

Networking Workshop

Workshop Outline

12:30- 12.50 p.m. Roundtable

- Members have the opportunity to introduce themselves and highlight **one** action that your community is doing for local food/ stewardship.

12.50 p.m. -1.10 p.m. What Am I ?!

- By talking to the groups on your table you have to ask indirect questions will allow you to be identify who you are.
Examples: Am I red? Am I an insect?

No peeking at your sticker!

1.15-1.40 Tackling the Challenge of Access to Local Food

Step 1: Divide into groups based off of numbers on vegetable or fruit tag

Instructions

Step 2: Two minutes in silence list as many ideas for:

“Increasing access to local food in your community”

- Place each idea on a sticky note (encourage as many ideas from each person as possible)
- Place sticky note on the easel paper in front of you

Step 3: Spend 10 minutes work as a team to categorize the listed ideas into themes of similar project (i.e. education campaign, policy change).

Tip: Make sure each idea is placed into a category.

1:30-1:40 Report Back

Share with everyone the category that has the most ideas and the most interesting idea from your table.

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Result

Work Plan for increasing access to local food in your community

Table 1

- Public orchards on parkland
- Community orchard
- Orchards
- Bylaws/Planning Act changes to enable urban agriculture
- Seed exchange events
- Fruit trees downtown
- Get permission to plant garden
- Find proper location for garden
- Residential garden sharing
- Rooftop community gardens (municipal roofs)
- Edible planters (porta-veggie gardens)
- Fishing nodes
- Hockey stick grow-op
- Backyard gardens
- Arrange for tools to work with
- Community harvesting group “not far from the tree”
- Kids program
- Training/workshops
- Community edible cookbook
- Edible tours/cooking workshops
- Engage a group of like-minded people
- Gardening workshops for community
- School restaurants
- Local food shows
- Farmers market/food trucks
- Community food processing initiatives
- Surplus buildings used for food/ag hub
- Release surplus parks for gardens
- Pollinator gardens in all city parks
- Buy seeds or plants

Table 2

- Grow community gardens at all schools & use in cafeteria
- Put community gardens along transit routes so anyone can get to them
- Pair seniors who can no longer look after their gardens with people who don't have space for a garden
- More community gardens
- Places to meet & exchange excess produce
- Community gardens for municipal housing corps
- Funding for local food programs
- New developments provide a new edible shrub/tree per house
- Accessibility to rural farms/garden tours
- Master growers visit community gardens to help gardeners
- Organic food co-op
- “Pop-up” Farmer’s Markets
- Permanent farmer’s market facility
- Production
- Every subdivision must have a community garden – people more likely to walk down street to get carrots
- More community farmer’s markets
- Distribution
- Education/Policy
- Protection of ag lands
- Workshops for public on growing food

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- Bylaws allowing the sale of farm eggs off the farm
- Educate public on importance of locally grown food
- Harvest festivals in local neighbourhoods
- Collaborate with local food bank
- Harvesting of produce from homes
- Seed libraries offering free seeds with growing advice
- Provide edible native food focus cooking classes
- Have community gardens placed at recreational facilities (goes with healthy active lifestyles)

Table 3

Planning

- Local bylaws to support urban agriculture
- Developer helping with gardens
- More community gardens like Windsor
- Food as a tenet of forthcoming urban forestry management plan
- Mandatory community garden allocations in subdivision plans
- Spatial targeting of areas for community gardens & communicate

Community Engagement & Education

- Inventory & engage community management of wild fruit trees
- Create means for community members to easily organize
- Year-round farmer's markets
- Restaurant labelling (we serve local food here!)

Events

- Host local community farmer's market days
- Local food festivals
- Community garden collaborative outreach events
- Local food workshops
- Seed/tree sales

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Table 4

Data Collection

- Mapping food deserts in area
- Map out areas for possible community garden & markets

Policy

- Subsidize local food in food banks
- Looking at policies – making things like agriculture more feasible
- Promote residents to plant edible vegetation on property
- Promote farming of fruits & vegetables
- Sub. more programs & seed planting

Increasing Local Economy

- Promote farmer's markets
- "pop-up" or "mobile" markets
- Farmer's markets
- Local markets/farmer's markets for community growers

Public Engagement

- Community gardens
- Community farms
- Demo gardens

Supply Chain

- Connecting with local farmers
- Promote local food in food stores

Education

- Farmer-in-training hubs
- Connecting with local schools – using school fields for gardens
- Promote universities and colleges to grow local food
- Education & awareness
- School gardeners programming
- Gardening workshops

Individual Initiatives

- Plant more edible vegetation

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Table 5

- Farmer's garden all year
- Pollinator habitats
- Wildflower/pollinator habitats on landfills
- Farmer's markets
- Urban edible gardening
- Local market open more often
- Government hosted exchange system to share best produce
- Support local agriculture community
- Handing out pollinator friendly seeds
- More community gardens
- Orchard gardens
- Orchard
- Community/neighbour bartering of veg and fruits
- Education – tours, demo, examples
- Offer workshops & tours of gardens & farmers
- Promote & educate about foraging
- Tour of forests for edible foods
- Transportation to local farms
- Get involved with farmers
- Community engagement
- Front yard landscaping fusion garden
- Less restrictive zoning bylaws
- Willow Tree Farm
- Community food sharing veg/bartering
- Grow your own garden kit
- Seed bank also

Table 6

Policy

- Advocate to protect farmland ie. Greenbelt NE Pickering
- Make it easier to sell local food in supermarkets

Education

- Work with recreation centres, schools etc. to provide workshops on growing food
- Educate public about edible plants (weeds ie. Dandelions)
- Identify & support local farms & food growers
- Plant edibles among the flower gardens

Pollinators

- Ban chemicals & pesticides that hurt pollinators
- More bee habitats/apiary

Sharing

- Local gardeners giving food to food banks (surplus)
- Fruit sharing program - backyard fruit trees in neighbourhoods

Community Gardens

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- More community gardens

Seeds

- Seed library
- Seed exchanges and plant exchanges

Livestock

- Allow backyard chickens

Accessibility/Transportation

- Roving farmer's markets
- Better local transit to local food producers

Table 7

Education

- Educate youth about local food products
- There has to be a website/app of where to get local ideas

Community Initiatives/Programs

- Fruit tree harvest program – 1/3 homeowner, 1/3 pickers, 1/3 food bank
- Seed swap
- Provide starter packages for gardens (box of seeds, soil, etc.)
- Community garden
- Start a community garden

Policy

- Do a study on food deserts & prioritize community gardens & other efforts in those areas
- Tax breaks for those who get rid of grass lawns & convert it to flowers or veggies
- Adding urban fishing to our focus on local food
- Promoting pollinator gardens (city & community)

Edible/Wild Food Awareness Projects

- Plant fruit trees
- Grow edible native trees in community parks
- Investigate other municipalities to see whether any do edible landscaping in parks

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Expanding Local Food Markets

- Forest gardens
- Straight from Ontario policy in grocery stores “Ontario” all in one spot
- “pick your own” farms
- Farmer’s markets
- Increase the number of days a week the farmer’s market runs
- Sell locally grown food at grocery stores