

# RESPONSES TO COMMON QUESTIONS

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE LANGLEY URBAN AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT  
OCTOBER 2017

## Responses to Common Questions

### **Why was this site chosen for the exploration of urban agriculture?**

The proposed site is owned by the City of Langley and managed by BC Hydro as a provincial utility. This project was conceived as a way to explore the possibilities for urban agriculture in the City of Langley, to enhance the site as a community amenity to be enjoyed by all residents, while also contributing to the City's well-loved park space and existing natural infrastructure.

### **Has the City already made a decision to develop the site?**

The City of Langley is engaging with partners to develop a vision for urban agriculture on this site. Metro Vancouver has invested in the planning process because they are interested in the results of the process and how they might translate it to other municipalities. The project team is committed to completing the planning process and will do so with careful consideration of public concern. At this time no decision has been made or funding secured to develop the site once the planning phase is complete.

### **How will long term maintenance be addressed?**

The proposed site plan will be accompanied by a long-term management plan and project implementation and maintenance budgets. These plans will outline the roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing the site, should development be approved.

### **How will the urban agriculture on this site benefit residents in the surrounding neighbourhood?**

This site is located in a low density urban neighbourhood where many homes are surrounded by both front and back yards where food production and other gardening activities are possible. Acknowledging this, the site plan will emphasize education and collective cultivation, rather than providing space for personal gardens. With the proposed plan residents from the community could learn about the importance of growing food locally with the potential to apply these lessons in their own yards.

### **How will traffic and parking be addressed?**

The proposed site plan will incorporate an on site parking area with direct access off 200 St. This area will be designed to accommodate parking that reflects the scale of amenities on the site. The proposed plan will still allow local residents to enjoy unrestricted access to the site for passive recreation.

### **Will there be an influx of people from outside the neighbourhood?**

In the proposed site plan small-scale food production on the site would be managed by an urban agriculture society with staff from the local area, and volunteers. Based on the scale of the proposed agricultural amenities it is estimated that there could be between 2 and 8 people (staff and volunteers) affiliated with the society working on the site at any one time. Occasional community "workbees" may attract more people, but these people are likely to be City of Langley residents with a vested interest in the project. Amenities designed for education in connection with schools could have more users at specific times (e.g. 20-30 students plus teachers). These activities would take place during school hours.

### **Will pesticides be used on agricultural crops?**

In the proposed site plan harmful chemicals and pesticides will not be used in the maintenance of agricultural crops. Like many other urban agriculture projects this project will be a site for demonstrating techniques in human scale, ecologically sound agriculture. Additionally, organic production techniques can be used to build soil fertility and enhance biodiversity. Planting a variety of food crops as well as native species across the site could continue to support beneficial insects and diverse wildlife.

### **Will developing an urban agriculture project increase crime?**

Site activity and community building through urban agriculture can actually decrease crime and prevent loitering because the site is policed by regular users. Although vandalism and theft of produce do occur in urban agriculture projects, it is rarely detrimental to the success of the project and can often be addressed through low cost measures and by developing, over time, community support for the initiative.

### **How will the existing rodent issue be managed and mitigated?**

Rats and other rodents can be issues in urban agriculture projects. Acknowledging an existing high rat population in the area means designing an urban agriculture project that can be part of mitigating this issue. All farming infrastructure should be designed to limit the possibilities of rat infestations. In addition, management of the property could integrate pest control measures that, along with public education and other city wide initiatives may help to address the rodent issues in the area.