

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

# Local Food & Urban Agriculture Strategy

Public Survey #2: What We Heard



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[whitehorse.ca/localfood](http://whitehorse.ca/localfood)

## Overview

In March 2016, the City of Whitehorse initiated a planning and public consultation process to develop a *Local Food & Urban Agriculture Strategy*, with funding provided by the *Canada-Yukon Growing Forward 2 Agriculture Program*. Two public surveys have occurred as part of the project's engagement activities, which have additionally included interviews and focus groups.

**Public Survey #1** was released on August 1, 2016 to asked residents about how they participate in the local food system, challenges they have encountered with policies and regulations, and their interests in future food-related pursuits. The survey closed on September 2, 2016. A 'What We Heard' document that summarizes the input received from 159 respondents is available on the project website at [whitehorse.ca/localfood](http://whitehorse.ca/localfood).

**Public Survey #2** was released on April 17, 2017 covering a mix of topics including local food access and consumption, definitions for 'local', community gardens, and City compost. The survey closed on May 15, 2017. This document is a summary of the input received from 296 respondents. It is intended to represent the variety of views and ideas submitted, and is not a verbatim record.

As an incentive, survey respondents were able to enter themselves into a draw to win either a \$50 gift certificate for City compost or a \$50 gift certificate to the Canada Games Centre. The draws occurred on June 8, 2017. Winners were contacted by email.

## Survey Questions

Public Survey #2 featured 25 questions grouped into 5 sections (A to E). Surveys where questions were answered to beyond Section A were counted in the summary totals. Questions were either multiple choice or open ended. Responses were required for some questions, and were optional for others.

### Section A: About You

1. What neighbourhood do you live in?
2. What type of residence do you live in?
3. What is your age?
4. How long have you lived in Whitehorse?

### Section B: Local Food Access & Consumption

5. During a typical summer week, approximately how much of the food that you consume is accessed from each of the following?
6. If you or someone in your household hunted or fished in the last 12 months, how much was harvested?

7. The term "local" can mean different things to different people. In your opinion, what does local food for Whitehorse residents mean?
8. In your opinion, where does local food for Whitehorse residents come from?
9. During a typical week in each season, what percentage of the food that you consume is local?
10. From the following list, select the 4 most important things that you consider when purchasing food.
11. Which of the following would help you to consume more local food?
12. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about local food access and consumption?

### **Section C: Community Gardens**

13. If there isn't already a community garden located in the neighbourhood/area that you live in, and if one was to be developed, how likely would you be to use it?
14. Have you ever seen a vacant piece of land within city limits and thought "that would be a great location for a community garden"? If yes, tell us where and why. You can also tell us about potential challenges.
15. Anything else you'd like to tell us about community gardens?

### **Section D: City Compost**

16. Before taking this survey, were you aware that the City sold compost?
17. Have you ever purchased City compost?
18. If you answered "yes" to having purchased City compost, let us know how you feel about the following statements.
19. The City sells compost in two unit sizes: 1) by cubic yard, and 2) by 20 litre bag. Is there a different unit size that you would like the City to offer?
20. City compost sold in bulk loads (by cubic yard) is available for pick-up Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm, excluding 12 - 1pm. Is there a different time that you would like to be able to purchase bulk loads? (Bags can be purchased weekdays and weekends during regular facility hours.)
21. City compost is available for purchase exclusively at the Waste Management Facility. Is there another location where you would like to be able to purchase it from?
22. Anything else you'd like to tell us about City compost?

### **Section E: Thank You!**

23. To be entered into a draw for prizes, and/or to receive project updates, please provide your email address.
24. Which draw would you like to be entered in?
25. Would you like to receive email updates on this project?

## Section A: About You

Section A captured a few specifics about survey respondents, including the neighbourhood they live in, residence type, age, and length of time spent in Whitehorse.

### 1. What neighbourhood do you live in?

Neighbourhood	Respondents (296)	%
Arkell	5	1.69
Copper Ridge	25	8.45
Cowley Creek	5	1.69
Crestview	10	3.38
Downtown	19	6.42
Fox Haven	1	0.34
Golden Horn	3	1.01
Granger	13	4.39
Hidden Valley	1	0.34
Hillcrest	9	3.04
Ingram	2	0.68
Kopper King	2	0.68
Logan	7	2.36
Long Lake Road	1	0.34
MacPherson	2	0.68
MacRea	1	0.34
Mary Lake	6	2.03
Mount Sima	2	0.68
Pine Ridge	3	1.01
Porter Creek	36	12.16
Range Point	6	2.03
Raven's Ridge	1	0.34
Riverdale	67	22.64
Spruce Hill	1	0.34
Takhini	20	6.76
Valleyview	4	1.35
Whistle Bend	15	5.07
Whitehorse Copper	5	1.69
Wolf Creek	3	1.01
Within city limits, rural unidentified	3	1.01
Within city limits, unidentified	2	0.68
Out of city limits (Carcross, Fish Lake Road, Ibex Valley, Lake Laberge, Marsh Lake, Mendenhall, Mt. Lorne, Shallow Bay Road, Takhini Hot springs)	16	5.41

## 2. What type of residence do you live in?

Residence type	Respondents (296)	%
Single detached	192	64.86
Duplex	25	8.45
Apartment	20	6.76
Townhouse or triplex	19	6.42
Trailer	14	4.73
Attached suite, including basement	8	2.70
Condo, unspecified	6	2.03
Cabin	5	1.69
Fourplex	2	0.68
Detached/garden suite	1	0.34
Farm	1	0.34
Tiny house	1	0.34
Manufactured house	1	0.34
Mobile home	1	0.34

## 3. What is your age?

Age group	Respondents (296)	%
10 years or under	0	0.00
11 - 20 years	1	0.34
21 - 30 years	40	13.51
31 - 40 years	76	25.68
41 - 50 years	56	18.92
51 - 60 years	67	22.64
61 - 70 years	45	15.20
71 - 80 years	10	3.38
81 - 90 years	1	0.34
91+ years	0	0.00

## 4. How long have you lived in Whitehorse?

Length of time in Whitehorse	Respondents (296)	%
More than 12 months	283	95.61
Less than 12 months	12	4.05
I'm just visiting	1	0.34

## Section B: Local Food Access & Consumption

The City's *Sustainability Plan* includes a goal to increase the amount of local food consumed by Whitehorse residents. Questions in Section B were geared at generating a sense of where we're starting from.

**5. During a typical summer week, approximately how much of the food that you consume is accessed from each of the following? (\* = harvested by yourself, family, or friends)**

Retailer / Source	Respondents (296)				
	All	Most	About ½	Some	None
Large grocery stores (e.g. Independent, Super Store, Super A)	15	167	76	35	3
%	5.07	56.42	25.68	11.82	1.01
Small grocery stores (e.g. Riverside, Farmer Roberts)	0	2	11	204	79
%	0.00	0.68	3.72	68.92	26.69
Specialty stores (e.g. bakeries, butchers)	0	1	3	198	94
%	0.00	0.34	1.01	66.89	31.76
Fruit / vegetable stands	0	7	10	185	94
%	0.00	2.36	3.38	62.50	31.76
Farmer's market	1	3	14	190	88
%	0.34	1.01	4.73	64.19	29.73
Farm gate	0	0	3	52	241
%	0.00	0.00	1.01	17.57	81.42
Food co-op	0	0	2	31	263
%	0.00	0.00	0.68	10.47	88.85
Food box	0	0	1	17	278
%	0.00	0.00	0.34	5.74	93.92
Garden plot* (at your residence or elsewhere)	1	8	28	169	90
%	0.34	2.70	9.46	57.09	30.41
Foraged* (e.g. berries, mushrooms)	4	4	5	172	111
%	1.35	1.35	1.6	58.12	37.5
Hunted*	5	9	11	79	192
%	1.69	3.04	3.72	26.69	64.86

Fished*	8	7	9	126	146
%	2.70	2.36	3.04	42.57	49.32
Restaurants or mobile food vendors	0	1	6	242	47
%	0.00	0.34	2.03	81.76	15.88
Nutrition support programs (e.g. Food Bank, Salvation Army, Sally & Sisters)	1	0	0	4	291
%	0.34	0.00	0.00	1.35	98.31
Other (specify what and how much)					

A total of 18 comments were received in the “other” section of this question and are summarized by theme.

Local stores:

- Fish store
- Cheese store
- Gas station

Non-local stores:

- Costco

Online stores:

- Horizon, or similar bulk food order

Other vendors:

- Fishers at the dock

Non-retail sources:

- Home grown chickens from family in another province
- Home raised meats

Other comments and questions:

- Is a Food Box similar to a CSA?
- It comes down to convenience
- Whitehorse needs a place for recycling clothes (e.g. Free Store, Salvation Army)

**6. If you or someone in your household hunted or fished in the last 12 months, how much was harvested?**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Respondents (296)</b>	<b>%</b>
I / we don't hunt or fish	134	45.27
I / we tried, but nothing was harvested	59	19.93
I / we harvested the following... (please specify)	103	34.80
		<b>%</b>
Large game	34	11.49
Small game	15	5.07
Fish	81	27.36
Crustaceans	3	1.01
		<b>%</b>
Unspecified amount	24	8.11
1-10 fish	36	12.16
10-19 fish	13	4.39
20-39 fish	7	2.36
40 fish	1	0.34

A total of 162 respondents (55%) indicated that they, or someone in their household, participated in hunting or fishing in the prior 12 months. 103 respondents (35%) reported success in harvesting game, fish, or crustaceans. 30 respondents (10%) indicated harvesting a combination of game and fish.

Some respondents mentioned that game meat was given to them. One respondent mentioned catching fish to trade for game harvested by others.

The quantity of large game indicated by 34 respondents (11%) ranged from ½ to 2 animals. Some respondents did not specify how many animals were harvested. Species included:

- Bison
- Moose
- Caribou
- Sheep
- Black bear

The quantity of small game indicated by 15 respondents (5%) ranged from 1 to 15 animals. Some respondents did not specify how many were harvested. Species included:

- Lynx
- Rabbit
- Ducks
- Grouse

The quantity of fish indicated by 81 respondents (27%) ranged from 1 to 40. Some respondents did not specify how many were harvested. Species included:



- Trout (rainbow and lake)
- Pike
- Salmon
- Grayling
- Whitefish
- Jackfish
- Burbot
- Dolly Varden
- Cod
- Halibut
- Rockfish

Crustaceans were indicated by 3 respondents (1%), with species including:

- Crab
- Shrimp

**7. The term "local" can mean different things to different people. In your opinion, what does local food for Whitehorse residents mean?**

A total of 288 responses were received for this question and are summarized by theme.

“Here”:

- Grown here
- Processed here
- Raised here
- Hunted here
- Foraged here

Whitehorse and surrounding area:

- Grown in or around Whitehorse
- From surrounding farms
- Surrounding areas (e.g. Ibez Valley)
- Grown and harvested for the consumption of the people in Whitehorse
- Seeded, grown, and harvested in Whitehorse
- Any food acquired in Whitehorse
- Whitehorse area for vegetables that can be grown here, and most meats

Other Yukon:

- Produced within Yukon
- Created in Yukon
- Foraged in Yukon
- Harvested in Yukon
- Fished, hunted, or picked in the Yukon
- Grown at Yukon farms
- Grown in Yukon greenhouses
- Yukon-based (grown or wild)

- From the bush in Yukon
- Food that originated in the Yukon
- A local diet is a combination of garden produce, local harvest, hunting, and fishing
- Food grown or harvested by people in the community, or from any of the smaller communities around the Yukon
- Food produced in Yukon, since our agriculture is relatively small scale
- Within Yukon for certain things that are not readily found in, or near, Whitehorse (e.g. morels, wild game/fish, birch syrup)
- Watson Lake to Dawson
- Raw source was grown, raised, or harvested within the territory
- Not as far as Haines Junction or Watson Lake
- Grown, gathered, hunted, or fished in the Southern Yukon
- Carcross area
- Tagish area
- Haines Junction area
- Food that can be found naturally in the Yukon

Region:

- From the broader region around Whitehorse
- Within the bioregion
- Food from outside of our borders is “regional”

“North”:

- North of 60
- Produced in the North

British Columbia (BC):

- Far north BC
- Northern BC
- Atlin
- Lower Post
- Fraser
- Peace District
- Okanagan
- Southern BC
- Lower mainland BC for fruit and vegetables in the summer and fall
- BC for tender crops (e.g. apples and berries)

Western Canada:

- Grown in western Canada

Alberta:

- Northern Alberta

#### Other Canada:

- Grown in Canada
- Hunted or harvested within the Canadian boundary

#### Alaska:

- Alaska
- Haines
- Skagway
- South east Alaska
- Eastern Alaska

#### Other USA:

- North western states
- California

#### Other countries:

- I try to avoid products that come from afar (e.g. South America, Europe, Africa, China, New Zealand)
- New Zealand and China are too far
- Europe okay for some things (e.g. olives)

#### Distance:

- Sourced as close as reasonably can be expected, given the season
- Grown or raised close by
- Within a reasonable distance
- The closer to my residence, the better
- Closest source, by product (e.g. seafood from Alaska, apples from BC)
- 50 km radius
- Less than 100 km of the Yukon borders
- Within 100 km
- Within 100 miles
- 100 mile diet
- Within 200 km
- Within 300km
- Within a 500 km radius of Whitehorse
- Within 500 km of my house
- Within a couple of hundred km of Whitehorse
- Within 750 km of Whitehorse

#### Time:

- Within 45 minutes
- Within 1 hour
- Within 2 hours

- 4 hour radius
- Maximum a few hours' drive
- Within a half-day drive
- Less than a day's travel
- Within a day's travel
- Within a day's trucking zone

#### Seasonal:

- Grown in Yukon for fresh produce in summer and fall, but elsewhere in other seasons
- Not purchasing items out of season
- Varies seasonally and by product
- Southern BC and California are included in "winter local"
- Eating root vegetables year round, that are produced in early fall
- Like to eat fresh produce in winter, not just root veggies
- Eating year round local food includes carrots, potatoes, chicken, pork, fish, wild berries, and produce that is pickled and frozen
- Local expands to "grown in Canada" in the winter
- Not reasonable to expect producers within 100 km to grow food 12 months a year, but maybe 7 or 8 is possible

#### Personal involvement:

- Home grown
- Grown by me or others
- Food picked by me in the wild (e.g. berries)
- Fished or hunted by me
- Food grown at home, including from vegetable garden or chickens
- Anything grown by myself or others in the Yukon

#### Expanded sense of "local":

- I moved from Vancouver Island, which produces more easily than the north, so I've expanded my "local" definition
- Yukon, but if I lived elsewhere, my definition would probably be different
- Flexible definition since growing conditions are not the best in the Yukon
- "Local" has a few tiers in Yukon context

#### Transport:

- Not shipped in
- Not trucked up the highway
- Spent a very small amount of time on a truck
- Not flown in from other provinces
- Food that requires very little travel time to reach residents
- Food that involves less trucking/flying than other products found at stores
- Easily transported to Whitehorse without excessive fossil fuels
- Grown in or near Whitehorse so that the impact of transport is lower

### Processing:

- Processed here (e.g. gourmet spices, baked goods, jams, soups, salsa, roasted coffee)
- Assembled in the Yukon from mostly Yukon products with some other additions (e.g. basic supplies bought from a grocery store)
- Limited additives
- Packaging might have to come from elsewhere
- Products produced in Yukon using a significant proportion of food that is grown locally
- Made by Yukoners using at least some locally grown ingredients
- Maple products are not local, even if bottled here, as there are no maple trees here

### Retailers and vendors:

- Vendors qualify if they use ingredients found locally
- Sold, shopped, bought at the farmer's market
- Bought at Farmer Roberts
- Bought at vegetable stands
- From a food co-op
- Raised in the vicinity of the commercial outlet where it is sold at (e.g. Yukon grown vegetables sold at Superstore)
- "Shopping local" includes shopping at local stores, even if they sell food from elsewhere

### Methods and values:

- Nutritious
- High quality
- Healthier
- Fair trade
- Tasty
- Eating a variety of food, from a variety of sources
- Hopefully organic
- Grown without pesticides or hormones
- Accessible local farm produce
- Sustainably harvested
- Naturally grown
- Purchased at an affordable price
- Sustainable
- Pork raised here is local even if the piglets came from down south, but would prefer if the piglets were local
- Would rather have food that is a 3-4 hour drive and produced by Yukoners, than have it travel thousands of miles, and from regions that have drought and poor labour regulations

### Networks:

- It's valuable for us to develop local food security/sovereignty
- Create networks within the wider territory that allow food to be grown and distributed efficiently

Other comments:

- Happy with the options we have
- Local food is expensive and unreliable
- Involves edible landscaping and garden plots
- Food increases my ecological footprint on the earth more than anything else
- We live in a northern environment with restrictions on what we can grow
- Unsustainable for southern Yukon ecosystem to support the current population through local food sources or using our poor local soils
- City should be spending money to support large green house production
- 3P partnerships are needed (e.g. City and Yukon Gardens, or other businesses interested in partnering to produce vegetables)
- Shame that the City wants to spend so much money on buildings and bus garages, instead of developing food security

**8. In your opinion, where does local food for Whitehorse residents come from? (Check all that apply)**

Area	Respondents (296) Selections (1,587)	%
Whitehorse	226	76.35
Areas close to Whitehorse (e.g. Hot Springs Road, Ibex Valley, Mendenhall)	268	90.54
Carcross area	193	65.20
Haines Junction area	181	61.15
Dawson City, Henderson Corner, and area	180	60.81
Atlin BC area	137	46.28
North/Central BC area (e.g. Dawson Creek, Prince George)	51	17.23
Southern BC area (e.g. Vancouver, Okanagan)	41	13.85
Skagway Alaska area	96	32.43
Haines Alaska area	101	34.12
Anywhere I / we can get to and back, within a few days	37	12.50
California	24	8.11
Mexico	24	8.11
Other	28	9.46

A total of 28 comments were received in the “other” section of this question. Seven respondents (about 2%) indicated that wording of the question was confusing; they were not sure if it referred to where the food available to Whitehorse residents comes from, or if it was asking where food that is considered ‘local’ comes from. This likely influenced some selections and additional locations listed.

The following additional locations were mentioned:

- All of Yukon
- Alberta
- Manitoba
- Canada
- USA
- Europe
- Chile

The following measures for local were suggested:

- Within 45 minutes
- Less than 6 hours
- Delivered the day it is harvested
- Within 50 km
- Within 100 miles
- North of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel
- Product dependent
- Not from a grocery store
- Anywhere regionally connected

**9. During a typical week in each season, what percentage of the food that you consume is local?**

Respondents (296)							
Season	0	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-99%	100%
Spring	45	196	33	18	2	1	1
%	15.20	66.22	11.12	6.42	0.68	0.34	0.34
Summer	9	90	98	55	34	7	3
%	3.04	30.41	33.12	18.58	11.49	2.36	1.01
Fall	10	129	73	54	24	5	1
%	3.38	43.58	24.66	18.24	8.11	1.69	0.34
Winter	55	195	33	11	1	0	1
%	18.58	65.88	11.15	3.72	0.34	0	0.34

Response options to this question were initially grouped into percentages of 10, but were changed to percentages of 20 to make the question easier to respond to. This change reflected feedback received from several respondents. Six people responded to the initial version of the question.

**10. From the following list, select the 4 most important things that you consider when purchasing food:**

<b>Considerations</b>	<b>Respondents (296) Selections (1,122)</b>	<b>%</b>
Price	209	70.61
Convenience in retail location	117	39.53
Food miles / carbon footprint	57	19.26
Taste	186	62.84
Nutrients	138	46.62
Organic production methods	113	38.18
Supporting the local economy	175	59.12
Packaging / recyclability	69	23.31
Fair trade	28	9.46
Other	30	10.14

A total of 30 comments were received in the “other” section of this question and are summarized by theme.

Other factors considered in purchase decisions:

- Wild
- Selection
- Variety
- Quality
- Versatility (e.g. rice as a staple can be used in a variety of meals)
- Type (e.g. assessing foods for quality ingredients)
- Freshness
- Affordability
- Quality of shopping experience
- Convenience (e.g. one-stop shopping)
- Dietary needs (e.g. diabetic)
- Diet preferences (e.g. vegan)
- Organic
- Animal welfare
- Preferences for free-range eggs, grass-fed milk, and non-GMO
- Availability of Yukon produce in Yukon supermarkets
- Is it on my list to buy?
- Knowing the farmer
- Knowing how the animal is raised
- Minimal packaging
- Zero waste
- Country of origin
- Must be from a country I feel comfortable with (e.g. responsible health and environmental policies)



Items to avoid:

- Foods produced in certain countries (e.g. China and Mexico)
- US purchases
- Processed foods

Other comments:

- I take all of these things into consideration
- Price is my last consideration, unless it's unusually high
- For similar products, I buy local over imported
- Carbon footprint is not equivalent to food miles; transportation is not the major contributor to agricultural carbon emissions
- Many dairy products on the shelf are expired
- Many produce items on the shelf are already rotting
- We need better labeling for GMOs
- Supporting Yukoners is important, but so is supporting the Yukon way of raising animals (e.g. even if not organic)
- Would rather buy local meat that is not organic, than organic meat raised in another province
- A \$50 local chicken is expensive for my budget

**11. Which of the following would help you to consume more local food? (Check all that apply)**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Respondents (296) Selections (1,458)</b>	<b>%</b>
More availability of fresh local foods	252	85.14
More availability of preserved and processed local foods	147	49.66
More variety	120	40.54
Lower prices	194	65.54
Clearer labeling	68	22.97
Information about the importance of consuming local food	31	10.47
Opportunity to visit farms and / or know the farmer	63	21.28
Resources to harvest, hunt, and / or fish	59	19.93
Resources to develop a garden at my residence	113	38.18
Opportunity to participate in community gardening	48	16.22
Opportunity to learn about gardening	81	27.36
Opportunity to learn about livestock raising	35	11.82
Opportunity to learn how to preserve and process food	67	22.64
More personal time to grow, harvest, and / or process my own food	132	44.59
Nothing would help	1	0.34
Other	47	15.88

A total of 47 comments were received in the “other” section of this question and are summarized by theme.

#### Infrastructure:

- Having my own greenhouse
- Greenhouses that operate year long
- Community greenhouses, dehydrators, canning equipment, and food storage facilities (e.g. root cellar for storing potatoes)
- I need to build a box and get some dirt
- We have a greenhouse that is not well utilized and we'd be open to sharing the space
- Industrial or commercial greenhouses to allow more food to be grown locally, in larger quantities, and year-round

#### Programs:

- A hunting mentorship program
- Sharing program for unused garden beds partnering with those who do not have access to garden space

#### Information and learning opportunities on:

- How to extend the growing season
- How to increase garden yield and harvest seeds
- Harvesting
- Fishing
- Processing
- Preserving food for the winter
- Cold storage methods

#### Retailers and farmer's market:

- More affordable local foods in stores
- A retail outlet which carries local meat, even if not organic
- Quality cuts and butchering
- Availability in major food stores
- Clear communication of where to purchase local foods
- Support for the local food co-op
- Local food stocked in the places where I do my shopping
- Offering a different day and time for farmer's market

#### Values:

- I prioritize local and small-scale, over organic
- My first choice at the grocery store is Yukon grown
- Would like chemical-free

#### Better labelling needed for:

- Organic
- Local
- Imported food

#### Storage:

- More old-fashioned, cold storage units ('root cellars') at our homes
- Community root cellars
- Root cellars for producers and for individual residents
- Resources to develop cold storage at my residence

#### Time:

- Working full-time is a barrier to growing and processing my own food
- Less work hours

#### Seasonal availability:

- More of it being available in the spring and winter
- Frozen locally produced food, to have year round

#### Livestock and regulations:

- Living rural to raise my own meat
- Opportunity to have my own backyard chickens and honey bees
- Current bylaws state that ill or injured hens must be seen and euthanized by a veterinarian, this is expensive and impractical
- The limit of 6 hens should be raised for people who have demonstrated ability to adequately care for their animals without causing a disturbance to neighbours
- Feed for hens and hogs is expensive
- More reasonable regulations regarding potential food sources (e.g. backyard chickens)
- Better understanding by the people who draft regulations, so we can actually do urban farming

#### Incentives:

- Free compost to residents that have a certain area of garden (e.g. 150 sq ft)
- Subsidies for food security initiatives, instead of to mining companies

#### Costs:

- Less expensive support services
- More local producers would help to lower the cost of local food
- Better affordability for pensioners
- Can't afford to buy local farm gate
- Local meat is too expensive and too much meat

Variety:

- More variety on what is locally sourced (e.g. why no onions and garlic?)
- Having a variety of local goods all in one place

Food safety:

- Proper food handling and food safety on local farms and at the farmer's market

Edible landscaping:

- Edible plants over decorative plants on municipal grounds
- Resources, bylaws, and encouragement to "grow food, not grass" in front yards

Other support needed:

- Assistance with gardening would help, due to physical limitation
- Government support for local initiatives (e.g. greenhouses)
- Opportunity to go hunting with people who are equipped
- More urban gardening opportunities

Other comments:

- More organically grown food
- Meat sharing for purchasing from local farmers (e.g. go in with others on a cow, or prearrange chicken)
- More willingness to experiment, innovate
- Less winter, more growing
- Getting youth involved in gardening
- Partnerships between gardens and the Food Bank

## 12. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about local food access and consumption?

A total of 101 responses were received to this question and are summarized by theme.

Support and appreciation for local food:

- Love seeing local grown products on shelves and at the market
- We're doing good, but can produce more
- Important for a sustainable future
- Glad to see this project happen
- Local production needs to be a priority
- Happy about where we are going
- Local food access and consumption is really important
- Support for grass roots operations
- Local farmers and businesses are doing a lot to help residents eat locally
- Appreciation for all of the work that has gone into making local food accessible over the past several years (e.g. farmer's markets, stores like Farmer Roberts, and restaurants that use local food)
- Grateful for the increasing abundance of locally grown produce
- Vital economically, environmentally, socially, health, etc.
- Support an improved local food economy
- Buying / growing local food has a great positive effect on social relations in a community
- Best way to start a transition between the capitalist system that relies on fuel subsidies, low wages, and unfair prices, to a healthier, fairer, simpler, and greener economy
- Looking forward to further infrastructure support that will strengthen the local economy

Opposition:

- Trendy, but terrible idea
- Sounds like it would be more environmentally sound, but isn't
- Stop promoting ideas based on emotion rather than impact calculation

Support for gardeners:

- We'd like to grow more at home, but need support
- Gardeners with experience are prepared to share their skills with others

Support for farmers:

- Time consuming to navigate support programs for farmers
- Financial help for high tech matching is not helpful to all small producers
- Thankful for Government of Yukon Agriculture Branch support to growers
- Information sessions with the Agricultural departments, both Yukon and Federal, assist in getting through the regulations, so farmers can sell their products more easily

Information resources are needed on:

- Where local products are available

- Difficult to know about the local farms or gardens – would make it easier if there was a list of local producers, what they offer, and how to communicate with them
- Cold climate gardening methods
- Recipes to know how to use local produce and products
- How residents can support bee pollinators
- Providing education about factory farming and the importance of being self-sufficient to school kids would go a long way

#### Promotion:

- Maybe with education and persuasion, more people in Yukon would do it
- Local economy is a great selling point to those who may not be persuaded by environmental or health reasoning for buying local
- More emphasis needed on supporting local farms
- If there was access to more local foods that are prominently labeled and showcased in stores, people would buy more and even pay more

#### Costs for producers:

- Cost of farmer's market tables are prohibitive for vendors
- It's more cost effective to sell by word of mouth
- Because of our short summers and cold climate, it's expensive to produce food locally

#### Incentives to reduce costs for producers:

- City tax breaks
- Free compost
- Free gardening classes
- Free tables for market vendors
- Free land for food producers

#### Incentives for residents:

- Offer incentives for people to grow their own gardens either at home or in a community space (e.g. war-era victory gardens)
- Offer incentives for people to homestead in fertile areas
- Offer resources for private greenhouses
- More restaurants would use local foods if there was an incentive to do so
- City will need to recognize people who grow food instead of lawns when water restrictions are in place

#### Price:

- Local food is too expensive
- Needs to be affordable
- Farmer's market is very expensive for the average family
- Need to be competitive, or people won't buy local
- Not understanding why local produce is so expensive
- Hard to shop local when you're on a tight budget

#### Availability and retailing:

- Interested to see more
- More availability needed in grocery stores
- More access to local food
- Can't make it to the farmer's market every week, and it's seasonal
- Would like to eat local vegetables year around
- Great that Superstore and Wykes sell local food
- Grateful that Farmer Roberts is open year-round
- More access needed to local farms

#### Selection, variety, and quality:

- Limited selection up here
- Impressed by what can be purchased that is local (e.g. carrots, potatoes, jellies)
- Selection and variety is considerably getting better
- Great to see all the local carrots and potatoes at our stores
- Other crops would be nice (e.g. broccoli, turnips, swedes, beets)
- I buy local root vegetables in large quantities in the fall
- Quality frozen veggies would be nice (e.g. carrots, green beans, and cauliflower)
- Love that we can buy meat raised here
- More access needed to meats and fish harvested in Yukon
- We purchase our eggs locally and would love to purchase more local meat
- Would be nice to see local chicken available in stores
- Only thing lacking here is fruit
- Would like opportunity to purchase locally harvested fish
- There used to be mobile fish monger trucks in town
- Offer variety pack of local meat (e.g. chicken, turkey, and beef cuts or bison)
- Local eggs in the grocery store is great
- Some quality issues exist with the organic local food for sale

#### Convenience:

- Offer assortment of local food in one place
- If it's not convenient, people won't go out of their way to buy local
- Would love to see a local isle at the grocery store
- For seniors, it's easier to shop at one location
- 1-stop shopping is a big factor in food choices
- I'm less likely to make a second grocery stop to buy local

#### Imported food:

- Some things will never be local (e.g. grain)
- Given our northern climate, we will always be reliant on outside food sources
- Great to reduce our dependence on southern suppliers
- Concerned with food produced from countries that do not have safe ethical practices
- I avoid products from China (e.g. garlic, frozen shrimp, tinned mushrooms)
- I try not to buy too much out of season produce, though I realize that everything is in season somewhere in the world and everyone needs to make a living

### Brands and labeling:

- More interested to know what country is producing the product, rather than where it's packaged
- The level of name brand foods is being compromised for variations of President's Choice Brands, reducing ability to choose how and where you support with your money

### Land, lot size, and buildings:

- Local food needs land to grow
- Improve access to urban farming
- Larger single detached lots would allow for more garden space

### Gardening:

- I grow most of my own food
- I grow a garden (predominately root vegetables) with great success
- You can grow all the vegetables you need to last the winter
- We garden and don't purchase much fresh stuff in summer and fall from the local stores

### Community gardens:

- Community gardens seem to work well
- More community gardens and greenhouses are needed, with support to learn how to grow better

### Seasonal growing:

- Need to support season extenders and vertical gardening
- Not sure how I feel about 12 month growing of out of season produce here
- Commercial production needed that could provide fresh product through the winter

### Greenhouses:

- Change zoning bylaws to allow greenhouses and garden boxes anywhere on my property to take advantage of solar orientation (e.g. front yards)
- Change zoning on how big a greenhouse can be
- More greenhouses needed to extend growing season and

### Production methods and organic certification:

- Certain organic certifications not available in the territory could be made available
- Interested to buy more organic local food (e.g. no chemicals)
- City and Government of Yukon should support initiatives to encourage more people to get into organically grown local food production
- Support the creation of small farms (not agri-business)
- Appreciation for you-pick opportunities
- There needs to be more encouragement of small scale production (e.g. backyard gardens, chickens, canning)



- Not interested in organic food, it's a buzz word for charging more
- GMOs are fine

#### Compost:

- I make my own organic compost, but there is never enough of it and it takes a longer time for it to be ready than down south

#### Foraging:

- Offer more courses on foraging (e.g. berry picking)
- I forage mushrooms and berries
- Enjoy picking berries and rosehips etc.

#### Hunting:

- This is not something the City should focus on because there are few hunting grounds close to town and City has no influence on what's out of town

#### Storage and preservation:

- Encourage people to know how to process their harvests (skills that are being lost)
- I try to grow and preserve as much as I can (e.g. freezing, drying, canning and, pickling)
- We try to preserve some of our harvest
- Having local food, September to May, is key
- Invest in high tech storage to make fall harvest available through the winter
- Invest in storage that doesn't require chemicals being added and not too much electricity
- More research needed on storage
- I try to stick with root vegetables, and others, that can be preserved to eat out side of growing season
- Would be good if local produce (e.g. broccoli) could be grown in larger volumes then frozen for consumption over the winter
- Make it mandatory that new homes have pantries and cold storage to avoid food supply shortages (e.g. during road closure)

#### Environmental protection:

- Make sure the natural environment, plant, and animal species are not put at risk by introduced farming practices

#### Food instead of lawns:

- Spend effort on growing food instead of green lawns
- Beneficial to grow food rather than having lawns
- Stop planting flowers and plant edibles instead

#### Waste:

- We waste more food at a residential level than we produce in total in the Yukon
- We need to learn how to handle food better so we don't waste so much
- We select our groceries with packaging in mind
- Would love to see a local grocer focus more on less plastic

#### Procurement:

- Frustrated that large organizations run by government aren't sourcing local food first (e.g. hospital, Copper Ridge Place, McCauley Lodge)

#### Farmer's market:

- Love going to the farmer's market
- Increased variety at market is exciting
- Lots of empty warehouse buildings that could be turned into an indoor market
- Weekend farmer's market is easier to visit than Thursday night, with full time jobs we often forget or lack time to make the trip
- Thursdays are a difficult day to get to the market
- I support the farmer's market in principle, but have enough of my own produce at the same time so don't need to buy
- Offerings are very similar to what I grow in my own limited garden space
- Presence of info booths at the market are not favored
- Dawson farmer's market has more variety than Fireweed
- Number of farmers selling local food has declined in recent years

#### Food hub:

- Farmers could use more places to market their foods to
- Consider a food hub or network where farmers wouldn't have to spend their time doing marketing, but would be able to continue the time consuming task of growing the foods
- Few of the local farms are big enough to get into the local grocery stores, a food hub could help

#### Potluck Food Co-op:

- Potluck Food Co-op provides Yukoners with local organic food products
- Co-op is a small organization with many limitations
- Supporting the co-op would help the distribution and consumption of local foods
- We invested in the food co-op, but we are not organized enough to purchase in advance

#### Farm gate sales:

- Let individuals sell their extra food from their garden, hunting/fishing, or chicken coops
- I'd like to be able to buy from my neighbour
- Encourage residents to grow their own food and allow to sell it without too much red tape

#### Mind and body:

- Healthy bodies, minds, and living don't just happen – they come from good choices
- So much energy needs to be put into a small yield here – if I didn't love it so much, it would feel futile
- Gardening is in my soul

#### Sharing:

- People share their hunted meat, as well as fresh grown garden produce

#### From the Ground Up:

- From the Ground Up is a win-win-win-win (money for the farmer, local food for the purchaser, money for the school, knowledge about food production for the students)
- Great way to promote local produce

#### Small livestock (hens and bees):

- Love that we can have chickens in the city
- City should be the approver of hens within city limits, not neighbors
- Allow bees within city limits
- Make a quick and easy process to legitimately keep chickens and bees within the city (e.g. residential areas and in community gardens)
- Needs to be less barriers and regulation for keeping milk goats, bees, and chickens
- Domestic goat or sheep farming pose risk to wild Yukon sheep

#### Permitting:

- City should make it easier for folks to grow locally and not try to capitalize on local food
- Remove barriers rather than adding loopholes for the City to make money on food production

#### Time:

- To grow fruit, it takes time to look after the garden
- Not many people have time to grow their own food
- It takes time to do the things that make us healthy (e.g. garden, make compost, forage, pickle, ferment, make jams, yogurt, kefir, and meals from scratch)

#### Ideas from elsewhere:

- Build a greenhouse like in Inuvik
- I enjoy Cafe Balzam because of their use of local food products
- Look into "spin farming", where residential garden plots are used to yield restaurant and market quality produce with a reduced footprint
- Saskatoon has an online matching service that connects people with yards to gardeners that use them in exchange for produce
- Many yards here are just lawn and gravel, and could be used to produce food instead

## Section C: Community Gardens

Section C was used to gauge interest in community gardening and identify potential locations for future gardens.

**13. If there isn't already a community garden located in the neighbourhood/area that you live in, and if one was to be developed, how likely would you be to use it?**

Response options	Respondents (290)	%
Very likely	80	27.59
Maybe / I don't know	82	28.28
Not likely	106	36.55
There is already a community garden in my neighbourhood / area	22	7.59

**14. Have you ever seen a vacant piece of land within city limits and thought “that would be a great location for a community garden”? If yes, tell us where and why. You can also tell us about potential challenges.**

Respondents (100)	
Suggested locations (93)	Challenges and considerations
<b>Copper Ridge (6)</b>	
Vacant lot listed as “for sale”	
Vacant lot at corner of North Star Dr and Keewenaw Dr	Centrally located in this neighbourhood
Vacant lot at corner of Lazulite Dr and Falcon Dr	Sunny all day; parking may be an issue
Cleared pull-out area, where it looks like a road has been cleared	A greenhouse would be better than beds; high elevation
Behind Copper Ridge Place off Falcon Dr	
Grizzly CI where the house burned down	Accessible; near bus stop
<b>Cowley Creek (1)</b>	
Meadow off Salmon Tr, past the creek on the right	Availability of soil and water are challenges; bulk soil could be brought in; creek could be used
<b>Crestview (1)</b>	
By the park in green space	
<b>Downtown (22)</b>	
Abandoned building next to liquor store	Use as a hydroponic garden space
Beside the Downtown south playground	Could serve Yukon Housing units; maybe Yukon Housing Corp could develop this?

Vacant lot across from the Feed Store	
Vacant lot across from Food Bank	
Vacant lots between 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave and the claycliffs	
Between KD Cultural Centre and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave	
By claycliffs on 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave, at Hawkins St	
Next to the new Save on Foods grocery store	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave near the old Esso Station, next to Peacock Sales	
On 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave across from Mah's Point (where Peak Fitness used to be)	Could also be a combo of park and garden boxes; maybe have fruit trees
At 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave and Hawkins St corner	
On 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave, across from High Country Inn (used to be blue office building)	Could be a combo of park and garden boxes; maybe fruit trees
Space between 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave, by the Elks Hall	
Behind Riverside grocery	
Beside Napa Auto Parts, across from Whitehorse Elementary	School kids could contribute
Shipyards Park	For beds and greenhouse
Area around Shipyards Park	
Rotary Park	Lots of space; frequently used
Vacant space near the library	Underutilized parking lot; nice sight lines to river; vandalism may be an issue with passersby
Near the clay cliffs, unspecified	
Near the river, unspecified	
Empty lots in Downtown core, unspecified	
<b>Granger (3)</b>	
Greenspace where Thompson Rd and Gillis Pl meet, at utility box and fire access road	Might be part of the church property; would need agreement
Corner of Hayes Cr	Would love to see it greener
Centres of cul-de-sacs	Would require infrastructure
<b>Hamilton Blvd (1)</b>	
Large gravel area next to Canada Games Centre	Lots of sun; access to water and parking; near well used trail; could run workshops here
<b>Hidden Valley (1)</b>	
Area around Hidden Valley Elementary School	Incorporate gardening into curriculum; must be developed in a way that is safe for children
<b>Hillcrest (5)</b>	
Park area	
Vacant land next to Alaska Hwy across from airport	Flat and sunny; traffic, noise, and pollution may be a nuisance to gardeners; consider solar powered hydroponics here

Next to Skky Hotel	Open area with lots of sun; landscaping could buffer the highway
In front of Cliffside green house	
Hillcrest Dr extension between Hillcrest and Granger	Lots of space, especially in upper section; soil quality isn't great, but raised beds could work
<b>Ingram (1)</b>	
Unspecified	Lots of townhouses in this neighbourhood; could benefit from a community plot
<b>Marwell (1)</b>	
Edge of the river	
<b>Mt Sima (1)</b>	
Unspecified	Challenges include fencing and/or wildlife conflicts
<b>Porter Creek (6)</b>	
At one of the elementary schools at Porter Creek, unspecified	Incorporate gardening into curriculum; wildlife concerns
Pine St between playground and ice rink	Close to playground; area that people already frequent; consider berry bushes and greenscaping; cars use the area for parking during hockey; kids sled down the hill there; vandalism may be a challenge
On Holly St where the access to Hidden Lake is	Lots of road and trail access
Green space on 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave, behind the creek close to Centennial St	Has access to water from the creek, a park for kids, and green space with no development; across from Jack Hulland; might be a great opportunity for kids to learn about gardening; food could be cared for and harvested by local residents during summer when school is out
Versleuce Meadows	Great soil
Several vacant lots, unspecified	Have been vacant for 25+ year
<b>Range Point (2)</b>	
Vacant lot behind 67 River Ridge Ln	Challenge of City red tape
Vacant land at the end of Range Rd, before you go down the hill towards Whistle Bend	Densely populated area; could benefit from a garden
<b>Riverdale (18)</b>	
Morley Rd Park	
In pocket park, between Klondike Rd and Liard Rd	
Greenbelt, bordered by Hyland Cr and Pelly Rd	
Treed lot, where Bates Cr and Blanchard Rd meet	
Greenspace on Alsek Rd, near 267	
By the skateboard park	
Empty lot on McQuesten Rd	

FH Collins Secondary School	A win-win; kids could learn about growing food, and food could be used in the cafeteria or sold to the public to raise money for the garden; self-sustaining with some government support
Area around FH Collins Secondary School	
Green space, between Christ the King Elementary School and Selkirk Elementary School	Could be used by schools and apartment residents
Land across from Christ the King Elementary School	Might be First Nation land
Open field beside Christ the King Elementary School	Need to invest in watering station or extend water from school; might need wind breaks; fallow land with tall grasses; could be good for potato or root vegetables, berries, fruit trees; good site for greenhouses
On Alsek Rd near Grey Mountain Primary School	
Near the cliffs at the end of Klondike Rd	Area is open; south-west sun exposure
Near the river	Warm microcosm is good for growing
Vacant land next to McCaully Lodge	Apartment dwellers, seniors, and Heart of Riverdale could be involved in the garden; good south exposure; wind exposure
Under the hydro lines between Riverdale and Schwatka Lake	
Two KDFN parcels by Super A by cell tower	Electromagnetic radiation might be unhealthy
<b>Robert Service Way (2)</b>	
Across from the Yukon Energy Co, behind the ball diamond fields	Area good for gardens, greenhouses, food storage; nearby clay cliffs could be dug into for a walk-in root cellars; perhaps add adjacent housing to address shortage and increase "caretaker" security for the garden
Across from Robert Service Way campground	
<b>Takhini (4)</b>	
Huge unused space in the Takhini West park	
Unused land next to Range Rd	
At Range Rd and Rhine Way, the vacant area between core sampling station and daycare	
Quarry area	
<b>Two Mile Hill (1)</b>	
South facing green area on the north side of the road, between Range Rd and the Alaska Hwy	Excellent growing site for greenhouses
<b>Whistle Bend (5)</b>	
At neighbourhood entrance	Lots of vacant space
Opposite the rain pond, in the area torn up by construction	

Proposed site for garden (currently in planning stage)	Area is too big for just a garden; could be shared with a playground
Continuing Care Facility	Bring it back as a community garden
Whistle Bend, unspecified	Garden would let neighbours build relationships; provide sense of identity for new neighbourhood
<b>General locations (11)</b>	
Any available land	Must be visible and should help raise awareness
Neighbourhoods above the airport	Challenges of getting volunteers, wildlife, and vandalism
Parks in all neighbourhoods	
All new parks	
Greenbelts around neighbourhoods	Member commitment needed to help out; challenges to cover supply costs
Ice rinks	Add portable raised beds in summer
Next to neighbourhood skating rinks	Usually have clearings around them; good sun exposure
Boulevards	
Plant food where ever flowers are planted	
Front yards	People interested to share their front yards for growing food; let others do the work; have work exchange for harvest
Rooftops of new construction	
<b>Out of city limits (1)</b>	
Hot Springs Rd	To purchase or lease plots of land

A total of 100 people responded to this question, suggesting 93 locations for potential community gardens. Suggestions ranged from site specific to general locations in 18 areas across the city. One suggestion was for a location outside of city limits. Each location was mentioned one to 3 times. Some respondents included general comments about community gardens that do not relate to a suggested location, which are summarized by theme. Locations have not been assessed for land ownership or feasibility.

Benefits and support for community gardens:

- Gardens add visual appeal and sense of community
- Gardens provide sense of community, shared resources, and knowledge exchange
- Develop more gardens like the Valleyview greenhouse

Challenges:

- Vandalism
- Theft of food and equipment
- Zoning and permitting restrictions



- Potential for neglect of garden beds
- Air and noise pollution from traffic
- Soil contamination
- Limited funding access for starting gardens
- High prices for land
- Interest exists to take part in gardening, but not to organize

Opposition:

- City should focus on affordable housing and cheaper land prices instead of gardens
- People don't need to band together to garden, it's easy to do on your own
- Encourage people to use their own property instead
- Community gardens are great, but interest can wane and they become a mess for others to clean up

Other comments:

- Consider including kitchens and outside spaces where food can be prepared
- Consider a one-stop food centre that has cold storage, farmer's market, and food processing, ideally in Downtown
- People should use front yards as community gardens instead of having grass
- Encourage backyard composting as an alternative to City organics pick up
- In Red Deer AB, there are fruit trees in boulevards free for public to pick

## 15. Anything else you'd like to tell us about community gardens?

A total of 104 responses were received for this question and are summarized by theme.

Benefits and support for community gardens:

- Wonderful solution for those that cannot have a home garden
- Great opportunity for community involvement to grow and harvest for selves and others
- Would be nice to see more of them
- Build it and they will come
- Gardens promote healthy living
- Gardening is a form of meditation, physical exercise, and communication with nature
- Important tools for building community relationships and teaching others how to grow
- Gardens are social places that develop community awareness and reinforce ties with neighbours
- Great opportunity to bring aspiring and seasoned gardeners together
- Provides education and nutrition
- Vital in strengthening the community

- Gardens help with food security (e.g. during highway washouts)
- Great for people those who don't have yard space
- They improve and build soil capability
- Wonderful meeting spots
- Great places to spend time outdoors

#### Land and locations:

- Gardens are good for dense areas where people live in apartments
- Would be ideal to have in each neighbourhood, where people could walk to their plot
- Every school should have one
- Best located within neighbourhoods for ease of access
- Lewes Condos in Riverdale has a community garden
- Need a garden at the north end of Downtown
- Nothing available in Crestview
- Would be nice to have one in Riverdale
- Copper Ridge needs something to bring the community together
- We should have community gardens at schools, the hospital, and the prison
- Land is available in all subdivisions for gardens
- Should be everywhere possible
- They need to be reasonably sized, not too large, not too small

#### Garden type:

- Allotments are better than communal plots
- You can get more productivity from a greenhouse, and a greater variety of plants do well
- Greenhouse gardening is a greater challenge due to the cost and difficulty involved in building and maintaining an insulated, heated, and ventilated greenhouse
- City should construct and maintain a community greenhouse and charge a seasonal fee for access, where the infrastructure is provided, and entrance is secure
- Opportunities needed to share plots with family and friends

#### Promotion:

- Gardens need to be promoted more
- Promote growing and consuming food for nutrition
- Promote community composting

#### Information, education, and workshops:

- More information is need on where community gardens are located, how to sign up for plots, and generally how they work
- Community gardens could be added to school curriculums, as a place where kids can learn about gardening, food preservation, and storage
- Can be intimidating to get involved, but workshops and mentoring can help with this

### Challenges:

- Must have water available onsite
- Deal with vandalism and theft by fencing gardens and having a key for members
- 'Neighbourhood watch' can help with vandalism
- Lots of interest, but people end up on a waitlist for plots
- People who work full-time do not have huge amounts of time to donate to gardens
- People need to respect the plots of others (e.g. resist temptation to water or do what they think is best for others)
- Gardening comes down to time and experience

### Organizers and City support:

- Requires committed, dedicated individuals
- Should have someone paid to manage and coordinate
- Need to hire someone to manage the big jobs such as soil care, watering equipment maintenance, planning and implementing spring/fall cleanup
- Need a strong steward or neighbourhood champion
- City should have a hired staff to support gardens
- City should continue to support Downtown Urban Gardeners Society (DUGS) efforts

### Partnerships:

- First Nations need to be involved in the community gardens to teach about traditional food and medicine and living off the land
- Seek corporate sponsors (e.g. Whitehorse General Hospital using local foods and investing in local farms)
- Maybe DUGS could branch out (e.g. Riverdale-UGS, Whistle Bend-UGS)?
- Perhaps government buildings, correctional facilities, schools, and public spaces like libraries could have boxes made available to local gardeners
- There is a lot of potential in linking people who have yards, space, and soil with people who want to grow a garden either for personal use or for micro-farming

### Social inclusion:

- Some seniors may be willing to share produce for help to working their home gardens  
Would be good to have plots where seniors can garden in association with Whistle Bend long term care facility
- Perhaps 'youth at risk' program could hire youth to build boxes and greenhouses
- People without a home or financial security can grow food at community gardens
- Involve users of social assistance and Food Bank to help raise and cultivate gardens
- Have plots of land within the city available for underemployed people to earn incomes from food production and contribute to local food production

#### Kitchens and storage:

- Would be great to have a kitchen attached to a community garden where you can do classes on canning, etc.
- People who use community gardens often don't have space to store their harvest for the winter

#### Bees:

- Inclusion of community bee hives would be an excellent addition
- Require commitment of volunteers to ensure they are kept in good condition year-round
- City or Government of Yukon should finance beekeeping tools
- Create initiatives for more honeybee hives in community gardens
- Sell the honey produced to help fund the gardens, or to create more awareness of locally grown food and community gardens

#### Plant varieties and edible landscaping:

- Plant more annuals like raspberries, haskaps, and blueberries
- Would be great if landscaping was done with edible plants
- Berry bushes in city parks would be great and extras could be picked for the food bank
- Encourage people to get rid of lawns and grow edible and/or native plants instead

#### Subdivision of agriculture land, out of city:

- Land has been sold for agriculture and turned into residential lots, should be converted back for use by local growers (e.g. on Hot Springs Road)

#### Other comments:

- Interested to buy produce from a community garden, instead of participating in growing
- Concern that they attract bears to town is not warranted
- Locals and tourists visit them

#### Ideas from elsewhere:

- Yellowknife has a robust community garden program with plots that always fill up; there are great workshops offered during the garden season
- Yellowknife community garden is right on a main street in Old Town, so people can visit and see what gardening is all about
- Winnipeg has a community garden with plots passed down from generation to generation, in some cases
- Saskatchewan has a great land-link program that connects gardeners with people that have available land within same neighbourhood
- Little areas in and around Vancouver have boxes where flowers may have been planted in the past, but are now being used for vegetables as well

## Section D: City Compost

Section D was geared at collecting feedback on the City's compost production program. Answering the questions was optional. A 'skip-ahead' question was included for people who have not purchased City compost in the past, and for people who are not interested, or do not have a need, to purchase compost in the future.

### 16. Before taking this survey, were you aware that the City sold compost?

Answer options	Respondents (292)	%
Yes, I was aware	250	85.62
No, I wasn't aware	42	14.38

### 17. Have you ever purchased City compost?

Answer options	Respondents (292)	%
Yes	109	37.33
No, but I might in the future	127	43.49
No, I don't need / want any compost (skip ahead)	56	19.18

**18. If you answered "yes" to having purchased City compost, let us know how you feel about the following statements.**

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Respondents</b>
I was provided with the information I needed to use the compost effectively %	13 11.93	43 39.45	24 22.02	5 4.59	24 22.02	109
The compost worked well for my gardening needs %	58 53.70	36 33.33	5 4.63	6 5.56	3 2.78	108
The compost was good value for the price %	46 45.59	50 46.30	5 4.63	4 3.70	3 2.78	108
City compost is adequately promoted %	12 11.11	38 35.19	37 34.26	9 8.33	12 11.11	108
I would recommend using the compost to my gardener friends %	59 54.63	35 32.41	8 7.41	4 3.70	2 1.85	108
I had access to the vehicle and equipment that I needed to purchase the compost %	44 40.74	35 32.41	12 11.11	8 7.41	9 8.33	108
Scheduling an appointment for bulk pick-up was easy %	11 10.48	19 18.10	7 6.66	3 2.86	65 61.90	105

**19. The City sells compost in two unit sizes: 1) by cubic yard, and 2) by 20 litre bag. Is there a different unit size that you would like the City to offer?**

<b>Answer options</b>	<b>Respondents (235)</b>	<b>%</b>
These units meet my needs	137	58.30
I'm indifferent	80	34.04
The City should offer a different purchase unit size (please specify)	18	7.66

A total of 18 comments were received for this question and are summarized by theme.

Interest to see the following unit sizes offered:

- ¼ cubic yard
- ½ cubic yard
- 5 cubic yards
- Truck load (10-14 cubic yards)

Transportation:

- Pick up of large quantities is difficult for people without a truck
- 20-litre bags are too heavy for some people to carry
- Offer a drop off/delivery service
- Offer bulk price, but allow to take away in smaller, separated containers to make it easier to transport by car

Other comments and suggestions:

- Cubic yard is a bit too much
- Allow people to bring bins and tupperware and purchase by weight, this allows people to purchase only what they need and eliminates plastic packaging
- Show conversion of how many 20 L bags are in 1 cubic yard
- Provide information on the amount of compost required for specific projects (e.g. raised garden bed)
- Use metric measurement (cubic metre instead of yard)
- Large quantities are not needed for container gardening or balcony gardens
- Sometimes the bulk compost is frozen early in the seasons, so purchasing bags is the only option
- Offer bulk discount for small farms

**20. City compost sold in bulk loads (by cubic yard) is available for pick-up Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm, excluding 12 - 1pm. Is there a different time that you would like to be able to purchase bulk loads? (Bags can be purchased weekdays and weekends during regular facility hours)**

<b>Answer options</b>	<b>Respondents (234)</b>	<b>%</b>
These hours meet my needs	64	27.35
I'm indifferent	86	36.75
The City should offer a different purchase time (specify)	84	35.90

A total of 84 comments were received for this question and are summarized by theme.

Suggestions on additional compost sale times:

- Saturdays
- One Saturday once a month
- Saturday 9 or 10 am to noon
- Weekends
- At least a few hours on each weekend day
- During the lunch hour
- Stay open late at least one day a week
- Weekdays from 9 am to 6 or 7 pm
- After 8 pm
- Later hours one day a week
- Any time the Waste Management Facility is open

Other comments and suggestions:

- The current hours don't work for people who work full time
- Most people work 8-5
- Don't make people take time off from work to pick up compost
- Offer at grocers or farmer's market for a slightly higher fee
- Offer delivery service
- Don't require an appointment
- Offer at times that when people do most of their gardening (weekends)
- Weekends are better for borrowing trucks/vehicles to pick up compost
- Supply runs out



**21. City compost is available for purchase exclusively at the Waste Management Facility. Is there another location where you would like to be able to purchase it from?**

<b>Answer options</b>	<b>Respondents (235)</b>	<b>%</b>
This location meets my needs	76	32
I'm indifferent	54	23
The City should sell compost at other locations	105	45

A total of 105 comments were received for this question and are summarized by theme.

General locations suggested for selling City compost:

- Central location
- Downtown location
- South end, near Robert Service Campground
- In neighbourhoods across the city
- Carcross cutoff
- City buildings
- Grocery stores
- Garden centres
- Retail stores
- Gas stations
- Recycling facilities
- Community gardens
- Anywhere that compost is sold
- At a rotating location (e.g. market, community gardens, other places)

Specific private retail locations suggested for selling City compost:

- Canadian Tire
- Home Hardware
- Super Store
- Walmart
- Yukon Gardens
- Cliffside
- Farmer Roberts
- Pot Luck Co-op
- Fireweed Market
- Raven Recycling

Specific public locations suggested for selling City compost:

- City Hall
- Public Safety Building
- Water & Waste Services office
- Warf
- Public works yard
- Parks & Trails office
- Rotary Peace Park

Access to purchase locations:

- Transportation to the Waste Management Facility is a barrier for many people
- Less car dependent locations
- Sell somewhere easy for bicycle pick up
- Public transit does not go the Waste Management Facility
- Consider phone and online order option

Other comments and suggestions:

- Display next to imported compost products to provide a local option
- Offer public education where compost is sold
- City compost used to be available at Canadian Tire, would like that to happen again

## **22. Anything else you'd like to tell us about City compost?**

A total of 80 responses were received for this question and are summarized by theme.

Benefits and support for the compost program:

- Great initiative
- Appreciate this step to decrease waste
- Neat that landfill has a plastic separator machine
- Happy to support the end result of the green bin program
- Pleased that we have compost collection throughout the city
- Composting makes a big environmental difference
- Keep up the good work
- Love it and so does my produce
- We contribute to it and happy to use it
- I've toured the facility and I like what I saw

Availability:

- Advertise as available
- Make available when people are starting seeds in March
- Out-of-spring purchase is difficult to arrange
- Every time I phone the waste management facility, there is none for sale

Quality:

- Quality has really improved over the years
- Surprised at how lovely the texture was
- Quality varies, but it has served my needs

- Material needs to be very well screened
- Disappointed with the impact of the compost on my vegetable/flower gardens
- Lacks the phosphorus needed to grow root vegetables, but wood ash from stoves can be added to enhance nutrients
- Found glass, rubber, and chicken bones in the compost
- Too many stones
- Too much plastic
- Better monitoring of plastics at landfill drop off would help to reduce quantity of plastics
- I had a weedy garden after using it
- City doesn't really know what goes in there
- Concerned about the animal products put into it green bins
- Concerned toxic materials go into it (e.g. coloured magazine pages)
- Concerned about herbicide residues from grass clippings put into green bins
- Is the compost free of chickweed seeds?
- Is it safe for vegetable gardening? Or flowerbeds only?

#### Access:

- Delivery was expensive and difficult to arrange
- I work days so can't purchase during scheduled time
- I would have to leave work early on multiple days to get the amount I would need
- Difficult to purchase if you do not have a truck to carry a load
- I miss delivery by Boreal Compost, was easier to make use of the compost that way
- Should be more easily available in local garden centres to increase awareness
- Selling at garden centres would cut down on the need for external compost being brought into the territory
- Deliver service to people's homes would be more cost effective than buying bags  
Provide bulk delivery service

#### Packaging:

- Make the 20 L plastic bags compostable

#### Price:

- Willing to pay more for cleaner product
- Important to keep it at an affordable rate for the public

#### Pick-up service and accepted organics:

- Love the pick-up service
- Pick up organics less often to allow for a curb side recycling program
- Bins freeze in place winter so can't always put them out to get emptied
- I wish that compost was picked up from townhouses/condos
- Require everyone to participate in the pick-up program

- More information needed on what can go in the pick-up
- What is the effect of using "compostable" bags?
- City should accept slaughter waste – at the very least it should be buried at the landfill and not trucked away

#### Promotion and information:

- Not enough people are aware of it
- More promotion needed, including on social media
- Promote the benefits of using local compost
- Promote for use in landscaping
- Offer to community gardens
- More awareness of availability, pricing, and benefits would be helpful
- Would be helpful if there was information about quality
- Give away compost for free on Earth day
- More information needed on how safe it is for food production

#### Landfill staff:

- Landfill staff are always pleasant to deal with when purchasing bags
- Great that you have someone that can manage that site efficiently

#### Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) certification:

- Glad it got OMRI certification for use in organic food production
- Why not use Canadian Certification instead of OMRI (based in Eugene, Oregon)?
- Release of a lot more information regarding the organic certification would encourage more people to use it

#### Home production:

- I'd rather produce and use my own compost
- Offer resources on how to make your own compost
- People should have the option of a back yard composters besides City pick-up
- Producing your own compost is more difficult in Yukon than in the south
- Now that I have chickens and 3 compost bins, I produce enough compost for our needs
- I make my own compost with bins outside and worm composting inside year-round

## Section E: Thank You!

Section E finished up the survey by thanking respondents for their time and participation. An option was provided for respondents to be entered into one of two draws for prizes. The draws occurred on June 8, 2017. Respondents were able to indicate if they would like to receive future communications on this project.

### 23. To be entered into a draw for prizes, and/or to receive project updates, please provide your email address.

A total of 254 email addresses were collected (86% of respondents provided their contact).

### 24. Which draw would you like to be entered in?

Draw options	Respondents (296)	%
Compost certificate prize draw	109	36.82
Canada Games Centre certificate prize draw	150	50.68
No selection / do not enter in either draw	37	12.50

### 25. Would you like to receive email updates on this project?

Use of email contacts	Respondents (296)	%
Only use my email for the draw	93	31.42
Yes to electronic updates	143	48.31
No notifications, or no selection	60	20.27