



Food Security Strategy

AUGUST 2022





Penticton Food Security Strategy was developed by:



City of Penticton Development Services
Department



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Territory Acknowledgement

The Penticton Food Security Strategy outlines recommendations for collaborative action by the City of Penticton and partner organizations. The City and surrounding area are located within the unceded territory of the Syilx Nation who are the traditional and present day stewards of their territory.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALR - The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a collection of productive land in British Columbia in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use. ¹

KPU – Kwantlen Polytechnic University

OCP – An Official Community Plan (OCP) are used to describe the long-term vision for communities. ²

ONA - Okanagan Nation Alliance

PFSS – Penticton Food Security Strategy

RDOS – Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

TOTA – Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

¹ Provincial Agricultural Land Commission, Agricultural Land. <https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/alr-maps/agricultural-land>

² Province of British Columbia, British Columbians and our Governments, “Official Community Plans for Local Governments”. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/planning-land-use/local-government-planning/official-community-plans>



PENTICTON FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY

Let's get from this:



Food insecurity in the
Okanagan
(Canadian Community Health Survey)



Food traveling 1000s of
miles



Barriers to growing
food for local
consumption



Sustainable food
systems



Healthy food
access



Access to
culturally
appropriate
food



Vibrant diverse
farming economy

To this!

Growing, eating and sharing our way to food security

1 INTRODUCTION: PENTICTON GROWN FOOD SECURITY

The City of Penticton's Official Community Plan outlines the importance of agriculture, food systems, and food sustainability to the City's economy and its residents' well-being. Penticton is one of the most productive agricultural regions in Canada. The Penticton Food Security Strategy ('the Strategy'/PFSS) focuses on understanding, assessing, and planning for food security mainly within the City of Penticton, with some regional information included for context.

Penticton's overarching goal is to work towards achieving resilient food systems and to ensure equitable food access for all residents.

Food security relates to equitable and sufficient access to food. The concept also refers to the long-term security, resiliency, and sustainability of our food systems. Improving food security means more than ensuring that residents experiencing food *insecurity* have access to charitable food assistance programs. It means that improvements are made to the overall system to promote food access and system sustainability. The Penticton Food Security Strategy addresses several factors that impact food security locally such as the regulation of farming activities, access to public garden space, and access to food-related social programming. Other factors, such as the high cost of housing and the rising cost of food, are difficult to address locally, but are recognized as contributing to food insecurity.

Progress on this issue requires an integrated and collaborative approach involving local government, community organizations, and provincial and federal governments. The Strategy brings together ideas from diverse community organizations, First Nations and Indigenous organizations, the City of Penticton, and provincial ministries to establish a comprehensive approach to advancing food security.

The Strategy required community-buy in and support from the Penticton Food Security Strategy Working Group, local stakeholders, and the public.

Key outcomes from the Strategy are a vision of food security in Penticton, key objectives, and strategies and initiatives to improve food security.

The Strategy is a guide to promoting sufficient access to appropriate, affordable, and nutritious food and Penticton.

1.1 STRATEGY OUTLINE

The Strategy contains four sections:

Section 1 – An introduction of food security, key concepts used in the Strategy, and a summary of methodology used.

Section 2 – Background context for understanding food security and food systems in Penticton.

Section 3 – Outcomes of the research and community engagement process: the vision statement, objectives, strategies and initiatives, as well as other aspects of implementation.

Section 4 – A description of the pilot projects, of which one will be implemented on adoption of the Strategy by Penticton City Council.



1.2 KEY CONCEPTS

The Strategy has been developed using the following key concepts.

1.2.1 Food Security

The Strategy bases its definition of ‘food security’ on that put forward by Interior Health,⁵ which states:

Food security means that everyone has equitable access to food that is affordable, culturally preferable, nutritious and safe. Food security includes a broad range of areas, including building healthy food systems, food security, and Indigenous food sovereignty.

The road to food security has been illustrated as a Community Food Security Continuum.⁶ The first stage is described as “efficiency”, wherein responses to hunger are answered with immediate solutions such as food banks and soup kitchens. As part of the second stage of “participation/transition”, community organizations and actors come together to provide tools to address food security challenges. In the third “redesign” stage of the roadmap, the systems which contribute to food security are addressed through policy and mechanisms at different levels of government. Education, policy, and research take place throughout the various stages of the continuum.

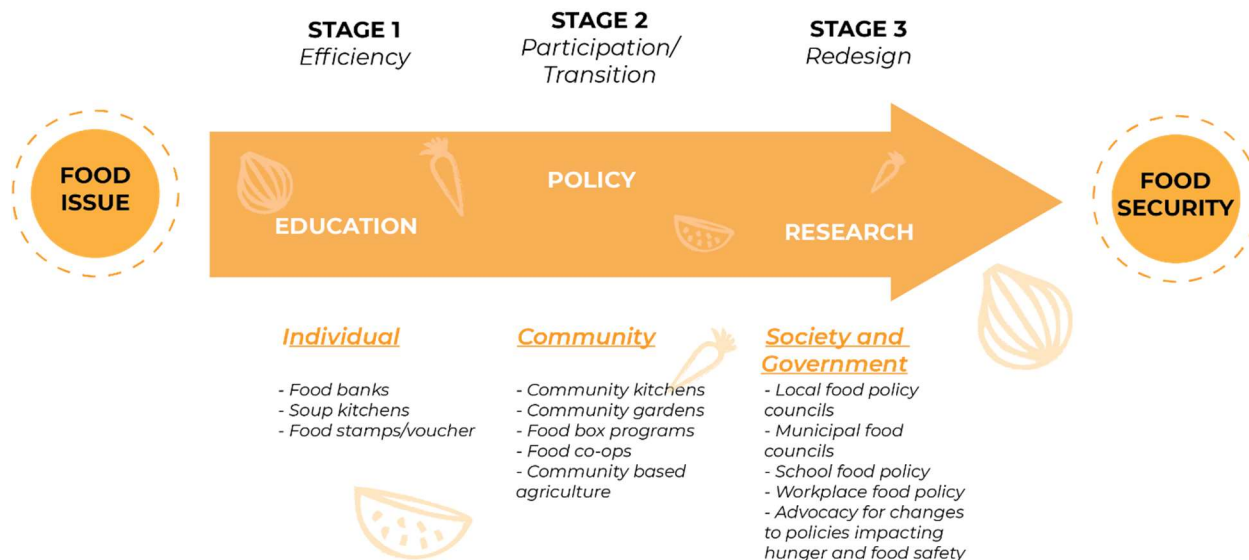
Although the continuum presents food security efforts as a linear progression from Stage 1 to Stage 3, in actual practice the work often involves efforts taking place at all the stages simultaneously to achieve community food security. While it is critical to respond to emergent food access needs in the community, this need may never decrease without policies that address adequate income and other system level supports. Local food systems can be strengthened by community capacity building initiatives such as food box programs, community gardens, and networks that engage citizens. These initiatives can help generate interest in food system issues and increase support for policy change at all levels of government. Conversely, supportive food system policies can make it easier for communities to develop projects like community gardens.

Figure 1.1 shows an adapted version of the Community Food Security Continuum.

⁵ Interior Health, Nutrition and Food Security. <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/healthy-living/nutrition-and-food-security?msclkid=554f1d0bb1d011eca5910ff31556bedf>

⁶ Figure adapted from “Making the Connection – Food Security and Public Health”. Ministry of Health Services and The Health Authorities of British Columbia, June 2004. Prepared by the Community Nutritionists Council of BC.

Figure 1.1: Community Food Security Continuum



1.2.2 Food System

The food system is the process that food undergoes to reach our plates. It is a series of interlocking processes which combine production (including hunting, fishing, farming, gardening, and raising animals), processing, distribution, consumption, and waste recovery. At present, our food system is a complex global network which, in Canada, is dominated by a few grocery retailers.⁷

An additional aspect of a healthy food system, as noted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,⁸ is crop diversity and seed security. Unfortunately, through agricultural industrialization and modern produce distribution practices, much of the seed and crop diversity that used to exist has severely diminished. Encouraging crop diversity and farmers having control over their own seed supply will have positive consequences for the localized adaptation of seeds for specific microclimates and to changing climate conditions.

1.2.3 Food Security Assets

Food security assets are natural resources, infrastructure, organizations, businesses, and institutions which contribute to food security by providing and distributing food,

⁷ Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems. *Bringing Our Food Systems Home: Report on the Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project*. August 2021.

⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *NSP – Seed Security and Rehabilitation*. <https://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/seeds-pgr/seed-sys/security/en/#:~:text=Seed%20security%20is%20defined%20as,normal%20and%20abnormal%20weather%20conditions>

increasing knowledge, and bringing people or resources together to advance food security.⁹

1.3 METHODOLOGY

This section summarizes the activities which comprised the development of the Strategy.

1.3.1 Background Research

The initial background research included a review of local policies and plans, policy gap analysis, best practices in food security review, and an inventory of food security assets. Key resources relating to food systems and food security in Penticton were also reviewed, including reports from Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems' Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project.

Refer to Appendix A - *Background Report* for the results of the Policy Review and Gap Analysis, Best Practices Review, and Asset Inventory and Mapping.

1.3.1.1 Policy Review and Gap Analysis

A review and analysis of current City policies was conducted as a part of the background review. Gaps were noted where policy may be lacking and where and how other local governments have addressed particular issues.

1.3.1.2 Asset Inventory and Mapping

To support the policy review and background research, an asset inventory was conducted to further understand the City's local food system. The assets incorporated into mapping were grocery stores, food-related social programming, agriculture supply and education locations, community gardens, farmers' markets and farm box programs, relevant industry associations, and wineries/vineyards.¹²



⁹ The meaning of this term was developed through the planning process with the Working Group.

¹² Although wineries/vineyards may not contribute to food security, it is important to show where vineyards and wineries are located and how agricultural land is being used in Penticton.

1.3.1.3 Best Practices Review

A best practices review was conducted to gather inspiring ideas from other communities across BC and around the world. These best practices demonstrated different ways of addressing challenges related to food security.

Refer Section 2.2 for a description of mapped content and to view food security assets in Figure 2.3 and Figure 2.4. Section 0 provides a summary of the policy gap analysis and best practices review.

1.3.2 Engagement

The community engagement process provided important local and experiential context. The information gathered from the engagement activities were analysed for key trends, gaps, and insights. Engagement included ongoing liaison with a working group, key stakeholder workshops, targeted interviews, and two community surveys (one collecting initial information in June 2021 which is referred to throughout the Strategy, and one during the Strategy review phase in fall 2021).

Appendix B provides a full description of activities and community survey results.

Engagement Activities:

- ✓ **Working Group**
- ✓ **Stakeholder workshops**
- ✓ **Community survey**

1.3.2.1 PFSS Working Group

The Strategy was created through collaboration with a working group. The PFSS Working Group helped to provide valuable background on local food security issues. The working group also provided invaluable feedback and helped direct the process through regular check-ins.

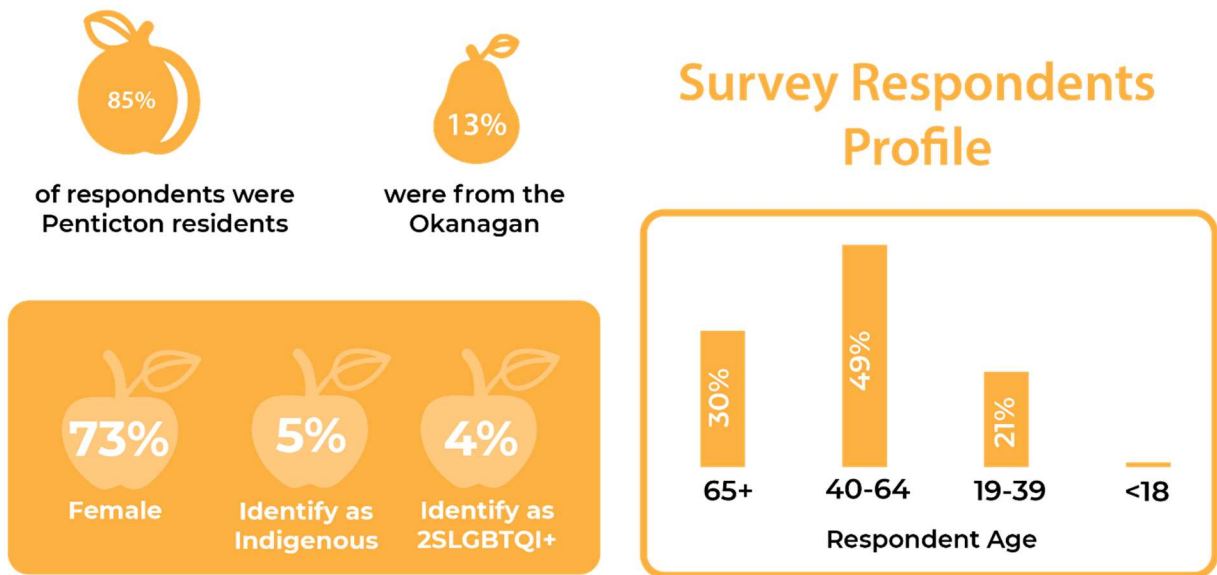
1.3.2.2 Key Stakeholder Workshops

The stakeholder workshops took place through the summer of 2021. There were three focus group workshops conducted virtually with a total of 18 participants. Participants represented various charitable organizations within the community, local food producers, and community organizations.

1.3.2.3 Community Survey

A community survey was disseminated virtually and received 472 responses. The goal of the survey was to get a sense of how people access their food, community food-related priorities, and where there may be opportunities to address current challenges. The survey yielded a variety of interesting opportunities, challenges, and ideas for local initiatives.

While the survey responses were helpful in describing the current food security reality in Penticton, the results are not necessarily statistically representative of key groups, such as those living in low-income situations or members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community. Therefore, any policy or program development aimed at specific population groups would benefit from a more thorough, targeted research.



1.3.3 Develop Food Security Strategy

The Strategy was developed by assessing gaps and needs indicated by community engagement within the context of the policy gap analysis, best practices review, and food security assets review.

The Strategy results in an Action Plan which is based on an overall vision and includes broad objectives, strategies, and initiatives which aim to result in improved food security and more resilient food systems in Penticton.



2 COMMUNITY INFORMATION OVERVIEW

This section examines the results of all information gathered through both research and engagement. It supports the development of the Action Plan's objectives, strategies, and initiatives by identifying areas of opportunity and community needs.



2.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Local population demographics, housing pressures, and changes in agricultural practices and land availability in Penticton provide the Strategy with a comprehensive understanding of food security experiences in the community. In addition, engagement results have helped to define key community priorities. These priorities contributed to identifying Strategy actions and pilot project options.

Appendix A provides additional background information.

2.1.1 Demographics and Housing

The City of Penticton has a population of 36,885, based on census information from 2021.¹³ Since 2016,¹⁴ the population has grown by 9%. Population projections from BC Stats suggest that, in the Penticton Local Health Area, the population could grow at a rate of approximately 1% per year, although if trends from the past five years continue, the future growth rate could be higher.¹⁵

The 2016 census shows that the median age of Penticton's population is 52.4 years, slightly lower than in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS). The median age of the RDOS is higher however than the BC median age.

Similar to other areas across BC, Penticton faces some challenges in terms of housing availability and affordability.¹⁶ The rental vacancy rate in the city is an average of 1.2% across housing types. Among both renters and owners, 58% of households fall below the affordability standard, paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs. Renter households are in a more difficult situation, with 68% spending more than 30% of their income on shelter.¹⁷

In Penticton, the living wage required to address local housing costs and other general costs of living is \$18.55. While not the highest in the province, it is higher than Kelowna and Kamloops, keeping in mind that these communities also have significant housing affordability and availability challenges at present. The relatively high cost of living in Penticton puts pressure on households' finances and ability to buy the food they need (refer to Section 2.1.4 for more information on this issue).

¹³ Statistics Canada. 2022. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released February 9, 2022.
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed April 5, 2022).

¹⁴ At the time of developing this report, only population information from the 2021 census had been released, with all other information (e.g., age, dwellings, etc. from the 2016 census).

¹⁵ Calculations based on information from BC Stats, Population Projects.
<https://bcstats.shinyapps.io/popProjApp/>

¹⁶ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Housing Market Information Portal. [https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton%20\(CY\)%20\(British%20Columbia\)](https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton%20(CY)%20(British%20Columbia))

¹⁷ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, "Core Housing Need (2016) – Penticton (CY)".
[https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton \(CY\) \(British Columbia\)](https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton%20(CY)%20(British%20Columbia))

Another aspect to consider about the housing situation and how it may impact food security in Penticton is the higher proportion of apartments and attached homes (i.e., multi-unit housing). This is indicated clearly by the 2016 census.

Figure 2.1: 2016 Penticton Census Profile Dwellings



The lack of yard space for people living in multi-unit housing means that few would have the opportunity to grow any of their own produce (or keep chickens) and as a result would rely even more heavily on grocery stores or other sources of produce. Community survey results saw more responses from single detached home-owners or renters, however they also indicate that a significant proportion of Penticton residents have no access to space for a garden.

Community Survey Results

- 34% live in apartments or townhomes
- 27% have no access to a gardening area

The preponderance of multi-unit housing also suggests that there may be a greater need for common or public gardening areas such as community gardens. This is discussed further in Section 2.2.1.3.

2.1.2 Agriculture

The City of Penticton has a considerable amount of land dedicated to agriculture, however in Penticton and the surrounding area much of the arable land is currently vineyards producing wine grapes as opposed to crops which contribute to local food production. There are 672 hectares irrigated using city water on 298 properties.¹⁸ Of

¹⁸ Information provided by City of Penticton.

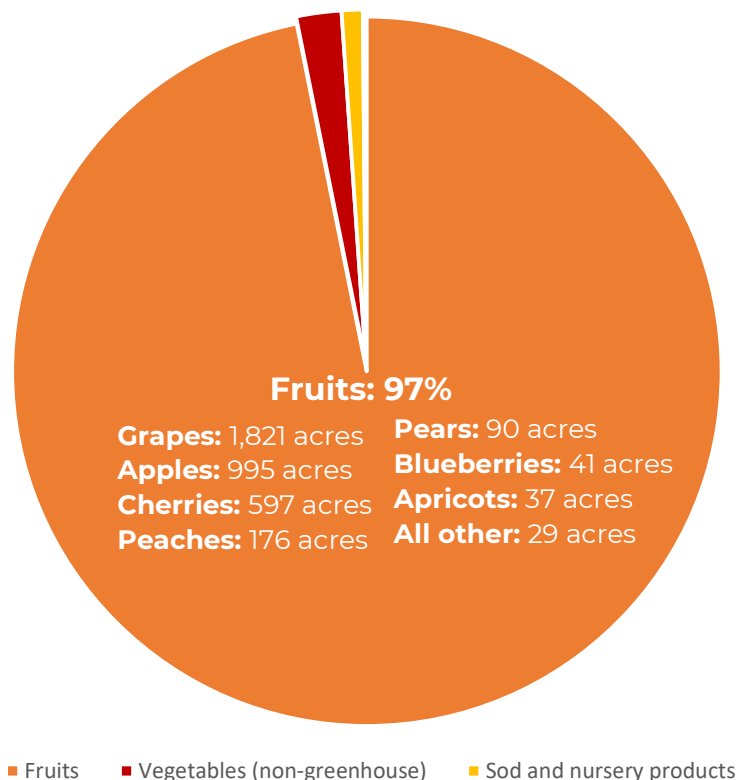
Penticton's 4,447 hectares, there are 1,341 hectares of land zoned Agricultural, as well as 839 hectares within the ALR. Refer to Figure 2.5 which shows Penticton's land base and agricultural land designations. There are 24 wineries in Penticton, up from 12 in 2005, when the *Penticton Agricultural Plan* was done. Refer to Figure 2.3 and Figure 2.4 which shows the number and locations of wineries in Penticton.¹⁹

Although the Strategy does not include a thorough review of current agricultural production within Penticton city limits, it is possible to comment on cultivation trends in the surrounding electoral areas using 2016 agricultural census information. In Electoral Areas D, E, and F, which immediately border Penticton, there are 563 farms, including livestock operations. Crop farming makes up 84% of all farm operations. Electoral Area D is to the southeast of Penticton and includes Okanagan Falls. Electoral E is to the northeast and includes Naramata, while Area F is to the northwest, bordering Penticton IR # 1 and Summerland.²⁰

Many farms grow fruit while only about one fifth of farms raise livestock or grow vegetables.



Figure 2.2: Crop Field Production Acres in RDOS Areas D, E, F



In Electoral Areas D, E, and F almost all field crop production by area is in fruit, with the majority of fruit production devoted to grapes. Although the agricultural census does not specify wine or table grapes, based on the number of wineries in the vicinity, it is likely that most grape production is in wine grapes.

Between 2011 and 2016 the number of farms in Areas D and E decreased slightly while in Area F the number increased

¹⁹ Only wineries with attached vineyards have been included as the analysis relates to agricultural land use.

²⁰ There was no information available for Area I to the southwest.

marginally. About 10% of farms in 2016 raised cattle, 10% grew vegetables, and a small number of operations raised animals, raised chickens for meat and eggs, and grew hay.²¹ Most farms however are fruit and tree nut farms, which includes vineyards.

In both Areas D and E, most fruit and nut tree producing acres are in grape production.²³ In Area F a larger proportion are in apple production. However, in all three areas the number of farms producing apples decreased. This could be due to very low apple prices in recent years, a challenge which has been noted in community engagement and by other sources.²⁴ In Electoral Area D, the number of grape growing farms and acres in grape production increased significantly. At the same time the number of acres of apples declined by more than a quarter, and while acres of all other fruit or nut trees decreased by 14%.

Fruit production in Area E has followed a very different trend. The number of producers and acres growing grapes dropped dramatically while the production of all other fruit and nut trees (except apples) increased. In Area F, grape production did not increase while the acres in production for all other types of fruit has increased by 13%.

A notable gap in agricultural assets in the Penticton area are farms producing locally adapted seeds. A business dedicated to producing seed would help to protect seed and crop diversity and improve local adaptation.

Based on the agricultural information gathered, the following challenges and opportunities are identified:

Key challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of agricultural and product diversity with production focused on grapes • High cost of land in Penticton and the Okanagan • Low apple prices • Lack of aggregators for certain products • Lack of local abattoirs • Lack of access for small producers to major retail grocery stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on diversification to strengthen the local food system, including producing and saving locally adapted seed • Find alternatives to costly leases and land purchase • Support aggregation • Support abattoir creation • Support creative marketing and product distribution for producers

²¹ Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0403-01 Farms classified by farm type

²³ Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0417-01 Fruits, berries and nuts

²⁴ “Last Days for BC’s Apple Industry?”. The Tyee. <https://thetyee.ca/News/2021/01/08/Last-Days-BC-Apple-Industry/>

2.1.3 Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Indigenous food sovereignty is a concept which is differently defined by Indigenous organizations, groups, and Nations depending on their geographic location, traditional food practices, and current context. The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) describes longstanding Syilx Okanagan food sovereignty as “sustainable hunting, fishing, and gathering practices”. These practices occur within a Syilx cultural and spiritual context.²⁵ The practices which have traditionally provided sustainable food security to Indigenous people have been severely impacted by colonization. Indigenous peoples experience food insecurity as a direct consequence of the disconnection of kin, networks, and lack of access to healthy ecosystems. Pauline Terbasket, Executive Director of the ONA, has written on the importance of honouring the “reciprocal relationship” to the Four Food Chiefs²⁶ by reconnecting with the land and traditional foods. Doing so is “actively recovering from the colonization which alienated” Indigenous people from their lands and foods.²⁷

A study undertaken by the ONA and University of Alberta researchers found there were direct benefits associated with eating a traditional diet among Syilx/Okanagan people. People who ate more traditional foods benefitted from higher levels of vitamins and nutrients and more balanced diets. Benefits also included mental and cultural well-being.²⁸ The benefits of access to traditional foods have also been identified in the study *Traditional Foods and Indigenous Recipes in B.C.'s Public Institutions*.²⁹ Key benefits were found to be promoting cultural connections, the nutritional value of the food, mental health benefits, connecting to the land, lower food costs, and supporting locally produced foods, among others.

²⁵ Okanagan National Alliance, Food Sovereignty. <https://www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/food-sovereignty/?msclid=ef76033fb52d11ec874ed68300d759d5>

²⁶ “Chief Skmxist, or Black Bear, is the oldest. He is chief of all the animals that walk on the earth and he brings the perspective of wisdom and culture. Chief Spitlem, or Bitter Root, is chief of all those who grow below the ground. He brings the perspective of community and interconnectedness. Chief Siya, or Saskatoon Berry, is chief of all who grow above the ground and brings creativity and innovation. And finally, Chief N'titxw, or Salmon, who is chief of all those who live in the water, brings the perspective of action.” From uiki?st [Terbasket, P.] (2019). *Syilx perspective on original foods: Yesterday, today, and tomorrow*. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development, 9(Suppl. 1), 49–54. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2019.091.016>

²⁷ uiki?st [Terbasket, P.] (2019). *Syilx perspective on original foods: Yesterday, today, and tomorrow*. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development, 9(Suppl. 1), 49–54. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2019.091.016>

²⁸ “Syilx/Okanagan diet quality positively impacted by increased food sovereignty, says study”, Peachland View. June 22nd, 2020. <https://www.peachlandview.com/2020/06/22/syilx-okanagan-diet-quality-positively-impacted-by-increased-food-sovereignty-says-study/>

²⁹ British Columbia, feedBC. Traditional Foods and Indigenous Recipes in B.C.'s Public Institutions. 2021. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/feedbc/traditional_foods_and_indigenous_recipes_in_bcs_public_institutions.pdf

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) notes that “[Indigenous food sovereignty] must be discussed in the context of actions and systems change.”³⁰ To this end, the Penticton Food Security Strategy recognizes the importance of understanding Indigenous perspectives on food sovereignty and food security in order to work together with Indigenous Nations, organizations, and individuals to improve Indigenous food sovereignty in Penticton.

Locally, Indigenous food sovereignty and food security is being actioned and promoted in a number of ways by the ONA³³, En’owkin Centre³⁴ and Penticton Indian Band. Two examples of initiatives include *Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative*³⁶ (led by a partnership including the ONA) and Penticton Indian Band’s community garden.³⁷

Food insecurity is a challenge for a number of Indigenous, Inuit, and Métis people living in Penticton. Métis Nation BC, through its local organizations including the South Okanagan and Similkameen Métis Association, is starting a project to help address food insecurity directly with grocery gift cards, food hampers, grocery delivery service, and a community fridge. There is also a pilot project focussed on encouraging gardening to increase food self-sufficiency.³⁸

Ooknakane Friendship Centre is another organization which provides meals, a food bank service, and food delivery to Indigenous people (and anyone needing support) living in the Penticton area, including youth under the age of 18. The organization is very active in food recovery from grocery stores, storage, and processing (e.g., freezing, canning), and also serves as a distribution hub for other organizations in Penticton offering meals and other food support services.

About Penticton Indian Band’s Community Garden

- Penticton Indian Band has had a one-acre community garden for 15 years. The garden brings different generations together to share food and work together in the garden. It also provides fresh food for anyone in the community who needs it. They have commercial kitchens where they do canning after the harvest. The garden particularly supports Elders, and also serves as a platform to initiate conversations about the importance of fresh food and a healthy diet.

³⁰ Draft website materials, developed by the BC Centre for Disease Control, July 29th, 2021.

³³ Refer to <https://www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/food-sovereignty/> for more information.

³⁴ For more information about En’owkin Centre, refer to <https://www.enowkincentre.ca/>.

³⁶ Refer to <https://columbiariversalmon.ca/> for more information.

³⁷ For more information, refer to: http://piib.ca/?page_id=917. Information on the community garden provided by Terry Terbasket, garden coordinator.

³⁸ Métis Nation BC, MNBC Launches Food Security Pilot Project. <https://www.mnbc.ca/news/2021/mnbc-launches-food-security-pilot-project/>

The community survey undertaken as part of this project received responses from Indigenous people. Some noted that they faced food security challenges due to the cost of food, inability to grow their own food due to lack of access to land, and challenges being able to practice traditional hunting and gathering practices. Due to the low number of responses from Indigenous participants, generalizations on specific priorities and needs can not be made with the survey data alone and more input is needed going forward.

The Strategy and its Action Plan includes a commitment to develop and maintain collaborative relationships with local Indigenous Nations, organizations, and individuals to promote Indigenous food sovereignty and food security.

Opportunities

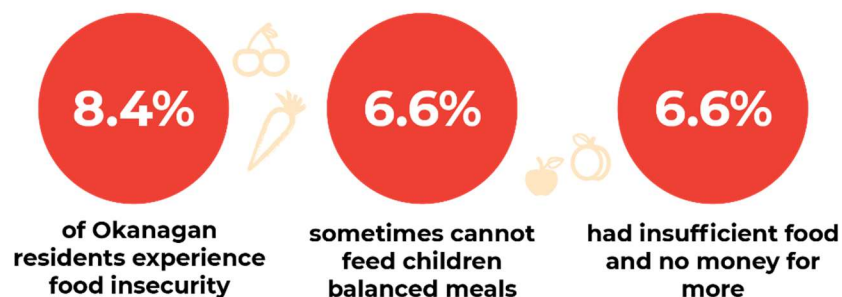
- Incorporate perspectives of Indigenous food sovereignty into food security planning by seeking out and utilizing Indigenous knowledge to understand and identify priorities requiring action.
- Develop and maintain relationships to promote collaborative work with First Nations and Indigenous organizations on issues of Indigenous food sovereignty and food security.

2.1.4 Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a reality for many people in Penticton and in the Okanagan. The Canadian Community Health Survey,³⁹ indicates that 8.4% of the population of the Okanagan Health Services Delivery Area (HSDA) experience food insecurity.⁴⁰ Of residents in this area, 3.6% experience severe food insecurity. Additional indicators show that 6.6% of the population sometimes cannot feed children balanced meals. The same proportion indicated that sometimes or often food didn't last and there was no money to buy more. Almost a third of respondents (31%) indicated that in the last year they had been hungry but did not have money to buy more food.



Results from the community survey undertaken for the PFSS indicate that 24% of respondents either sometimes or often worry that food will run out. Among respondents who have experienced some level of food insecurity, 80% are female, 10% identified as part of the 2SLGBTQI+ community (which is considerably higher than the rate of overall survey participation), 41% were individuals living alone or with roommates, and 25% and 15% were couples and lone parents with children, respectively. The rate of food insecurity was highest among lone parents with dependents, of whom 61% indicated that they often or sometimes worried that food would run out. Of survey respondents identifying as 2SLGBTQI+, 55% indicated the same concern, as well as 51% of unemployed respondents (51%).



³⁹ Data sourced from most recent survey from 2017/2018.

⁴⁰ Downloaded from Statistics Canada, "Canadian Community Health Survey – custom tabulations". <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/82C0022>

Income level appears to be the greatest indicator of potential food insecurity. Among survey respondents earning up to \$20,000 annually, 71% experienced some form of food insecurity. Those earning between \$20,000 and \$40,000 experienced food insecurity with a rate of 49%. Most food insecure respondents identified income as being the key factor contributing to challenges accessing sufficient food. Lack of time, distance to food, and mobility (both physical and lack of transportation) were also significant challenges.

Stakeholder Input

- University students often feel the effects of food insecurity due to high living expenses.
- Residents facing food insecurity often do not know how to access it.

For several survey respondents, simply travelling to a grocery store and navigating around it was a considerable challenge. Across Canada, 7% of the population experiences mobility challenges⁴¹ which can hamper food access depending on whether an individual has the support of friends or family. In BC, 51% of people over 75 years of age have a mobility disability. Considering that Penticton has a relatively higher median age, with 15% of the population over 75,⁴² accessible food within walking distance would benefit a large portion of the population.

Community survey results indicate that specific population groups (e.g., people with incomes less than \$20,000, lone parent households) experience higher rates of food insecurity than others, suggesting that systemic barriers and challenges exist. While the Strategy may have a strong focus on food access strategies, it is important to recognize that changes are needed at a higher level of government. Broader systemic challenges, such as the rising price of food and housing, reduce households' monthly budget available for food.

Engagement Input

Residents would like to purchase fresh produce but often can't afford it.

Residents experiencing food insecurity benefit from shopping and cooking education.

The HungerCount 2021 report,⁴³ which gathers information from food banks across the country, indicates that food bank usage in BC has increased by 5% from 2019 to 2021. Key contributing factors which the report attributes to this trend are persistently low incomes compared to the cost of living, the increasing cost of food, and rising housing costs.

The proportion of the Penticton population for instance which spends more than 30% of their income⁴⁴ on housing has risen from 45% in 2006 to

⁴¹ Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/89-654-X>

⁴² Statistics Canada. 2017. Penticton, CY [Census subdivision], British Columbia and Okanagan-Similkameen, RD [Census division], British Columbia (table).

⁴³ Food Banks Canada, HungerCount 2021.
https://hungercount.foodbankscanada.ca/assets/docs/FoodBanks_HungerCount_EN_2021.pdf

⁴⁴ Standard rate of shelter affordability used by Statistics Canada.

58% in 2016.⁴⁵ The rate is 68% for renter households. With the release of 2021 census data beginning in early 2022, it is likely that these affordability statistics worsen, given the rising cost of rent in Penticton.⁴⁶ The retail cost of food is also contributing to affordability challenges. Across Canada, between 2010 and 2021 food prices have increased by an average of nearly two dollars across a variety of standard food staples.⁴⁷ This is an increase of an average of 19% per year, during which time the overall Canadian inflation rate varied between just under 1% and 3%. There are also alternative analyses of food inflation which suggest far greater price jumps than Statistics Canada indicates, particularly in the past year.⁴⁸ It is in the context of these broader economic challenges that the Strategy's food access related objectives have been developed.

Key challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater food insecurity challenges for low income households, lone parent households, individuals belonging to the 2SLGBTQI+ community, and unemployed. • Access to healthy, fresh food • Physical access to stores • Rising cost of food and housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop food programs or distribute information which targets key populations more prone to experiencing food insecurity. • Support better access to healthy, fresh food. • Consider physical access, in terms of transportation and personal mobility, in food access improvements. • Advocate to higher levels of government to reduce systemic barriers to food security. • Promote food literacy to enable healthy, economical food choices.

⁴⁵ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, "Core Housing Need (2016) – Penticton (CY)". [https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton \(CY\) \(British Columbia\)](https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton_(CY)_British_Columbia)

⁴⁶ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation notes consistent rental cost increases from 2017 to 2020. [https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton \(CY\) \(British Columbia\)](https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/5907041/4/Penticton_(CY)_British_Columbia)

⁴⁷ Statistics Canada. Table 18-10-0002-01 Monthly average retail prices for food and other selected products

⁴⁸ The ORCA, "How serious is food inflation in Canada", Sylvain Charlebois. September 23, 2021. <https://theorca.ca/visiting-pod/how-serious-is-food-inflation-in-canada/>



The Impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on food security in Canada and in BC. Initially, panic buying and hoarding led to shortages as people worried about global supply chains. Food prices also rose more than normal during this time, caused by supply chain disruptions, job losses, economic recession, and food price dynamics. People also tended to shop less frequently during the first wave of the pandemic to avoid contact with people in the grocery store.⁴⁹ At the same time, COVID-19 led to business closures mainly in the retail and restaurant sector, leading to lower incomes for former employees of these businesses and a greater need for food banks.⁵⁰

Looking at ongoing impacts of COVID-19, there are indications that supply chain disruptions will continue. Cargo space for imported goods is at a premium and hard to find, pushing up prices and causing delays. Prices are unfortunately expected to continue rising, as food retailers and restaurants download higher transport costs on customers.⁵¹

COVID-19 also led to disruptions for organizations offering food programs which had to find alternatives to in-person distribution. The Starfish Backpack Program for example, switched to a gift card system. The supply chain which the United Way and Oonkane Friendship Centre in Penticton relied on saw disruptions which impacted their food programming.⁵²

Restaurants also closed at various periods during the pandemic. In March of 2020 local media counted 18 restaurants which were closed, with some offering take out or delivery through Skip the Dishes or a similar service. This would also have negatively impacted food security for those who eat out more often.

A further impact of health restrictions during COVID-19 has been on the local farming community. During 2020, at least four farms closed or sold. The farm closures appear to be related to the temporary closure of the in-person farmers' market in Penticton in spring 2020.

⁴⁹ Polasub, W., Wijekoon, M., Saugstad, L., and Mullinix, K. *Food Access, Concerns and Perceptions During Covid-19 First Wave: British Columbia*. Kwantlen Polytechnic University. https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Food%20access%20concerns%20and%20perceptions%20during%20COVID-19_BC.pdf

⁵⁰ Polycynote. "Food insecurity and hunger during COVID-19". April 7, 2020. <https://www.policynote.ca/food-insecurity/>

⁵¹ Retail Insider, "Pandemic to Cause Largest Increase in Grocery Prices in Canadian History", Sylvain Charlebois. August 17, 2021. [Pandemic to Cause Largest Increase in Grocery Prices in Canadian History: Sylvain Charlebois \(retail-insider.com\)](https://retail-insider.com/pandemic-to-cause-largest-increase-in-grocery-prices-in-canadian-history-sylvain-charlebois/)

⁵² Information provided during Community Action Team activities to Urban Matters in the spring/early summer of 2020.

2.1.5 Community Priorities

The community survey provided a clear picture of respondents' food-related priorities. Refer to Section 1.3 for methodology details and response overview and to Appendix B for community engagement results.

Overall, what was most important to respondents was being able to access local food. Second, was being able to buy food at low prices, and third, was being able to buy food conveniently.

Food Access Priorities

1. That I can buy local food.
2. That I can buy food at low prices.
3. That I can buy food conveniently (at the nearest store).
4. That I can grow my own food.
5. That I can buy organic food.
6. That I can buy food in bulk (e.g., making periodic trips to Costco).
7. That I can hunt, fish, or wild harvest (gather from natural areas) at least a portion of my and my family's food.

In terms of being able to access food, 32% of respondents indicated that they face challenges in being able to access food in this way. For some it was an issue of insufficient income or the high cost of food, for others they found the distance to grocery stores too far, while others found buying local food inconvenient or impractical. For those who prefer to grow their own food, their challenges relate to the lack of space available to garden in multi-unit housing complexes, small yards, or the cost of tools, supplies, or water. Several respondents face medical or physical challenges which hamper their mobility and ability to go grocery shopping.

Where do people get their food?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Patio planters | 9. Grocery Store |
| 2. Convenience Store | 10. Restaurant take out/fast food |
| 3. Produce box program | 11. Farmer's Market |
| 4. Meal prep service | 12. Backyard Garden |
| 5. Backyard chicken coops | 13. Wholesaler/bulk |
| 6. Charitable food service | 14. Directly from farms |
| 7. Community garden | 15. Produce sharing |
| 8. Fruit tree gleanings | |

According to the community survey, 98% of respondents shop at grocery stores. The next most common places to get food were restaurant take out or fast food (50%) and the farmer's market (45%). There are a variety of places and ways however that respondents get their food. Some buy directly from farms, others receive food from their family and friends, some have backyard gardens, and still others use the community garden or receive food through a charitable food service.

The diversity of ways which residents of Penticton buy, grow, and receive food indicate that strategies to support food access need to be varied and adapted to specific community needs.

Key challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buying local food is inconvenient or too costly.• Lack of space to have a garden or lack of funds to garden.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop strategies to make local food access more convenient.• Continue with farmers' market coupon program and identify other opportunities to lower economic barriers.• Look at opportunities to have more public gardening space in Penticton.

2.2 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Geographical context is a key part of understanding food security. Food security is interconnected with the distance of one's home to the grocery store, charitable food service, and/or community garden. It also refers to the proximity of where food is grown or raised to where food is distributed to individuals and families. When food is produced farther away, food is less secure due to the higher potential for supply chains to be disrupted. The long-term sustainability of the food system is also impacted by the carbon emissions from long-distance freight.

This section reviews the geographical aspects of food security in Penticton. The focus is on food security assets within Penticton such as farms, organizations providing charitable food services, and grocery stores. Agricultural land use in Penticton is also discussed.

2.2.1 Food Security Assets

Community assets contributing to local food security include:

- Grocery stores (including grocery distributors, convenience stores, specialty food stores, and bakeries);
- Food banks;
- Food-related social programming;
- Community gardens;
- Farms;
- Farmer's Market and farm box service;
- Agricultural supply; and
- Agricultural industry associations.

Additional assets not captured in food security asset mapping are backyard gardens, chicken coops, beehives, and other household food security resources. However, 37%, or 173 community survey respondents indicated had a backyard garden, while 5%, or 25 respondents, have chicken coops. Also, 19% of respondents benefit from produce sharing between neighbours. Sharing produce is an activity which helps to disperse produce, supports food security and strengthens social connections in the community. Developing a better understanding of backyard gardening in Penticton could be key to supporting urban agriculture and community food security overall.

2.2.1.1 Grocery Stores

The main way that people access food is at the grocery store. In Penticton, there are 19 grocery stores and two wholesale companies which distribute to retail stores. Stores selling groceries include chain grocery stores, prepared meal stores (M&M Food Market), convenience stores, green grocers, delicatessens, butchers, and bakeries.

There are five full grocery stores in Penticton, however a significant gap in grocery store availability is in the downtown area. While there are several convenience stores and specialty food stores, there is no grocery store. This is a challenge for downtown residents, particularly those with no vehicle. A relatively high proportion of Penticton residents commute by walking or biking; 14% compared to 9% in Kelowna.⁵³ Having more accessible grocery stores in high density and high foot traffic areas are ideal ways to reduce carbon emissions, reduce traffic, and improve healthy outcomes for those who face barriers to making the trip by vehicle to a grocery store. Ways to address this gap are identified as a strategic initiative in Section 3.3.

2.2.1.2 Food-Related Social Programming

There are several organizations offering food-related social programming (charitable food services) in the downtown area, mainly concentrated in the northern half of the residential and commercial area of Penticton (refer to Figure 2.3).

Although it can be beneficial that food-related social programming is distributed in Penticton, this also creates inefficiencies in food procurement and storage. At present, the Salvation Army and Oonkanane Friendship Centre act as storage facilities and distributors to other smaller food programming organizations. The Salvation Army, for example, participates in a provincial program called LOOP in which grocery store partners distribute fresh product to other local organizations on a regular basis. A more detailed description of Oonkanane Friendship Centre's services can be found in Section 2.1.3.

A key idea which emerged through stakeholder engagement was to either use an existing or new central location to collectivize food procurement for the various social programs. Although the Salvation Army and Oonkanane Friendship Centre are currently performing an important role in centralizing food recovery, storage, and distribution this effort could be further concentrated to reduce duplication and operating costs. One central facility could collectively share one transport service and one storage facility. This model is used by the Kamloops Food Share, which recovers food and distributes it to thousands of individuals through the food bank, 52 organizations, other regional foodbanks, a Starfish Backpack Program, and a Baby

⁵³ Statistics Canada. 2017. Penticton, CY [Census subdivision], British Columbia and Kelowna, CY [Census subdivision], British Columbia (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

Bank program.⁵⁴ The Salvation Army is exploring the possibility of taking on this role of being a food hub for the South Okanagan.

2.2.1.3 Community Gardens

There are three community garden locations in Penticton, although only one is an official public community garden, which is run by the Penticton Community Garden Society.⁵⁵ The other two are Incredible Edible (open to the public) and the Salvation Army's Martin Street Volunteer Garden (for client use). Significant input from survey respondents indicated support for additional community garden sites, especially in areas where fewer residents have yards.

Stakeholder feedback indicated that organizations offering food-related social programming may benefit from having community garden space close to their premises for client use. The gardens could be used as an educational and/or therapeutic tool, as well to supply low-income individuals with fresh produce. There are parcels of municipal land interspersed near some organizations which may be suitable for communal gardening space, or there may be opportunities for partnerships with private owners of unused or underused properties.

It may be possible to locate a community garden on public land. Target areas could be prioritized by the level of residential density, where relatively few people will have access to private yards. These areas can be identified using Future Land Use designations from the *Penticton Official Community Plan* (Map 1), where there are concentrations of "Infill Residential", "Urban Residential", and "Urban High Density Residential". Individual site analyses would be carried out in the Action Plan implementation phase.

Besides using public land, which may not be feasible in all areas, other options include connecting with owners of future development sites to explore using unused properties temporarily, or with owners of underused properties who may be willing to provide garden space permanently or temporarily. Incredible Edible, for example, operates on premises owned by the Good Samaritan Society. If the land is only available temporarily, this can be challenging to manage as it involves moving garden beds from one location to another. In Vancouver, a company named Community Garden Builders has addressed this gap by taking on the long-term management of sites including moving garden beds to a new site when the first is no longer usable.

Stratas can be used to increase access to community garden areas as part of new developments. For example, if a developer includes plans for a communal gardening area, the garden can be passed on to the strata to oversee once the development is complete. Another option is for a community group or the City to approach an existing multi-unit development which has underutilized space. An agreement could be

⁵⁴ Kamloops Food Bank. <https://www.kamloopsfoodbank.org/programs/foodshare/> ; the Baby Bank provides essentials for babies regularly to families in need.

⁵⁵ City of Penticton, "Community Gardens". <https://www.penticton.ca/parks-recreation/parks/find-parks-and-gardens/community-gardens>

worked out which provides public access to a community garden which the development benefits from in terms of access and funded infrastructure.

Refer to Section 3.3 for related initiatives.

2.2.1.4 Farms and Distribution Assets

There are 28 agricultural operations within the City of Penticton. The majority of these are vineyards or wineries. The asset inventory may have missed smaller agricultural operations. Refer to Section 2.1 for additional information on agricultural land use in Penticton.

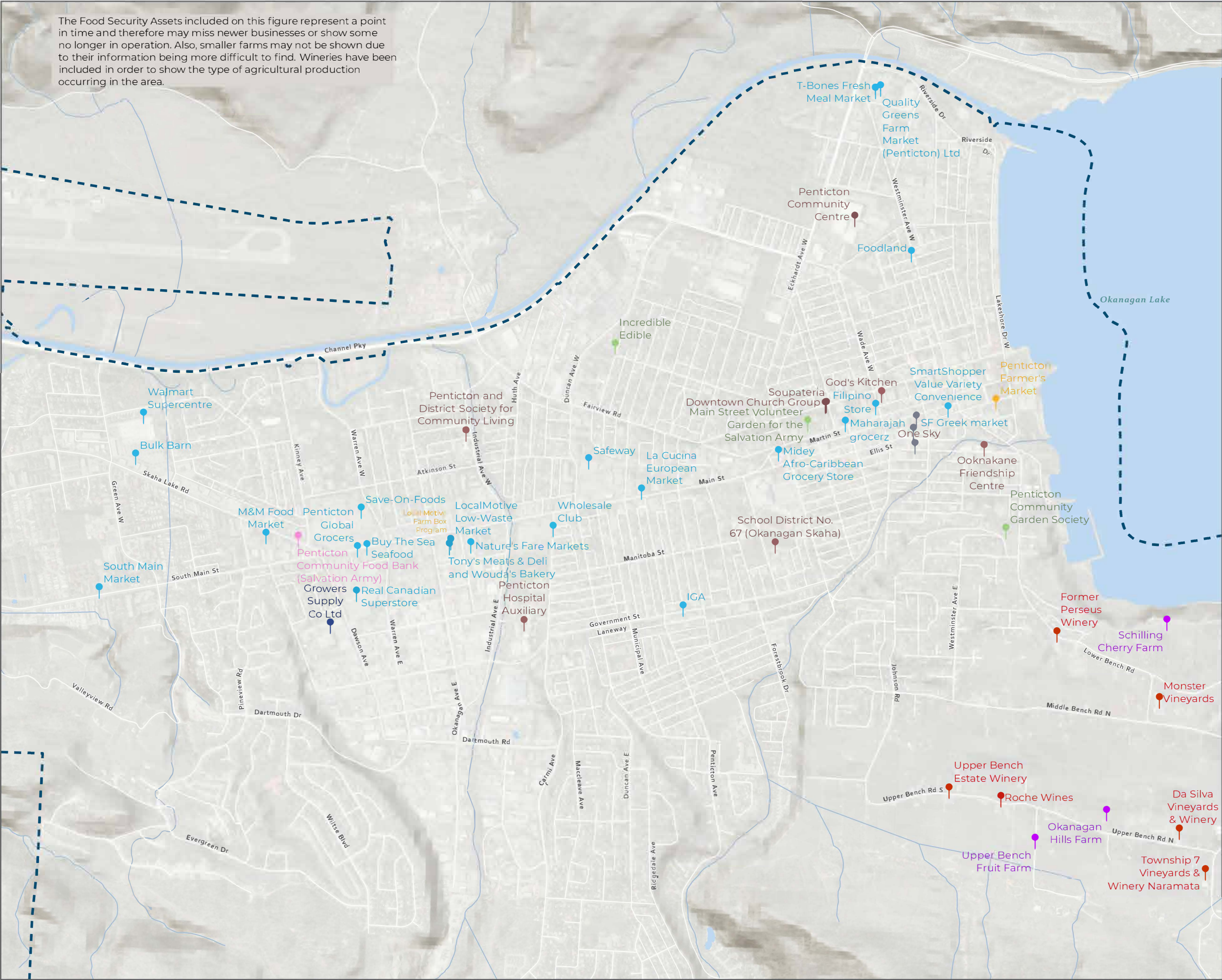
Penticton has one farmer's market, which is a well known and well-attended weekly event running from April through October on Saturdays downtown. Community survey responses suggest interest in making the Penticton Farmer's Market (and local produce) more accessible. Options could include holding the market two days a week, year-round, and/or in different parts of the city.

There are two stores in Penticton which focus on selling local produce: Quality Greens Farm Market and Local Motive Market. Local Motive Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is operated by the same company as the market.

Figure 2.3 and Figure 2.4 show food security assets in Penticton.

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The Food Security Assets included on this figure represent a point in time and therefore may miss newer businesses or show some no longer in operation. Also, smaller farms may not be shown due to their information being more difficult to find. Wineries have been included in order to show the type of agricultural production occurring in the area.



Food Security Strategy

FOOD SECURITY ASSETS SOUTH

- Municipal Boundary
- Agriculture Supply and Education
- Community Garden
- Farmers Market / Farm Box
- Farms
- Food Bank
- Food-Related Social Programming
- Grocery Store
- Industry Association
- Winery/Vineyard

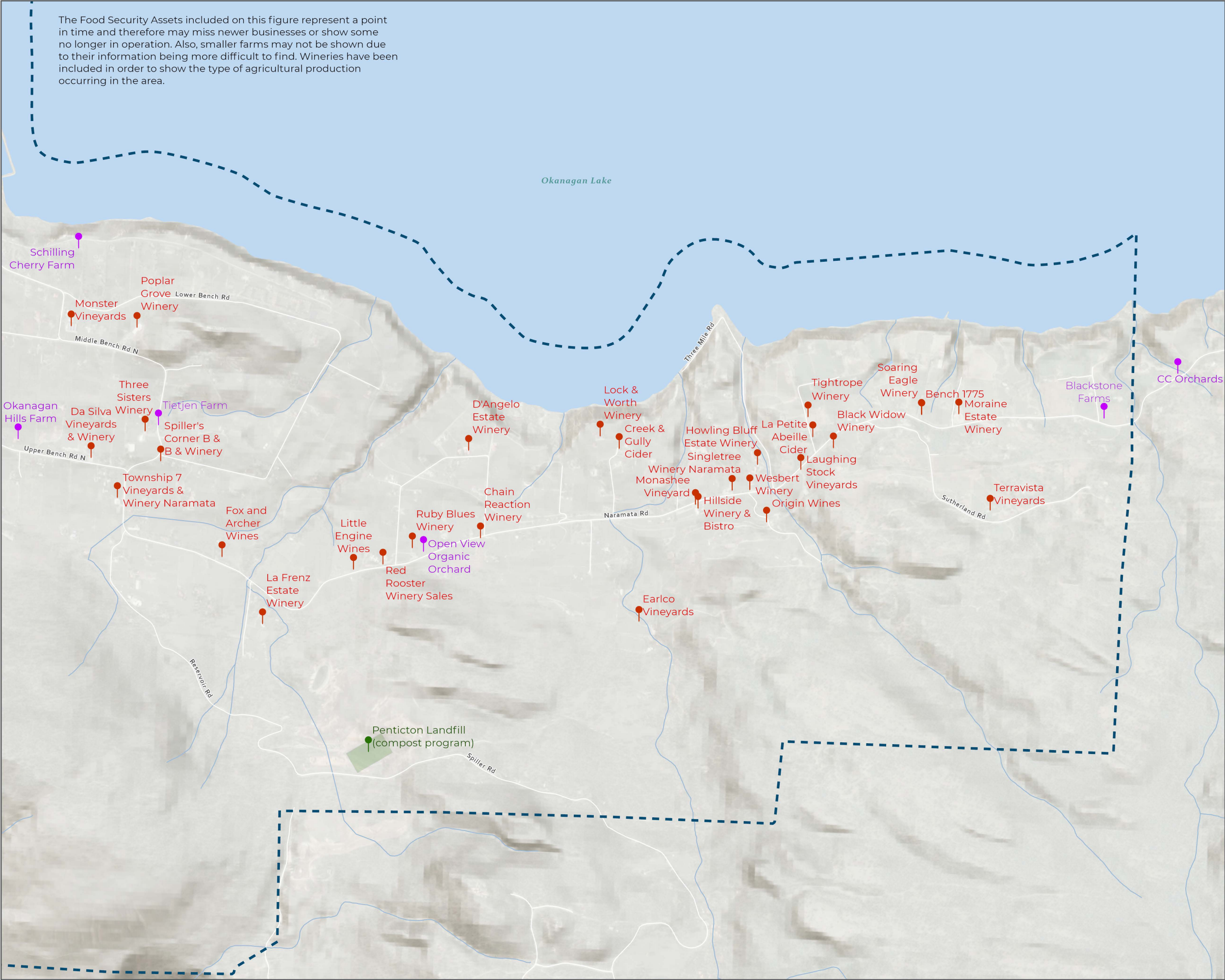
The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on this drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 11N
Scale: 1:18,000 (When plotted at 11"x17")

Data Sources:
- Data provided by Open Data Penticton, DataBC, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Project #:	1017.0090.01	
Author:	KG/AK	
Checked:	AR	FIGURE 2.3
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Revision:	B	
Date:	2022 / 3 / 30	



The Food Security Assets included on this figure represent a point in time and therefore may miss newer businesses or show some no longer in operation. Also, smaller farms may not be shown due to their information being more difficult to find. Wineries have been included in order to show the type of agricultural production occurring in the area.



Food Security Strategy

FOOD SECURITY ASSETS NORTH

- Municipal Boundary
- Agriculture Supply and Education
- Community Garden
- Farmers Market / Farm Box
- Farms
- Food Bank
- Food-Related Social Programming
- Grocery Store
- Industry Association
- Winery / Vineyard
- Composting Program

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 11N
Scale: 1:18,000 (When plotted at 11"x17")

Data Sources:
- Data provided by Open Data Penticton, DataBC, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

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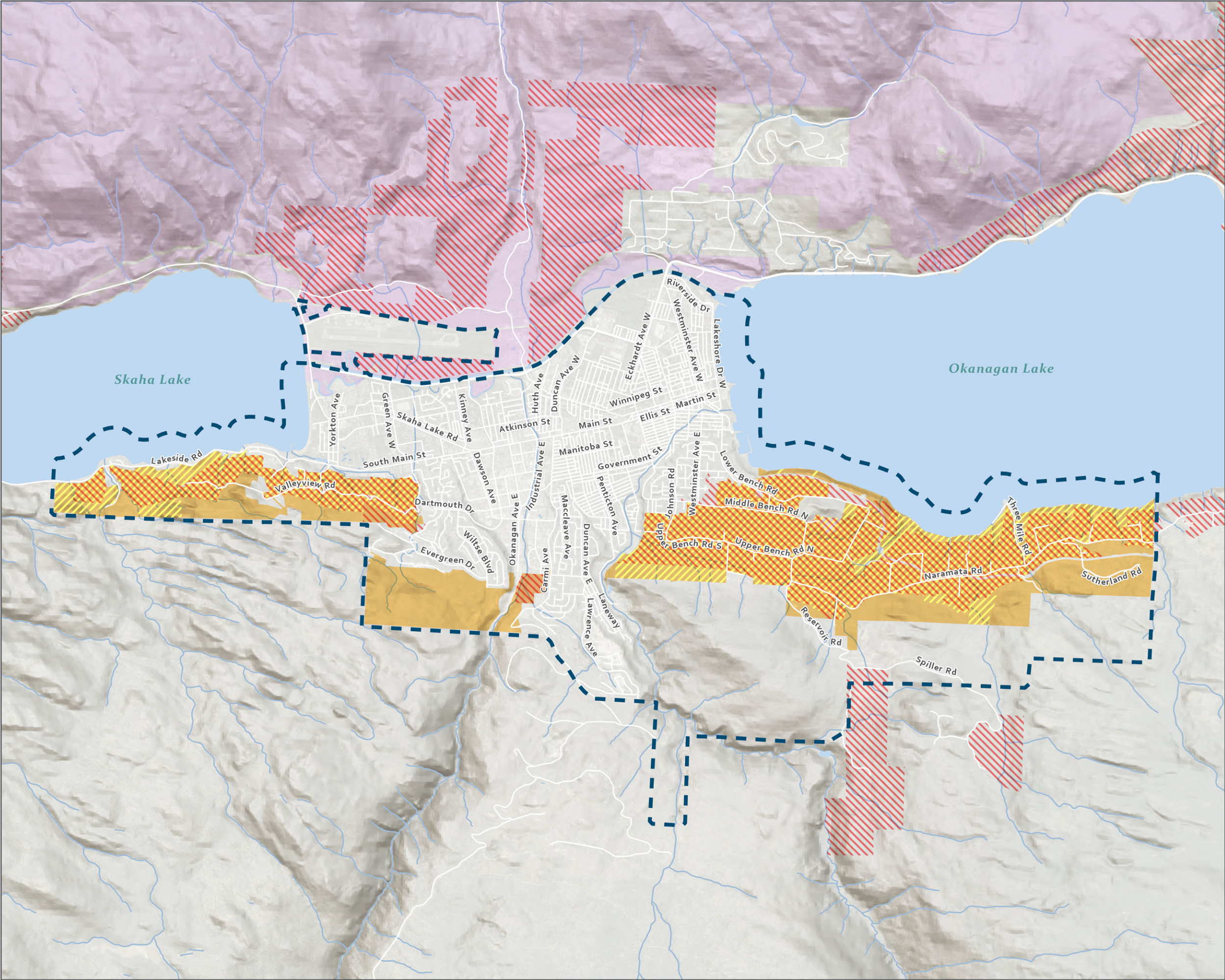
FIGURE 2.4

2.2.2 Agricultural Land Use Designations

Protecting agricultural land for farm use is key to ensuring that food can be produced locally. The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) designation protects land for agricultural uses. Agricultural zoning within a municipality or regional district also protects land for agricultural use.

Within the Penticton city boundaries, 839 hectares are within the ALR, 1,341 hectares are zoned agricultural, and 897 hectares have Agriculture as a future land use according to the OCP. The number of hectares designated for future agriculture use in the OCP is considerably less than the area currently zoned agricultural, although it is still higher than the area within the ALR. Part of the reason for the reduction in Agriculture as a future land use is aiming to align land zoned agricultural with the arable land footprint. A portion of land along the eastern edge of Naramata Road agricultural properties is largely rocky hillside and therefore less adequate for agricultural activities. Much of the area has a future land use of Rural Residential in the OCP. Rural Residential land uses are residential and agricultural. Parcels have a one-hectare minimum lot size and have modified services, such as septic systems and wells.

Figure 2.5 shows agricultural land use designations within the City of Penticton, including zoning, future land use from the Official Community Plan, and Agricultural Land Reserve parcels, with First Nations reserves added for context.



Food Security Strategy

AGRICULTURAL LAND
USE DESIGNATIONS

- Municipal Boundary
- First Nation Reserves
- ALR Lands (839 ha)
- Zoning**
- Agriculture (1,341 ha)
- OCP - Future Land Use**
- Agriculture (897 ha)

The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on this drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 11N
Scale: 1:50,000
(When plotted at 11"x17")

Data Sources:
- Data provided by Open Data Penticton, DataBC, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Project #: 1017.0090.01
Author: KG
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Revision: B
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FIGURE 2.5

2.2.3 Local Government Policy Gap Analysis and Best Practices Review Summary

The key planning documents used by the City of Penticton to promote and regulate agriculture and food security are the Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2019-08 (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw No. 2017-08. The City of Penticton Economic Development Strategy also aims to promote agricultural and related activities, while the Parks and Recreation Master Plan considers how parks and recreational areas can support urban agriculture.

Based on a review of the OCP and zoning bylaw, as well as a review of policies and strategies implemented in other municipalities, several ideas were identified which may be relevant to Penticton. The applicability of each idea will require further community input and discussion by Council.

Key ideas identified through the policy gap analysis and best practices review are as follows in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Policy Gap Analysis and Best Practices Summary

Policy Gap	Benefits	Example
Farm Home Plate in Agricultural Zones	Farm Home Plate guidelines can be incorporated into zoning bylaws to support ALR land use regulation and promote productive land use on ALR land. The Farm Home Plate area includes driveway access, all residential, and regulates distances between buildings.	City of Maple Ridge Farm Home Plate: Residential Development in the Agricultural Land Reserve
Allowing Farm Garden Stands in Non-Agricultural Zones	Farm Garden Stands (produce stands), as they are termed in Penticton's zoning bylaw, can benefit the viability of local farms. Penticton may wish to investigate the possibility of allowing stands in zones other than agricultural, as either temporary or permanent structures.	Town of Ladysmith Zoning Bylaw 2014 No. 1860
Soil Bylaw	Soil bylaws, in the food security planning context, are helpful for regulating the removal of soils and requirements to ensure that topsoil remains on site following excavation. For residential developments this is particularly important to allow for growing food in the future. Although Penticton does regulate soil replacement after excavation, the scope of these regulations could be expanded upon.	City of Langford Soil Removal and Deposit Bylaw No. 1800

**Animal
Husbandry
Related
Regulations**

Beekeeping has become a more common urban hobby and contributes to the local honey supply. Bee keeping regulations can be a standalone bylaw, or part of an animal control bylaw. Regulations around beehives allow the municipality to require that homeowners register their colonies/hives, put a limit on the number of colonies, define hive locations relative to property lines, identify the zones where hives are allowed, and require that adequate water be available for bees. Any municipal regulations around beekeeping are in addition to those included in the provincial Animal Health Act.⁵⁶

[City of Kamloops
Animal Control
Bylaw No. 34-11](#)

Regulations around backyard hens help to ensure that poultry is kept on properties of a certain size and to regulate siting (i.e., rear/front yard), zones where coops are allowed, the size of coops, and other considerations. Penticton could consider adding more detailed regulations either to the zoning bylaw or to an animal control bylaw. These types of regulations help to discourage potential conflicts with neighbours or complaints.

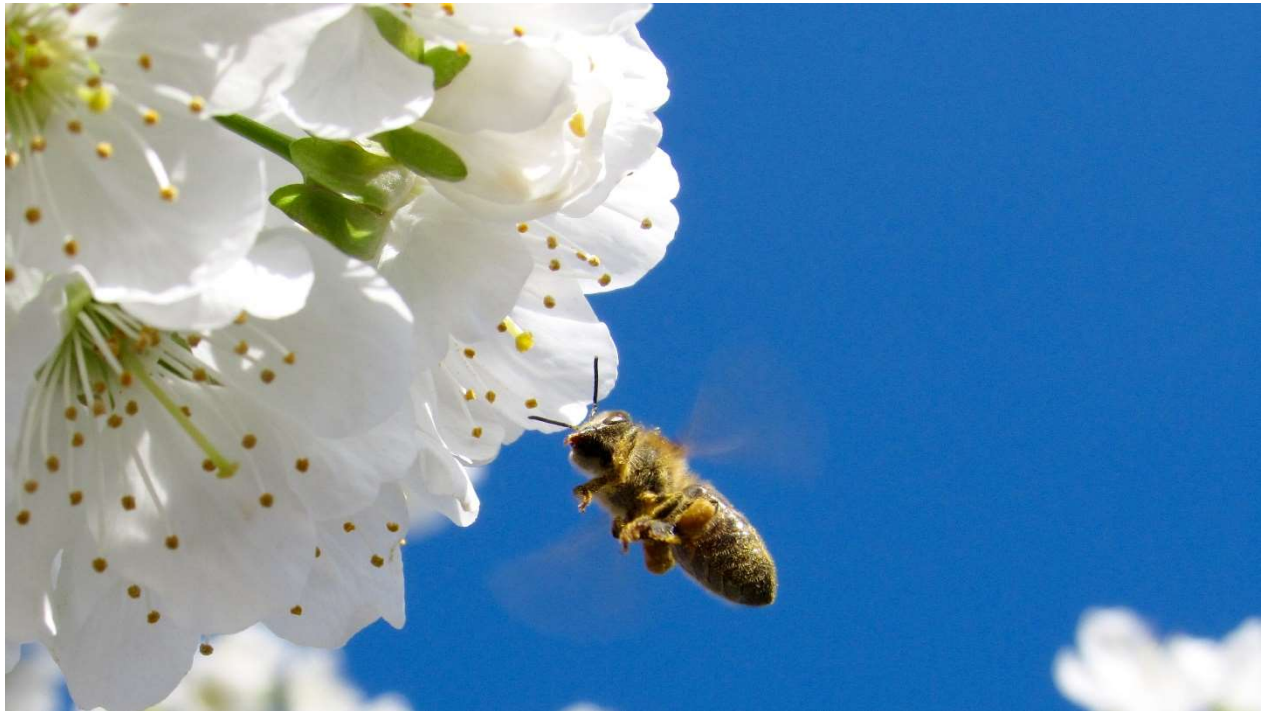
Penticton is in the process of developing an Animal Control Bylaw which will be addressing some of these items.

⁵⁶ Animal Health Act. B.C. Reg. 3/2015, Bee Regulation. Bee Regulation (gov.bc.ca)

2.3 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Climate change impacts on agriculture and food systems need to be incorporated into and considered in prioritizing and developing initiatives to advance food insecurity.

The summer of 2021 has provided a stark preview of what summers could increasingly look like in terms of temperature and precipitation patterns in the region. The heat dome of late June 2021 caused damage to crops in the area while the ensuing drought conditions put further stress on farmers.⁵⁸ The City of Penticton had concerns during the 2021 growing season that the irrigation system would not be able to supply adequate water to farmers⁵⁹ while the Okanagan was moved to drought level 4.⁶⁰ According to Climate Atlas Canada, the number of heat waves in Penticton is anticipated to increase by 2050, as are the maximum temperatures and the number of days over 30 degrees Celsius.



According to the *Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region* report, precipitation across the region is expected to generally reduce over the summer months, with more

⁵⁸“Farmers say heat wave, drought show vulnerable agricultural sector needs support”. Penticton Western News. <https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/news/farmers-say-heat-wave-drought-show-vulnerable-agricultural-sector-needs-support/>

⁵⁹ City of Penticton

⁶⁰ Okanagan Basin Water Board, “Okanagan Drought Bulletin #2021-2”, August 2021. [OBWB Drought Info Bulletin_12Aug2021.pdf](#)

precipitation in the spring and fall, and more high-volume precipitation events. With less rain over the drier months of the year, irrigation will become more important to farmers. As a result, sufficiently sized reservoirs and adequate and well-maintained distribution systems will be key to successful agricultural production in the future. An additional measure which could help to mitigate the impact of climate change on regional agriculture is to producing seed locally. This helps seed stock adapt to climate trends and could reduce the impacts of drought or high temperatures for example.

The provincial effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change on agriculture in BC have been ongoing for several years. In 2012, the BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative produced the *BC Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation Risk and Opportunity Assessment Provincial Report*.⁶¹ The report contains key actions supporting research, innovation, and knowledge sharing around adaptation strategies such as water saving techniques and pest monitoring and research. Further actions are the publishing of regional climate change reports, including *Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region*⁶² and the integration of agricultural adaptation considerations into local and regional land use planning (e.g., OCP).

As a result of the 2012 report, strategic plans for BC regions were developed in 2016, including for the Okanagan.⁶³ There could be opportunities to collaborate with provincial efforts, such as by sharing information about adaptation strategies with the agriculture sector or collaborating on future actions. Strategies which have not yet been addressed completely are:⁶⁴

- Strategy 1.1: Support the agriculture sector's participation in drought planning.
- Strategy 1.4: Undertake applied research and demonstration for practices and technologies to improve resilience to hot and dry conditions.
- Strategy 4.1: Support cooperative approaches to fuel management activities.

⁶¹ Climate Action Initiative: BC Agriculture & Food. *BC Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation Risk + Opportunity Assessment: Provincial Report*. March 2012. https://pics.uvic.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Agriculture%20Report_0.pdf

⁶² Regional District of North Okanagan, Regional District of Central Okanagan, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Pinna Sustainability. *Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region*. February 2020. <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/assets/PLANNING/AreaX/2020/ClimateProjections/FinalReport.pdf>

⁶³ Climate & Agriculture Initiative BC. *Okanagan: BC Agriculture & Climate Change regional Adaptation Strategies Series*. 2016. <https://www.climateagriculturebc.ca/library/okanagan-adaptation-strategies-plan/>

⁶⁴ Climate & Agriculture Initiative BC. *Okanagan Adaptation Strategies Update: BC Agriculture & Climate Change regional Adaptation Strategies Series*. 2016. <https://www.climateagriculturebc.ca/library/okanagan-adaptation-strategies-plan/>

3 THE STRATEGY

The Penticton Food Security Strategy was developed by bringing together community input, data and geographical analysis, and policy gap analysis. The purpose is to provide an implementable Action Plan whose objectives, strategies, and actions improve food security in Penticton. The Action Plan will be carried out by the City of Penticton and key stakeholders over the next ten years.



3.1 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision reflects how the City of Penticton and key stakeholders see improved food security in Penticton. It was developed based on general community engagement feedback.

VISION

Food systems which support Penticton area people, businesses, and First Nations are resilient, and equitable access to food is ensured for all residents.

Key objectives which guide the strategies and initiatives to be carried out are as follows. Strategies and initiatives are grouped in Section 3.3 according to objectives.

Food Access

- Improve physical and economic access to adequate and appropriate food for Penticton residents.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty

- Work with Indigenous organizations, Nations, and key individuals to advance Indigenous food sovereignty.

Urban Agriculture

- Encourage urban agriculture by making Penticton a city where there are opportunities to grow and raise one's own food in backyards, patios, and communal spaces.

Sustainable Food Systems

- There is a vibrant, diverse farming economy in Penticton which provides viable livelihoods for farmers, contributes to environmental sustainability, and where seed saving to increase local crop diversity and adaptation is encouraged.

Education and Awareness

- Food literacy is increased through knowledge sharing and educational opportunities. Sustainable farming knowledge contributes to more sustainable food systems.

3.2 COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

A key element of successful strategy implementation is identifying which organizations will be involved in carrying out initiatives and how. The success of the Strategy depends on different organizations coming together to collaborate and implement initiatives with a common vision.

The City of Penticton aims to take on a key role in the implementation of the Action Plan. The City can serve as:

- *An advocate for policy and community organizations;*
- *As a communicator with the community or with agencies and government;*
- *A facilitator between organizations agencies, companies, or individuals;*
- *A lead in policy and regulation updates;*
- *A grant donor to community projects; and*
- *A direct investor or organizer on certain initiatives.*

However, successful implementation is best served by establishing overall responsibility with one to two organizations which are dedicated to moving initiatives forward, coordinating between stakeholders, and encouraging collaboration.

Food policy councils represent a successful model for implementing food security plans in communities and exist throughout BC. The South Okanagan previously had a food security coalition, however, this initiative lacked human resource capacity and was unable to continue. A food policy

council model is a sustainable and effective approach because its sole objective is to support food policy and initiative implementation. It includes one or two paid employees acting with the support and guidance of the Council. The Council can be made up of representatives of different community organizations and the City.

Penticton has two established groups which could provide support to a food policy council in its development stages. These are the Working Group established for the Penticton Food Security Strategy and the Agricultural Advisory Council. Collaborative efforts between the City and potentially these two groups will help to shape a format and name for the type of organization which will best move the Strategy forward. For the purposes of clarity in the Action Plan, the term “food policy council” will be used.

In recognition of best practices across communities addressing food insecurity, and in order to set the Strategy up for success, a formal food policy council (or similar body)

The Kamloops Food Policy Council (KFPC)

is an example of what a council could look like in Penticton. Founded in 1995, the KFPC is Canada’s oldest independent food policy council. Today it has five employees and runs programs such as Gleaning Abundance, Butler Urban Farm, and a seed library. They are also spearheading the development of a Food Hub.

should be created and a paid position established to support implementation. Identifying funding sources for a paid employee are key to building capacity for implementation.

Paid positions with food policy councils can include the following roles and responsibilities :

- Maintain a list of funding opportunities and make applications to carry out initiatives in the Action Plan;
- Coordinate with and involve other organizations as required;
- Encourage stakeholders to work together and promote opportunities to bring them together;
- Share relevant information with stakeholders (e.g., funding opportunities, collaboration opportunities, current research);
- Represent Penticton's food security interests at the regional or provincial level; and
- Engage in monitoring the Action Plan implementation and meet with Council regularly to review progress.

In addition to the food policy council and City of Penticton, other potential initiative proponents (e.g., Kwantlen Polytechnic University, the University of British Columbia Okanagan) are identified throughout the Action Plan. Based on the actor's experience and potential contribution they are identified as either leads or support on various initiatives.

3.3 ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is organized by objective, with each encompassing several strategies and initiatives.

3.3.1 Who

Where possible, responsibility has been assigned to a lead (L) and, in some cases, one or more supporting organizations (S).

Note: Supporting organizations are not necessarily confirmed and would be consulted at the time that each initiative is undertaken. The Strategy recognizes that circumstances will change both for the potential external project proponent and for the food policy council.

Acronyms used in the Action Plan are as follows:

L – Lead
S – Support

AAC – Agricultural Advisory Committee

AFF – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

COFPC – Central Okanagan Food Policy Council

CoP – City of Penticton

FPC – Food Policy Council

IE – Incredible Edible

KPU – Kwantlen Polytechnic University

LTTN – Land to Table Network

OC – Okanagan College

ONA – Okanagan Nation Alliance

PCGS – Penticton Community Garden Society

PFMS – Penticton Farmer's Market Society

RDOS – Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

SA – Salvation Army

SD 67 – School District 67

SOOPA – Similkameen Okanagan Organic Producers Association

TOTA – Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

UBCO – University of British Columbia – Okanagan

YA – Young Agrarians

3.3.2 How

While many initiatives may only require coordination, elbow grease, or creativity, it is assumed that most will require some amount of funding. Therefore, seeking funding has not been included as an action under specific initiatives. A list of potential funding sources is included for reference in Section 3.4.

There are also a number of ways in which initiatives can be moved forward. Key words used to indicate these are:

Support: Directing resources (such as staff hours, capital, grants, exemptions, etc.) towards a project or initiative. It can also refer to concurring with a policy and encouraging a particular approach.

Partner: Engaging with another organization to undertake an activity related to an initiative. This could be sharing information, researching, coordinating, or implementing an action. Partnership does not normally refer to investing or providing funds, although this could sometimes be the case.

Encourage: Promoting actions by engaging with an organization which would lead the initiative.

Engage: Connecting with an organization or individual through communications.

Consider: Reviewing an initiative in light of key policies, bylaws, funding opportunities, or budget. The result of consideration would be a decision whether or not to advance an initiative.

Explore or Study: Reviewing available information, policies, and documents and consulting with organizations or individuals to better understand a situation.

3.3.3 When

A timeline has been assigned to each initiative based on priority level, whether other initiatives need to be carried out first, and/or the level of complexity. The timeline is organized as follows:

Immediate – initiative is relatively easy to do or very high priority and can be carried out immediately.

Short-term – initiative can be carried out between 2022 and 2024.

Medium-term – initiative can be carried out between 2025 and 2027.

Long-term – initiative can be carried out between 2028 and 2031.

Ongoing – initiative/action would be carried out continuously.

Food Access: Improve physical and economic access to adequate and appropriate food for Penticton residents.

Strategy 1 Improve access to charitable food programs for those who need it.

Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibility L-Lead S-Support
<p>1.1 Support youth-oriented programs such as The Foundry's youth cooking and shopping programs.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to support expansion of these programs. • Provide garden beds. 	Ongoing	L – FPC
1.2 Support the community fridge/pantry program being hosted at the Elks Lodge.	Short-term	L - FPC
1.3 Advance food access programs targeted at student populations.	Short-term	L – UBCO/OC
1.4 Support post-secondary student initiatives to improve food access for Penticton students (e.g., Fruit Snaps program)	Ongoing	L - OC S – Enactus OC
1.5 Study the possibility of creating a free grocery store with local, fresh produce.	Medium-term	L - FPC
1.6 Establish a centralized resource within the City organization/website that lists all the programs providing food access services.	Immediate	L - CoP
1.7 Disseminate resources about food access programs through existing organizations who serve clients that may need food security supports.	Ongoing	L - FPC
<p>1.8 Encourage coordination and collaboration between diverse organizations providing food programs.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p>	Ongoing	L - FPC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the potential of sharing some key information about clients (where permission is granted) to facilitate easy registration for different resources. 		
	<p>1.9 Support the growth of food rescue programs in Penticton.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study the feasibility of a food recovery hub that can allocate recovered produce to organizations in need. Refer to foodSHARE at the Kamloops Foodbank as an example. 	Short-term	L – FPC
	<p>1.10 Explore potential partnerships between farmers and non-profit organizations to benefit from imperfect fruit that cannot be sold.</p>	Medium-term	L – FPC S – Salvation Army
Strategy 2	Address systemic challenges that impact peoples access to food.		
	Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibility
	<p>2.1 Develop an integrated poverty reduction strategy which addresses systemic barriers such as racism and other forms of discrimination, to understand the root causes of food insecurity and confirm the groups which are most vulnerable to the impacts of food insecurity (e.g., lone parent households, unemployed).</p>	Medium-term	L - CoP
Strategy 3	Improve physical access to fresh food.		
	Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibility
	<p>3.1 Consider incentivizing food retail in the downtown area through zoning regulations through, for example, parking requirement reductions, temporary or permanent property tax reductions, and decreasing the floor area required to qualify as a 'Grocery Store' as per Zoning Bylaw 2017-08, specifically in the downtown area.</p> <p><u>Options:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a 'healthy corner store' program, as an interim measure before a grocery store is developed. This type of project was implemented by the Toronto Food Policy Council which supported corner stores in connecting with produce distribution networks to offer a healthier range of food. 	Short-term	L - CoP
	<p>3.2 Explore fresh produce delivery programs for individuals with mobility challenges. This could mean building on existing programs</p>	Medium-term	L - FPC

and improving accessibility for people with limited access to or ability to use online platforms.		
3.3 Consider physical access to fresh food in future planning and development decisions (e.g., proximity to community garden and grocery store).	Ongoing	L - CoP
3.4 Consider allowing mobile fresh food vendors at the beaches or around town.	Short-term	L -- CoP
3.5 Consider permitting produce stands in a broader range of zones and neighbourhoods.	Short-term	L -- CoP
3.6 Explore options, interest, and feasibility of holding the Farmer's Market two days a week potentially in different locations to reduce physical access barriers.	Short-term	L – CoP

Indigenous Food Sovereignty: Work with Indigenous organizations, Nations, and key individuals to advance Indigenous food sovereignty.

Note: Indigenous Food Sovereignty has been considered throughout Strategy development, including in desktop research and the project's community survey questions. Indigenous organizations were also engaged to discuss the project. The Indigenous Food Sovereignty strategies included in this Action Plan, instead of putting direct actions forward, focus on working with and learning from Indigenous organizations and Nations which are identifying IFS priorities and successfully undertaking Indigenous Food Sovereignty work.

Strategy 4 Work together with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations.

Initiative	Timeline	Responsibility L-Lead S-Support
4.1 Develop and maintain relationships with First Nations and Indigenous organizations to facilitate meaningful communication to identify priorities for action and collaboration on food security and Indigenous food sovereignty.	Ongoing	L – FPC, CoP

Strategy 5 Knowledge Sharing

Initiative	Timeline	Responsibility
5.1 Promote and encourage theoretical and applied education and learning offered by Indigenous organizations on Indigenous food systems and its history in the Valley and the impacts of colonization (e.g., forums, classroom visitation programs, on-the-land-camps, webinars, festivals, cultural safety training).	Ongoing	L – FPC, CoP

Urban Agriculture: Encourage urban agriculture by making Penticton a city where there are opportunities to grow and raise one's own food in backyards, patios, and communal spaces.

Strategy 6 Support the maintenance and creation of community gardens.

Initiative	Timeline	Responsibility L-Lead S-Support
<p>6.1 Consider developing a Community Garden Policy (refer to the Winnipeg Community Garden Policy as an example) to set out how the City wants to approach community garden development, partnerships with community groups, responsibility for garden sites, and any other priority issues.</p> <p><u>Options:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider ease of access, particularly by active transportation for future community garden sites. 	Short-term	L - CoP
<p>6.2 Encourage landowners/developers to make their vacant lots temporarily available for community gardens in urban spaces or consider incentive programs if there is little interest. Refer to the Community Garden Builders based in Vancouver. Refer to Section 2.2.1.3 for more information.</p>	Short-term	L – FPC, CoP
<p>6.3 Identify public land that could be made available for community gardens, prioritizing higher density areas with more multi-unit housing.</p> <p><u>Options:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider smaller community gardens distributed throughout areas of higher need, potentially as pilot project. Consider community engagement to narrow down potential sites for future community gardens. Include some higher raised beds in new gardens for those with mobility challenges. Identify opportunities to partner with social organizations to allocate garden access to program clients. 	Immediate	L - CoP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider starting up a “take seeds/leave seeds” lending library at community garden sites to lower financial barriers to gardening. Consider developing a tool share program for more costly equipment (e.g., rototiller). 		
	6.3 Support neighbourhood groups in establishing community gardens, providing grants where possible.	Ongoing	L - CoP
Strategy 7	Promote edible landscaping.		
	Initiative	Timeline	Responsibility
	<p>7.1 Create edible gardens on public land and divert a portion of the City’s landscaping budget to planting edible gardens.</p> <p><u>Options:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider encouraging semi-organized guerrilla gardening in unused public areas around the city, where people sign up with the city and commit to caring for their small area for the season. Consider a project like Edible Pathways done in Oliver wherein flower boxes in front of commercial businesses were planted with herbs and vegetables. 	Short-term	L - CoP
	7.2 Consider including boulevard areas in future urban development plans with higher density and make these available for public gardening. Refer to the City of Victoria Boulevard Gardening Guidelines as an example.	Long-term	L - CoP
Strategy 8	Create partnerships with local non-profits.		
	Initiative	Timeline	Responsibility
	8.1 Study the viability of establishing an urban farm that serves non-profit organizations in the City.	Long-term	L - FPC
	8.2 Encourage partnerships between school gardens, funding programs such as Farm to School, School District 67, and other programs such as the Okanagan Tree Fruit Project to develop and maintain school gardens, including to continue gardens over the summer.	Ongoing	L - FPC S – SD 67

	8.3 Encourage partnerships to leverage funding collaboratively.	Ongoing	L - FPC
Strategy 9	Support independent urban agriculture.		
	Initiative	Timeline	Responsibility
	9.1 Study the impact of backyard gardens on food security.	Medium-term	L - FPC
	<p>9.2 Explore the need for strategies to reduce barriers to independent urban agriculture (e.g., community gardens, patio gardening, chicken coops).</p> <p><u>Options:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnerships with local home and garden stores to subsidize urban agriculture supplies such as planter boxes, gardening tools, seeds, and soil. • Create a coupon program for homeowners to purchase fruit trees. • Create a grant program for people to access gardening and supplies and materials at little to no cost, potentially with an income requirement. • Explore the feasibility of an existing non-profit hosting a tool lending library for more expensive and less frequently used tools. • Offer support for prospective backyard chicken coop builders, potentially with an income requirement. 	Short-term	L – FPC, CoP
	9.3 Study the viability of a backyard sharing program to provide access to unused land to encourage mutually beneficial arrangements for home owners and gardeners/local producers.	Medium-term	L – FPC, CoP
	9.4 Promote education around backyard composting, such as that currently offered by the RDOS.	Ongoing	L – FPC, CoP
Strategy 10	Strengthen urban agriculture guidance and regulation.		
	Initiative	Timeline	Responsibility
	10.1 Provide greater regulation around backyard chicken coops and creating regulations for beekeeping, in an Animal Control Bylaw for example. The purpose of the regulations should not be to create	Medium-term	L - CoP

barriers to having chicken coops or beehives, but instead to prevent conflict and ensure, for example, that chickens are kept safely, or away from neighbours' fences, or that beehives are provided sufficient resources such as water to prevent them leaving the hive.		
10.2 Consider developing and promoting guidelines for alternative forms of urban agriculture more often seen in high density areas, such as rooftop gardens.	Medium-term	L - CoP
10.3 Consider strengthening the existing excavation policy to require residential developers to replace a minimum amount of topsoil in yard and amenity areas.	Short-term	L - CoP
10.4 Consider requiring multi-unit residential development to reserve space for collective or individual gardening areas of a specified size. <u>Option</u>	Short-term	L - CoP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider developing a parkland dedication and cash in lieu policy to use as leverage with developers 		
10.5 Incentivize strata properties to designate an area for a community garden, potentially with grants for materials or fee reductions on utilities.	Short-term	L - CoP

Sustainable Food Systems: There is a vibrant, diverse farming economy in Penticton which provides viable livelihoods for farmers, contributes to environmental sustainability, and where seed saving to increase local crop diversity and adaptation is encouraged.

Strategy 11 Promote food production on arable land.			
Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibilities L-Lead S-Support	
11.1 Support the protection of agricultural practices which are part of the Farm Practices Protection Act.	Ongoing	L – CoP S - AFF	
11.2 Advocate to the province to create incentives for farmers to grow/raise produce which is sold regionally.	Short/ Medium-term	L – FPC S - AFF	
11.3 Preserve agricultural zoning on land currently part of the ALR.	Ongoing	L – CoP	
11.4 Support efforts to acquire and protect agricultural land for future agricultural use. <u>Actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Explore opportunities to acquire land as a municipality to be leased at reasonable rates to farming operations cultivating produce or raising livestock for regional consumption.Encourage alternative ownership and protection models such as farmland or foodland trusts.	Ongoing	L – CoP, FPC S - AFF	
11.5 Consider creating Farm Home Plate regulations for residential uses on land zoned for agricultural uses. Farm Home Plate regulations go beyond regulating the size of residential buildings on agricultural land to include the driveway access and the area where all residential buildings are located. Refer to the City of Maple Ridge policy as an example.	Short-term	L – CoP S - AAC	
Strategy 12 Support farm goods post-production activities.			
Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibilities	
12.1 Consider a permissive tax exemption for properties producing food products or involved in post-production activities.	Medium-term	L - CoP	

12.2 To promote better access to sites for farm goods processing, consider adjusting zoning definitions for 'Agricultural Use' to separate out processing and aggregation activities and explicitly include this as a permitted use in commercial and/or industrial zones.	Medium-term	L - CoP
12.3 Support the development and operation of the Summerland Food Hub by promoting it to farmers and processors in Penticton.	Ongoing	L – CoP, FPC
12.4 Consider allowing public land to be used for agricultural post-production activities (as part of a food hub) on a temporary or permanent basis for a below-market lease rate.	Short/ Medium-term	L - CoP

Strategy 13 Promote the sustainability of farming systems.

Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibility
13.1 Stay abreast of relevant climate change research and share this information as needed with the City of Penticton and producers.	Ongoing	L – AAC S – FPC, AFF
13.2 Seek opportunities for collaboration with the province or organizations on research or climate change implementation projects.	Ongoing	L – FPC S – UBCO, OC S - AFF
13.3 Prioritize water conservation in local agriculture production (e.g., rainwater capture and wastewater usage)	Ongoing	L – CoP S – SOOPA S - AFF
13.4 Encourage education and support for diverse farming systems which promote biodiversity and better ecological outcomes including improved carbon capture. Explore a partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University on this initiative.	Ongoing	L – FPC S – KPU S - AFF
13.5 Explore opportunities to either start a local seed library or partnerships with existing libraries such as the Summerland Seed Library.		
13.6 Continue to advance the City's organic waste collection program which provides an opportunity to produce low-cost compost for residents and free	Immediate/ Short-term	L - CoP

compost for community gardens to support urban food production.

13.7 Work with existing organizations towards food system sustainability, such as the Land to Table Network, Similkameen Okanagan Organic Producers Association (SOOPA), and Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC).

Ongoing

L - FPC

Strategy 14 Enhance the economic viability of farms.

Initiatives

Timeline

Responsibility

14.1 Consider developing an interactive and hardcopy map (e.g., interactive) of all produce stands and farm gate locations.

Options:

- Look at developing an app which is promoted to regional residents and through tourism marketing websites.

Medium-term

L – CoP
S – TOTA

14.2 Engage with producers to identify policy change and/or actions which would be most supportive to being able to sell their produce more effectively.

Short-term

L – CoP/FPC

14.3 Explore the feasibility of a local food co-op store (refer to the [Monashee Community Co-op](#) as an example).

Long-term

L – FPC
S – SOOPA, LTTN

14.4 Explore ways to reduce economic barriers to starting up a farming operation, such as supporting a farm machinery loan system, in partnership with the Summerland Food Hub.

Long-term

L - FPC

Strategy 15 Address aspects of sustainable food systems through policy and planning.

Initiatives

Timeline

Responsibility

15.1 Update the City of Penticton's Agriculture Plan potentially in partnership with the RDOS or nearby municipalities to promote a regional perspective.

Medium-term

L – CoP

15.2 Carry out a study on local and regional cultivation to understand what is being grown and what

Medium-term

L – CoP
S – LTTN, COFPC

quantities, and how much is being distributed locally or in BC, as part of an Agricultural Plan.		
15.3 City to review diversifying types of activities on ALR land which support the viability of farming operations and do not interfere with farm use (e.g., tourism).	Short-term	L – CoP
15.4 Review the policy changes for secondary dwellings set out by the Agricultural Land Commission and consider making zoning amendments based on this as well as the need to protect agricultural land to support sustainable food systems.	Short-term	L – CoP
15.5 Advocate for provincial and federal policy changes to make local farming more viable (e.g., small scale abattoirs, vegetable processing requirements). <u>Actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for subsidies or action on high insurance costs which u-pick farms pay. 	Ongoing	L- FPC
15.6 Explore making regulatory changes and additions as per the Policy Gap Analysis and Best Practices Review Summary (Section 0) with community and Agricultural Advisory Committee input.	Short-term/ Medium-term	L - CoP
15.7 Promote institutional policies to purchase local food.	Ongoing	L – CoP S - FPC

Education and Awareness: Food literacy is increased through knowledge sharing and educational opportunities. Sustainable farming knowledge contributes to more sustainable food systems.

Strategy 16 Support food security related initiatives in schools.

Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibility L-Lead S-Support
<p>16.1 Establish a school outreach program on food literacy, including sustainable food systems, seed saving, food preparation, healthy eating, and food production, using existing Farm to School BC resources as a basis. A potential model for these activities is the Edible Garden Project in North Vancouver or Interior Health's "Cook it. Try it. Like it!" program.</p> <p><u>Options:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with farms for students to see and experience farm operations. Encourage young people to work on farms seasonally. 	Long-term	L – FPC S – SD 67, IE, OTFP
16.2 Identify opportunities to partner with childcare centres to grow small gardens for educational, activity, and nutritional purposes (also refer to the Edible Garden Project in North Vancouver).	Long-term	L - FPC
16.3 Continue to establish and maintain produce gardens in local schools to help students learn about growing their own food.	Ongoing	L – SD 67

Strategy 17 Build food literacy in the community, or public awareness of food security and food systems related issues.

Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibility
17.1 Create a food charter.	Medium-term	L - FPC
<p>17.2 Promote educational opportunities available from Indigenous organizations on the valley's Indigenous food system history and food sovereignty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore educational opportunities focusing on works done on Penticton Creek to improve Kokanee salmon, or "ntitixw"sp?, habitat. 	Ongoing	L – FPC S – CoP, EC, ONA

17.3 Support young people in getting engaged in urban or commercial agriculture.	Ongoing	L – FPC S – YA, LTTN, SOOPA
17.4 Support eating in season by educating residents about local food and seasonal harvests through community celebrations or events.	Medium-term/ Long-term	L – FPC S – PFMS, CoP
17.5 Support existing gardening education (e.g., Incredible Edible), including seed saving, and seek opportunities to expand this type of educational service.	Ongoing	L- FPC S – IE, SA, The Foundry, PCGS
17.6 Support advocacy around promoting food as a human right and awareness building on the root causes of food insecurity.	Ongoing	L – FPC S – CoP, SA, The Foundry
17.7 Continue to promote awareness around the right to breastfeed in public, in public buildings, and in private businesses. <u>Options:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create content on the City of Penticton’s website. Refer to the City of Toronto’s website as an example. 	Ongoing/ Short-term	L - CoP
17.8 Support knowledge sharing with producers regarding new research or incentive programs on agricultural climate change adaptation strategies from the provincial or federal levels of government.	Ongoing	L - FPC

Strategy 18	Support and collaborate with ongoing related research.		
	Initiatives	Timeline	Responsibility
	18.1 Collaborate with local research institutions such as Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Okanagan College, and University of British Columbia Okanagan to move key food security objectives and agricultural adaptations to climate change forward.	Ongoing	L – FPC S – CoP, UBCO, OC, KPU

3.4 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A key part of supporting initiatives, either in the start-up phase or longer-term, is accessing funding. A list of funding opportunities should be maintained by the Food Policy Council and updated as required.

Not all of these funds have open intakes but have been listed in case future intakes are announced.

Table 3.1 provides a list of potential funding sources that could serve to advance initiatives.

Table 3.1: Potential Funding Sources

Fund	Funding Agency	Purpose
<u>Local Food Infrastructure Fund</u>	Agriculture and Agri-food Canada	Capital asset and infrastructure focus
<u>Indigenous Climate Health Action Program</u>	First Nations Health Authority	Main objectives include food security, access to land, mental health, Traditional medicine, Traditional harvesting, water quality and quantity
<u>First Nations Well-Being Fund</u>	First Nations Health Authority	Planning and infrastructure projects related to well-being including nutrition and food security.
<u>Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Rural and Northern Communities Fund</u>	Government of Canada/Province of BC (through Ministry of Municipal Affairs)	Community-oriented infrastructure, including agriculture focus.
<u>Canada Healthy Community Initiatives</u>	Infrastructure Canada – through Community Foundations	Infrastructure for public spaces which encourage health and well-being.
<u>General Call for Grants</u>	Community Foundation of South Okanagan Similkameen	Projects and programs for charitable organizations working in multiple areas including addressing food insecurity.
<u>Neighbourhood Small Grants</u>	Community Foundation of South Okanagan Similkameen	Small neighbourhood grants which help to build community.
<u>Community Spaces Fund</u>	Co-op Canada	Funds urban agriculture projects
<u>PC Children's Charities</u>	President's Choice	Nutrition and healthy eating related funding for school programs.
<u>Community Gaming Grants</u>	Province of BC	Ongoing operations and programming of charitable organizations.

<u>Community Food Action Initiative</u>	Interior Health	Support organizations and communities working on food security.
<u>Healthy Public Policy Grants</u>	PlanH	These grants support communities as they take multi-sectoral action to create, adopt, amend, or evaluate public policy through a health equity lens to create long-term positive health and well-being outcomes for community members.
<u>NutritionLink Services Society Granting Program</u>	NutritionLink Services Society	Support and sponsor food security projects through nutrition education and food skill building for vulnerable British Columbia residents.
<u>Municipal Grants</u>	City of Penticton	Supports projects which help make Penticton a vibrant city with a focus on sustainability, community, and economic opportunity.
<u>Farm to School Grants/Learning Circles</u>	Farm to Cafeteria Canada	Funding to implement Farm to School programs and engagement through Learning Circles.
<u>Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative</u>	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Economic development-oriented strategy, planning, and implementation for First Nations.
<u>Regional Grant-in-Aid</u>	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Provides some financial assistance to organizations providing cultural, charitable, sporting, recreational or service activities that benefit the Regional District.
<u>Local Government Partnership Program</u>	Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC	Provides funding to help regional districts and municipalities develop, update, and implement agricultural planning tools.
<u>United Way British Columbia Food Infrastructure Grant</u>	United Way BC & Ministry of Health	Grants for community food-based organizations to address the unique food access and availability challenges of rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. The one-time grant will fund the development, implementation, or improvement of food infrastructure to support year-round, long-term procurement, storage and distribution of fresh, traditional, and other food and enhance community well-being.

4 PILOT PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The City of Penticton aims to carry out a pilot project as a second phase of this project. Four projects have been included as potential pilot projects. The projects have been selected based on indicated need and interest communicated by stakeholders and community survey respondents; as well as the potential to carry out the project immediately or in the short-term (one to two years).

Table 4.1 contains descriptions of key pilot projects, considerations, and information regarding financial feasibility.

Table 4.1: Pilot Project Options

Number	Description	Considerations	Financial Feasibility
1	Food Policy Council/Staff Considering the great need to set up a Food Policy Council and find an employee to ensure that the Strategy can be implemented, the best use of second phase funding could be to hire someone and find office space, either donated or rented.	Requires interested and supportive group to form a Council, to make this happen, and to keep employee motivated.	F/T employee 1 year: ~\$48,000 (including benefits) Office rental: \$400/month at co-work space, \$4,800/year Incidentals and equipment: \$3,500 Total: \$56,300
2	Backyard Sharing Backyard sharing is a great way to allow residents living in homes with no yard to have a garden and can also be a help to homeowners who would like to garden but lack the time or ability. This type of program benefits from an online app showing backyard locations and details, although it could be carried out just on a listing's basis.	The lowest cost option in terms of ongoing time investment would be to set up an automated interactive mapping or listings service, although this may exclude some potential users, particularly senior residents with larger yards but limited online abilities. This issue could be resolved by also advertising the service periodically in the newspapers and public buildings and having a contact phone number.	Web development and hosting costs as low as \$35-\$40/month through Diamond Maps (setup included)

		Another option could be to partner with an existing platform such as that hosted by Young Agrarians which matches prospective farmers with larger parcels of land.	
3	Food Recovery Hub Several organizations engaging in food recovery to support charitable food services may benefit from a central hub and shared transportation for food. This would lower each organization's ongoing transportation and organization costs. Salvation Army and OoKnakane Friendship Centre currently provide this type of service to local organizations, however there may be opportunities to streamline these activities and amplify the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require identifying an existing host organization with sufficient space or room to expand or identifying a separate space to rent for the purpose. • Would require ongoing collaboration on finances. • It may be more feasible, to start with, to share transportation which can pick up food at various locations and deliver it to each host organization. 	<u>Start-up</u> Used delivery van: \$25,000 Fridges (~3): \$18,000 Freezers (~2): \$8,500 Sorting: \$3,500 Total: \$55,000 <u>Operating (Annual)</u> Full-time Employee (1): \$45,000 Electricity/miscellaneous: \$2,000 Insurance, fuel, and repairs costs: \$10,000 Total: \$57,000
4	Mini-Community Gardens Project Building small community gardens would be a way to test the need and interest in different locations in the city.	Set up could be organizationally intensive	<u>Start-up (1 garden)</u> Garden boxes (8): \$2,000 Soil: Free (donated by the City) Irrigation connections: \$500 <u>Operating (Annual)</u> Part-time coordinator (6 months): \$8,000 Expenses (mileage, repairs): \$1,000 Total: \$9,000



APPENDIX A



URBAN
S Y S T E M S

City of Penticton

Food Security Strategy

Background Report



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy and background review will inform the development of the Food Security Strategy for the City of Penticton.

To support the policy review and gap analysis, an asset inventory and mapping exercise was completed to identify current food security-related assets within the City. This provides a timestamp which updates to the Food Security Strategy will be able to use to determine impacts on the community. An overview of these assets is included in Section 3.

A review of the City's current policies was completed to understand the existing policy context with respect to food and food systems. A summary of the relevant policies and documents that were reviewed is outlined in Section 4.1 of this report.

Building upon the policy review, best practices were identified to address gaps identified through the policy analysis (Section 4.1). This includes best practices pertaining chiefly to policies and assets. A summary of these best practices is provided in Section 4.2.

For consideration by City Council, Staff, and the Food Security Working Group, a number of pilot projects have been profiled in Section 6.0. These profiles were compiled from communities across British Columbia and provide 'food for thought' when determining the desired pilot project as part of Phase II of the City's Food Security Strategy.

This review will inform upcoming public engagement sessions and development of the City's Food Security Strategy.

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The City of Penticton had a total population of just under 34,000 as of 2016. This is a 2.7% increase from 2011 indicating that the municipality has been growing at a slow but steady rate. According to 2016 Census data, the median age of the population is 52.4 years. Compared to the national average of 41.2 years, Penticton has an older population. About 59% of the population is working age (15-64), and 29% is of retirement age (65+), which is about 11% higher than the provincial average.

A review of income statistics for the population of Penticton compared to the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) and the rest of BC indicates that household incomes are relatively low. In 2015, the median household income was \$54,219 in Penticton and \$57,069 in the RDOS. This is significantly lower than the BC median income of \$68,995.

One method of assessing poverty is the use of the Low-Income Measure (LIM). Households meet the LIM threshold when their income does not meet a median income based on household size.¹ The prevalence of low-income based on the low-income measure after tax, is 17% in Penticton and 16.4% in the RDOS. Additionally, 71.5% of owner and tenant households in Penticton are spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs, which is another indicator of income/cost of living challenges.

Promoting equitable access to affordable, fresh, and nutritious food is one of the priorities for the Penticton Food Security Strategy. Based on this high-level population and income assessment, it appears that a significant proportion of the population of Penticton may experience challenges of food affordability. A 2016 study by the Provincial Health Services Authority,² notes that, based on 2011-2012 data, 14.1% of the population in the Interior Health region is food insecure to some extent. Marginal food insecurity was measured at 3.7%, moderate food insecurity at 7%, and severe food insecurity 3.4%. This rate of food insecurity is nearly three percent higher than the average for BC, which has an overall rate of 11.8%. Indeed, the available information suggests that food insecurity is a concern for a portion of Penticton's population.

For people facing food affordability challenges, increasing food options, access to urban areas to grow their own food, and social food programs' access to local food for emergent need would lead to increased food security.

¹ Statistics Canada. 2017. Penticton, CY [Census subdivision], British Columbia and Okanagan-Similkameen, RD [Census division], British Columbia (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed February 5, 2021).

² Provincial Health Services Authority/Proof Food Insecurity Policy Research, *Priority Health Equity Indicators for British Columbia: Household Food Insecurity Indicator Report*, http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/Household%20food%20insecurity%20in%20BC_full%20report.pdf.

3.0 FOOD ASSET INVENTORY

A helpful tool to understand the current food landscape in a community is the identification of current assets. Together, a community's food security assets work together to make-up the local food system. The degree to which they are connected impacts their ability to support people across a spectrum of need and interests.

To support the understanding of current food assets within the City, a series of maps was produced. The assets included in the mapping were identified by City staff and a Working Group with representatives from various organizations within the City that help promote a food-secure community.

Found in Appendix A, the map set identifies assets within a number of categories which contribute to the local food system, including:

- Grocery Stores
- Community Gardens
- Urban Farms
- Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) parcels
- Community Organizations
- Producer Associations
- Emergency Food Providers
- Farmers Markets
- Local Food Processors

4.0 POLICY REVIEW

This section provides a high-level policy and best practice review. It identifies current City policies and bylaws which address agriculture and food security, and a scan of best practices that other local governments are utilizing to address similar challenges.

4.1 POLICY REVIEW

The City of Penticton has a long history with localized food production and policies that support such efforts. Today, a number of key plans and bylaws form the regulatory framework which the City uses to support a dynamic, safe, food-secure community.

Policy reviews allow Council, Staff and community to better understand the current regulatory framework pertaining to specific subject matter. It also allows for the identification of gaps – areas where policies or bylaws could be used to address the unique challenges facing a community.

Table 1 on the following page provides an overview of City policies and bylaws that relate to food production and security.

Table 1 – Current Policies

Plan/Bylaw	Highlights
Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2019-08	<p>Section 4.5 contains 21 policies under the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, Protect and Enhance Agriculture; • Food System; and • Urban Agriculture <p>Policies are centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive agricultural land use and food systems section with goals to increase ALR land, support agricultural activity within the city through land use policies (e.g. discouraging subdivision on land zoned for agriculture), and supporting producers through local sales options. • Supports the local food system, which focuses on food distribution and availability in the city. • Promotes expansion of food production in urban and suburban areas.
Zoning Bylaw No. 2017-08	<p>4.12.3 Urban Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Agriculture permitted in all zones. <p>7.7 Urban Hens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A max of 5 urban hens (no roosters) are allowed on properties with one single detached dwelling
City of Penticton Economic Development Strategy (2018-2022)	<p>Key Result Area 1: Strategic Communication</p> <p>Key Result Area 2: Collaboration</p> <p>Key Result Area 3: Retention and Expansion</p> <p>Key Result Area 4: Skilled Labour & Business Attraction</p> <p>Priority Cluster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism • Agricultural Production • Agricultural Technology • Beer, Wine & Spirits Manufacturing
Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2018)	<p>Section 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support urban agriculture activities <p>Goal 7.3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand urban agriculture opportunities • Work with the community group to identify one or two more locations for community gardens or other forms of urban agriculture in parks, potentially including the ALR property at Munson Mountain.

The bylaws, goals and policies identified above in Table 1 support Council and Staff engage in practices that support the community's efforts for a food-secure community. How the City compares to best practices found in other British Columbian communities is identified in Section 3.3.

Other documents reviewed but not included in Table 1:

- City of Penticton Agriculture Plan (2005)
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) – Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Resources:
 - Building Connections: From Farm to Restaurant: Project Report May 2020
 - Okanagan Bioregion Food Systems Design Project
Okanagan Bioregion Institutional Procurement Study – Final & Summary Reports (April 2018)

4.2 BEST PRACTICES REVIEW

This best practices review provides an assessment of available strategies, policies and pilot projects other municipalities have used to support food security and a sustainable food system. The review has drawn out potentially relevant practices that could positively contribute to Penticton's food system regulatory context.

Development Permit Area Guidelines which Support Agriculture

Development permit areas provide more control to a municipality around development and activities where special controls are required. This would require creating a development permit area adjacent to agricultural land.

Example: Protection of Agriculture Development Permit Guidelines – City of Abbotsford

The City of Abbotsford's relevant development permit area requires specific types of buffers be built between non-farm uses and agriculture. The guidelines provide an illustrated guide to planting buffers between agricultural uses and other types of land uses. The main purpose of these guidelines is to protect agricultural activity from intrusion from surrounding uses.

Guidelines for Buffers in Zoning Bylaw

Zoning bylaws can also provide comprehensive information about buffers between agricultural and non-farm uses. This can be useful in the absence of a development permit area and a specific guidelines document.

Example: City of Merritt Zoning Bylaw No. 2284

Section 6.6 of the Merritt Zoning Bylaw have detailed guidelines for buffers between a parcel adjacent to the Agricultural Land Reserve. Their buffers are required to be 8.0 metres, regardless of the adjacent non-farm use. This extent of buffer may be excessive for certain uses, such as a single-family residential lots, although it may be appropriate for a multi-family development or industrial use. The bylaw further provides a detailed description of the composition of the buffer.

Promoting Agricultural Land Use within the ALR through Zoning

A key opportunity to promote agricultural use on parcels within the ALR is to regulate the area of the property used for residential and other purposes. Farm Home Plate guidelines can be incorporated into zoning bylaws to support ALR land use regulation. The Farm Home Plate area includes driveway access, all residential buildings (including detached suites for example), and regulates the distance of the principal dwelling from any other residential buildings.

Example: City of Maple Ridge Farm Home Plate: Residential Development in the Agricultural Land Reserve

The Farm Home Plate guidelines used by the City of Maple Ridge indicate the total maximum farm home plate area, maximum residential footprint, the depth of the farm home plate, among other aspects of siting. These guidelines can support more robust guidelines for municipalities to protect the ALR land within their boundaries.

Soil Bylaw

Soil bylaws, in the food security planning context, are helpful for regulating the removal of soils and requirements to ensure that topsoil remains on site following excavation. For residential developments this is particularly important to allow for growing food in the future.

Example: City of Langford Soil Removal and Deposit Bylaw No. 1800

The City of Langford's soil bylaw indicates that no less than four inches of topsoil, sown with vegetative cover, must remain after an area has been excavated. The bylaw indicates that the purpose of this is to guard against erosion.

Animal Husbandry Related Regulations

Beekeeping Regulations

Beekeeping has become a more common urban hobby and contribute to the local honey supply. Bee keeping regulations can be a standalone bylaw, or part of an animal control bylaw. Regulations around beehives allow the municipality an opportunity to require that homeowners register their colonies/hives, put a limit on the number of colonies, location relative to property lines, identify the zones where hives are allowed, and other requirements. Any municipal regulations around beekeeping are in addition to those included in the provincial Animal Health Act.³

Example: City of Vernon Animal Regulation and Animal Pound Bylaw No. 5252

The City of Vernon regulations around urban beekeeping include a number of related definitions and "Urban Beekeeping Regulations" as Schedule F. Regulations indicate that adequate water must be kept on the beekeeper's property to prevent bees from seeking water elsewhere. The regulations also state that urban beekeeping is allowed

³ Animal Health Act. B.C. Reg. 3/2015, Bee Regulation. [Bee Regulation \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

on residential, agricultural, comprehensive development, institutional, commercial, and industrial properties of at least 0.1 hectare in size. Two hives are permitted on properties of at least 0.1 hectare, and four hives are permitted on properties greater than 0.1 hectare. Illustrations are provided for siting beehives at the rear of properties.

Backyard Hen Regulations

Regulations around backyard hens help to ensure that poultry is kept on properties of a certain size and to regulate siting (i.e. rear/front yard), zones where coops are allowed, the size of coops, and other considerations. Penticton could consider adding more detailed regulations either to the zoning bylaw or to an animal control bylaw. The regulations in place at present may be adequate for Penticton's purposes, however if concerns emerge around backyard hens, then it may be helpful to refer to other examples of similar regulations.

Example: City of Kamloops Animal Control Bylaw No. 34-11

Section 9 of Bylaw No. 34-11 provides detailed regulations for backyard hens. Property size and zoning indicates the number of poultry allowed on the property. In residential zones, on properties of a minimum of 370 m², a minimum of two and a maximum of five hens are allowed. No roosters are permitted. On properties until 4,000 m² associated structures (i.e. coops, enclosures), must be in the rear yard of the property and must be situated at least 1 m from the side yard line and at least 3 m from any door or window of a dwelling.

Zoning to Promote Food Retail

There is concern in Penticton around the lack of grocery stores in the downtown area. Inadequate food retail distribution, which can sometimes create food deserts, can be addressed through zoning and incentives.

Example: Zoning Bylaws from New York City and Philadelphia⁴

The report "Using Zoning to Create Healthy Food Environments in Baltimore City", prepared for the Baltimore City Food Policy Task Force, identifies examples of jurisdictions which have used different tools to incentivize food retail outlet development. Zoning incentives include, for example, allowing additional floor area for grocery stores in mixed use buildings and a reduction in the number of parking spaces in pedestrian-oriented neighbourhoods. A report published by a collaborative team headed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health,⁵ which looks at similar issues, also suggests using zoning to "prohibit 'Negative Use Restrictions' for food retail, and also including "food retail as an explicitly permitted use." The report

⁴ Baltimore City Food Policy Task Force/Harrison Institute for Public Law, *Using Zoning to Create Healthy Food Environments* in *Baltimore City*, https://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/_PDFs/HBR_Index_Food/BaltimoreCity_2010_ZoningCreatingHealthyFoodEnvironments.pdf

⁵ Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB), and Massachusetts Municipal Association, *Municipal Strategies to Increase Food Access: Volume 2 of the Healthy Community Design Toolkit*.

also suggests providing tax incentives for food retail development and streamlining food retail permitting.

Regional/Municipal Agriculture Plan

A regional or municipal agriculture plan can have a number of purposes. It can include creating a comprehensive inventory of agricultural operations and the types of crops grown, identify land use concerns, uncover other issues such as unsustainable water use or distribution challenges. This can be helpful for regions and municipalities to understand trends which may impact the economy, such as the growth of agri-tourism, or an increase in export crops. An agriculture plan can also help contribute to land use policy drafting for official community plans and zoning bylaws.

Example: Regional District of North Okanagan Regional Agricultural Plan (2015)

The Regional District of North Okanagan’s Agricultural Plan has a vision statement for agriculture in the area and key priorities and three pilot projects. Their seven priorities include protecting farmland and farmers, strengthening the local agricultural economy, and ensuring farmland availability for emerging and multigenerational farmers.

Food Policy Council

Food policy councils serve as a means of bringing community stakeholders together and working to develop policy which informs community planning, as well as setting out the implementation of such policies. The council can act as an advisory body for local government in planning processes. Food policy councils can fill the needs which are most relevant for the local region or community. Penticton currently has an Agricultural Advisory Committee which, as the name suggests, serves a more advisory purpose. What may be helpful to support Penticton moving into the implementation stage of its food security priorities could be the development of a food policy council.

Example: Comox Valley Food Policy Council

The Comox Valley Food Policy Council was established in October 2020, under the umbrella of LUSH Valley. LUSH stands for “Let Us Share the Harvest”. The organization works to “help people gain local food systems skills, knowledge, and access to good food.” The Comox Valley Food Policy Council works to support regional planning processes and act as an advisory board for local government. Specific priorities for the past year were:

1. Advocate for local food procurement policy for institutions and organizations;
2. Support planning and actions that minimizes food waste;
3. Increase local food literacy; and
4. Support the planning and/or development of a regional food hub.

5.0 INSPIRING STRATEGIES

A number of communities across British Columbia and other jurisdictions have plans and strategies that address food security. The aim of providing this information is to understand how regions or municipalities are perceiving food security and insecurity and, within their specific context, the different ways they plan on addressing these issues.

The strategies and plans reviewed are recent documents from the past five years. They are mostly from communities or regions in BC, and have either agriculture, food security, or urban agriculture as a focus. Key planning documents which provide a range of relevant strategies are: the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan (2016), Food Secure Oliver (2018), and Kamloops Food and Urban Agriculture Plan (2015). These key documents and the others included below strategize around the following key areas to varying degrees:

- Protecting and expanding agricultural production locally.
- Improving the viability of food production by local farmers.
- Improving access to emergency food supports for food insecure individuals.
- Supporting and expanding urban agriculture opportunities.
- Improving food literacy among the public, particularly in educational settings.
- Identifying ways to improve food waste collection (e.g. food recovery, compost programs).

Strategies and actions which are most relevant to Penticton have been included in Table 2 below. In some cases, the language has been adjusted to improve relevancy.

Table 2 – Food Security Strategy Best Practices

Plan/Policy	Key Highlights
	BC
Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 1.1 Protect agricultural land for food production • Strategy 1.3 Enable expansion of agricultural production • Strategy 1.4 Invest in new generation of food producers • Strategy 1.5 Expand urban commercial food production in urban areas • Strategy 2.1 Increase the capacity to process, warehouse and distribute local foods • Strategy 2.2 Include local foods in purchasing policies • Strategy 2.3 Increase direct marketing opportunities for local foods

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 2.5 review government policies and programs to ensure they enable the expansion of the local food sector • Strategy 3.1 Enable residents to make healthy food choices • Strategy 3.3 Enhance food literacy and skills in schools • Strategy 4.1 Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups • Strategy 4.2 Encourage urban agriculture • Strategy 4.3 Enable non-profit organizations to recover nutritious food • Strategy 5.2 Reduce waste in the food system
Food Secure Oliver (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 1.1 Promote and expand the use of and connection with urban agriculture • Strategy 1.2 Expand edible landscaping on public land • Strategy 2.2 Create and support a food culture inclusive to all residents and visitors • Strategy 3.1 Increase access to local foods in social services, schools, and neighbourhoods • Strategy 3.2 Encourage local food businesses and increase the number of places to buy local food and drink • Strategy 3.3 Recover high-quality food for sale and/or donation • Strategy 3.4 Increase community and commercial food processing and storage capacity for securing year-round supply • Strategy 3.5 Increase awareness of and advocate for food system and social policy systemic change • Strategy 5.1 Facilitate sharing of food skills and knowledge • Strategy 5.2 Coordinate the sharing and use of food preparation facilities and resources • Strategy 6.3 Establish and enhance information and resource sharing platforms and communication
Kamloops Food and Urban Agriculture Plan (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 1.1 - Utilize existing land and infrastructure for sustainable food production. • Strategy 1.2 - Review zoning and other regulations to support urban and local agriculture. • Strategy 1.3 - Support increased accessibility of local food production. • Strategy 2.1 - Support commercial and community-based food processing facilities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 3.1 - Review regulations and policies to support local purchasing. • Strategy 3.2 - Expand networks to support the economic sustainability of the food system. • Strategy 3.3 - Promote farmers' markets and business models that provide fresh foods and support local producers. • Strategy 3.5 - Increase access to healthy local food for food-insecure populations. • Strategy 4.3 - Promote the local food system through place-making efforts. • Strategy 5.2 - Reduce and recycle food waste and build healthy soils. • Strategy 6.1 - Promote and facilitate knowledge transfer and skill development. • Strategy 6.2 - Utilize existing resources for food system education. • Strategy 6.3 - Utilize partnerships to build capacity for food system health and sustainability. • Strategy 6.4 - Promote food system education for specific population groups.
District of Saanich Agriculture & Food Security Plan (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2B: Enhance community capacity to access healthy local food • Objective 3B: Strengthen public education on the local food system • Objective 3C: Support promotion of local farms and products • Objective 4A: Minimize wildlife impacts and address noxious weeds and invasive species concerns • Objective 4B: Encourage sustainable water management • Objective 4D: Encourage the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures for the local food system • Objective 6D: Support affordable access to farmland

Table 2 Continued...

Plan/Policy	Key Highlights
USA	
Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Goal 1: Support the next generation of farmers and food system entrepreneurs by creating or expanding agriculture and vocational education at the high school and community college level. • Goal 2: Encourage entry into the local food economy by building access to a collaboration of educational resources and tools that can be utilized by new and emerging food system entrepreneurs. • Goal 4: Strengthen distribution systems for local produce through existing networks, food hubs, and alternative markets. • Goal 8: Integrate food literacy into all school campus cultures—including in-school and out-of-school programs.
AUSTRALIA	
City of Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020-2030	<p>Selected actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support kitchen garden programs at schools (e.g. Farm to Cafeteria, Good Food Challenge) • Partner with Indigenous communities and relevant stakeholders to develop knowledge and understanding of sustainable land-use practices, language and the cultural life of the region through Indigenous food plants • Activate the community food information portal

6.0 PILOT PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Produce Stand/Street Vending

Explore opportunities for local street vending program/produce stands – refer to Town of Oliver and Metro Vancouver. Permissive regulations in practice in Ladysmith, BC. Refer to Ladysmith Zoning Bylaw No. 1860.

Urban Agriculture on Public Land

Explore opportunities for testing the feasibility of permitting new types of urban agriculture on public land through pilot programming (e.g. bee keeping, container gardening, fruit bearing trees, rooftop farming) – refer to Metro Vancouver and Town of Oliver.

- Example: Edible Pathway Project (Town of Oliver)
 - Involved downtown area businesses in a program to grow food in containers in front of their business
 - Promoted healthy neighbourhood design and healthy food systems by replacing flowers in planter boxes with edible plants (herbs and vegetables) on a main commercial street to create a network of edible produce in the town

Food Production in Higher Density Zones

Explore ways to promote growing food in higher density zones. Examples include rooftop cultivation, regulations for developers around reserving space for a community garden. Refer to Growing Food and Gardening in Mixed-Use, Multi-Unit Residential Developments (2019) –City of Victoria.

Food Recovery

Explore possibility of launching a pilot food recovery or food exchange program to channel surplus nutritious food to people (e.g. provides a central place for people to bring and take surplus garden/farm product) – refer to Town of Oliver, Metro Vancouver. The Lake Country Food Bank has a food recovery program as well.⁶ The City could look at engaging with Second Harvest (FoodRescue.ca) to discuss how to best promote this.

⁶ Global News, "Lake Country Food Bank celebrates success of food recovery program". <https://globalnews.ca/news/5978402/lake-country-food-bank-recovery-program/>

Sharing Backyards Program

The “Sharing Backyards” program was active from 2005 to about 2015. It was initiated in Victoria, BC and run by the Lifecycles Project Society,⁷ which is still active but focusing on other programs. The program used a platform much like the Young Agrarians’ Land Matching Program⁸, but at the city and backyard level. It utilized an interactive mapping platform, which unfortunately became outdated when technology changed. With some seed money, an existing organization or the City of Penticton may be able to host this program to enable people without a backyard an area to garden in.

Agricultural-Urban Interface Buffer Guidelines

Working to minimize and mitigate the recreation/agricultural interface in Delta is an action included in Section 1.1 of the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan. There are similar concerns in Penticton where this interface occurs. Although there are guidelines in place in Penticton, these could be further developed according to specific local needs. A pilot project could include planting/installing buffer areas to experiment with tree/plant species and width of buffer.

⁷ Watershed Sentinel, “Sharing Backyard Gardens Directory in BC”. <https://watershedsentinel.ca/articles/sharing-backyard-gardens-directory-in-bc/>

⁸ Young Agrarians, B.C. Land Matching Program. <https://youngagrarians.org/tools/land/bc-land-matching-program/>

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food Assets

There are a number of organizations, producers and services already existing within the City. Fostering their ability to meaningfully participate in the current food system will support the City's desire to encourage a food-secure community.

The food asset mapping found in Appendix A can be used as a timestamp to measure the evolution of organizations, producers and services that support a food-secure Penticton.

Planning

There are a number of planning, policy, and regulatory approaches that municipalities can take. Considerations for Penticton moving forward could be around expanding opportunities for urban agriculture through increased direct sales options or expanding the zones in which community gardens are permitted (see Section 6.0). A soils bylaw would help to ensure that a certain depth of topsoil stays on excavated sites, in order to protect land from erosion and improve drainage, but also to improve conditions for future gardening or urban agriculture on the site.

More detailed regulations could also be introduced for buffers through Penticton's zoning bylaw based on the results of similar regulations in other municipalities. Beekeeping regulations could also be introduced to ensure siting is appropriate (i.e. located in the rear yard) and that the number of colonies is tied to the size of property and/or zone. To promote food retail, Penticton could assess the value of amending zoning to incentivize this use in certain zones or areas.

An additional consideration for Penticton related to planning could be an update of the 2005 Agriculture Plan, either at a regional or municipal level, which would support land use planning in the future and better understanding the needs and concerns of farmers in the city or region.

Food Security Strategic Direction

Strategies and planning related to food security tend to take into account a range of perspectives and needs. From increasing access to locally grown food and improving conditions for local agriculture, to ensuring that people in need in the community have consistent access to emergency food programs and improving food literacy. All of these factors influence community food security. While emergency food programs may seem like they serve a very different need than a farmer's market, they both serve to improve nutrition by increasing options and healthy food availability.

Taking into account the broad view which is generally taken of the causes and impacts of food security in a municipality or region, Penticton may consider a similar approach, which appears to be favoured by the initial Working Group meeting in December 2020. This approach may include the following:

BACKGROUND REPORT

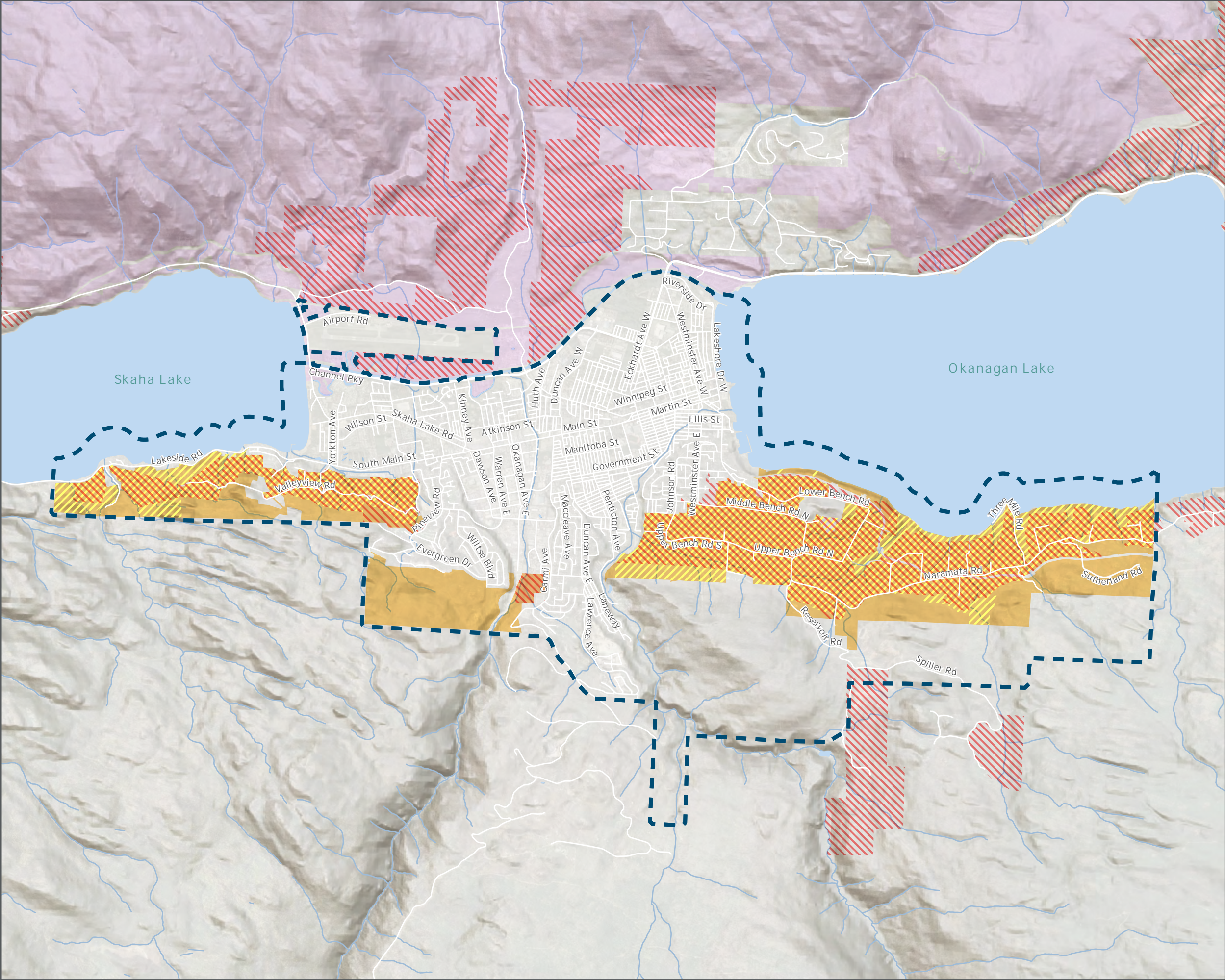
- Promoting urban agriculture through zoning, regulations, and helpful programs (e.g. backyard sharing).
- Protecting and encouraging agriculture on agricultural lands through use of zoning, level of support for subdivisions, parcel coverage (i.e. farm home plate) guidelines, and buffering.
- Supporting the agriculture industry as it relates to distribution, aggregation, and processing for example and promoting investment in this sector.
- Identifying opportunities to further support urban agriculture through zoning, potential community garden areas, and direct sales opportunities.
- Supporting emergency food programs by encouraging food recovery.
- Move forward on initiatives to increase organic waste diversion and increase affordable compost availability.

Pilot Projects

There are a number of pilot projects which may be appropriate for Penticton. It may be helpful to gather input and more ideas for pilot projects during the community and stakeholder engagement process to see which ideas get people excited.

APPENDIX A

Food Asset Mapping

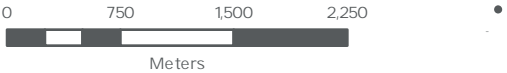


Food Security Strategy

AGRICULTURAL ZONING

- Municipal Boundary
- First Nation Reserves
- ALR Lands (839 ha)
- Zoning**
- Agriculture (1,341 ha)
- OCP - Future Land Use**
- Agriculture (897 ha)

The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on this drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



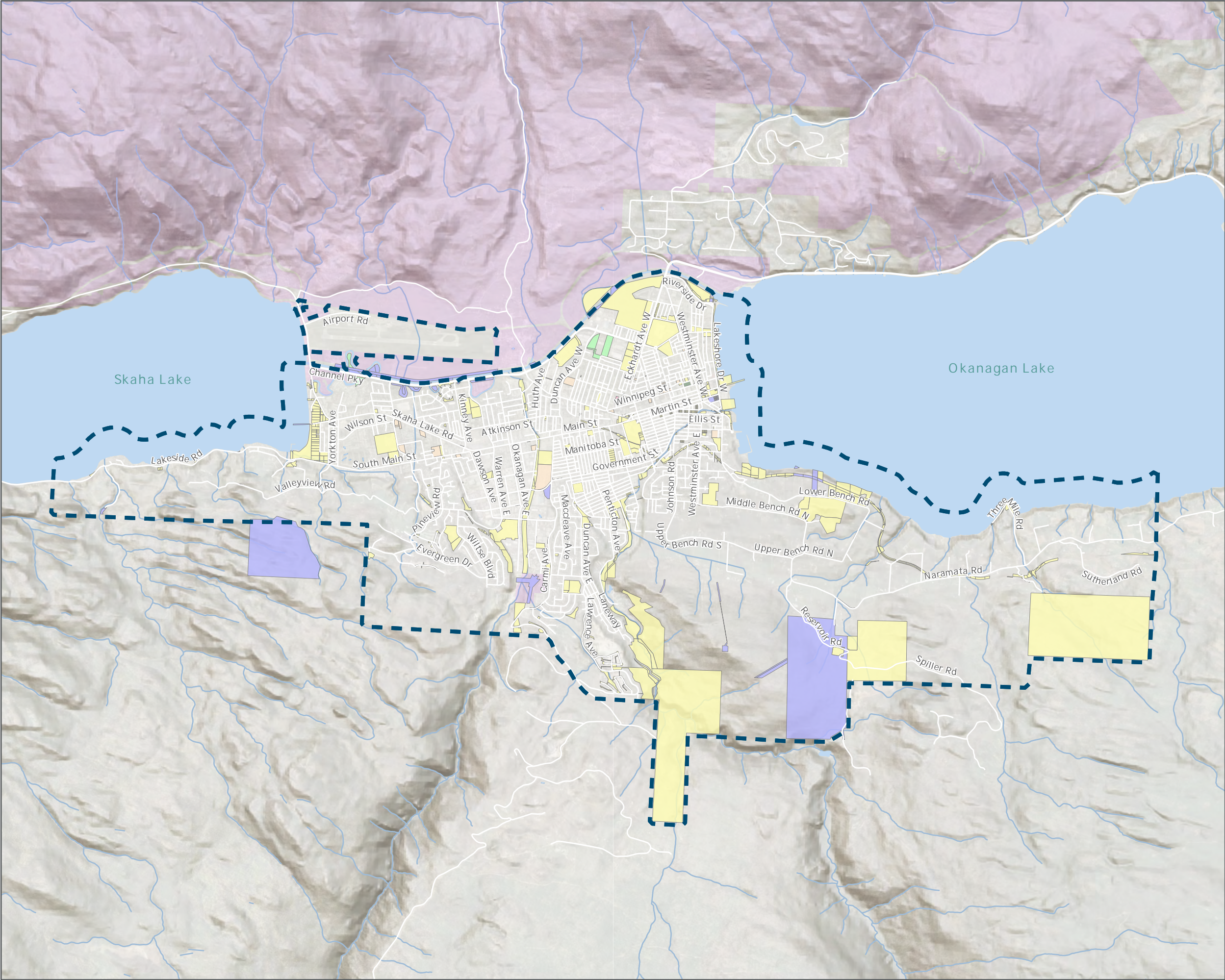
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Scale: 1:50,000
(When plotted at 11"x17")

Data Sources:
- Data provided by Open Data Penticton, DataBC, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Project #: 1017.0090.01
Author: KG
Checked: ZH
Status: DRAFT
Revision: B
Date: 2021/2/10



FIGURE 1



Food Security Strategy

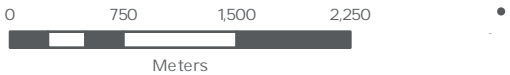
CADASTRAL

Municipal Boundary

Owner Type

- Crown Agency
- Crown Provincial
- Federal
- First Nation
- Mixed Ownership
- Municipal
- First Nation Reserves

The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on this drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



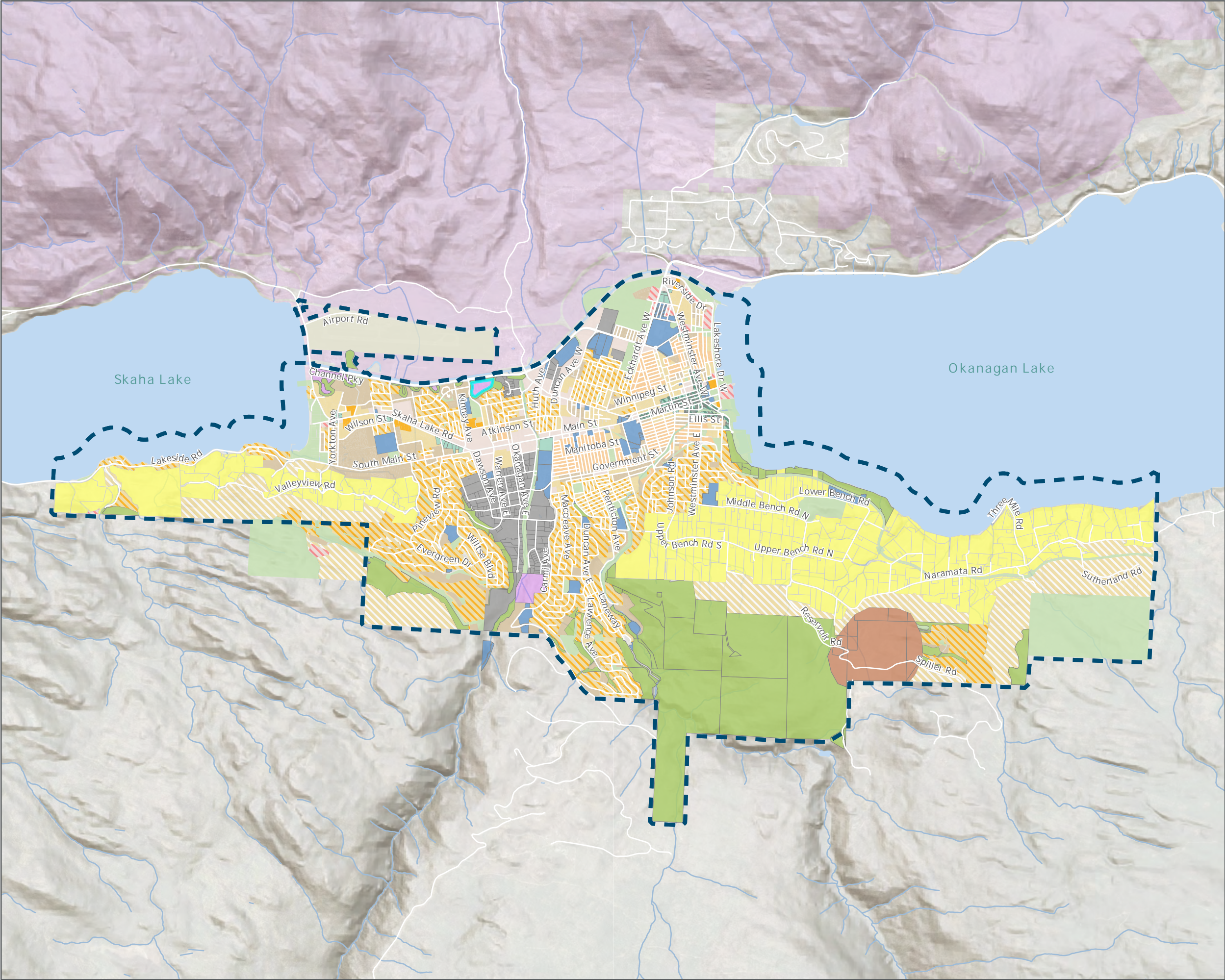
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FIGURE 2

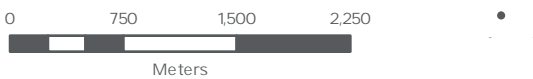


Food Security Strategy

OCP - FUTURE LAND USE

- Municipal Boundary
- Agriculture
- Airport
- Industrial
- Landfill and Landfill Buffer
- Commercial
- Tourist Commercial
- Urban Residential
- Ground Oriented Residential
- Detached Residential
- Urban High Density Residential
- Rural Residential
- Infill Residential
- Mixed Use
- Downtown Mixed Use
- First Nations
- Institutional and Civic
- Natural and Conservation Areas
- Parks

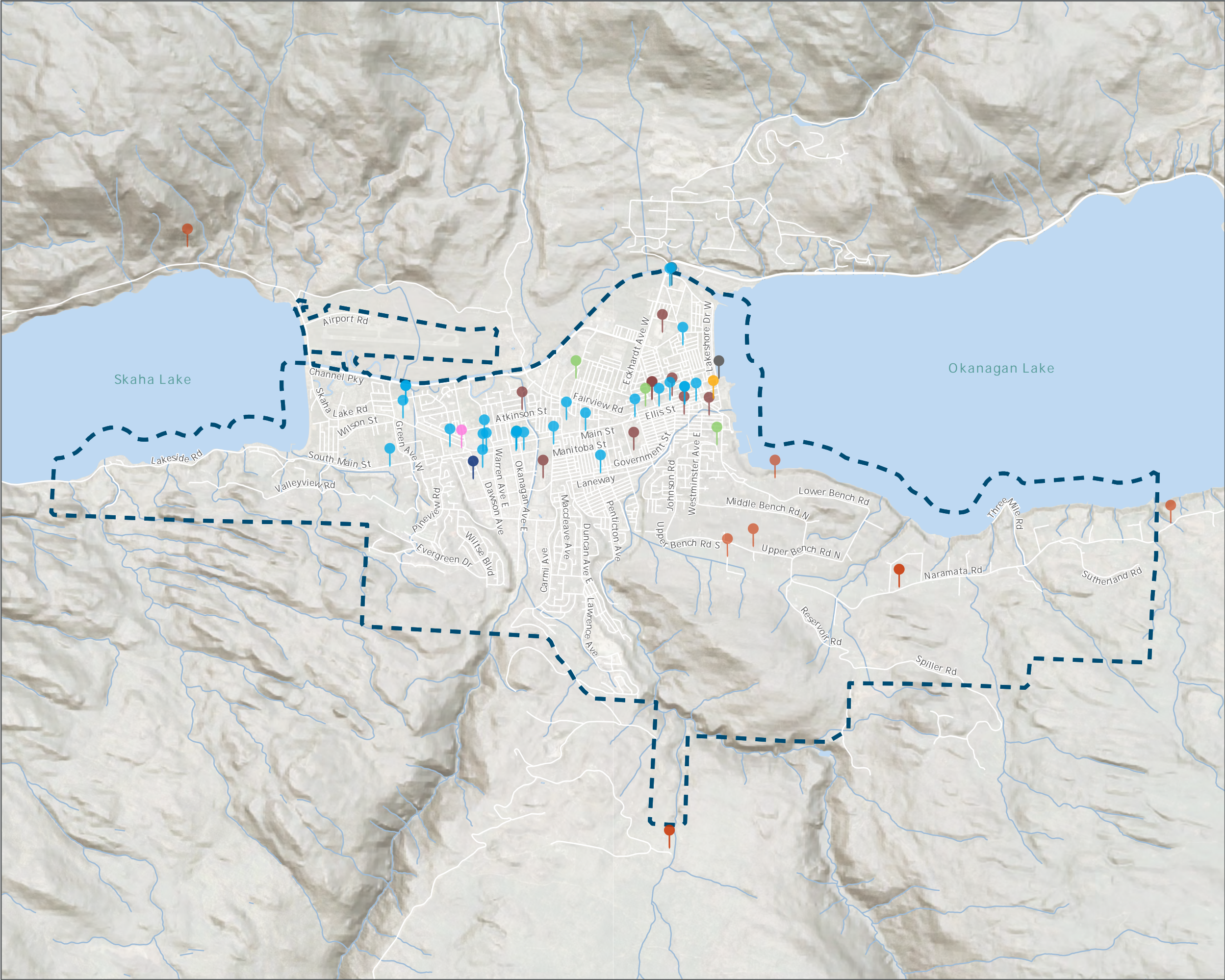
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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 11N
Scale: 1:50,000
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Data Sources:
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Project #:	1017.0090.01	
Author:	KG	
Checked:	ZH	
Status:	DRAFT	
Revision:	B	
Date:	2021/2/10	FIGURE 3

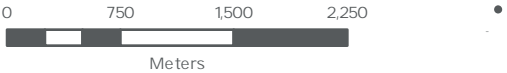


Food Security Strategy

FOOD SECURITY ASSETS

- Municipal Boundary
- Agriculture Supply and Education
- Community Garden
- Farmers Market / Farm Box
- Farms
- Food Bank
- Food-Related Social Programming
- Grocery Store
- Industry Association

The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on this drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



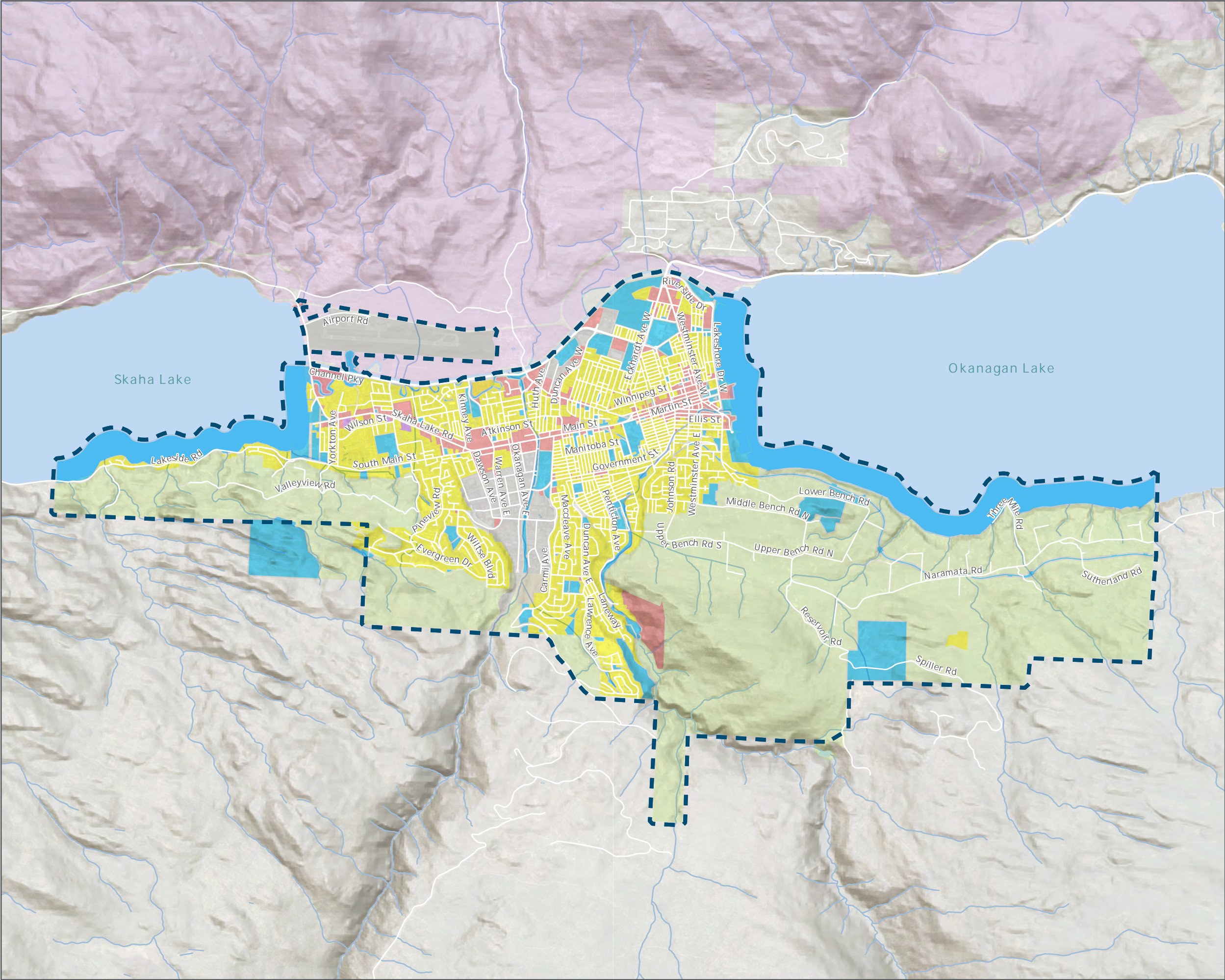
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(When plotted at 11"x17")

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FIGURE 4

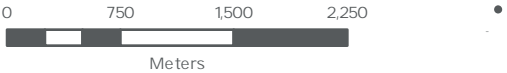


Food Security Strategy

ZONING

- Municipal Boundary
- Commercial Zones
- Comprehensive Development
- Industrial Zones
- Public Assembly & Recreation Zones
- Rural Zones
- Urban Residential Zones
- First Nation Reserves

Not for regulatory use. The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on this drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 11N
Scale: 1:50,000
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FIGURE 5



APPENDIX B

Penticton Food Security Strategy

Engagement Results and Next Steps





Meeting Agenda

1. Round table of introductions
2. Review project timeline
3. Engagement activities and outcomes
4. Key survey results
5. Stakeholder session outcomes
6. Emerging themes
7. Next steps
8. Current funding opportunities



Project Timeline



Communications and Engagement Activities

[Home](#) » [Food Security](#)

Food Security



[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

How can we be more food secure as a community? How can we increase access to locally grown food? How can we improve conditions for local agriculture? How can we ensure those in our community who are in critical need have access to emergency food programs?

These are the questions the City will seek to answer through the creation of a food security strategy. Now under development, Penticton's strategy will provide a guide to achieve community food security in our food systems - growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption and disposal - as well as in our households.

To understand more about the food security challenges in Penticton, we need to hear from you. Whether you worry about your next meal or not, your knowledge of the community matters. Please follow this page to learn more about this important topic and the opportunities to participate.

How do I participate?

At this stage of the project, we are gathering input to understand Penticton's unique challenges and opportunities. Please watch the video to learn more about this project and then complete the [survey](#). Paper copies are available at the Penticton Public Library. All completions will be entered in a draw for one of three \$100 gift cards to a grocery store of your choice. Please note that the survey was prepared by Urban Systems and is hosted on the Survey Monkey website. No registration is required to complete the survey. Responses will be collected until **June 16, 2021**.

FORUM

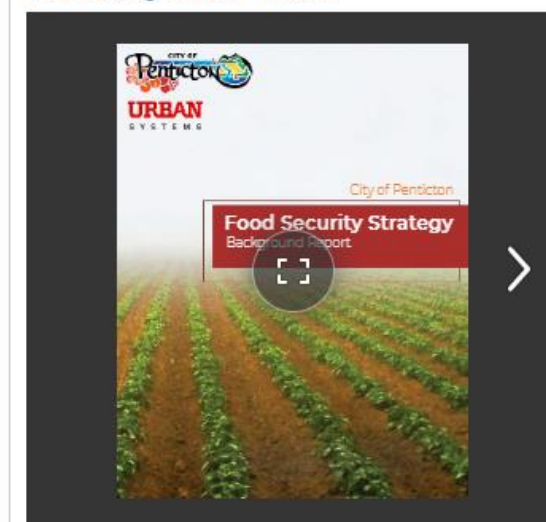
Discussions: [All \(1\)](#) | [Open \(1\)](#)

[Let's Discuss!](#)

[Learn more about Food Security](#)



[Get the background for Penticton](#)



Communications and Engagement Outcomes



Community Survey

- Total of 472 respondents

Stakeholder Sessions

- 3 sessions with a total of 18 participants (including 2 working group members and 1 City of Penticton staff member)

Stakeholder Sessions: Who did we hear from?



Food Program Providers

Starfish Back Pack Program
United Way
Foundry
St Saviours Church

Funding Organizations

Valley First Credit Union

Producers

Creek and Gully Cider
Okanagan Food Hub
Local Motive Farm/Store

Educational Organizations

UBCO
School District 67
Okanagan College

Government Agency

Interior Health
City of Penticton

Local Food Promoting Organizations

Penticton Farmers Market
Okanagan Tree Fruit Project

Community Survey: Who did we hear from?



- Age
 - 20%: 19-39 years old
 - 49%: 40-64 years old
 - 30%: 65+
- 73% women
- 5% Indigenous
- 4% food producers
- 4% members of LGBTQS+ community
- Only 2 recent immigrants
- Households: 1) Couple with no dependents, 2) Couple with dependents, 3) Individuals, 4) Lone parents with dependents
- Relatively even distribution of incomes
- 53% employed, 6% unemployed, 41% not participating
- 52% lived in a single family home with space for a garden, 27% lived in a multi-unit home without space for a garden

Community Survey: Food procurement priorities



1	That I can buy local food.	69%
2	That I can buy food at low prices.	64%
3	That I can buy food conveniently (at the nearest store).	57%
4	That I can grow my own food.	31%
5	That I can buy organic food.	20%
6	That I can buy food in bulk (e.g. making periodic trips to Costco).	15%
7	That I can hunt, fish, or wild harvest at least a portion of my and my family's food.	7%

Community Survey: Food Procurement Challenges



32% of respondents have challenges accessing food in ways most appropriate for them.

53% for those earning up to \$20,000.

61% for lone parent households.

59% for Indigenous respondents.

50% for those identifying as part of the LGBTQS+

Food Procurement: Comments and Ideas



"Through the COVID period, it has become increasingly difficult to find local food sources."

"Money is tight so it's hard to get veggies and fruit every month"

"I am a low income disabled senior who simply cannot afford to buy healthy organic food in stores which would be my preference."

"Buying local is not convenient."

"It's hard to get fresh organic meat."

"Not permitted to have a garden in strata"

"Development and privatization/fencing on land harvesting base for roots, berries, and medicines."

"No freezer space for bulk buying."

"No grocery stores in downtown core."

Community Survey: Food Insecurity Challenges



24% of all respondents often or sometimes are worried that food will run out.

61% for lone parent households

27% for women respondents

55% for members of the LGBTQS+ community

43% for Indigenous respondents

Of those experiencing challenges:

52% - due to income

20% - due to lack of time

15% - due to distance

14% - due to mobility

Food Insecurity: Comments and Ideas



"More fresh food like the old days"

"Mobile veggie vendors in neighbourhoods"

"Daily markets"

"I'd like to see the food system change to see more direct sales to customers"

"I have no space to grow healthy affordable food"

"I want to learn to grow my own food"

Community Survey: How people buy their food



1	Grocery Store	98%
2	Restaurant take out/fast food	51%
3	Farmer's Market	45%
4	Backyard Garden	38%
5	Wholesaler (e.g. Costco)	27%
6	Directly from farms outside of Farmer's Market	26%
7	Produce sharing between friends, family or neighbours	19%
8	Patio planters (apartments, townhouses)	13%

Community Survey: Buying local food



1	This is important and I try to buy locally produced food when possible.	46%
2	This is important but I find it difficult to buy local food because of the cost.	34%
3	This is important and I purchase a large part of my or my household's food from local sources.	7%
4	This is important and I am involved in agriculture/grow my own food.	7%
5	I don't think this is very important.	3%

Community Survey: Challenges to buying local food



1	Lack of availability at preferred grocery store	49%
<hr/>		
2	Price	48%
<hr/>		
3	Unsure where or how to access	11%
<hr/>		
I don't encounter challenges		20%

Community Survey: Producers



17 Producers responded

Fruit for local distribution	6
Fruit for export to other countries	6
Fruit for export to other regions, the US	5
Wine grapes	5
Eggs for local distribution	4
Vegetables for local distribution	3
Livestock for export to other regions or countries	1
Livestock for local distribution	1

Community Survey: Food Production Challenges



“Difficult to find labour.”

“Poor apple prices.”

“Promoting and supporting the farmers market is the best way to directly connect locals and visitors to our local food culture.”

“Access to reasonably prices supplies for producing and growing food. Need more local abattoirs.”

“High cost of land.”

“I think we need to data and the ability to link up supply chains and consumers.”

Food Production: Ideas and Comments



"Orchardists could get reductions in things like water fees, etc"

"Provide incentives/subsidies to local businesses that make local food more convenient."

"Stop rezoning agricultural land for non-agricultural uses on productive farm land"

"Land sharing. I have a huge backyard, and no time/ability to garden."

"Unless farmers can make a living producing food (not grapes) then we will not be food secure. Hence, local food security can only come at the cost of much higher food prices for locally produced food."

"Allowing an NGO to assist with processing food for their clients."

"Local grants to start farm stands"

"Unused agricultural land could be leased to young aspiring farmers for local production and distribution. I think local agriculture needs to be supported so that the producers get a fair price, and there is ease of distribution."

Community Survey: Urban Agriculture



60% of respondents engage in urban agriculture at home or elsewhere

The probability of engaging in urban agriculture increases by income bracket.

Of the 40% who said no, 45% would like to grow their own food.

What do respondents need to get started?

- Community garden
- Larger backyard/land
- Resources – time and money
- Training/guidance

Urban Agriculture: Comments and Ideas



"More awareness of how to prepare local foods, e.g. squash. Preserving workshops for how to make canned apple sauce, peaches, pears, etc."

"More community gardens."

"Stop building townhouses/duplexes without yards."

"More farmer market days."

"The city is full of seniors who live in apartments, many will enjoy gardening. It is also excellent education for youth. Those on limited income can benefit by accessing healthier and cheaper food."

"Maybe if we had a website that showed the different farms and what they offer – and who still has produce available etc."

"Program to supply residents with garden boxes and soil mixes to grow their own food. program to match landowners with available gardens with gardeners."

"Training clinics to teach those who have zero knowledge about gardening."

Community Survey: Store/Restaurant Owners



7 store/restaurant owners or managers

71% of these sold regional produce

Customers request locally grown or produced products. - 3

We offer a sufficient variety of local products. - 3

We offer a number of local products and aim to increase variety/quantity. - 2

We would like to offer more products but find it challenging to find locally grown/made products to sell. - 2

We would like to offer more products but find it challenging to find local producers who can meet certain contract

quotas. - 1

Stakeholder Sessions: Key Goals



A food strategy that is South Okanagan specific

Education about food sustainability

No person in Penticton is hungry

Everyone has access to food

Effective food recovery

Decolonize our food system

Fair pay for local food producers

Resilient food system

Equitable distribution of food

Dignity within the food system

A healthy ecosystem

Communication, centralization, collaboration

Long-term food sustainability

Stakeholder Sessions: Opportunities



Re-allocate gardening budget to food sources – plant food not flowers

Set up foraging classes so people can access alternative food sources

Build more community gardens

Creation of a Central Okanagan food security working group to help implement actions that result from the process

Collaborate with Penticton Indian Band on food sovereignty initiatives and utilize Indigenous Knowledge

Allow young people to be able to access food bank resources and emergency food support

Creation of a community fridge

Engaging municipal bodies (like UBCM) to lobby the Province for more local food system support

Create a list of organizations that can benefit from food donations that is updated regularly



Emerging Themes

Tension between the public's desire to buy local and buy conveniently and at low prices.

Need for more community garden space and/or land linking programs.

Need to support local producers in different ways.

Continue to improve supports for food insecure individuals.

Improve efficiency of food recovery.

Continue to strengthen collaboration, avoid competition between organizations.



Next Steps

1. Draft the Food Security Strategy
 - Compile list of potential initiatives
2. Go through a review process with the Working Group
 - Vet and prioritize initiatives
3. Finalize the strategy



Current Funding Opportunities

Local Food Infrastructure Fund – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Deadline: August 13th, 2021

Purpose: Provide rapid-response grants through investments in infrastructure needs. The impact must be targeted and immediate and must be directly related to addressing food insecurities and increasing the accessibility of healthy, nutritious and ideally local foods within their community(ies).

Examples: Purchasing a walk-in refrigerator for a food bank or installing a greenhouse in a remote community.