City of Winnipeg Urban Agriculture and Food Security Strategy

Goals:

- To develop a local, secure food strategy for the citizens of Winnipeg,
- To mitigate the destabilizing effects of global population increase, decreasing natural resources, clean water crises, increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and economic instability,
- To mitigate the economic challenges for families living at or near poverty levels as food costs continue to rise with the increase costs of fuel and industrial agricultural production,
- To build a resilient, local, green economy.

Background:

Elements of this strategy already exist in a piecemeal fashion through various local food-related social groups such as Winnipeg Harvest, in conjunction with existing provincial initiatives such as Food Matters Manitoba.

Concept examples:

- Model greenhouse, hydroponic-aquaculture, rooftop gardens, edible forests, community orchards and gardens, boulevard food-scaping on all city-owned properties,
- Zoning options for small-scaled inner-city farms with a priority of redeveloping schoolyards as educational food-production farmyards.
- Zoning priorities to assure that agricultural lands within the city are protected and supported to transform into a perimeter market-garden belt of organic small-scaled family or community farms,
- Food distribution systems including food co-ops, local grocery stores and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture.)
- Development of a city-wide composting program and local soil-nutrient banks throughout the city,
- Establishment of community-scale emergency food banks of grains and root crops,
- Establishment of seed-saving program and distribution of spring seeds,
- Special care and protection of honeybees,
- A heritage chicken program for families and support for small-scale hatcheries and egg-production facilities,
- Cultural awareness to celebrate our unique agricultural history including First Nations and traditional settler-cultures agriculture,
- Education programs throughout all segments of society to teach skills necessary for individuals, groups and business to achieve these goals.

Presented by Louise W. May, Aurora Farm
To Executive Policy Committee of the City of Winnipeg
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