this area should be restricted/closely monitored.

1.4.4 Adaptive stormwater solutions, such as those implemented alongside housing development North of Highway 7, should be continue to be incorporated in future development proposals.

1.4.5 We recommend the Town maintain its commitment to public water bottle filling stations across the Town and its partnership with BlueW.

1.4.6 We encourage the Town to commit to maintaining water as a publicly owned and managed resource and explore joining the Blue Communities initiative for further guidance on this important issue

1.4.7 We encourage the Town of Perth to adopt a municipal rain barrel program, either through a rebate program⁵ or selling barrels directly to residents. This will reduce the impact of stormwater and demand on municipal water.

1.4.8 We encourage the Town to investigate opportunities for greywater recycling, for example in relation to urban agriculture or landscaping, and integrate into Section 5.2 and 7.6⁶

Objective 1.5 – Traditional food ecosystems

Indigenous food systems are best described in ecological terms – they “include all of the land, air, water, soil and culturally important plant, animal and fungi species that have sustained Indigenous peoples over thousands of years.” (B.C. Food Systems Network, 2008) Food sovereignty enables Indigenous Peoples to “exercise the right to determine how they will nurture and practice healthy relationships with the land, plants and animals which in turn provide food for current and future generations.” (Decembrini, 2020) In urban areas, access to traditional food, a key component of cultural, nutritional, and spiritual wellbeing, can be difficult.

The Town of Perth’s existing Official Plan protects fish spawning sites, wetlands, and wildlife habitat, including woodlands - keeping traditional food ecosystems viable for generations to come. Additionally, the Town’s commitment to planting native tree and drought resistant plant species both in the Official Plan and in practise are commended. Yet, woodland coverage remains less than half of the 30% required to sustain birds and woodland dependant species (Town of Perth, 2017) – important contributors to diverse ecosystems and healthy food systems.

Recommendations

1.5.1 We encourage the Town of Perth to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples to foster food sovereignty and integrate recommendations into Official Planning documents.

1.5.2 We encourage continued protection of wetlands, woodlands, and fish spawning sites.

⁵ For more information of rebate programs, see Tay Valley municipality <https://www.tay.ca/en/resident-services/rebate-program.asp>

⁶ See <https://www.ontario.ca/document/water-and-energy-conservation-guidance-manual-sewage-works/water-reclamation-and-reuse> for public health and regulatory information, uses, case studies, and more.

Topic 2: Processing and storage

Objective 2.1 Shortening food supply chains

Food supply chains include multiple steps: from the farmer, to processor, distributor, retailer, and finally the consumer. Along the way, value is added yet as food prices continue to rise for consumers, especially for fresh produce (Dalhousie University and University of Guelph, 2020; 2021) – producers’ profits have not. Short food chains, with greater capacity for local processing and retailing, keep family farms viable, support small businesses, and provide consumers with fresh, delicious food produced by people they know and trust (National Farmers Union, 2021). Value-added agri-food products processed and available locally also support healthy communities, provide job opportunities, and diversify the economy (OFA, 2018). Shortened supply chains reduce natural resource input, while increasing people’s knowledge and control of over the food system (hygienic and sanitary guarantees, fair prices, land conservation, and transparency).

Growing value-added opportunities within the agri-food sector is a priority identified in Lanark County (2020)’s Economic Strategy. The Town of Perth recently saw a surge in value-added processing, distributing, and retailing, including Perth Soup Company, ArtiZen Kombucha, two breweries, a distillery, and more. Under the existing Official Plan, these facilities have been progressively approved under designations including Business Park, Highway Commercial and Industrial. Sustained flexibility and support for various types of industrial development (with ancillary uses) will continue to attract innovative food entrepreneurs to Perth.

Regionally, food systems and farmers continue to face a critical processing barrier. The demand for traceable, local meat is growing - yet the number of licensed abattoirs and processing facilities in Ontario continues to decline (OMAFRA, 2016a). We’ve heard from local farmers that the inadequate number of locally owned and operated facilities means fewer options, longer waiting lists, and animals and farmers traveling farther distances. Abattoirs are provincially and federally regulated, yet zoning allowances are in the control of municipalities. As an agricultural hub within Lanark County, consideration should be made for enhancing local abattoir capacity, particularly concerning mobile abattoirs.

Recommendations

2.1.1 The Town of Perth can re-designate municipally owned lands from Special Study Area (Highway 7) / Industrial (Darou Farm) back to Agricultural or Rural to facilitate development of a local abattoir. Abattoirs and processing facilities meet the PPS (2020) definition of ‘agriculture-related uses’ allowed on prime-agricultural land. Meat plants (including abattoirs and slaughterhouses) are explicitly exempt from Minimum Distance Separation designations (I & II) (OMAFRA, 2016b).

2.1.2 The Town could also work with local famers, municipal and provincial representatives, organizations, and Lanark County Agricultural Advisory Working Group to advocate for increased regional slaughterhouse capacity, including advocating for mobile abattoir facilities. Support can also include funding, in-kind partnership, and marketing.

2.1.3 The Town could encourage a diverse agricultural economy by waiving development fees for food storage, processing and value-added businesses that will use local agricultural products and contribute to local food security.

2.2.4 The pandemic has resulted in a significant shift to how local food is marketed with a greater emphasis on online marketing. The Town can support access to local food by providing financial or in-kind marketing support to local producers to better connect with consumers.

Case studies

Farmersville Community Abattoir, Athens Ontario

When Rideau Meats in Smith Falls closed in 2016, 1,500 farmers were left scrambling to find an abattoir. In response, Farmersville Community Abattoir in Athens, Ontario was reborn. The plant was originally built in 1992 but closed in 2012 and sat non-operational for four years. Through the dedication of local community members, the facility reopened in 2016. This locally owned facility is now filling the critical gap in slaughter services for Leeds and Grenville, Frontenac, Lanark, and Ottawa-Carleton. It is helping to ensure the long-term viability of the agricultural system in Eastern Ontario for 1,300 farmers and increases local food sales by \$240,000 (GreenBelt Foundation, 2017).

Mobile Slaughterhouse, Yukon Territory

In 2006, the Yukon territorial government purchased the first Canadian mobile abattoir. It is housed in a custom designed fifth wheel trailer and provides slaughter, inspection, and refrigerated transportation services. The inspection of meat is overseen by the Government of Yukon Agriculture branch under authority of the Agricultural Products Act and Regulations. A meat inspector provides inspection services during the slaughter process and ensures all federal and territorial regulations and health guidelines are met or exceeded. An important benefit of mobile abattoirs is that the animals are subjected to long travel or interaction with unfamiliar animals or humans (Government of Yukon, 2020). Mobile abattoirs also operate in British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec but provincial regulations in Ontario prevent program uptake.

Objective 2.2 Storage facilities

Access to adequate, certified cold storage facilities is vital for farmers to extend their marketing periods and increase opportunities for secondary processing. Access to food storage also increases opportunities to meet wholesale and retail requirements for consistent quality and supply, a current barrier for local grocery stores to source local produce. Co-operative or collective storage opportunities should be encouraged to enhance food security and local food systems.

Recommendations

2.2.1 Under the Official Plan, permit cold storage facilities (as a Class 1 Industry) in ‘Range of Permitted Uses’ on ‘Industrial Area’ (8.4.3), ‘Business Park’ (8.5.4) land designations.

2.2.2 Under zoning by-law 3358, allow for storage facilities as primary or accessory (up to a certain size) uses in ‘Parks and Open Spaces,’ ‘General Commercial,’ ‘Neighbourhood Commercial,’ and ‘Business Park.’

Case studies

Two Rivers Food Hub, Smith Falls

Two Rivers Commercial Kitchen and Storage is a social enterprise supporting the local farm and food businesses. It offers local farmers, food processors, and small businesses access to commercial kitchen rentals, as well as freezer, cooler, and root cellar storage. This mid-scale infrastructure is necessary to build a local food value chain. In a short amount of time, their services have supported over 150 businesses, led to the creation of over 50 jobs (Two Rivers Food Hub, 2018). While the original Two Rivers Food Hub struggled to meet the full range of its original objectives, the food storage and commercial kitchen services have continued to generate enough interest and revenue to be sustainable.

Robinson and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador

Under the federal-provincial Canadian Agriculture Partnership, a \$1.25-million investment is establishing two vegetable cold storage and packing facilities in Labrador. One of the program recipients, Spruce Meadow Farms, received \$250,000 in provincial funding under the Vegetable Cold Storage Development Program and \$242,975 under the federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership, to construct a regional cold storage and packaging facility for Labrador. The facility will improve access to local and fresh vegetables, a tremendous benefit for residents, especially those living in isolated Labrador communities (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada [AAFC], 2020).

Topic 3: Distribution and Retailing

Objective 3.1 Access to food retailers

The composition of a neighbourhood - including the quantity and quality of food available impacts food choices and health. Residents with greater access to supermarkets or retail stores with a variety of nutritious food products tend to have healthier food intakes (Whyte, 2007). On the other hand, residents with access to fast food outlets and/or convince store are a greater risk of chronic illness. The term “food deserts” is increasingly being used to describe when residents are physically, economically, and geographically disadvantaged by a lack of basic access to healthy food.

Perth is home to several major grocery store chains and food retail businesses. Large grocery store and food outlets, however, are increasingly located along Wilson Street and within the Highway Commercial District (Independent, Metro, Foodsmiths, Giant Tiger). As stated in the Official Plan, these areas are “largely automobile oriented.” (p. 51) Walkability, public transportation, and safe active transportation networks to healthy food outlets are thus limited for Perth residents, but especially for seniors with accessibility needs, as carrying large quantities of groceries is a difficult task even during the best of weather. A brief scan of food outlets in Perth also demonstrates limited access to fresh food outlets in the South-Western section of the Town.

Recommendations

3.1.1 Explicitly state that development will occur in a manner that facilitates residents' access to locally grown and other healthy foods, for example in Section 3.7 ‘Community Improvement’, or Section 8.2 ‘Commercial Uses.’

3.1.2 Allow ‘Bonus Provisions’ (8.1.3.12) and ‘Increased Density Bonus’ (9.12.8) for grocery stores on the ground level of mixed-use or commercial buildings, especially in the South-Western section.

3.1.3 Expediate permits for the establishment of small grocery stores as ‘Neighbourhood Servicing Use’ in ‘Residential Areas’ (8.1.3.13), especially in the South-Western region. And waive parking requirements for development.

3.1.4 Continue to advocate for and create transportation options and *safe* active transportation networks exist for individuals to access groceries who do not have vehicles.

3.1.5 We recommend updated Section 5.5.7 a) to require sidewalks on all residential streets to foster pedestrian safety and walkable communities.

3.1.6 If additional large scale food retailers (Walmart/Costco) move into the Highway Commercial Area, smaller grocery outlets could be negatively affected. Perth should maintain the ‘Development Design Criteria’ (8.2.5.3) and not allow food retail stores to request over the maximum Gross Leasable Floor Area (GLA) per site.

Objective 3.2 Culinary tourism

Food tourism is a growing regional industry (Lanark County, 2020). The Town of Perth is a regional hub brimming with locally owned businesses, restaurants, and grocery stores dedicated to sourcing and highlighting local food. The Town of Perth’s existing Official Plan supports Perth’s Farmers Market which provides farmers and other food vendors with an opportunity to connect directly with consumers and provide a market outlet for their fresh and value-added products (OFA, 2016). Additional celebrations of local food are enshrined in the town’s festival of the Maples and Garlic festival. These existing assets can be built upon to further develop culinary tourism in support of the local food system⁷.

Recommendations

3.2.1 Work with existing regional food branding organizations, such as Lanark Local Flavours, to highlight local food and farmers.

3.2.2 Continue to work with the farmers market to create a more supportive environment, including increasing visibility, promotion and waiving permit fees.

Topic 4: Consumption

Objective 4.1 Improving access to local food

Public Health Ontario (2020) and Polsky & Garrigue (2020) warn that our intake of vegetables and fruits continues to fall below national recommendations, while intake of processed foods increases. Evidence shows limited access to sufficient, nutritious food choices negatively impacts physical, mental, and social health, and costs our healthcare system considerably (Tarasuk & et al., 2015). According to a recent study, if local production were

⁷ See Ontario Federation of Agriculture (2021). Always in Season: A toolkit for local food practitioners for further ideas.

expanded to replace even ten percent of the top ten fruit and vegetable imports, the Ontario economy would gain close to quarter of a billion dollars in GDP and 3,400 full-time jobs (Econometrics Research Limited, et al., 2017) – not to mention improve access to local fruits and vegetables.

Perth's annual household income falls below the Ontario average (Town of Perth, 2019a). The problem for low-income households is that they must spend what little money they do have on rent and utilities instead of food. We encourage the Town to recognize the link between food insecurity, affordable housing, living wages, and basic incomes. However, cheaper food is not the answer. Local farmers are already competing against big box stores who sell imported foods at artificially low wholesale prices. Sadly, according to the last agricultural census, although farm operating expenses increased, farm profits have not (Statistics Canada, 2017).

Recommendations

4.1.1 Adopt and enforce local and healthy food procurement targets for food offered and sold in town-owned facilities and programs and advocate that Lanark County adopt similar targets for its facilities (e.g., recreation centres, childcare centres, and seniors' homes) or city-run programs (e.g., recreation division summer camps) (Association of Municipalities, 2013; OMAFRA, 2017).

4.1.2 The Town of Perth provides financial and in-kind support to many events that occur throughout the year. The Town could use this support to leverage further use of local food in these events.

Case study

Thunder Bay, Ontario

In 2014, The City of Thunder Bay put into action the 'Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy.' Part of this strategy aimed to increase the amount of local/Ontario-grown food being purchased by the City's homes for the aged and daycares by at least 10% (over a baseline established in 2014). The purpose of implementing a local food procurement plan for the City of Thunder Bay is to help strengthen the local food supply chain by supporting local food businesses and agricultural producers (Megens, et al. 2015). By 2016, the City reported an increase in the amount of local and regional food purchased of 38.45% and an expansion of the program into concession stands and recreation facilities (Diaczuk, 2017).

Objective 4.2 Incentivizing healthier food options

The Canadian food landscape directly contributes to unhealthy diets and habits by favouring the use of cars above active transportation and providing easy access to nutrient-poor, energy dense food items (Karbasy, Vanderlee & L'Abbé, 2019; Sustain Ontario, 2017). In many communities the profusion and accessibility of fast-food restaurants around schools, in addition to their typical intensive marketing practices, greatly contribute to unhealthy eating habits among youth.

It is anticipated the land inventory for elementary school purposes are adequate, but future consideration may be needed for a high school site (5.2 e)3). Urban planning policies provide

mechanisms for municipal governments to place limits on the density or placement of fast-food restaurants and to encourage the availability of outlets selling fresh fruit and vegetables in school vicinities.

Recommendations

4.2.1 Drive through/fast-food services should not to be permitted under ‘Neighbourhood Servicing Uses’ (8.1.3.13 5) in ‘Residential’ designations.

4.2.2 In the Official Plan, educational facilities fall under “Residential” land use designation. However, they also have their own section under 8.3 ‘Public Service and Institutional Facilities’ and under 8.3.3.3/8.3.3.4. Conditions could be made to ensure future facilities (specifically land North of Highway 7) are not located within a specific walking distance from fast-food and convenience store outlets.

4.2.3 Currently, under the Zoning By-law 3356 4.32.16 j), drive-through restaurants are not able to locate within 150-150 meters of an elementary school building/property. The Town can amend By-law 3358-36/3358 4.32.16 or create a new bylaw expanding this limitation to any new fast-food outlets within a radius of secondary and elementary schools.

4.2.4 For businesses already in place, we recommend partnering with the local Public Health unit to encourage businesses to increase the range of healthy food options offered. Especially in the case of convenience stores.⁸

4.2.5 As a municipality, Perth can endorse the Private Members Bill 216. The bill aims to ensure food literacy and skills education is embedded in the Ontario school curriculum through 1 to 12.

Case study

Lavaltrie, Quebec

The Institute National de Santé Publique du Québec (2016) found the presence of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores around schools significantly increases the proportion of students who consume junk food for lunch. Their analysis shows the risk of consuming junk food at lunchtime is 50% higher for students with access to two or more fast-food restaurants within a 750-metre zone around the school. The municipality of Lavaltrie adopted a resolution in 2010 to prohibit the establishment of fast-food restaurants within a 500-metre radius around schools.

Topic 5: Waste

Objective 5.1 Nutrient recovery

The residential sector generates about 55% of all food and organic waste (Province of Ontario, 2018). As organic materials decompose, they release methane gas that traps twenty five times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Currently, 56% of the Town’s GHG emissions come from the decomposition of organic materials including paper, food waste, wood scraps, and lawn waste (Town of Perth, 2017). Integrated waste management systems that recover nutrients through aerobic or anaerobic digestion and return the organic matter to area

⁸ See Ottawa Public Health’s report: Good food corner store, A guide for store owners and operators for further ideas.

soils drastically reduce GHG emissions and erosion, while enhancing, water quality, soil availability and health (Province of Ontario, 2018; OFA, 2018). Additionally, collecting and recovering 1,000 tonnes of food and organic waste has been shown to generate 60% more GDP and 40% more jobs than disposal (Province of Ontario, 2018).

Perth's Green Bin program successfully diverts household organics to the municipality's compost facility, which aerobically composts materials in windrows to create nutrient-rich fertilizer (Town of Perth, 2012; 2016). In 2019, 600 tones of organic material were diverted (Author unknown, 2021). Use of this system is, however, limited to residences and is not widely used in the commercial or institutional sectors. The composted material is then used on the current landfill footprint for landscaping purposes. Yet, the landfill's provincial certification allows for the "post-composting activities required to make a saleable compost product." (Ministry of the Environment, 2008) With the loss of top soil and soil degradation being two major concerns for Ontario agriculture (OMAFRA, 21018), additional steps can be taken to ensure critical nutrients and minerals from organic waste feed and revitalize the land. Thus, creating a complete food cycle.

Backyard composting can further reduce capacity strains on landfills and the cost of green bin collection programs, while encouraging residents to pursue urban agriculture activities. Currently the Town of Perth allows backyard composting (By-law No. 4263, 8.1-8.1.5), however further information and resources could be made available to residents to increase community uptake. Any effective actions adopted in Perth that further reduces organic matter going into the landfill will prepare the community for a potential future requirement from the province to keep all organics out of landfills.

Recommendations

5.1.1 The Town of Perth's Waste Management By-law No. 3215 already encourages home composting in lieu of municipal collection (7.c). To promote this concept, further information on The Town of Perth's 'The Green Scene' web page is needed. Compost units can also be sold to residents as part of their municipal waste services.⁹

5.1.2 In order to re-integrate organic waste back into the food system, we recommend the Town invest in the necessary infrastructure to create high quality compost (AA or A) and state this as an objective of Section 5.4. Compost could then be provided to area farmers, landscaping businesses, and gardeners.

5.1.3 Town of Perth should investigate the feasibility of expanding organic waste diversion to the commercial and institutional sectors. By providing financial or other support the Town could also provide incentives to local businesses and institutions to develop systems to divert organic wastes to provide animal feed or other uses of organic wastes.

⁹ See City of Kawartha Lakes, Country of Brant, City of Oshawa, City of Hamilton, and City of Barrie for further examples. The municipality of North Grenville is running public workshops and giving away free back yard composters in a pilot waste reduction initiative.

Topic 6: Additional Recommendations

6.1 Include and integrate definitions of food security/insecurity, food sovereignty, and local food into Official Planning document. Also, acknowledge topics within future municipal policies and documents, including strategic and master plans.

6.2 Adopt Local Food Charter and encourage the creation of a Regional Food Policy Council.

6.3 Regionally, work with the Lanark County Agricultural Advisory Working Group and local organizations to initiate a regional Local Food Strategy.

Conclusion

Food is central to a well functioning community. As demonstrated above, there are a myriad opportunities for local governments to enhance food security and local food systems. These options range from simple to more complex. In many cases implementation will require the Town to partner with local producers, community groups, institutions, and across municipal departments. The Town should take a lead on such opportunities bringing people and organizations together to move collaborative initiatives forward.

With interest and support from upper levels of government, funding is available to dream, collaborate, and establish local food security initiatives. Complementing the roll of out a National Food Policy for Canada the 2019 Federal Budget allocated \$50 million dollars to support infrastructure for local food projects, including urban agriculture, cold storage, compost facilities, and more (AAFC, 2019; Department of Finance Canada, 2019). Under the Planning Act, the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund is also available to support infrastructure projects (OFA, 2018). The Table Community Food Centre is excited by the possibilities and looks forward to continue working with the Town and other stakeholders to improve food security and local foodsystems.

Appendix A – Existing policy structures

Topic	Provincial Policy Statement, 2020	Provincial / Federal Legislation	Lanark County SCOP
Expanding urban agriculture	<p>1.1.1 H) & I) Promoting land use patterns that conserve biodiversity and preparing for the regional and local impacts of a changing climate</p> <p>1.3.1 D) Encouraging mixed-use development that incorporates compatible employment uses to support liveable and resilient communities</p> <p>1.5.1 A & B) Healthy, active communities promoted by public spaces that foster social interaction, community connectivity, and provide a full range of equitably distributed accessible settings for recreation</p> <p>1.6.2 Planning authorities should promote green infrastructure to complement infrastructure</p> <p>1.8.1 F) & G) Promotes design and orientation that considers the mitigating effects of vegetation, and maximizes vegetation within settlement areas</p> <p>2.1.6 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in fish habitat</p>	<p>Bees Act, R.S.O 1990, Regulation 57</p> <p>Health of Animals Act, 1990, S.C. 1990, c. 21</p> <p>Feeds Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-5</p> <p>Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 20</p> <p>Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H. 7</p> <p>Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O. 36</p> <p>Farm Products Marketing Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F. 9</p>	<p>2.6.2.4.8. Provide for open space and parkland</p> <p>2.6.2.4.10 regulate the physical character of infill projects to ensure their compatibility with established communities</p> <p>5.5.7 Fish habitats form a vital part of the aquatic food chain and Local Official Plans shall include specific policies to address significant fish habitat</p> <p>Theme 10.2 Support the development and ongoing operations of local community gardens</p>

<p>Community farming</p>	<p>1.5.1 A & B) Healthy, active communities promoted by public spaces that foster social interaction, community connectivity, and provide a full range of equitably distributed accessible settings for recreation</p> <p>1.1.5.7 Protecting agricultural land uses and directing non-related development to areas where it will minimize constraints to these uses</p> <p>1.7.1 I) Long term economic prosperity by sustaining/enhancing the viability of the agricultural system through protecting agricultural resources, minimizing land use conflicts, providing opportunities to support local food, and improving agri-food network.</p> <p>2.3.1 & 2.3.2 Prime agricultural areas shall be protected for long-term use for agriculture, including Class 1,2, and 3 and any associated Class 4 through 7 lands. Encouraged to maintain and economic connections to the agri-food network.</p>	<p>Local Food Act, 2013, S.O. 2013, c. 7</p> <p>Conservation Land Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C. 28</p> <p>Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 20</p> <p>Pest Control Products Act, S.C. 2002, c. 28</p> <p>Pesticides Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 11</p> <p>Plant Protection Act, S.C. 1990</p> <p>Farm Implements Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F. 4</p> <p>Farm Registration and Farm Organization Funding Act, 1993, S.O. 1993, c. 21</p>	<p>2.4.1 Expansions into prime agricultural areas are permitted only where there are no reasonable alternatives or alternatives on lower priority agricultural lands</p> <p>6.1 – 6.1.5 Agricultural</p> <p>Theme 6.2 Support efforts to identify innovative ways to take advantage of our local natural resources</p> <p>Theme 7.1 Preserve our rural character by supporting local agriculture</p> <p>Theme 8.5 Recognize the value that agricultural lands can provide as part of the natural heritage system</p> <p>Theme 10.3 Make regulations flexible to keep land in agricultural use and to support farmers focused on local food production</p> <p>Theme 10.5 Encourage efforts to educate our youth about food and provide training in agriculture</p>
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			Theme 17.2 Support efforts to provide access to nutritious, affordable food
Farmland preservation	<p>1.1.3.8 2. A) & B) Expansion of the settlement area boundary only when demonstrated that no reasonable alternatives to avoid use of prime agricultural land</p> <p>1.1.5.7 Protecting agricultural land uses and directing non-related development to areas where it will minimize constraints to these uses</p> <p>1.2.4 C) Identify opportunities for intensification and redevelopment before settlement boundary expansion</p> <p>1.4.3 2D-F) Upper-tier municipality setting densities for new housing to promote efficient land use</p> <p>1.6.2 Planning authorities should promote green infrastructure to complement infrastructure</p> <p>1.6.6.7 E) & F) Stormwater management shall: maximize the extend and function of vegetative and pervious surfaces, and promote stormwater management best practises</p> <p>1.7.1 K) Minimizing negative impacts of climate change my recognizing the ecological benefits provided by nature</p>	Conservation Land Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C. 28	<p>2.3.1.5 Efficient development patterns will be encouraged in Settlement Areas to optimize the use of land and recourses</p> <p>2.4.1.1 Urban boundary expansion require an analysis of the alternatives to settlement area expansion, including intensification and redevelopment</p> <p>2.6.1.2 To provide a range and mix of low, medium, and high- density housing types</p> <p>2.6.2.3 Permit increased housing densities through redevelopment of existing residential and non-residential building to meet intensification targets</p> <p>3.3.3 The creation of new lots in rural areas will be limited in nature.</p> <p>8.2.1.2.1 Environmental documentation that should</p>

	<p>1.8.1 F) & G) Promotes design and orientation that considers the mitigating effects of vegetation, and maximizes vegetation within settlement areas</p> <p>2.3.6.1 4.i) Non-agricultural uses in prime agricultural lands may only be permitted if there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid prime agriculture areas</p>		<p>accompany a submission must include a hydrogeological study and impact assessment report</p> <p>8.2.1.3 4. Planning and design considerations for new subdivisions include parks and open space amenities</p>
Water protection and access to water	<p>1.1.1 C), H) & I) Avoiding development that will cause environmental concerns, promoting land use patterns that conserve biodiversity, and preparing for the regional and local impacts of a changing climate</p> <p>1.2.1 C) Coordination across municipal boundaries for managing natural heritage and water resources</p> <p>1.6.6.7 B), E) & F) Prevent increases in contaminate loads, mitigate risks to human health, safety and the environment, and promote stormwater re-use</p> <p>2.1.4 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in: a) significant wetlands in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1</p> <p>2.1.8 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on adjected lands to natural heritage features</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 41</p> <p>Fisheries Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-14</p> <p>Migratory Birds Convention Act, S.C. 1994, c. 22</p> <p>Conservation Land Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C. 28</p>	<p>1.7 Significant natural heritage sites and areas will be protected from incompatible land uses</p> <p>2.4.1.3 Urban boundary expansion requires a study which establishes environmental impacts on water, waste water, and storm water</p> <p>2.6.2.4 8. Provide for the protection of natural heritage features</p> <p>3.3.1.3 To ensure development and increasing use of rural properties does not result in negative environmental impacts</p>

	<p>2.2.1 F) / 2.2.2 Implementing necessary restrictions on development to protect municipal drinking water and designated vulnerable areas, and to protect, improve or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their hydrologic functions</p>		<p>3.3.4.5.6 Local councils will regulate and ensure the protection of natural heritage features</p> <p>4.4.2 The County encourages the preparation of watershed and sub-watershed studies where development is proposed. These studies are most needed in areas with both development pressures and highly sensitive natural environments</p> <p>5.4.1. Local Official Plans shall identify and protect those features where development and site alteration are prohibited. These include Provincially Significant Wetlands</p> <p>5.5.1.4 Development or site alteration is a significant wetland designated in the Official Plan is not permitted</p> <p>5.5.8 Ground water is crucial for the watering of livestock and farm irrigation. There is an obligation to consider the impact of development and</p>
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			<p>land use on surface water and ground water in order to ensure the long-term viability of this resource</p> <p>7.3 Development and site alteration is prohibited in floodplains</p> <p>Theme 8.4 Recognize and protect local biodiversity in accordance with federal and provincial legislation</p> <p>Themes 12.1 – 12.6</p>
Shortening food supply chains	<p>1.1.4.1 F) Promoting diversification of the economic base through value-added products</p> <p>1.4.4.1 I) Providing opportunities for economic activities in prime agriculture areas</p> <p>1.1.5.2 D) On rural lands, permitted uses include agricultural, agricultural-related, and on-farm diversified uses</p> <p>1.2.1 C) Coordination across municipal boundaries for managing agricultural resources</p> <p>1.7.1 I) Providing opportunities to support local food and maintaining/improving the agri-food network</p>	<p>Nutrient Management Act, 2002.</p> <p>Ontario Regulation 106/09.</p> <p>Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.</p> <p>Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 20.</p> <p>Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H. 7.</p>	<p>Theme 5.2 Promote our quality infrastructure to prospective residents and new businesses</p> <p>Theme 5.4 Work collaboratively with other municipal, provincial, federal, and private partners to focus strategically on infrastructure investments</p> <p>Theme 6.1 Support efforts to provide small businesses and local entrepreneurs with access to information and support</p>

	2.3.3.1 Permitted uses in prime agricultural areas include agricultural, agriculture-related, and on farm-diversified uses	Farm Products Containers Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F. 7.	Theme 6.6 Work together to attract and support new business and help them become sustainable and profitable
Storage facilities	<p>1.1.4.1 F) Promoting diversification of the economic base through value-added products</p> <p>1.3.1 B) Promote economic development and competitiveness by providing opportunities for a diversified economic base, including maintaining a range and choice of suitable sites for employment uses which support a wide range of economic activities and ancillary uses</p> <p>1.1.7 I) Providing opportunities to support local food and maintaining/improving the agri-food network</p>	Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H. 7,	<p>Theme 5.2 Promote our quality infrastructure to prospective residents and new businesses</p> <p>Theme 5.4 Work collaboratively with other municipal, provincial, federal, and private partners to focus strategically on infrastructure investments</p> <p>Theme 6.1 Support efforts to provide small businesses and local entrepreneurs with access to information and support</p> <p>Theme 6.6 Work together to attract and support new business and help them become sustainable and profitable</p> <p>Theme 10.4 Work together to eliminate the constraints to marketing local food (ie. storage)</p>

<p>Access to food retailers</p>	<p>1.1.3.2 E) Support active transportation networks</p> <p>1.3.1 D) Encouraging mixed-use development that incorporates compatible employment uses to support liveable and resilient communities</p> <p>1.6.7.4 Land use pattern, density, and mix of uses to minimize the length and number of vehicle trips and support current/future active transportation</p>		<p>2.6.1.3 To provide neighbourhood facilities and amenities which are appropriate to a residential living environment</p> <p>Theme 5.1 Support the development of infrastructure to support safe walking and cycling</p> <p>Theme 10.6 Support the movement of local foods to restaurants and stores</p> <p>Theme 14.3 Encourage the development of mixed residential and commercial spaces that promote walkability and are affordable</p> <p>Theme 16.1 Encourage efforts to decrease motor vehicle trips</p>
<p>Culinary tourism</p>	<p>1.1.4.1 G) Healthy, integrated, and viable rural areas by providing opportunities for sustainable and diversified tourism</p> <p>1.1.5.3 Tourism and other economic opportunities should be promoted <i>Above references relate to 'rural areas and land' within municipalities. It is acknowledged Perth does not host such land designations, but towards collaboration within Lanark County</i></p>		<p>Theme 2.4 Encourage the development of new events</p> <p>Theme 4.5 Continue to develop tourism assets</p> <p>Theme 7.2 Support agricultural tourism by emphasizing value added products and experiences</p>

	1.7.1. H) & I) Long term economic prosperity should be supported by providing opportunities for sustainable tourism development, and providing opportunities to support local food .		linked to agriculture and tourism Theme 19.3 Embrace and promote diversity in food, experiences, and culture
Improving access to local food	1.7.1. I) Long term economic prosperity be providing opportunities to support local food		Theme 10.1 Buy local food and promote its values: taste, nutritional value, availability and contribution to local economic benefits Theme 17.2 Support efforts to provide access to nutritious, affordable food
Incentivizing healthier food options	1.1.1 C) Avoid development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health concerns 1.6.4 Infrastructure and public service facilities should be strategically located to ensure the protection of public health	Healthy Menu Choice Act	
Nutrient recovery	1.1.1 I) Preparing got the regional and local impacts of a changing climate 1.6.1.10 Waste management systems need to facilitate, encourage, and promote reduction, reuse and recycling objectives.	Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19 Regulation 347: General Waste Management O. Reg. 232/98: Landfilling site	4.5.1.1 To ensure waste management uses are environmentally sustainable Theme 7.3 Support the rehabilitation and enhancement of agricultural land

		<p>Ontario Water Resources Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.40</p> <p>Ontario Compost Quality Standards (2012)</p>	<p>Theme 9.2 Work together to make the reduction of green house gases an objective when making choices and decisions</p> <p>Theme 13.1 Encourage the composting of organic materials by residents, businesses, and organization</p>
Performance measures	<p>4.8 The Province shall identify performance indicators for measuring the effectiveness of some or all of the policies.</p> <p>4.9 Municipalities are encouraged to monitor and report on the implementation of the policies in their official plans</p>		

Appendix B – Research methods and limitations

This discussion paper employed several methods to gather information and generate recommendations. This has included the consultation of municipal documents such as master plans, strategies, and reports. Additionally, survey of local organizations and community members such as the National Farmers Union, Public Health, grocery stores, and farmers. Rational for each topic was created through literature reviews and research on practises.

It is important to note, however that researchers involved in this project do not have municipal planning experience. Therefore, it is the municipality' role to take these broad recommendations and apply them in the most appropriate manner. Furthermore, this area for this study falls under the Algonquin land claim and falls within the traditional territories of several communities, including the Algonquins of Ontario, Mohawks of Akwesansé, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Ottawa Regional Metis Council, and Metis of Ontario. Further conversation with Indigenous Peoples is need to ensure Indigenous voices on environmental stewardship and the protection of traditional food systems are appropriately integrated into official planning documents.

Appendix C – Maps

Figure 1 – Vacant land, Town of Perth

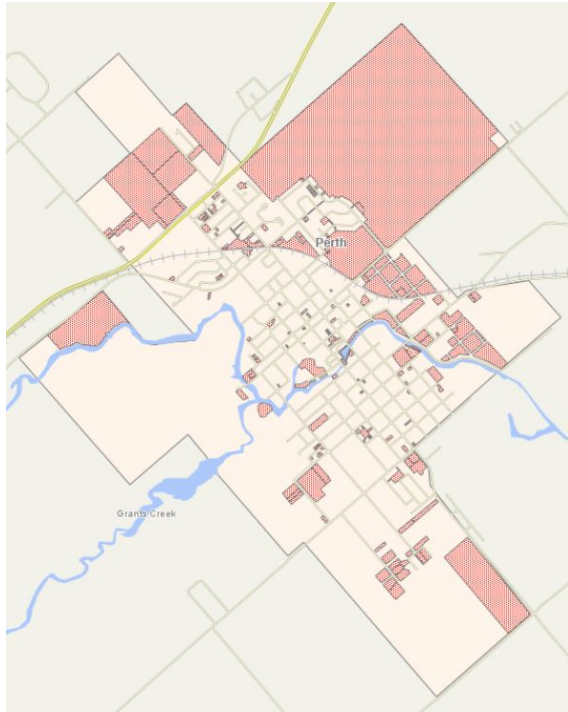


Figure 2 – Town owned land, Town of Perth

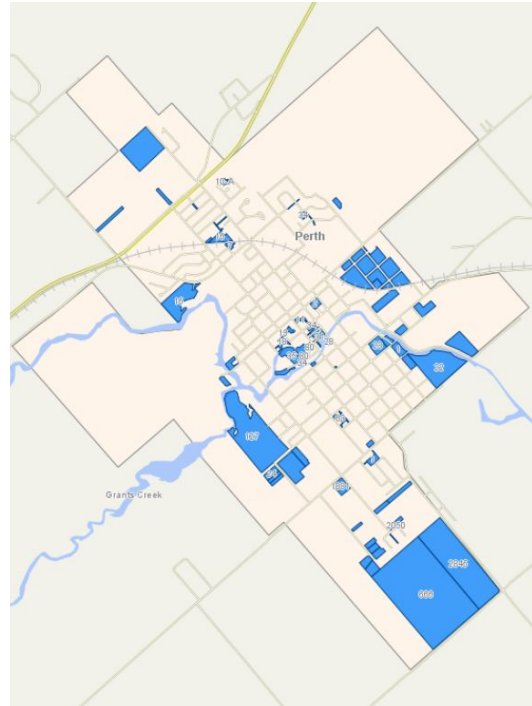
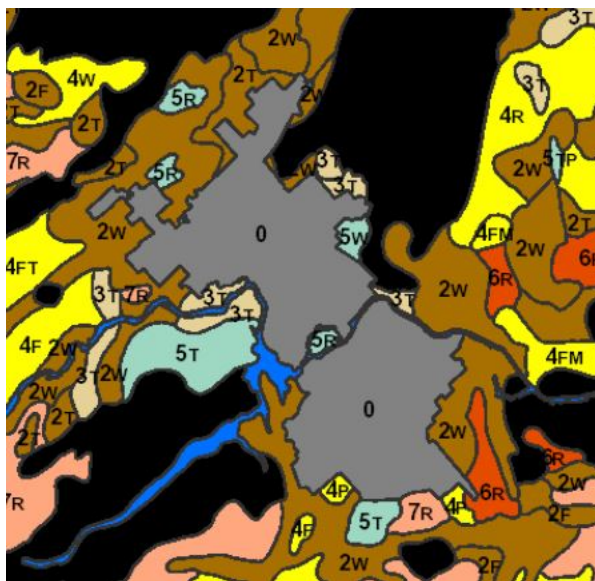


Figure 3 - Soil Capability for Agriculture (Canada land inventory rating for soil)



Legend

Black – Wetlands

0 Grey – Town of Perth

2W Brown – Class 2

2T Brown – Class 2

3T Light brown – Class 3

5W Light Blue – Class 5

** Further information exists to describe, in deeper detail, the type of soil surrounding the town of Perth.*

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (2020). Agriculture information atlas. Province of Ontario.

Appendix D – References

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