

FOOD & AGRICULTURE IN THE CITY

Northeast Edmonton Planning Session July 11th, 2007



Overview

- Definitions
- Drivers
- Benefits
- Precedents
- Specific challenges
 & opportunities
- Ingredients for success

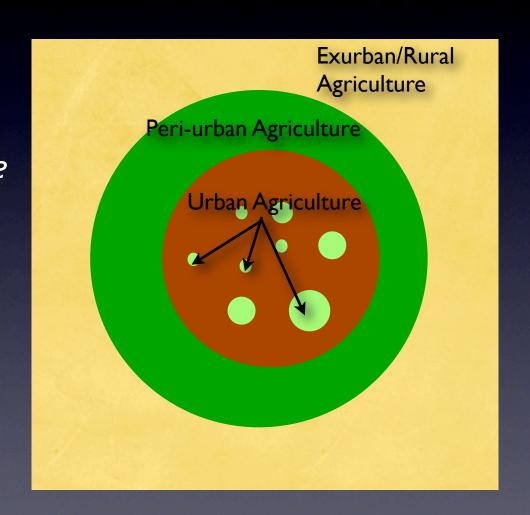




Urban Agriculture

"Urban & peri-urban agriculture is the practice of agriculture (include crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry activities) within or surrounding the boundaries of cities."

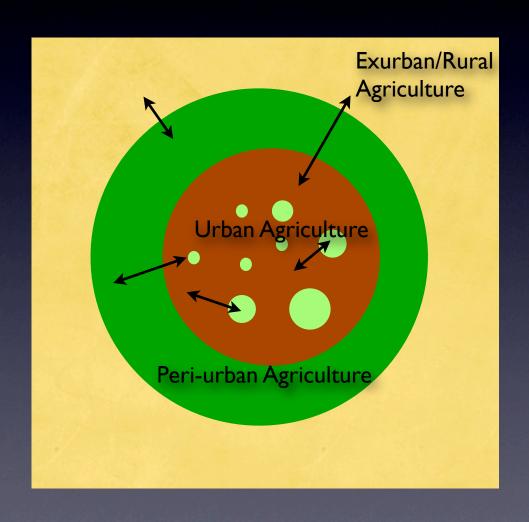
en.wikipedia.org





Civic Agriculture

- Locally-based agricultural and food production <u>system</u>
- Encompasses a broad range of activities
- Extends from the urban centre to the rural periphery
- Connected to local social & economic development
- Concerned with quality



Examples

- Farms
- Market Gardens
- School gardens
- Community/allotment gardens
- Backyard gardens
- Balcony & rooftop gardens

S C A L E









Also Includes...

Supporting Infrastructure:

- Community kitchens
- Markets
- Food distribution centres
- Food processing facilities
- Non profit/ government organizations
- Community networks





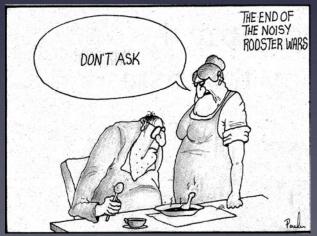


Challenges

- Increasing land prices & development pressures
- Perception
 - Not considered necessary
 - Not the highest & be\$\$t use of urban land
 - Creates problems
 - Considered a temporary use









Challenges

- Economic viability
- Declining government support
- Aging farm population
- Unsupportive/non-existent local policies



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Public Consultations: Adding Your Yolce to the	4-H Youth & Community Development	Agritourism
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look forward to hearing from a wide variety of individuals and organizations, and working together to develop a solid policy framework	Beef	Berries
that supports a prospersuo agriculture and agri- fixed sector. To register to provide your views, unit	BioProducts	Bison
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Farmland = private interest + public good



Growing interest in:

• Quality i.e. taste

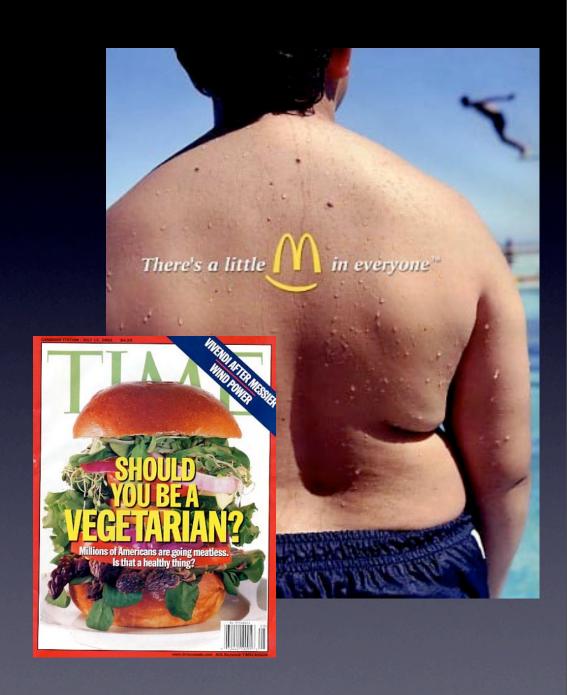






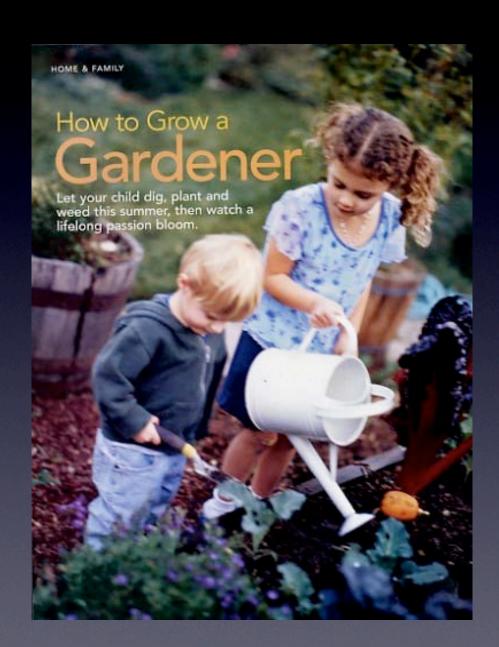


- Quality i.e. taste
- Health



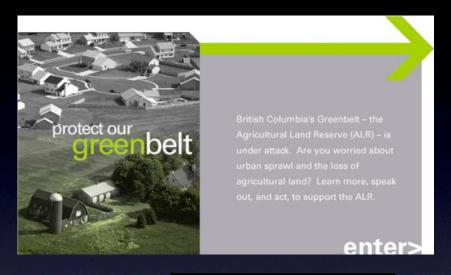


- Quality i.e. taste
- Health
- Gardening





- Quality i.e. taste
- Health
- Gardening
- Farmland protection









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- Food security







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- Sustainability & sustainable farming



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- Farmland protection
- Food security
- Sustainability & sustainable farming
- <u>Local</u> community development



Environment





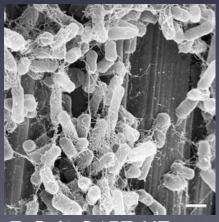




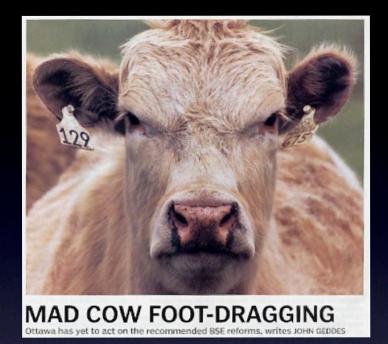


Food Scares





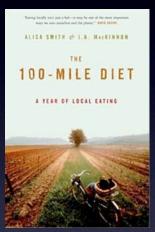
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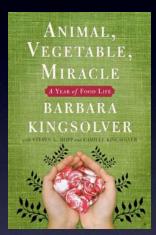




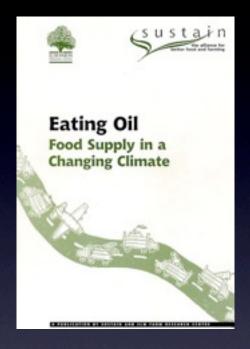


Growing Awareness















Humanity crowding in: Workers tend to a strawberry field in the shadow of middle-class housing tracts.

The irrigated marvel that is the world's richest farmland is losing

California ground to economics and urban sprawl

FRISNO, Call. — From outer space, no feature of North America stocks one quies like California's Central Valley, a long flat goage between moustain ranges that is the world's richest farm region. As irrigated marved blessed with Medizerranean clinate, the Octobiology along 2009 200 (2000, from almosted to mechanic worth \$15 follows a year, roughly one-tenth of America's farm output of the tenth of America's farm output of the tenth of America's farm output.

But the valley is under siege, its fertile acres more threatened by

urban sprawl than anywhere else in the country. From Sucramento to Bakersfield, developers are poving over rich alluvial soil with sub-

COVER STORY

COVER STORY

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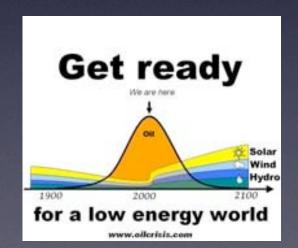
If the valery's operation more than doubles, as projected, by 2040 — fueled by construiters fleeing paralising borne prices along the coast — more than 1 million nativated acres with be lost and 23 million more pet at risk, the American Direction of the continues. In the continues of the coast — more pet at risk, the American Direction and the lost and the continues of the continues

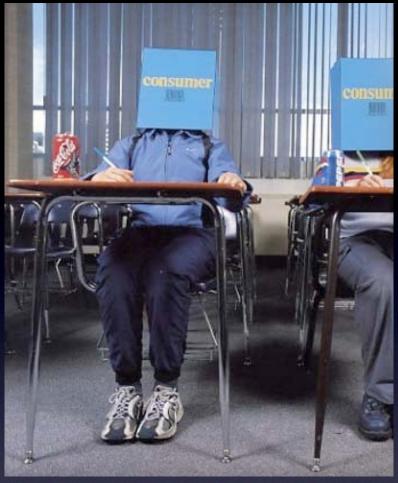
'Eaters' supporting farmers, saving farmland

Increasing concern that we are becoming too disconnected from the natural world

"...asphalt people who know little of nature & care less."

Ian McHarg



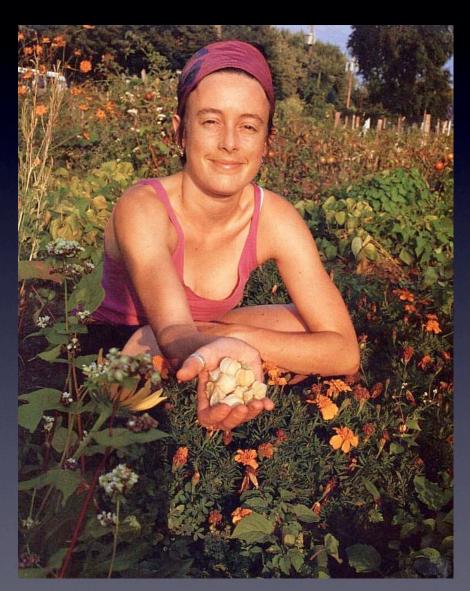






Benefits of Civic Ag.

- Green infrastructure
- Food security
- Public amenity
- Economic diversity
- Education
- Re-connects people (land, food, community)
- Supports farmers & celebrates farming
- Important cultural activity





Involves...

- Land use planning/ community design
- Public policy development
- Extension services
- Nutrition & Health
- Environment
- Transportation







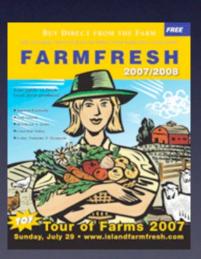




Involves...

- Education
- Economic development
- Marketing
- Community













Individual Buildings

Built-in food/gardening infrastructure

OR

- Designed to accommodate agricultural activities in the future (retrofitability)
- Difficult to encourage

Example:

Freesia, Vancouver, BC







www.freesialiving.com

Academic Institutions

- Educational emphasis applied learning opportunities
- Focus on sustainability
 "landscape shapes mindscape"
- Connects academic programs
- Waste = Food
- Desired by potential studentsExample:
 - University of BC

Vancouver, BC www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm







Hospitals

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)

- Ecological sustainability
- Provides support policies, suggestions, precedents
- Response to internal concerns

Encourage:

- Local/organic procurement policies
- Onsite farmers markets
- Removal of fast food outlets
- Composting





www.noharm.org

Prisons

- Emphasis on rehabilitation
 - Builds skills
 - Therapeutic
 - Generates \$\$ or provides food to people in need
- Dependent on administration
 & facility type

Often involves:

- Horticulture program
- Food preparation

Example:

Ferndale Institution
Mission, BC



Agro-eco-industrial Parks

- "Waste = Food"
- Include greenhouses,
 waste treatment facilities
 & composting centres
- Often connect local agriculture & food operations

Example:

Intervale Center
Burlington, VE
www.intervale.org







Public Spaces

- Markets, community gardens, local education centres, agricultural parks
- Increasingly desired
- Numbers growing
- Not restricted to outof-doors areas







Community Developments

- Built-in food/agricultural infrastructure
- Hi-tech & lo-tech approaches
- Highly desired but few examples
- Developers generally have to be "pushed" to include agriculture/gardening aspect



Village Homes, Davis CA



SE False Creek, Vancouver, BC



Transit-Oriented Development

- Provision of food/ag.
 infrastructure near transit
 centres
- Community gardens/ kitchens, markets, food distribution centres
- Encourages transit use

Example:

Royal Oak Transit Park Proposal Victoria, BC









Hamlets & Villages

- Nodal development pattern
- Sustainable rural development pattern
- Pattern maximizes farmland
 & open space
- Provides social & economic benefits

Examples

Europe

Eastern seaboard







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Urban Containment

- Protection of high capability farmland through protective zoning
- Not perfect but has protected farmland in BC
- Requires a supportive public
 Issue: no compensation provided
 Example:

BC Agricultural Land Reserve www.alc.gov.bc.ca







Farmland Protection



- Land trusts & covenants
- Lending/leasing land arrangements
- Farm/er cooperatives
- Non-profit support
- Transfer of development rights
- Developer involvement
- Considerate developments









Long-term access & protection

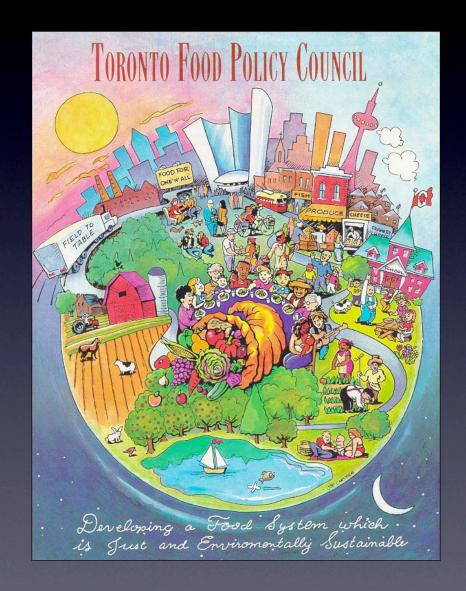


Food Policy Councils

- Provide support & direction to Council
- Bring together interest groups
- Can help develop supportive policies & research
- Requires good leadership

Examples

Vancouver, BC Toronto, ON

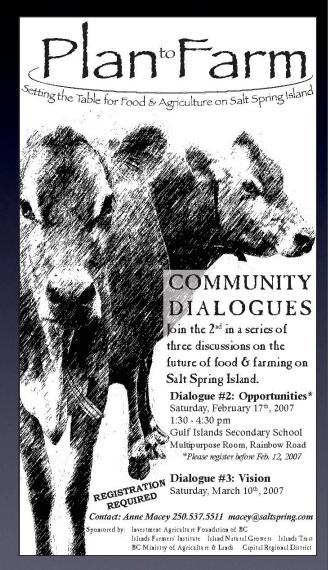




Local Agricultural Planning

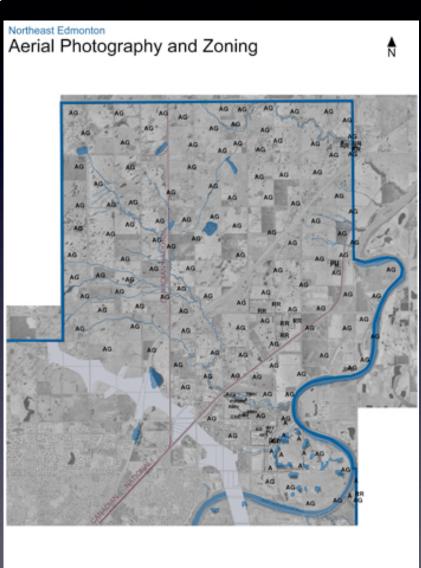
- Local planning initiatives
 - Agricultural area plans
 - Buffer zoning
 - Environmental Farm Planning
- Requires local & provincial government participating & support
- Reduces conflicts & addresses local needs

Examples: BC



Specific Challenges

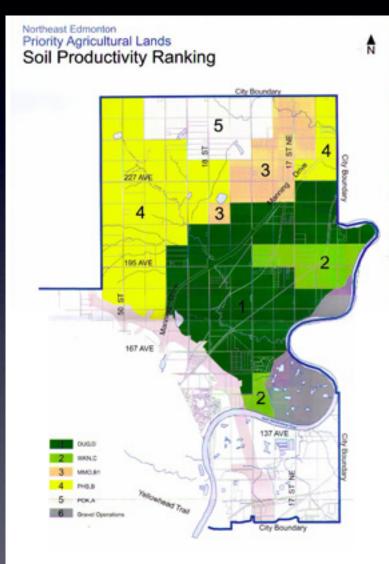
- Size of development area (10,000 ha)
- Development pressures
- Quality & extent of farmland (potential for long-term protection & integration)
- Addressing existing interests (compensation issues)
- Concentrating development
- Nature of future residents
- Community support & capacity





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Specific Opportunities

- Will put Edmonton "on the map" -MODEL DEVELOPMENT
- Opportunity to generate new knowledge & models - INNOVATION
- Integration of future-oriented, green infrastructure - "DEEP"
 SUSTAINABILITY
- Develop & involve local leadership & knowledge LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY
- Supports local cultural development initiatives - 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada







Ingredients for Success

- Supportive public policy
 & planning instruments
- Political & administrative support
- Community involvement & participation
- Local champions
- Provision of economic incentives & supportive infrastructure
- Creativity





In Conclusion

"The city becomes a remembered city, a beloved city, not by its ability to manufacture or sell, but by its ability to create and hold bits of sheer beauty & loveliness..."

Harold Bartholomew, author of the 1928 Vancouver City plan





