

# Urban Agriculture Action Plan 2019-2023

## Objective 1

Facilitate access to space for people to grow food

We will:

- Provide access to growing space for residents through the Community Growing Spaces Program.
- Facilitate landshare within our community for the purpose of food growing.
- Work with developers to facilitate the provision of land for growing food in new developments.
- Support community groups in negotiations with landowners to facilitate long and short-term Urban Agriculture opportunities.

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measureable Outcomes	Evaluation
1.1.1 Continue to deliver and manage the Community Growing Spaces program	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	City Works Business Support Team	Year 1,2,3,4	Program available to residents	Number of residents participating in the program
1.1.2 Provide support to existing Community Gardens and Community Growing Spaces (in line with agreements)	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Streetscapes and Natural Values Team	Year 1,2,3,4	Support as outlined in agreement	Satisfaction with support
1.1.3 Develop Urban Agriculture Agreements for	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Streetscapes and Natural Values Team	Year 1,2	Urban Agricultural Agreements completed	Completion of Urban Agriculture Agreements

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measureable Outcomes	Evaluation
historic community growing spaces lacking agreements					
1.2.1 Review and update Council's Urban Agriculture guidelines	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Communications Team	Year 2,3,4	Community Gardens guidelines to be redrafted and adopted by Council	Adoption of new guidelines by council
1.2.2 Provide support to new projects proposed under the community gardens guidelines	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Streetscapes and Natural Values Team	Year 1,2,3,4	Provide support as required	Number of new projects supported
1.2.3 Streamline the application process for the Community Growing Spaces program	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Business support Team	Year 1,2	Improved application pathways to Community Growing Spaces program	New online application pathway developed
1.3 Facilitate relationship between community groups and landowners, supporting long and short-term Urban Agriculture opportunities	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Property Services Team	Year 2,3,4	Provide support as required	Support provided as required
1.4 Work with planners to include Urban Agriculture in	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Strategic and Statutory Planning	Year 1,2,3,4	Provide support as required	Number of planning applications

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measureable Outcomes	Evaluation
planning referral process					commented on
1.5 Investigate feasibility of land-share programs	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	N/A	Year 3,4	Referral process established	Completion of report
1.6.1 Explore potential sites in open space, owned or managed by Yarra for food growing	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Open Space Design Team	Year 2,3	Identify potential sites for a trial	Pilots established and evaluated
1.6.2 Undertake analysis of all laneways and categorise potential for growing space	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	GIS Officer	Year 3	Provide report on options to partner with groups delivering a land share program	GIS available and incorporated into guidelines
1.7 Undertake a feasibility study of potential to host a land availability inventory for City of Yarra	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	GIS Officer	Year 3,4	Feasibility study	Study completed
1.8 Provide information on determining soil contamination	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Building Asset Management	Year 2	Soil contamination testing information provided, as needed	Information publicly available

## Objective 2

### Increase food skills and knowledge through engagement, education and training

We will:

- Develop an annual program of events and activities to promote Urban Agriculture.
- Undertake a comprehensive program of community, business and stakeholder engagement to understand community expectations of Urban Agriculture.
- Promote Urban Agriculture in publications and on the Council website.
- Partner with educational institutions to promote Urban Agriculture.

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measurable Outcomes	Evaluation
2.1 Develop an annual communications plan to increase the visibility of Urban Agriculture work in Yarra e.g. food swaps, farmers markets, community composting	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Communications Team	Year 1,2,3,4	Support as outlined in agreement	Satisfaction with support
2.2 Develop an annual program of workshops catering to a range of ages, demographics and groups within the community	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Sustainability Engagement Officer	Year 1,2,3,4	Annual program developed and delivered	Attendance at workshops
2.3.1 Investigate the feasibility of	Urban Agriculture	Waste Minimisation	Year 2,3	Feasibility report	Report completed

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measurable Outcomes	Evaluation
developing a partnership with post-secondary education institutions	Facilitator	Officer and Communications Team			
2.3.2 Promote available school gardening education material to local schools.	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Communications Team	Year 3	Review available material and effectiveness Analyse any gaps in available material Produce material to fill gaps	Analysis completed
2.4 Review the links between Food Know How and Urban Agriculture	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	N/A	Year 2	Report on potential links and opportunities	Report and business case completed
2.5 Produce a Yarra Urban Agriculture walking trail and make available on the website	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Sustainability Engagement Officer	Year 3	Walking map indicating Urban Agriculture sites.	Map completed and publically available
2.6 Investigate the potential to provide seed starter packs for residents to encourage people to grow food locally	Sustainability Engagement Officer	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Year 2,3	Report and business case	Report completed

# Objective 3

## Build partnerships with other organisations

We will:

- Work with community organisations to optimise funding opportunities to deliver Urban Agriculture.
- Work with other local governments to support and promote Urban Agriculture.
- Facilitate opportunities for organisations working in Urban Agriculture to work together.

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measureable Outcomes	Evaluation
3.1 Partner with public land owners to develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for sites within Yarra to be used for Urban Agriculture	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Governance Team	Year 3	Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) with at least public land owner	Number of formal agreements developed
3.2 Assist community and other organisations to access potential funding opportunities for urban agriculture in Yarra	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Community Grants Team	Year 1,2,3,4	Urban Agriculture grants applied for	Annual number of Urban Agriculture related grant applications assisted
3.4.1 Develop partnerships with Collingwood	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Economic Development Team	Year 2,3	Identifying opportunities Develop an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	Opportunities identified

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measureable Outcomes	Evaluation
Children's Farm and other leading community organisations to work towards delivering the objectives of this strategy				as required	
3.4.2 Support community organisations to enable greater Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community involvement in Urban Agriculture programs	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Waste Minimisation Officer	Year 2,3	Provide language support as requested	Joint projects delivered
3.4.3 Work with Indigenous groups to identify opportunities for indigenous urban agriculture projects	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Aboriginal Partnerships Team	Year 2,3	Local Indigenous Groups engaged	Partnership opportunities identified
3.5 Support other organisations to expand fruit squad	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Community Partnerships Team	Year 1,2		Increase in fruit squad capacity in Yarra

# Objective 4

## Advocate within and beyond council to work towards a food systems approach

We will:

- Gather available evidence to better understand Urban Agriculture and how it fits into the broader food system.
- Develop methods to embed Urban Agriculture into projects and developments within council and the City of Yarra.
- Create and protect opportunities for food growing and recycling in Yarra.
- Build and promote an understanding of food systems and their application in local government.

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measureable Outcomes	Evaluation
4.1 Identify opportunities to promote Urban Agriculture through events, policy reviews and other opportunities	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Waste Minimisation Team	Year 1,2,3,4	Presentations, policy submissions	As opportunities arise
4.2 Evaluation of Urban Agriculture programs delivered to date	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	GIS officer Communications Team	Year 3,4	Survey of current Urban Agriculture programs Analysis of survey results	Survey completed  Analysis completed and reported
4.3 Develop and promote a best practice guide to integrate Urban Agriculture	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	Strategic and Statutory Planning teams	Year 1,2	New guidelines developed	Guidelines implemented through planning referrals

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measureable Outcomes	Evaluation
opportunities into new development to be considered as part of the planning permit process					
4.4 Input into Council's public realm improvement projects programs and strategies	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	City Strategy Teams, Transport Teams, Capital Development Team	Year 1,2,3,4	Urban Agriculture opportunities identified	Participation in cross - departmental place making processes
4.5.1 Build an evidence base to guide action and decision-making including conducting research, collecting and interpreting data about Urban Agriculture opportunities and participation levels in the City of Yarra	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	N/A	Year 3,4	Report	Report completed
4.5.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of planter boxes to deliver urban agriculture objectives	Urban Agriculture Facilitator	N/A	Year 2	Report	Report completed
4.6 Investigate current right to	Urban Agriculture	Statutory Planning	Year 2,3	Report	Report completed

Actions	Responsibility Lead	Responsibility Support	Timeline	Measurable Outcomes	Evaluation
solar access protections for gardeners	Facilitator	Team			

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