

WINNIPEG FOOD COUNCIL

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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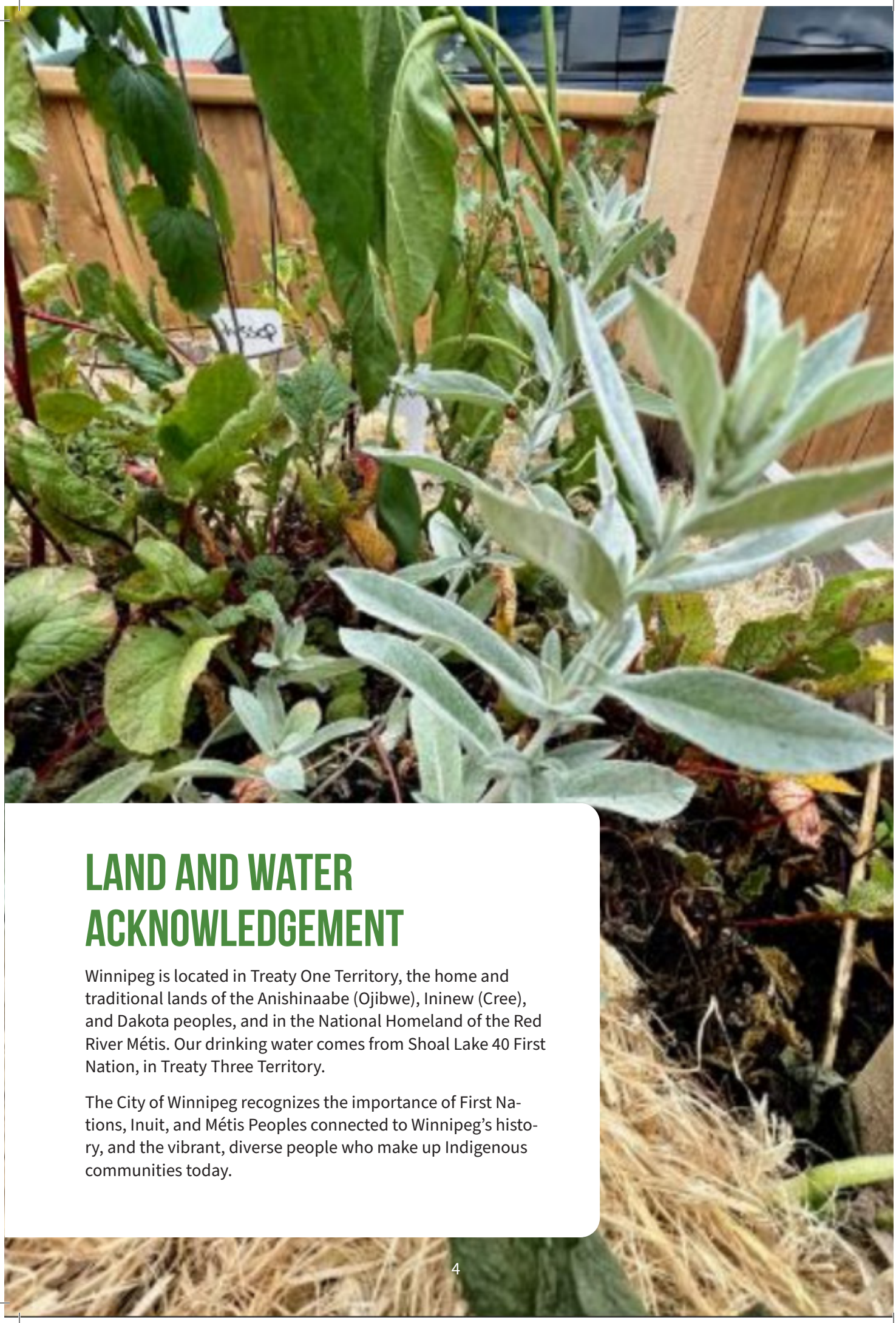
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LAND AND WATER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Winnipeg is located in Treaty One Territory, the home and traditional lands of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, in Treaty Three Territory.

The City of Winnipeg recognizes the importance of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples connected to Winnipeg's history, and the vibrant, diverse people who make up Indigenous communities today.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Councillor Jason Schreyer

It is my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Winnipeg Food Council, entering its seventh year. As a member of the Council since its establishment, I look forward to working both with long-term and new members as the committee continues to evolve. It is a genuine pleasure to see the impacts of the Food Council's work in the community, particularly with its support of Community Gardens. The skill and expertise of Food Council members has been an inspiration to me over my years of working with the Council, and one of my highlights in my role as City Councillor for Elmwood East-Kildonan.



MISSION, VISION AND FUNCTION

Vision

All Winnipeggers have what they need to eat well all the time.

Mission

Work with the Mayor, Councillors and City staff to fix food systems issues by advising on policy, relaying research and sharing lessons learned through continual consultation.

Strategic Directions

1. Continue seeking resources for coordination support
2. Ensure that current City of Winnipeg bylaws and programs are being used to their full advantage for food equity; and the city prioritizes food in its planning/initiatives.

The function of the Winnipeg Food Council is to:

1. Advise the Mayor and Council on food systems related issues;
2. Support the work of the community on food issues, enhance public health and local food security, and increase food literacy and access to food by encouraging multi-sector and strategic approaches, fostering coordination and networking, and supporting ongoing consultation; and
3. Initiate the development of and support the implementation, maintenance and evaluation of a City of Winnipeg Agriculture and Food Strategy to address municipal food security and food system issues.

The Winnipeg Food Council operates through the work and guidance of its two subcommittees:

1. The research and policy subcommittee undertake projects and research activities on food systems related issues and policy.
2. The development and communication subcommittee advise and aids in committee longevity, communications and public engagement.





WINNIPEG FOOD COUNCIL 2024 MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Jason Schreyer (Chairperson)

Councillor Russ Wyatt

Abby Legaspi – Community Group

Asha Nelson – Citizen Member

Dustin Hoft – Food Business

Manas Banerjee – Food Production

Martina Gornik-Marion – Health (Nominated by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority)

Michaela Calderwood – Citizen Member

Hannah Baxter – Food Business

Hanif Hassan Ali – Citizen Member

Carly Minish – Food Production

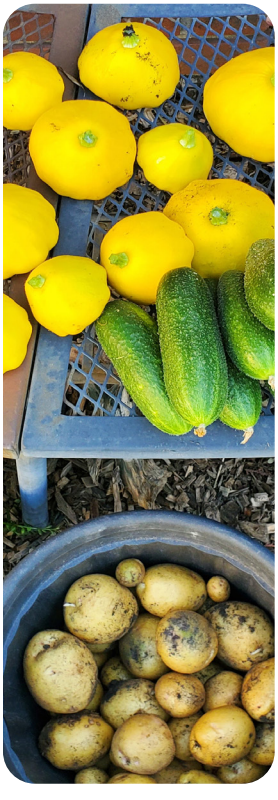
URBAN AGRICULTURE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

In 2024, for the third year, the Winnipeg Food Council offered a small grants program to support community gardens and urban agriculture initiatives. This year a reallocation of funding allowed for $15,000 total grant money to be awarded. Applications were accepted for up to $2,000 for new projects, garden renovations or operating costs.

Priority was given to projects which:

- are led by and/or serve equity seeking population,
- are in an area of higher need, food desert or other area lacking community-based food assets,
- increase the amount of food grown in Winnipeg,
- demonstrate project need via support of residents, participants, or agencies through various means including letters of support.

The 2024 grant program was well received, drawing 38 applications, with a total ask of $67,500. The Food Council provided grants of between $500 and $2,000 to 14 organizations:



- A Rocha Canada
- Elwick Community School
- Exchange Met School
- Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg Inc
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM)
- Manitoba Métis Federation
- Naomi House/City Church of Winnipeg
- North End Women's Centre
- NorWest Co-Op Community Food Centre
- Polson School
- Refugee Immigrant Farming & Integration in Manitoba (RIFIM)
- Shaughnessy Park School
- Fort Whyte Farms
- William Whyte Neighbourhood Association

Respondents reported reaching over 1,200 people between programming, volunteering, and food production. When asked for suggestions to improve the Grant program, respondents said that earlier notification of acceptance and distribution of funds was most important, and that higher grants would be appreciated. Several respondents also suggested that the WFC could support community gardens by arranging with the City for free delivery of soil or compost to gardens.

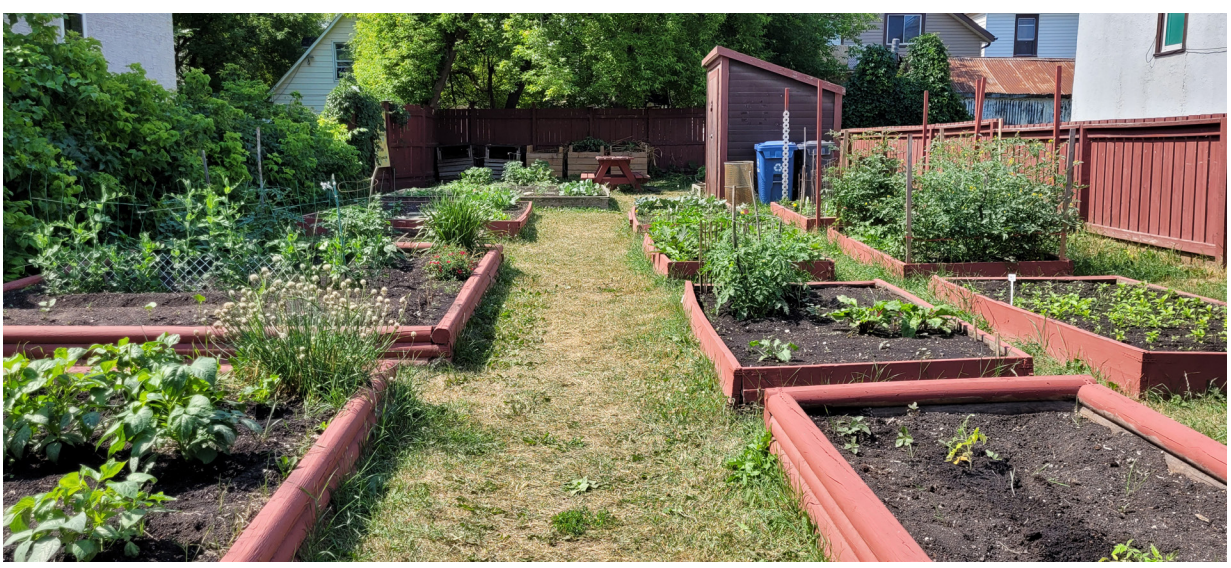
PROGRESS ON THE FOOD SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

In an effort to promote the Food System Snapshot report, The Winnipeg Food Council launched the report on the 15th of April, 2024. With the support of the Public Service, a "teaser" of the Food System Snapshot that says "Are you dreaming of a healthier Winnipeg? Learn more about the vision for a more sustainable Winnipeg Food System" was developed. The teaser was aired on the City's public display screens for one month and it was aired in English and French.

The Winnipeg Food Council also promoted the Food System Snapshot with a one-page handout with a QR code linking screens in libraries and community centres directly to the actual document. This one-page handout was printed in English and French and was distributed at the farmer's market across Winnipeg during the summer of 2024 (see appendix for samples)

The Winnipeg Food Council has continued discussions on the need to further develop a Winnipeg Agriculture and Food Strategy. The Research and Policy Sub-committee are looking into developing the scope for the strategy in 2025.





GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the direction of the Executive Policy Committee, the Public Service reported to the Winnipeg Food Council on the progress to incorporate urban agriculture into green infrastructure. The coordinators of the Winnipeg Food Council met with the team working on the Green Infrastructure Armstrong Project. It was highlighted that the work done on McGregor and Leila had identified spots where planter boxes could be placed for communities to plant desired crops.

The project is moving into the detailed design phase which is expected to conclude by the end of 2025. The entire project will take two to three years to be completed, though garden areas will likely be available much sooner. A community group will need to be identified to adopt and maintain any garden areas or planter boxes.

PRO-BONO STUDENTS CANADA

In 2024 the WFC continued its partnership with the Pro Bono Students of Canada, Manitoba Chapter (PBSC), to produce a reference for agricultural producers in the City interested in selling their produce. This resource allows interested growers to navigate the rules around growing and selling in the City, and answers questions such as:

1. What zones permit growing
2. What agricultural products can be produced for human consumption
3. What agricultural products can be sold
4. What soil issues may cause concerns

For 2025, First year Law student members of the PBSC are working on understanding bylaws around food storage. This will help non-profits find appropriate places to install refrigerated shipping containers. These containers allow time to distribute perishable foods to food banks and food support organizations. The document will be ready by Spring 2025.







HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE REDUCTION OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Food Waste Action Week

Food Waste Action week is the fourth annual campaign organized by Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) in the UK. It aims to raise awareness on the environmental implications of food waste and encourages actions to reduce it. This year, the Food Waste Action Week ran from March 18th -24th, 2024. The Winnipeg Food Council participated in this campaign by posting social media ads from LFHW on the "Save More, Waste Less" food challenge. This challenge is a 4-week program designed to empower people with practical knowledge and skills to prevent food waste at home and make the most of the fruits and vegetables you buy. The challenge started on February 27, 2024.

Food Waste Reduction Campaign

The Food Waste Reduction Campaign ran for the third year in 2024, after its inception in July of 2022. The 2024 campaign started on July 3rd, and ended on August 28th. The campaign is a partnership between the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Food Council and Love Food Hate Waste. Winnipeg has been a partner to LFHW for four years, which supports the campaign by providing promotional materials such as food waste information cards, recipe cards, organize your fridge pamphlets and magnets. A summer student was employed by Solid Waste Services to set up educational booths at farmer's markets across Winnipeg. The student was required to engage with residents and answer questions on household food waste, composting and other solid waste issues.

In 2023, approximately 18% of residential garbage that ended up in Brady Road Resource Management Facility was food waste, which works out to 32,034 metric tonnes. According to the organization Second Harvest, 11.2 million tonnes of food is wasted in Canada per year, totaling almost $50 billion of food waste.

Objectives

The objectives of this food waste reduction campaign are:

1. Raise awareness on the amount of household food waste in Winnipeg and provide education to residents on how to prevent it in their homes.
2. Interact with residents, including engaging in conversations and answering questions about food waste and other Solid Waste Services questions.





Farmer's market

This year, the City attended 13 events at eight different markets across Winnipeg. Some of the farmer's market were visited twice while some were visited only once. See table 1 for markets visited, frequency and dates.





Table 1

Market Name	Number of Visits	Dates Attended
South Osborne Farmers' Market	2	July 3rd & August 14th
Wolseley Farmers' Market	2	July 9th & August 13th
Transcona Biz Community Market	2	July 18th & August 22nd
St Norbert Farmers' Market	1	July 20th
The Wellness Institute Farmers' Market	2	July 23rd & August 20th
River Heights Farmers' Market	1	July 26th
West Broadway Farmers' Market	2	July 31st & August 28th
Downtown Winnipeg Farmers' Market	1	August 8th

Notes: Bronx Park Farmers' Market was scheduled to be attended on July 13th, however this market was cancelled.

Interim residential food waste program

The Public Service was directed by Council to provide interim solutions to reduce food waste while the City continues to plan for the launch of the curbside green cart program scheduled for 2030. The City of Winnipeg is launching some food waste drop off stations across the city to collect residential food waste. This program allows residents to drop food waste which would reduce the amount of greenhouse gas at the landfill and would help the city meet its climate change goals.

This project is supported through a partnership with Compost Winnipeg. The city plans to create drop-off locations where residents and drop-off their food waste. Compost Winnipeg will manage the sites, the collection and composting of the food waste.

These drop -off sites were officially accessible on the 15th of October 2024. The program was announced two weeks prior to allow residents time to gather and drop off their food waste.



SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY ON FOOD ISSUES

In February 2024, the Winnipeg Food Council received a verbal update on the proposal to repurpose Roland Michener Arena for a year- round farmer's market. The Roland Michener Arena was a former hockey rink so it is required that some level of work needed to be done to repurpose it.

A building assessment, code compliance review and feasibility study were presented to the Standing Policy Committee (SPC) on Property and Development on September 13 2024. The feasibility study was later presented to the Winnipeg Food Council. The study highlighted that the arena would need to be re-zoned and renovated. Some construction work would be required as well as electrical and this would cost approximately $5.9 million.

A member of the Winnipeg Food Council recommended that a community garden should be developed close to or around the arena. Another member suggested having a shared processing space for food production.





REQUESTS TO EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

In 2024 the WFC forwarded three new requests to the Executive Policy Committee (WPC). These were:

On February 27th, heard at EPC on March 12th:

a. A recommendation to increase the budget of the Winnipeg Food Council to allow more grant money to be distributed for the Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens grants program.

b. A recommendation to allocate funds to help promote the launch of the Food Systems Snapshot Report.

On September 20th, heard at EPC on October 16th:

a. A recommendation to allow the Winnipeg Food Council and its coordinators to apply to Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF) under the Small Scale Projects grant stream.

The two motions heard on March 12th were received as information. The motion to allow the WFC to apply to the LFIF was heard on October 16th and was passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Winnipeg Food Council Expenses 2024		
Item	**Expense**	**Amount**
1	Food System Snapshot Promotion	$501.75
2	Printing Costs	$106.00
3	Urban Agriculture small grants program	$15,000.00
4	Graphic Design	$120.00
	Total:	**$15,727.75**

