

ACE's – DRAFT - comments on the Urban Agriculture Strategy (Sept 6 2017)

Document link...

<https://www.london.ca/business/Planning-Development/current-topics/Documents/UAS-Draft-July-17-17.pdf>

For discussion at the September 6, 2017 ACE meeting.

Prepared with feedback from ACE Members - Gabor Sass, Susan Ratz & Tom Arnos

1. ACE commends the various engagement tools that were used in developing this strategy, especially
 - a. The development of a specific email list to which updates were sent.
 - b. "Save the date" notices that allowed those interested to plan ahead for meetings 3-6 weeks in advance.
 - c. The support of a joint advisory committee meeting on the strategy May 11, 2017 which allowed members of different advisory committees to meet in person, network and provide feedback in a timely manner at that stage.
2. ACE commends the effort put into this document which has significantly improved since the last draft.
3. ACE recommends that the following are addressed in the final version of the document:
 - a. The addition of specific targets and timelines. (e.g. by 2030 there will be a community garden and food forest in every neighbourhood; by 2018 the by-law to allow end of drive-way food sales will be rewritten, etc).
 - b. Details on how the strategy will be funded. Ideally, a draft budget attached to the plan addressing funding for 2017 to 2019. As well as a funding proposal for the next 4 year budget starting 2020.
 - c. Recognition that where a role of "community leads" or "community partners with the city" is noted, that it is still important the city be involved and/or provide initiation, facilitation and leadership support as needed to support projects.
 - d. Incorporate a clear list (or map) of potential urban ag inventory parcels (with address) as asked in the original council resolution. This should appear in the strategy document in addition to being available on-line.
 - e. Include tangible action items on how we incorporate traditional knowledge on food systems within urban agriculture in London.
 - f. In the Urban "Foodscaping" section incorporate in the chart points safety / logistical considerations regarding the location and maintenance of public foodscaping. For example, the location of utilities must be considered. Locates would be required prior to creating gardens due to underground risk and that there are standards related to tree species and locations relative to the overhead hydro distribution systems.
 - g. The strategy specifically states which advisory committees will be advised of updates/ future actions related to the strategy including the annual report mentioned. (page 34 / Section 3 of Moving Forward) To include at minimum, ACE, Agriculture, Animal Welfare, Accessibility, EEPAC, Trees & Forests.
4. ACE recommends that the statement "Identify a City of London service area to coordinate..." (p34 Section 3 of Moving Forward) be more detailed. Staff resources – not just the service area should be clearly identified to support future development of the urban agriculture strategy and related actions. Ideally - a full-time staff person (or equivalent) should be dedicated to future support.
5. ACE recommends that all key documents sourced in the strategy (especially the food charter and food policy council related documents) are added and/or links clearly identified on the city's main urban agriculture webpage.