Winnipeg

CITY OF WINNIPEG POLICY NO. PD-030

POLICY TITLE	ADOPTED BY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Urban Agriculture on City Lands	City Council	September 22, 2022
ORIGIN / AUTHORITY	**CITY POLICY NO**	**MOST RECENT CONSOLIDATION**
Winnipeg Food Council	PD-030	

1. Purpose

Community groups and individuals currently grow food on City-owned lands. This use is deemed to be for the 'public good', as growing food can help reduce poverty, increase biodiversity, foster community connections, beautify neighbourhoods, and increase access to nutritious food. Demand for land is increasing, and organizations may adopt 'social enterprise' business models to assist with program funding. This creates the opportunity for further guidelines, processes, and reporting mechanisms to clarify how groups may benefit from sales of items grown on City lands.

This policy is a companion document to the City of Winnipeg Community Garden Policy, and addresses when urban agriculture activities are appropriate on City lands, and when produce grown on City lands can be sold.

2. Definitions

2.1 **"urban agriculture, outdoor"** means the outdoor cultivation of plants for human consumption or use in accordance with applicable municipal, provincial and federal regulations, and includes the sale, storage, processing and packaging of plants harvested on-site.

2.2 **"City lands"** means lands owned by the City of Winnipeg.

3. Urban Agriculture on City Lands Policy

3.1 The urban agriculture project will be operated by a non-profit entity according to the following criteria:

A. A license agreement shall be required that reflects the primary use of urban agriculture.

B. Grow primarily edible, art and craft, and/or Indigenous plants.

C. Grow plants for at least one of the following:

i. Project member and community benefit;
ii. Skills and capacity building;
iii. Arts and culture;
iv. Benefitting pollinators;
v. Donating to charitable causes

D. Actively encourage and support a diversity of community members (ex. age, ability, cultural background, etc.) to participate in the garden.

E. Provide signage that includes information about the purpose of the garden, the organization that sponsors it, how to get involved, and emphasizes that the garden is open to all members of the community.

F. Operate at no cost to the City.

G. The project shall be located on City lands.

3.2 The non-profit entity may sell products from the project under the following criteria:

A. All proceeds from sales are reinvested in the urban agriculture project or programming associated with the urban agriculture project.

B. Sales and operations take place in accordance with City of Winnipeg zoning by-laws.

C. All applicable provincial health and safety standards are met, including (but not limited to) ensuring soil is safe, and adhering to all related permits and procedures (See Appendices).

D. Provide yearly annual reports to the City detailing income and expenditures. The report shall also include information on how the urban agriculture project was made available without discrimination to all members of the community.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Public Works

A. Ensure non-profit entities that wish to sell products from their urban agriculture project on City lands understand and adhere to the requirements set out in this policy.

4.2 Real Estate Division

A. Establish license agreements that reflect the primary use of urban agriculture with non-profit entities that operate urban agriculture projects on City lands and wish to sell produce.

4.3 By-law Enforcement

A. Ensure sales of products are taking place in accordance with established zoning by-laws.

4.4 Non-profit Organizations operating urban agriculture projects on City lands

A. Adhere to policy and any reporting requirements associated with ensuring compliance.

5. Appendix – Provincial Health and Safety Standards

5.1 This section lists resources on where to find more information related to Provincial health and safety standards that impact selling food grown on city lands.

A. Province of Manitoba Market Development website

i. https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/food-and-ag-processing/market-development/index.html

a. This website lists details and guidelines for selling direct to consumer, to food service, and to retail markets.

B. Province of Manitoba Gardening and Soil Contaminants website

i.https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/home_gardens.html

a. This website provides advise on how to assess a site for soil contaminants, how to manage soil contaminants, and general safety tips. It also provides information on how to get a soil test.

C. Province of Manitoba Certified Food Handler Training Program

i.https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/protection/foodsafe.html

a. The Food Handler Training program teaches safe food handling practices for people who receive, prepare, and serve food in food service establishments. This is a recommended resource. Please note, your operation may not require a food handler certificate.