

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE LANGLEY URBAN AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The first **Community Open House** for the **Langley Urban Agriculture Demonstration Project** was held at Alice Brown Elementary School in Langley on May 10th, 2017 from 6-8pm.

Attending Stakeholders:

Roy Beddow – City of Langley
 Geoff Mallory – City of Langley
 Emily Hansen – KPU
 Kent Mullinix – KPU
 Gary Holisko – BC Hydro

54 participant questionnaires were completed and submitted and the following summary is derived from those results. The majority of participants were residents living adjacent to the site or in close proximity who received notification by mail from the city. It is estimated that 80 people visited the open house in total.

Community Interest

Current Use:

- The site and trails are actively used for walking, biking, sledding in winter
- Blackberry picking and wildlife viewing were also uses mentioned

Opportunities:

- Enhance habitat (stream rehabilitation)
- Improving usability and aesthetics of the space
- Local food production
- Donations to food bank
- Education (youth and community member)
- Gleaning food crops for community members
- Making use of underutilized space in community

Amenity Suggestions:

Those participants who considered the amenity possibilities presented in Table 1, and suggested:

- Educational (school garden, outdoor classroom or demo garden)
- Community orchard
- Community garden
- Ecological amenities would be appropriate and that protecting and enhancing habitat is a strong value

Amenity	Description
Community Farm	A farm where production, processing, distribution of food takes place and direct connections with communities are cultivated.
Community Orchard	A collection of fruit and/or nut trees planted in a public space where there is shared access to the open space and the food produced.
Incubator Farm	Small farm plots accessible to new farmers to practice agricultural skills, gain experience and launch their farming businesses.
Training Farm	Working farms that also offer some kind of formalized training (course or program) to train people for careers in agricultural.
School Garden	Spaces designed and managed to connect directly to student learning objectives, often located on or adjacent to school properties.
Outdoor Classroom	Dedicated outdoor space for learning and educational programming.
Accessibility Garden	Providing gardening opportunities for people with physical disabilities or mobility issues.
Children's Garden	Growing space designed for children with a focus on ecological systems and/or the link to food production.
Community Garden	A piece of land divided into plots that is gardened collectively producing food for personal use or for the community.
Indigenous Garden	Space for Indigenous communities to express cultural identity and educate non-indigenous people about traditional food systems.
Pollinator Garden	Gardens designed to increase habitat for other wild pollinators (i.e. bees, butterflies).
Livestock	In urban farming context livestock can include; chickens, honey bees, goats, sheep, pigs or fish.
Ecological/Habitat Areas	Integrated into farming landscapes these areas increase wild biodiversity and provide educational opportunities about the links between ecology and food production.

Table 1: Urban Agriculture Amenities

Primary Community Concerns

Impacts to nearby properties:

- General concern that local residents would not benefit (beneficiaries would be people in apartments with no space to grow food, schools and city)
- Residents, especially those with adjacent properties worried about access to ROW being cut off or restricted with site development
- Residents with backing properties value privacy and views so plan should not infringe on this

Access and traffic:

- Residents were concerned about increased traffic to the area (vehicle and pedestrian)
- Strong opposition to any effort to open up dead end street (i.e. 202 st.)
- Some worried about larger vehicles accessing the site and potential disturbance
- Residents also worried about opening the site up to broad public access and the impacts that would have on safety, privacy and their enjoyment of the site

Parking:

- In addition to traffic, residents are concerned about parking including; where it would be located, how it would impact the surrounding community and the effect on current uses
- Interactive map showed identified off 200th St. and 202 St. as access sites, with the majority of residents choosing 200th St. as the access point that would limit community conflict

Safety:

- Primary safety concerns related to influx of non-residents, homeless population and vandalism of infrastructure and amenities
- Questions about policing and night security

Habitat value:

- Many people are concerned about the development of the site for urban agriculture disrupting or destroying wildlife habitat
- Also concern that development on the site could force wildlife into residents backyards

Cleanliness:

- Concern about aesthetics, cleanliness and increased presence of rats was common

Additional Comments

- Some residents said that they support urban agriculture, but didn't think this location would be appropriate
- Current users express how they like the area is "empty" and "passive" concerned about over development and over use
- Some residents were also concerned about how possible negative effects (i.e. increased traffic, pests, aesthetics etc.) would affect property values



Site view looking west towards 200th St.



Site view from middle of site looking east.

PROJECT PARTNERS



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LANGLEY





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KPU
Institute for Sustainable Food Systems