



# GROWING TOWARDS FOOD SELF RELIANCE: A WHOLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY

2016 UPDATE

*District of North Saanich: A Place to Live, Work, Play and Grow Food!*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The 2016 update to the WCAS strategy was prepared by the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR) with the support of the District of North Saanich.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Recognizing that the role of food and food production systems are a key element in sustainable communities, the District of North Saanich prepared a “Whole Community Agricultural Strategy” (WCAS) in 2011. This document is the 2016 update to the original 2011 WCAS Strategy. This update employs the same approach - a local community food system approach, and builds from the original set of actions. This update provides a status report on the set of 2011 WCAS actions and provides an updated set of municipal and community actions. It is recommended that the District consider development of a detailed implementation plan with incremental monitoring steps for the renewed set of WCAS actions.

**Approach:** The WCAS contemplates changing the way we view complete communities - it suggests local communities must be seen as a foodshed supported by an integrated and diverse local food system. In this view, a complete community is a place to live, work, play *and grow food*.

Communities can have traditional and non-traditional forms of food production. While most of us are familiar with traditional forms of agriculture, non-traditional forms are an emerging phenomenon which we define as community based food growing and gathering on land and waters not generally associated with commercial agriculture, including indigenous foods. This Whole Community Agricultural Strategy uses a local food system paradigm to identify actions designed to promote both traditional and non-traditional food growing.

**Benefits:** By implementing a WCAS, a diversity of benefits can be achieved in the areas of agriculture, public health, environment, economic development and social health. The 2011 WCAS strategy details 18 different benefits that are contributed to through the implementation of a WCAS. The WCAS also directly contributes to achieving goals set out in the 2015 - 2018 District of North Saanich Strategic Plan.

**Planning Background:** The development of the WCAS built on the 2010 Agricultural Area Plan recommendations for North Saanich and subsequently informed the development of the 2012 North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy. In 2010, the public and stakeholders were invited to an Agricultural Ideas Fair and Planning Workshop to consider and add to actions that can be undertaken by the municipality and the community to support traditional and non-traditional agriculture. This input was used to identify priority actions for the 2011 Strategy.

**2016 Update:** WCAS was designed to be an evolving strategy that fosters ongoing community and stakeholder dialogue. In 2016 the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR) collaborated with the District of North Saanich to provide a status report on the original actions and to update the WCAS. The status report and updated set of actions were formulated based on consultation with the District Staff, interviews and input gathered at a community and stakeholder meeting.

**Progress on Actions:** The 2010 Agricultural Ideas Fair and Planning Workshop resulted in a set of 44 actions which comprised the priority actions for the 2010 WCAS. The District and community has made important progress towards the implementation of many actions in the WCAS and there is also significant and ongoing work to continue. Of the original 44 municipal actions 7 have been completed, 19 showed progress and are ongoing, and 18 remain to be completed. Those priority actions that are ongoing and remain to be completed were transferred into the 2016 updated set of actions along with the addition of new actions.

**What's new?** New actions were also added based on input from the 2016 community and stakeholder meeting resulting in the 2016 updated WCAS with a set of 40 municipal actions and 12 community actions. It is important to note that over 50% of both the 2010 and 2016 set of actions apply to both traditional and non-traditional agriculture and many apply to more than one factor in the local food system. This illustrates the interconnectedness of the food system and the different forms of food growing. It also indicates the likelihood of beneficial synergies resulting from the implementation of the WCAS.

The WCAS is an ongoing and evolving discussion focused on the effort to achieve local food self-reliance. It is a platform to move toward further dialogue and actions. The Strategy includes three categories of actions:

1. Top 5 priority municipal actions to support the local food system.
2. Priority municipal actions to support each factor in the local food system.
3. Priority community actions to support the local food system.

**The 2016 top five priority municipal actions identified by the stakeholders are to:**

1. Protect working agricultural lands and enhance public agricultural holdings in the region with a farm land trust fund and acquisition program.
2. Promote the utilization of rainwater and grey water for food production.
3. Implement drainage upgrades.
4. Provide an agrologist and government extension services at the regional or sub-regional level.
5. Support the connections between agricultural producers, processors and wholesalers.

**Going Forward:** It is recommended that a more detailed implementation plan with a timeline and monitoring plan be prepared by the District and shared with the public. Although all actions are important and need attention, it may be beneficial to focus on the top five actions that were identified as priorities by the community. To support this direction we have included a **Priority Actions Next Steps** as Appendix B. Due to the integrated nature of many of the actions, the WCAS requires ongoing dialogue and collaboration between the District, the community, industry and other stakeholders. We recommend an annual progress reporting cycle be established by the District whereby progress is assessed and reported to the Mayor and Council as well as the residents of North Saanich.

## INTRODUCTION

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Recognizing that the role of food and food production systems are a key element in sustainable communities, the District of North Saanich prepared a Whole Community Agricultural Strategy (WCAS) in 2011. This document is the 2016 update to the 2011 WCAS Strategy. This update employs the same approach – a local community food system approach, and builds from the original set of actions. The purpose of this update is to provide a status report on the set of 2011 WCAS municipal actions and to provide an updated set of municipal and community actions. This update is in compliment to the original WCAS strategy which establishes the need for a WCAS in North Saanich, provides context on the state of food and agriculture in North Saanich and BC, elaborates on the local food system paradigm, and details the potential benefits of a Whole Community Agricultural Strategy. The complete original WCAS strategy is available on the District of North Saanich website<sup>1</sup>.

## WCAS APPROACH

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This Whole Community Agriculture Strategy presents a new approach to planning for food and agriculture in communities. The strategy employs a whole community food system approach and integrates actions to support traditional and non-traditional food growing.

Where traditional agriculture occurs on larger tracts of land in rural settings, non-traditional food growing and gathering can occur within the developed portions of communities in locations like residential yards, community gardens and roof tops. While it is different from traditional rural agriculture, it is also complementary. Where land development has previously alienated land from the food system, non-traditional food growing can not only reintegrate parts of that land back into the food system, it can also foster a more supportive and engaged food culture.

Previously plans and strategies have been prepared for traditional agriculture or for “urban” agriculture/community food growing and gathering but not for both in combination. This strategy approaches planning for food and agriculture on the basis of combining traditional and non-traditional food production on the premise that there would be benefits resulting from the approach which perhaps would be less likely to be achieved by conducting separate plans. Whether this approach does in fact deliver additional benefits would need to be measured during its implementation. The results of the process to date, however, suggest that there are indeed additional benefits.

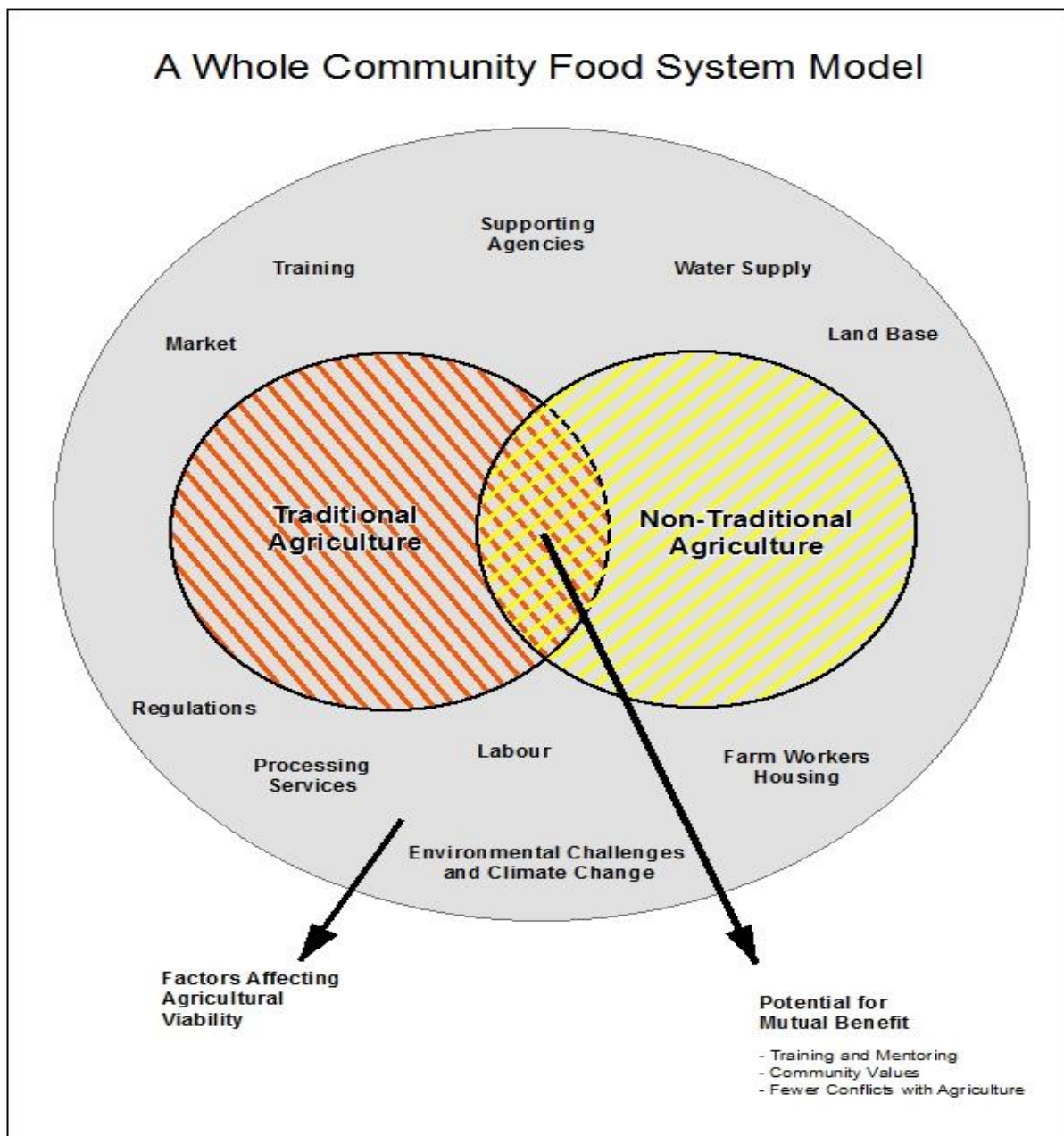
The following schematic, developed for the 2011 WCAS, illustrates the “food system factors” in a Whole Community Food System and the common area between traditional and non-traditional agriculture. The WCAS actions are organized across these “key food

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.northsaanich.ca/Assets/Reports+and+Publications/Planning/Whole+Community+Agricultural+Strategy.pdf>



systems factors”.



Over 50% of both the 2010 set of actions and of the 2016 set of actions apply to both traditional and non-traditional agriculture and many apply to more than one food system factor. This suggests there could be great efficiency and effectiveness in that each single action may benefit both forms of food and agriculture production. Given that this occurs for more than half of the actions, it speaks to the benefit of addressing both concurrently.

In addition to the frequency that actions benefit both traditional and non-traditional agriculture, it is also worth noting that many of the recommended actions also apply to two

or more of the food system factors. The current set of actions is organized such that each action is only listed under one food system factor for brevity, however the implementation of many of the actions will benefit multiple food system factors. The high incidence of actions that impact more than one of the food system factors illustrates the interrelationship and interconnectedness of the food system. It also points to the benefit of undertaking a Whole Community Agricultural Strategy based on the food system model approach. The Whole Community Agricultural Strategy enables the identification of actions that have multiple benefits for traditional and non-traditional agriculture as well as all factors in the food system.

Three very significant beneficial synergies that derive from implementing a Whole Community Agricultural Strategy were highlighted during the development of the Strategy.

Firstly, there is the potential **shift in values and perspectives** that should come from viewing the entire community as a farm and as part of the food system and food shed. People undertaking non-traditional agriculture will appreciate the effort and challenges required to successfully grow food. This will lead to a greater appreciation of farming and farmers and on the value of food itself.

Secondly, a greater appreciation of agriculture may also lead to **more young people choosing farming as their vocation**. This would be a valuable outcome given that only 0.3% of our population produce 75% of our food and that many of these farmers are near retirement.

Lastly, there is the benefit of implementing actions in each of the food system factors. Individually they would be a benefit to the specific factor, collectively they should result in a better, more **efficient and effective local food system**. This can be achieved by implementing enough individual actions that have a sufficiently positive relationship to a broader system such that it improves significantly as well.

## PROCESS

The development of the WCAS built from the 2010 Agricultural Area Plan for the District of North Saanich which provides a good framework for addressing traditional agriculture.

The preparation of the 2011 WCAS strategy used the following steps (for full details of original process please see the 2011 WCAS<sup>2</sup>):

1. Scan of food system models and non-traditional (urban) agriculture.
2. Participation and advice from the District's Agricultural Advisory Commission
3. An Agricultural Ideas Fair and Public Workshop (2010)
4. A validation process where stakeholders and community members could comment on and validate the strategy elements.

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.northsaanich.ca/Assets/Reports+and+Publications/Planning/Whole+Community+Agricultural+Strategy.pdf>



The preparation of the 2016 updated WCAS strategy used the following steps:

1. A detailed review of the status of completion of all actions in the 2011 WCAS was conducted with the input from District Staff. This review was provided to those who participated in the 2016 WCAS community and stakeholder meeting and is included here in Appendix A.
2. A community and stakeholder meeting facilitated by CRFAIR was held in April of 2016. Participants reviewed the original set of WCAS actions, collectively brainstormed new actions to be added to the strategy, and identified a renewed top 5 priority municipal actions. All actions remaining to be implemented from the 2010 strategy and all new actions identified by the group were written up on the walls. The top 5 actions were identified through a group voting process. All participants received 5 dots which they were able to place beside the 5 actions they held to be top priority. The 5 actions that received the most dots formed the new top 5 priority actions for the 2016 WCAS update. All actions remaining to be implemented from the 2010 strategy and all new actions identified by the group were written up on the walls.

This process and the resulting strategy is not a final step but part of a continuum of local government and community efforts. It is also an important step and platform from which to move local government and the community forward into further action and dialogue.

## **2011 – 2016 PROGRESS**

In 2016 the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRAFIR) collaborated with the District of North Saanich to provide a status report on the original actions and to update the WCAS.

The 2016 review of the WCAS actions progress assessed whether or not action had been taken by the municipality and/or community towards each WCAS action. There was not a measurable set of indicators developed to assess the impact of the implementation of the WCAS actions. It is recommended that in the development of a new implementation plan that indicators and a monitoring plan also be developed to better assess the impact of implementation of the WCAS.

The review of the 2011 WCAS actions found that important progress was made towards the implementation of many of the actions, that there are ongoing actions, and actions that remain to be completed. Of the original 44 municipal actions it was found that 7 were completed, 19 showed progress and are ongoing actions, and 18 remain to be completed. An assessment of the status of each individual action from the 2011 WCAS is provided in Appendix A.

Significant progress was made towards acquiring the Sandown Raceway property for agricultural and community food uses. The District of North Saanich Phased Development Bylaw was approved by council in 2014 and sets out the terms of transfer and requirements of the landowner. The District also partnered with CRFAIR to lead a series of

public consultations on the community vision and priorities for the redevelopment of Sandown which engaged over 500 members of the public. The findings report is available on the District's website<sup>3</sup>. The District continues to work towards the transfer and development of the Sandown property for community food and agricultural uses and this action remains in the 2016 WCAS.

Another important accomplishment was the completion of an Agricultural Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) in 2012, which is available on the District website<sup>4</sup>. The implementation of the AEDS is to be reviewed by the District Staff in 2016.

Another area in which significant progress was made is on the action to support the establishment of a local government farmland trust. The North Saanich Council passed a motion in 2014 directing staff to send a letter of support to the CRD and other municipalities in favour of considering a regional farmland trust<sup>5</sup>. The District also provided support to CRFAIR to lead research and community-municipal dialogue on the establishment of a local government farmland trust. The findings report<sup>6</sup> was shared with North Saanich staff and council. To "develop a regional agricultural land banking solution" was also identified as a CRD Corporate Plan as a priority for 2015-2018<sup>7</sup> and implementation of a regional farmland trust mechanism is included in the CRD regional food and agriculture strategy under development. Supporting the establishment of a regional farm land trust fund and acquisition program is an ongoing WCAS action and was voted the top priority municipal action to support the local food system at the 2016 community and stakeholder meeting.

Further highlights of progress include significant updates to bylaws to better enable both traditional and non-traditional food growing and agriculture. For example the restrictions on agricultural signs and farm gate stands were eased, greenhouses were made exempt from lot coverage area in residential zones, and bee keeping is permitted on residential properties. Continuing to review and ensure that municipal bylaws enable agricultural and food activities remains an ongoing priority.

A District of North Saanich agricultural webpage<sup>8</sup> was established, which fulfilled one of the top 5 2011 priority actions and updates to the page is an ongoing action. The webpage provides a diversity of resources including links to labour pool and land linking resources for farmers and farm workers which contributes to the implementation of actions to address farm labour and land access.

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.northsaanich.ca/Assets/Current+Projects/Sandown+Racetrack/Draft+Full+Vision+Sandown+Report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.northsaanich.ca/Assets/Current+Projects/North+Saanich+Agriculture/Agriculture+Economic+Development+Strategy.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><https://northsaanich.civicweb.net/document/6629/Rpt Farm Trust and A>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.crfair.ca/current-initiatives-1/2016/5/25/farmland-and-foodland-trusts-initiative>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/corporate-communications-pdf/stratplantable-final.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

<sup>8</sup>[http://www.northsaanich.ca/Municipal\\_Hall/Departments/Planning\\_and\\_Community\\_Services/Planning/North\\_Saanich\\_Agriculture.htm](http://www.northsaanich.ca/Municipal_Hall/Departments/Planning_and_Community_Services/Planning/North_Saanich_Agriculture.htm)

Two ongoing actions that exemplify municipal-community collaboration include local food promotion through tours, festivals, signage and branding, and hosting agricultural forums. The District has successfully collaborated with CRFAIR to put on the annual Flavour Trail weekend festival in North Saanich that showcases North Saanich food and farms, but also to grow the Flavour Trails to promote local food and agriculture on the peninsula. The District has also collaborated with community organizations to support forums such as the annual Farmer2Farmer conference to bring local producers together to learn from one another. Local food promotion and supporting agricultural forums are important ongoing actions that the District can continue to implement and expand.

Selected actions which remain to be completed or need further action, include:

- the implementation of an official local and ethical public procurement policy
  - finding a suitable site for a permanent farmers market
  - encouraging and supporting the development of local schools to grow food and teach about food and farming
  - implementing changes to farm regulations to permit for more flexibility for farm worker housing
  - providing a community hot composting facility
  - changes to the Development Permit Guidelines to encourage food plants
  - encouraging rain water collection
  - providing tax incentives to encourage processing infrastructure
- These actions as well as others that remain to be completed or are ongoing efforts have been transferred to the 2016 set of actions.

The Whole Community Agricultural Strategy is one step towards the long-term visions of a sustainable, resilient, local community food system and food self-reliance in North Saanich and the region. The strategy is intended to evolve over time and requires ongoing efforts towards implementation for success.

## THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY

This strategy contributes to the ongoing efforts of the municipality and community to advance a sustainable local food and agricultural system in North Saanich. The Whole Community Agricultural Strategy is complimentary to the 2010 Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) and the 2012 North Saanich Agricultural Economic Development Strategy (AEDS). The AAP and the AEDS provide recommendations for improving traditional agriculture and the WCAS differs in that the actions include both actions to improve traditional and non-traditional agriculture and community food activities. The original WCAS actions were developed through research and community dialogue and the 2016 updated set of actions are based on the original actions and additional input from the April 2016 community and stakeholder meeting.

The WCAS actions are linked to the following 2015 – 2018 District of North Saanich Strategic Plan<sup>9</sup> Goals:

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.northsaanich.ca/Assets/Reports+and+Publications/Strategic+Plan+2015-2018.pdf>

- a. The Agricultural Community Preserved & Strengthened
- b. A Vibrant and Sustainable Agricultural Economy
- c. A strong sense of pride, identity and belonging to North Saanich

The WCAS actions are linked to the following Projects & Initiatives outlined in the 2015 – 2018 District of North Saanich Strategic Plan: # 2, 4, 6, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31.

The strategy identifies municipal and community actions to improve and support the future of traditional and non-traditional agriculture in each of the key food system factors. The actions are organized into three sections:

- 1. Top five priority actions to support the local food system.
- 2. Priority municipal government actions to support the local food system in each of the key food system factors.
- 3. Priority community actions to support the local food system.

### **Section 1: Top Five Priority WCAS Actions**

The following five actions were identified by community and stakeholders as the five top priority actions for the District to support the local food system. They were selected through a voting process in which participants at the April 2016 Community and Stakeholder meeting all selected their top five actions and the following five actions are the ones that were most frequently selected.

- 1. Protect working agricultural lands and enhance public agricultural holdings in the region with a farm land trust fund and acquisition program.
- 2. Promote the utilization of rainwater and grey water for food production.
- 3. Implement drainage upgrades.
- 4. Provide an agrologist and government extension services at the regional or sub-regional level.
- 5. Support the connection between agricultural producers, processors and wholesalers.

### **Section 2: Municipal Actions to Support the Local Food System in Each of the Key Food System Factors**

The following tables include the actions across the nine key food system factors. These factors are:

- 1. Land Base
- 2. Marketing
- 3. Labour
- 4. Farm Worker Housing



5. Processing Services
6. Training and Information
7. Water Supply
8. Support Agencies
9. Environmental and Climate Change Challenges

It is also important to note that regulation is a key food system factor. It is addressed in each of the other food system factor tables as a category for action.

The following tables include the action and implementation considerations for that action including potential partners. It also indicates if the action applies to traditional agriculture (Trad.) and/or non-traditional (Non-Trad.) agriculture illustrating the mutual benefits derived from many of the actions. The District of North Saanich (DNS) Role column denotes if the action is a program or policy to be implemented/enacted directly by the District itself, or if the action consists of advocacy by the DNS for implementation by another entity, or if the District's role is to provide support and/or resources to community. The table also includes links between the WCAS actions and the 2015-2018 North Saanich Strategic Plan<sup>10</sup> Goals and Projects and Initiatives, denoted as (SP #). It is recommended that the District develop an updated WCAS Implementation Plan with further implementation details and a timeline for action.



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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.northsaanich.ca/Assets/Reports+and+Publications/Strategic+Plan+2015-2018.pdf>

## 1. Municipal Actions to Support the Agricultural Land Base

Action	Applies to		Implementation Considerations	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
<b>Protect working agricultural lands and enhance public agricultural holdings in the region with a farm land fund and acquisition program (SP 5).</b>	✓	✓	<p>Continue to advocate for the establishment of a farm land trust and acquisition program at the regional level.</p> <p>Review and advance suitable models outlined in the CRFAIR farmland trust report.</p> <p>Continue to increase agricultural holdings and increase food activities on existing public holdings in North Saanich.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: CRD, other municipalities, CRFAIR, UBCM, University of Victoria Faculty of Law, Ministry of Agriculture</i></p>	<p>DNS Program or Policy</p> <p>Advocacy to CRD</p>
<b>Implement drainage upgrades.</b>	✓	✓	Seek input from farmers and public to develop and implement a drainage upgrade plan.	DNS Program or Policy
<b>Ensure municipal bylaws support and strengthen agriculture and community food activities. Ensure consistency with Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA).</b>	✓	✓	<p>Maintain current bylaws and amend bylaws as required to support and continue to strengthen food and farming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review permit process for structures on agricultural lands and reduce any barriers to implementation of new structures that enhance agricultural activities</li> <li>Review municipal bylaws for consistency with the final Agri-tourism and Farm Retail Sales in the Agricultural Land Reserve Minister's Bylaw Standards</li> </ul> <p>Inform public and agricultural producers of any bylaw changes and associated implications.</p>	DNS Program or Policy
<b>Pursue the implementation of the Sandown Agreement (SP 24). Consider and determine the future use of Sandown (SP 23).</b>	✓	✓	Review and incorporate public input provided to DNS in 2015 CRFAIR report "Vision Sandown: What We Heard - Community Input on the Development of Sandown" to develop and begin implementation of a plan for the future use	<p>DNS program or policy</p> <p>Provide</p>

		<p>of Sandown.</p> <p>Based on public input, develop a land use plan, financial plan and implementation timeline for the development of Sandown.</p> <p>Continue to partner with community to develop and implement future uses of Sandown.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: Friends of Sandown, CRFAIR, University of Victoria</i></p>	support and/or resources to community
<b>Encourage realtors to market farm land for farming rather than estate homes.</b>	✓	<p>Work in partnership with the real estate industry to support buyer's awareness of ALR regulations and promote agricultural uses of agricultural lands.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: Local Realtors, Victoria Real Estate Board, BC Real Estate Association, ALC</i></p>	Advocacy to Real Estate Industry and Provincial Government
<b>Support the provision of services that link available farm land with farmers seeking land.</b>	✓	<p>Provide links to land linking organizations/services on the District's website.</p> <p>Consider the provision of local government resources (funding and/or staff time) to support the development of a local land linking program.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: Linking Land and Farmers, Young Agrarians, CRFAIR</i></p>	Provide support and/or resources to community
<b>Prohibit estate houses and other non-farm uses of farmland.</b>	✓	<p>Implement zoning strategies that prohibit estate houses on ALR land.</p> <p>Explore the use of tax incentives and/or disincentives to encourage farm use of farmland and discourage non-farm uses of farmland.</p> <p>Consider amendments to the requirements to meet farm tax status to better ensure farm-uses of farmland.</p>	DNS program or policy

			<i>Potential Partners: Ministry of Agriculture Strengthening Farming Unit, Agricultural Land Commission</i>	
<b>Inventory all public lands in DNS for food growing potential.</b>	✓	✓	Pursue food growing activities on public lands already held by the District. Consider opportunities to integrate food production within public parks.	DNS program or policy

## 2. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Marketing

Action	Applies to		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
<b>Update the North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) and Implementation Plan (SP 22)</b>	✓		Staff to prepare a report for Council regarding implementation and reconsideration of the AEDS (start 2016)	DNS program or policy
<b>Implement a local/ethical food procurement policy for the District and encourage local procurement policies for the region.</b>	✓	✓	<p>Develop and implement an official procurement policy for DNS.</p> <p>Build from existing public procurement policies, e.g. Saanich Local Food Procurement Policy</p> <p>Promote the establishment of institutional procurement policies for public and private institutions.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: other Municipalities, CRD, Saanich School District, WSANEC School Board, Hospitals, Health Authorities, Institutional Residences</i></p>	<p>DNS program or policy</p> <p>Advocacy to CRD</p>
<b>Support the connection of agricultural producers, processors and wholesalers.</b>	✓		Encourage processors, wholesalers, and retailers to purchase from local suppliers.	Provide support and/or resources to community
<b>Provide a site and/or facilitate</b>	✓	✓	Continue to pursue sites for the establishment of a permanent	Provide



<b>the establishment of a permanent farmers market (SP 4).</b>			farmers market. Consider a permanent farmers market on Sandown, or other locations.  <i>Potential Partners: North Saanich Farmers Market</i>	support and/or resources to community
<b>Encourage the provincial government to provide financial assistance in establishing new farmers markets.</b>	✓	✓	Continue to advocate through UBCM and to provincial government for financial assistance in establishing new farmers markets.	Advocacy to Provincial Government
<b>Promote local food and local farms (SP 27).</b>	✓	✓	Provide ongoing support and facilitation of community efforts such as Flavour Trail and Farmer to Farmer. Consider ways to expand reach of existing events and/or create new promotional events.  Participate in agricultural and local food promotions including festivals, local food promotion campaigns, farm tours, signage, website, branding and awards.  Consider options for increased use of online communication tools to promote local food and agriculture (e.g. increase traffic to DNS agriculture website, use social media, develop a phone app to showcase North Saanich farms and food producers).  <i>Potential Partners: CRFAIR, North Saanich Farmers Market, Friends of Sandown, local farmers</i>	DNS program or policy  Provide support and/or resources to community
<b>Pursue an agricultural branding strategy.</b>	✓		Promote local farm sales through implementation of a local agricultural branding strategy. Consider developing in conjunction with other peninsula municipalities.  <i>Potential Partners: Central Saanich, Saanich</i>	DNS program or policy
<b>Support the establishment of a centralized food hub (farm aggregation, processing, distribution centre).</b>	✓	✓	Explore potential for a food hub in North Saanich and/or a regional food hub. <i>Potential Partners: CRFAIR, North Saanich Farmers Market, Friends of Sandown, local farmers, local processors, Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce</i>	Provide support and/or resources to community

### 3. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Labour

Action	Benefits		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
<b>Connect local producers to agricultural labour resources.</b>	✓		<p>Ensure DNS website contains up to date links to labour pool resources (e.g. Young Agrarians, Linking Land and Farmers, FoodWork.ca, GoodWork.ca, The Agricultural Labour Pool)</p> <p>Provide links to farm school programs to connect farmers to new farm entrants (e.g. UBC, Kwantlen, UFV).</p> <p>Provide links to farm volunteer programs (e.g. Willing Workers on Organic Farms).</p> <p>Support producers to seek funding through government programs such as Canada Summer Jobs program.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: Linking Land and Farmers, Young Agrarians, Provincial Government, Employment Services Centres</i></p>	Provide support and/or resources to community
<b>Support the creation of agricultural jobs through government wage subsidy programs.</b>	✓		<p>Support job creation in agriculture and connect agricultural producers to existing programs at other levels of government (e.g. Canada Summer Jobs Program).</p> <p>Advocate for increased provincial and federal funding and training opportunities for agricultural jobs.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: other levels of government</i></p>	Advocacy to Provincial and Federal Government

## 4. Municipal Actions to Support Farm Worker Housing

Action	Benefits		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
Ensure bylaws continue to allow for farm worker housing and are consistent with ALCA.	✓		Ensure bylaws are consistent with current ALC regulations and advocate for the reduction of barriers to farm worker housing.	Advocacy to Provincial Government
Explore and encourage changes to farm regulations to permit more flexibility for farm worker housing (e.g., strata, ecovillage, community, or coop farms).	✓	✓	Explore innovative zoning strategies to improve farm worker housing allowances.  <i>Potential Partners: other municipalities, ALC, CRFAIR, Farm Folk City Folk</i>	DNS program or policy  Advocacy to Provincial Government

## 5. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Processing Services

Action	Applies to		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
Amend policies to support additional agricultural processing infrastructure and support value added operations.	✓		Review the OCP and Zoning bylaws to ensure that they enable agricultural processing services and value added farm operations including small scale and/or mobile abattoirs. Facilitate the diversification of revenue generating activities on farms to promote economic viability.  <i>Potential Partners: ALCA</i>	DNS program or policy
Assess the viability of a property taxation strategy to attract and encourage processing infrastructure.	✓	✓	Review the current taxation strategy and consider options to further encourage development of key processing infrastructure. Consider property tax reductions for agricultural infrastructure such as abattoirs and commercial kitchens. Consider use of Community Charter's revitalization tax exemption provisions.	DNS program or policy

## 6. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Training and Information

Action	Benefits		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
<b>Provide an agrologist and government extension services at the regional or sub-regional level.</b>	✓	✓	<p>Provision of a government agrologist and agricultural extension services has been a longstanding need identified by the farming community. Consider innovative ways to create an extension service such as partnering with an academic institution and/or directing local government resources towards the creation of regional extension services (e.g. consider Community Amenity Contributions under which "agriculture programs" are eligible for funding North Saanich).</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: Other municipalities, esp. Saanich and Central Saanich, CRD, Ministry of Agriculture, Academic Institutions</i></p>	<p>DNS program or policy</p> <p>Advocacy to CRD and other municipalities</p>
<b>Maintain and update the North Saanich Agriculture website (SP 31)</b>	✓	✓	<p>Provide information and links to agricultural training and information on the North Saanich Agricultural webpage.</p> <p>Consider using social media to increase reach of communications and public awareness of DNS programs and policies.</p>	DNS program or policy
<b>Encourage and support schools to grow food and include farming in the curriculum</b>	✓	✓	<p>Host an informational session for the School District on ways to incorporate food and farming into school programs and curriculum. Connect School District with existing school food programs and resources such as Farm to School.</p> <p>Create or support funding opportunities for the implementation of school food and farming programs in North Saanich public schools.</p> <p>Encourage school gardens on public school grounds.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: Saanich School District, Wsanec School Board, BC Agriculture in the Classroom, BC Farm to School Program, BC</i></p>	<p>Advocacy to School District</p> <p>Provide support and/or resources to community</p>



			<i>Lifecycles Society, CRFAIR, McTavish Academy of the Arts and Food Security</i>	
<b>Host agricultural dialogues (forums, presentations, etc).</b>	✓	✓	<p>Provide support to agricultural forums and continue to host community dialogue on food and agricultural policy and activities in North Saanich.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: CRFAIR, Friends of Sandown, community food and agricultural organizations, community groups, farmers associations, academic institutions, North Saanich Food for the Future Society</i></p>	Provide support and/or resources to community
<b>Increase awareness of resources, availability of information, training opportunities (SP 31).</b>	✓	✓	Find ways to increase the awareness of existing resources and clarity around how residents access resources (e.g. consider ways to increase traffic to DNS agriculture website, increase promotional campaigns/communications of key initiatives and policy amendments, consider the use of social media to better connect residents to resources and updates).	<p>DNS program or policy</p> <p>Provide support and/or resources to community</p>

## 7. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Water Supply

Action	Benefits		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
<b>Promote the utilization of rainwater and grey water for food production.</b>	✓	✓	<p>Support residents in using self-sufficient or other non-municipal water collection systems. Provide links to resources on the webpage and host informational sessions on non-municipal water collection options for residents.</p> <p>Explore options to financially incentivize the implementation of rainwater collection and grey water use for agriculture and residential food production.</p> <p>Provide grants and/or connect residents to grants to support the implementation of rainwater and grey water collection systems.</p>	<p>DNS program or policy</p> <p>Provide support and/or resources to community</p>

<b>Maintain bylaws that support favourable water rates for agriculture</b>	✓		Review the current water rates for agriculture with input from farmers.	DNS program or policy
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## 8. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Support Agencies

Action	Benefits		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
<b>Support and partner with independent local agricultural organizations.</b>	✓	✓	<p>Continue to support the work of and partner with local community food organizations and traditional agricultural organizations to advance community food systems and farming initiatives.</p> <p>Consider a small-grants program for community food systems initiatives in North Saanich.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: North Saanich Farmers Market, Friends of Sandown, growers associations, CRFAIR</i></p>	Provide support and/or resources to community
<b>Support and participate in regional food and agricultural committees.</b>	✓	✓	<p>Support and advocate for regionally coordinated food systems initiatives.</p> <p>Support and participate in regional food and agricultural committees and programs.</p>	Advocacy to CRD
<b>Advocate at the provincial and federal levels for policies in support of agriculture and sustainable local food systems.</b>	✓	✓	<p>Continue to advocate for and contribute to policy development at the provincial and federal government levels that support local agricultural and community food systems.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: CRD, other municipalities, UBCM, ALC</i></p>	Advocacy to provincial and federal governments

## 9. Municipal Actions to Address Environmental and Climate Change Challenges

Action	Benefits		Implementation	DNS Role
	Trad.	Non-Trad.		
<b>Address problem wildlife and reduce wildlife impacts on farming.</b>	✓	✓	Advocate to CRD for implementation of needed wildlife programs in North Saanich.  <i>Potential Partners: CRD, other municipalities</i>	Advocacy to CRD
<b>Allow residents to burn agricultural refuse not suitable for composting.</b>	✓		Update residents on pending changes to the Provincial Government Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations.	DNS program or policy
<b>Control of agricultural water run off during the rainy season</b>	✓		Can be addressed through drainage controls on private and public lands.	DNS program or policy
<b>Promote green energy initiatives in agriculture.</b>	✓		Explore means to support and incentivize transition to green energy (e.g. green energy grants program).  Advocate for allocation of funds for green energy initiatives in agriculture from other levels of government.  Connect farmers with existing opportunities (e.g. Environmental Farm Plan program)  <i>Potential Partners: other levels of government</i>	DNS program or policy  Advocacy to provincial and federal government
<b>Provide more tree and hedgerow plantings.</b>		✓	Plant tree and hedgerow plantings on public lands and encourage their use on private lands. Incorporate native and food producing plants into hedgerows.	DNS program or policy
<b>Plant food producing plants on public lands and pursue a location for a public orchard.</b>		✓	Increase the utilization of existing public lands for food production and community food activities.  <i>Potential Partners: Lifecycles Fruit Tree Project</i>	DNS program or policy  Provide support and/or resources to

				community
<b>Provide a community ‘hot composting’ facility</b>		✓	<p>Determine the demand and feasibility of developing a hot composting facility for North Saanich residents.</p> <p>Coordinate with regional composting strategy.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners: CRD, Peninsula municipalities, green waste collection service providers for North Saanich</i></p>	DNS program or policy
<b>Amend Development Permit guidelines to promote sustainable land use practices.</b>		✓	<p>Encourage food plants and plant diversity in the Development Permit guidelines and sustainability guide. Employ edible landscaping plant suggestions<sup>11</sup> provided by the community in the 2011 WCAS for use in the landscaping of single family, multifamily and commercial developments and in public lands.</p> <p>Implement changes to Development Permit guidelines and sustainability checklist to encourage greenhouses, composting, rainwater capture in barrels, cisterns and ponds, irrigation, appropriate solar orientation, garden tool sheds, raised planters for herbs, edible landscaping, private and common plots, arbors and adequate soil depths, and rooftop gardens.</p>	DNS program or policy

<sup>11</sup> See pages 27 – 28 in the 2011 WCAS:

<https://www.northsaanich.ca/Assets/Reports+and+Publications/Planning/Whole+Community+Agricultural+Strategy.pdf>



### Section 3: Priority Community Actions to Support the Local Food System

The following are potential actions that were identified by community stakeholders that could be undertaken by members of, or groups in, the community to support the local food system.

1. Participate in the development of Sandown.
2. Address the impacts on agriculture from deer, geese and raccoons.
3. Form a farmers lobby group.
4. Encourage support agencies to reallocate some of their funding to community based initiatives.
5. Use large cisterns with solar pumps.
6. Capture and reuse grey water in private property.
7. Create a list-serve allowing members to advertise produce and locate produce.
8. Encourage agricultural programs in schools.
9. Set up an abattoir or support a mobile abattoir.
10. Retrofit farm buildings for farm worker housing.
11. Undertake cooperative produce sharing arrangements for farmers using other farmers land for a share of the harvest.
12. Encourage local stores to carry and showcase local products.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN and NEXT STEPS

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The strategy section identified 40 priority municipal actions and 12 priority community actions to support the local food system. Five priority actions were identified as important for municipal action and would benefit from additional focus and planning by the District. There is a need for ongoing community dialogues to review, adjust and validate the priority actions over time. We suggest annual progress reporting.

**Develop an Implementation Plan:** To achieve all of the municipal actions identified, a detailed implementation plan is required. It is recommended that the implementation plan includes a timeline and that it addresses the necessary resources for implementation. It is recommended that the top five actions are prioritized in the work plan.

As an integrated municipal and community strategy, successful implementation requires collaboration with community and other governments. Potential partners were identified in the implementation notes included in the action tables. It is recommended that the implementation plan developed by the District also include potential partners, include steps for engaging partners, and strategies for working collaboratively. Selected actions require collaboration with community to implement and it may be effective to convene a dialogue of stakeholders focused on implementation of specific strategy actions with champions in these areas.

With respect to the community actions it is recommended to also refer these to the North Saanich Food for the Future Society, the Peninsula and Area Agriculture Commission, CRFAIR, and other community organizers for their advice on how to engage and encourage the community to undertake the priority actions.

**Monitoring and Reporting Out:** It is also recommended, as a first step towards monitoring progress, that the Planning and Community Services Department provide an annual report to update Council and the community on implementation progress on the municipal efforts.

It is also recommended that there is increased communication to the public and stakeholders about the WCAS in order to increase awareness of the strategy and to promote community involvement and action. As an example, if a bylaw is amended that enables community food activities, such as backyard beekeeping, the District could organize a public information session for residents on backyard beekeeping regulations and practices to encourage uptake. Another option could be information distributed at the community table at the North Saanich Farm Market, or through the District Newsletter.

**Getting clearer on indicators of progress:** It is important to monitor and evaluate progress in implementing this strategy and versions that may follow. Evaluation of the 2010 strategy did not include measureable indicators. It is recommended that measurable indicators be identified and included in the 2016 updated implementation plan. A first step may be to establish indicators for each of the five priority actions (the table in Appendix b provides some suggestions). Furthermore to better understand impact of the plan over time establishing a set of indicators that demonstrate progress towards outcomes is recommended. As examples, indicators could include the amount of land in production, the

number of farm businesses operating in North Saanich, numbers and levels of farmers market vendors and sales, occurrence of residential food gardens, amount of public land used for food activities, average farm income, and quantity of food grown and consumed locally both through commercial and community means. It is recommended that Council consider how to work with other regional monitoring systems such as the Regional Food System Report, and the Regional Outcomes Monitoring initiative of the CRD. The development of a set of indicators to evaluate WCAS implementation may also serve in monitoring the implementation of other strategies such as the AAP, AEDS and the North Saanich Strategic Plan goals.

## APPENDIX A: Original 2011 Municipal Actions and 2016 Status

The following tables list the original municipal actions that were included in the 2011 WCAS with an assessment of their 2016 status. This was provided to all participants at the April 2016 Community and Stakeholder meeting to inform dialogue and input on updated WCAS strategy.

Top Five Priority Actions (2011)	Status and 2016 & 2017 Projects
1. Ensure municipal bylaws support agriculture.	Ongoing review of DNS Bylaws for consistency.
2. Create an agricultural webpage (on the municipal website).	Completed and ongoing updates <sup>1</sup>
3. Represent local and regional interests in food/agriculture.	Ongoing advocacy including leading role to advocate for food systems as integral part of the Regional Growth Strategy (SP 5)
4. Undertake an agricultural economic development plan.	North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) (May 2012) (SP 22) North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy Implementation Plan (June, 2014) Staff to prepare a report for Council regarding reconsideration and potential implementation of the AEDS (start 2016)
5. Support independent local agricultural organizations.	Ongoing support and facilitation of community efforts such as Flavour Trail (SP 27) and Farmer to Farmer; current efforts to secure a permanent site for a farmers market. (SP 4)

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.northsaanich.ca/Municipal\\_Hall/Departments/Planning\\_and\\_Community\\_Services/Planning/North\\_Saanich\\_Agriculture.htm](http://www.northsaanich.ca/Municipal_Hall/Departments/Planning_and_Community_Services/Planning/North_Saanich_Agriculture.htm)

**Status of Priority Municipal Actions Across Food System Components. This section has nine subsections.**

### 1. Municipal Actions to Support the Agricultural Land Base

Priority Actions (2011)	Implementation Considerations (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Ongoing Bylaws which support agriculture	Several types of bylaws can impact agriculture e.g., zoning, signage and business regulation. All should be structured to support agriculture. Section 46 (2) of the ALCA requires local government zoning bylaws to be consistent with the ALCA, and s. 46(4) renders such bylaws of no force or effect to the extent of an inconsistency	Bylaw updates relevant to traditional and/or non-traditional agriculture include:  1. Eased restrictions on agricultural signs and farm gate stands (Bylaw 1282)  2. Home occupation permission for domestic sales of produce (requires business license)  3. Allowance for parking on non-permeable surfaces on agricultural lands (Bylaw 1381)  4. Greenhouse exemptions implemented -

		<p>greenhouses are exempt from lot coverage in residential zones RA1 - RA6 (consistency with RGC addition of GHG emissions 2017) (part of SP2)</p> <p>5. Bee keeping is permitted on residential properties (Bylaw 1255, Bylaw 751)</p> <p>6. Allowance for medical marijuana grown on ALR lands made in accordance with updated provincial regulations (Bylaw 1405)</p> <p>7. Noise bylaw 1383 changed to reduce noise to neighbouring residents from agricultural operations while minimizing limitations to farm operations</p> <p>8. The District's bylaws for housing on ALR lands is consistent with provincial ALC legislation.</p> <p>9. The District reviewed and commented on proposed changes to provincial legislation regarding agri-tourism on ALR lands. Council to review municipal bylaws for consistency with the final Agri-tourism and Farm Retail Sales in the Agricultural Land Reserve Minister's Bylaw Standards</p>
Establish an agricultural web page on the municipal website.	An information page on agriculture can provide links to other agricultural websites, provide important local information to assist local farmers and agricultural events.	Completed and ongoing updates
Allow and encourage bee hives throughout the municipality.	This could be achieved by making the keeping of bee hives a permitted use in all zones in the municipalities and informing the public on the municipal agricultural web page.	<p>Completed action.</p> <p>Bee hives are a permitted use on residential properties, as per zoning bylaw 1255 and Animal Control bylaw 751.</p> <p>Swarm hotline provided on North Saanich website</p> <p>Resources and support available from <a href="http://www.capitalregionbeekeepers.ca">http://www.capitalregionbeekeepers.ca</a></p>
Provide a service that links available farm land with future farmers.	This could be achieved by encouraging farm land owners to identify and provide unused farm land for others to farm. An	<p>The district provided a link on the agriculture site to Linking Land and Future Farmers, a local non-governmental organization that support linking available land and farmers.</p> <p>Creation and maintenance of a land linking</p>



	inventory could be kept on the municipal agricultural web page.	inventory is currently beyond the scope of District staff. There are existing land linking services that the District has directed people to.
Acquire the Sandown Raceway property for agricultural (and community food) uses	Protect parcels of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve at risk of being removed or otherwise alienated from farming. Lands could be publicly acquired to ensure their future role and value in agriculture.	<p>Significant progress achieved towards acquiring Sandown and initiating agricultural and community food activities at Sandown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District of North Saanich Phased Development Bylaw No. 1343 was approved by council in 2014 and it set out the terms of transfer, requirements of the landowner and allowable uses for the commercial land.</li> <li>• ALC approved exclusion of 12 acres of Sandown property for development and inclusion of 12 acres of municipal land to the ALR.</li> <li>• The District partnered with CRFAIR to lead public consultations on the community vision and priorities for the redevelopment of Sandown, engaged over 500 community members and produced a report for the consideration of council and staff.</li> </ul> <p>Consider and determine the future use of Sandown (SP 23) High priority for 2016</p> <p>Pursue the implementation of the Sandown Agreement (SP 24) High priority 2016</p>
Encourage realtors to market farm land for farming rather than estate homes	This would be an ongoing educational and advocacy relationship between the municipality and the real estate industry.	<p>Action was not actively pursued.</p> <p>Potential to remain an ongoing action.</p> <p>Issue that is also addressed at the provincial level. Best practices for buying and selling ALR land provided by ALC. Ministry of Agriculture Strengthening Farming Unit addresses use of ALR lands.</p>
Allow more meat birds and roosters on residential lands	This would require an amendment to the zoning and animal control bylaws.	<p>Poultry is allowed on residential properties, number of head of poultry varies with property size for non-ALR land.</p> <p>Roosters permitted on residential properties at least 1.75 acres. To have a rooster you must to have hens.</p> <p>See the District of North Saanich Animal Control Bylaw Section 9 for complete regulations.</p>
Support the establishment of a farmland trust	This advocacy role could be promoted by the municipality within the	<p>Ongoing Activity</p> <p>North Saanich Council Motion passed in 2014:</p>

	<p>region and possibly supported using density bonusing during development approvals.</p>	<p>492 That Council direct staff to send a letter of support to the CRD and other municipalities in favour of considering a regional farmland trust and farmland acquisition fund.</p> <p>District of North Saanich provided support to CRFAIR to lead research and community-municipal dialogue on the establishment of a farmland trust. Findings report available: Exploring Farm and Food Lands Access in the CRD: A Local Government Farmland Trust Approach (2015)</p> <p>Sandown is an example the use of rezoning approval that increased municipal farmland assets.</p> <p>This action item was included in the North Saanich Agricultural Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>A regional land-banking solution became a CRD board strategic priority for 2015 to 2018 and is included in the regional food systems strategy under development as directed by the CRD board to be included in the Regional Growth Strategy</p>
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## 2. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Marketing

Priority Actions (2011)	Implementation Considerations (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Implement a local/ethical food procurement policy	This applies to all food purchased by the municipality and functions as an example and encouragement for other local public institutions. As an associated action, the municipality could encourage other public and private organizations to enact similar policies.	<p>Implementation of a formal procurement policy has not been completed.</p> <p>District informally strives to buy local.</p> <p>Opportunity to further pursue an official procurement policy for the District and public institutions.</p>
Allow signage for home based produce markets and sales.	This would require changes to the Zoning and signage bylaws.	Completed. Sign By-law 1282
Provide a site for a permanent farmers market	This will require land acquisition and zoning to permit the market.	Ongoing action as opportunities arise. (SP 4)

Support the formation of a local foods distribution coop	This would need to be a grants in aid or partnership program with the municipality.	Local foods distribution coop has not been formed.  Action requires leadership from outside of the District to initiate a coop which has not occurred to date.  Ongoing willingness by the District to support the formation of a local food coop or food hub as opportunity arises.
Develop an agricultural promotion strategy involving festivals, food promotion campaigns, farm tours, signage, website, branding and awards.	Development of a comprehensive promotion strategy may facilitate a maximum return on the expended resources.	Ongoing action.  The District currently contributes to agricultural promotion through involvement in festivals, food promotion campaigns, farm tours, signage, branding and awards.  A comprehensive promotions strategy has not been completed.
Start a local, healthy food initiative	This is similar to the food procurement action and potentially expands as a community education initiative.	Ongoing action.  The District supports local food initiatives through a diversity of ways as opportunities arise.
Encourage the provincial government to provide financial assistance in establishing new farmers markets	This can be achieved through letter writing, UBCM resolutions and meeting with provincial ministers.	Union of BC Municipalities resolution submitted.  Ongoing action.
Encourage the CRD to encourage all municipalities to have a local food procurement policy	Implementation of such policies with appropriate awareness would be an effective means of raising awareness and displaying products.	Ongoing opportunity to develop a North Saanich procurement policy and encourage other CRD municipalities to do so as well.

### 3. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Labour

Priority Actions (2011)	Implementation Considerations (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Establish a local agricultural labour pool on the municipal website	This can be done on the municipal website and a newsletter and news advertising can raise awareness about the labour	Link provided to the Canadian Agriculture Labour Pool on the District's Agriculture website  Establishing and maintaining a local agricultural labour pool is beyond the capacity of District staff.

	pool.	
Undertake an agricultural economic development plan	There may be senior government funding to assist in this strategy.	North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) (May 2012) (SP 22) North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy Implementation Plan (June, 2014) Staff to prepare a report for Council regarding reconsideration and potential implementation of the AEDS (start 2016)
Encourage local schools to teach students about farming.	This would have the benefit of training prospective farm workers as well as home based farming.	Ongoing action as opportunities arise.  District provided a package of bean seeds to all students for the Jubilee celebration.
Encourage community groups to steward, facilitate and work on local farming initiatives	This can be done on the municipal website and newsletter.	Ongoing action.  Municipal website currently provides links to encourage and facilitate work on local farming initiatives by community groups.  Community members can submit links to share to through District website.

#### 4. Municipal Actions to Support Farm Worker Housing

Priority Actions (2011)	Implementation Considerations (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Ensure bylaws allow farm worker housing	Review and implement zoning bylaw changes to ensure farm worker housing is a permitted farm use.	Farm worker housing is permitted.  The District's Farm worker housing bylaws are consistent with Provincial legislation.
Provide a farm worker housing affordability fund	Could use a density bonusing tool to collect funds from developers	Not completed.  Feasibility of using a density bonusing tool for this purpose is not clear and would require further inquiry.  The District of North Saanich planning staff participated in a Capital Regional District Affordability and Workforce Housing Survey (April, 2016)
Undertake an Agricultural Economic Development Plan	This is also a priority strategy under labour.	North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) (May 2012) (SP 22) North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy Implementation Plan (June, 2014) Staff to prepare a report for Council regarding

		reconsideration and potential implementation of the AEDS (start 2016)
Explore and encourage changes to farm regulations to permit more flexibility for farm worker housing e.g., strata or coop farms	This will require a review of municipal and Agricultural Land Reserve regulations. If there is community support for an innovative approach, it may be best to restrict the effort to a pilot case.	<p>District explored A Rural Agricultural Neighbourhood (RAN) zoning concept (strata development with farming and food production integrated with single family homes) for Glen Meadows, but was not passed by council.</p> <p>Ongoing opportunity to continuing exploring options.</p> <p>The District's bylaws are mostly consistent with ALC legislation regarding housing on ALR lands.</p> <p>District responded to the Agri-tourism and Farm Retail Sales in the Agricultural Land Reserve Minister's Bylaw Standard referral from the Province which includes consideration of temporary housing.</p> <p>The District of North Saanich requests that the Province specify that the Tier 1 and Tier 2 list specify not exhaustive. By adding the term "not exhaustive" to the list of activities, it permits local governments who adopt the Proposed Bylaw flexibility in this regard.</p>

## 5. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Processing Services

Priority Actions (2011)	Implementation Considerations (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Amend policies to support additional agricultural processing infrastructure.	This would include a review of the OCP and Zoning bylaw to ensure land is designated and zoned for agricultural processing services.	<p>Licensed poultry abattoir established at Kildonan Farm in North Saanich.</p> <p>Adjustments made to accommodate medical marijuana facilities in accordance with Provincial policy.</p> <p>No other amendments made.</p>
Support value added farm operations	This would include a review of the ALR regulations, and the OCP and Zoning bylaw to ensure land is designated and zoned for value added farm operations.	Review of regulations and bylaws to facilitate value added operations remains to be completed.
Provide property tax reductions to attract key	This would include a review of the OCP and Zoning bylaw to ensure land is	Not completed, requires analysis of feasibility and impact of taxation strategy to attract processing infrastructure.



processing infrastructure like an abattoir	designated and zoned for abattoirs.	
Support establishment of a carbon credit to reflect benefit of locally produced food	Staff will need to research the viability of using a carbon credits system for this purpose.	Not completed.  Action better suited to provincial or sub-regional level.
Provide property tax reductions for organizations that provide community access to certified kitchens for processing food.	This could be achieved under the Community Charter's revitalization tax exemption provisions.	Not completed.

## 6. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Training and Information

<b>Priority Actions (2011)</b>	<b>Implementation Considerations (2011)</b>	<b>Status &amp; 2016 &amp; 2017 Projects</b>
Encourage and support schools to grow food and include farming in the curriculum	This would not require anything but advocacy measures from the municipality.	Ongoing action.
Have an agrologist on staff as a resource to residents and farmers	This initiative would also provide a resource to help implement the priority actions.	There is not currently an agrologist on staff. Regional agrologist serves District.
Host agricultural dialogues (forums, presentations, etc)	This could be a part of the ongoing implementation of the agricultural strategy working with local expertise and resources.	Ongoing Action.  Examples include: Farmer2Farmer annual conferences, annual Flavour Trails events, Sandown public engagement forums, WCAS public review forum.

## 7. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Water Supply

<b>Priority Actions (2011)</b>	<b>Implementation Considerations (2011)</b>	<b>Status &amp; 2016 &amp; 2017 Projects</b>
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Maintain bylaws that support favourable water rates for agriculture	This would require consideration on how to measure and validate non-traditional agriculture for the purpose of water rates.	Favourable water rates for agriculture in place.
Undertake an Agricultural Economic Development Plan	This priority action is also identified in the labour and housing food system sectors.	North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) (May 2012) (SP 22) North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy Implementation Plan (June, 2014) Staff to prepare a report for Council regarding reconsideration and potential implementation of the AEDS (start 2016)
Support residents in using self-sufficient or other non-municipal water collection systems	The municipality could gather and share information on non-municipal irrigation systems.	Provision of info on non-municipal water collection systems on website remains to be completed.  District participates in regional and provincial programs to reduce water use and provide info to residents.

## 8. Municipal Actions to Support Agricultural Support Agencies

Priority Actions (2011)	Implementation Considerations (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Encourage neighbourhoods with private restrictive covenants (e.g., Dean Park) to allow residents to have back yard chickens and composters	The municipality can hold public information meetings on the merits of back yard animals. However, the municipality can only support or advocate in this role as it has no jurisdiction over private covenants.	As opportunity arises.
Encourage a federal government bond program to purchase farmland.	This could be supported through a resolution from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.	No such program established.  Opportunity for ongoing encouragement.
Undertake an Agricultural Economic Development Plan	This priority action is also identified in the water, labour and housing food system sectors.	North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy (AEDS) (May 2012) (SP 22) North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy Implementation Plan (June, 2014) Staff to prepare a report for Council regarding reconsideration and potential implementation of the AEDS (start 2016)

Require developers to contribute to a farm land acquisition fund.	This could be done as a density bonusing provision in zoning bylaws.	In 2013 District established a policy to make agricultural programs eligible for funding through community amenity contributions.  Farm land acquisition fund with potential for contributions from developers under exploration.  CRFAIR was supported by the District to explore options for a farmland trust and acquisition fund. Findings report available: Exploring Farm and Food Lands Access in the CRD: A Local Government Farmland Trust Approach (2015)
Encourage and support schools to grow food and include farming and nutrition in the curriculum	This priority action is also identified in the training and information and labour food system	Ongoing action.
Support traditional agricultural organizations like the Four H club.	Support can be in the form of funding, in kind or in principle. Specific measures would be subject to Council deliberation.	Ongoing action.

## 9. Municipal Actions to Address Environmental and Climate Change Challenges

Priority Actions (2011)	Implementation Considerations (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Establish and run a problem wildlife program to reduce wildlife impacts on farming	Given jurisdictional issues, this issue will likely require the participation of regional and provincial government agencies.	Animal control is CRD service and North Saanich is serviced by CRD wildlife management programs.
Allow residents to burn agricultural refuse not suitable for composting.	This would be subject to provincial regulations.	Burning is regulated at the provincial level. Ongoing provincial review of the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation underway.
Undertake an Agricultural Economic Development Plan	This priority action is also identified in the support agencies, water, labour and housing food system sectors.	Development Strategy (AEDS) (May 2012) (SP 22) North Saanich Agriculture Economic Development Strategy Implementation Plan (June, 2014) Staff to prepare a report for Council regarding reconsideration and potential implementation of the AEDS (start 2016)
Control of	This could be addressed	Ongoing action.

agricultural water run off during the rainy season	through drainage controls on private and public lands.	
Establish a municipal web page to provide environmental information relevant to agriculture	This priority action is also within the land base sector of the strategy.	Completed and ongoing updates
Provide more tree and hedgerow plantings	This would occur on municipal land and be integrated into the parks budget and could include edible plants and trees	Ongoing action.
Provide a community 'hot composting' facility	Council could consider expanding its green waste program to include a community hot composting facility. This could be a sub-regional facility developed in conjunction with the upcoming ban on kitchen organics disposal in the Regional Land Fill site.	There is a composting facility located at the Municipal Hall available to North Saanich residents.  Hot composting facility has not been established.
Plant food producing plants on public lands	This could be done in partnership with a number of organizations like for example the B.C. Fruit Testers Association or food security groups.	Ongoing action as opportunity arises.  Food producing plants established at the Municipal Hall.

### Section 3: Status of Easy (Low Hanging Fruit) Actions:

Easy Action Items (2011)	Status & 2016 & 2017 Projects
Encourage greenhouses by making them exempt from site coverage restrictions.	Completed, greenhouses are exempt from lot coverage in RA1 - RA6.
Support local and regional recycling for soil amendments.	Ongoing.

Encourage an independent local agriculture organization.	Ongoing, independent agricultural organization has yet to form.
Schedule boulevard maintenance so as to not impact berry season.	Completed.
Provide land for community orchards.	Municipal hall (planting is complete on three of four garden areas. This includes 40 fruit trees which will produce over 3000 pounds of fruit annually.  Ongoing action as opportunities arise.
Make boulevards available for agriculture.	Not completed, has not been demand.
Change bylaws to allow on-farm markets.	On-farm market stands permitted, bylaw changes necessary for new permanent farmers market will be considered as site opportunities arise.
Allow farmer markets in appropriate locations	Pursuing development of farmers markets as opportunities arise.
Allow farmers to post information on the municipal website.	Completed.
Pursue an agricultural branding strategy.	Efforts made, no unified strategy to date. Peninsula grown signs promote local farm products.
Establish a roadside signage program.	Completed, roadside peninsula grown signs promote local farm products.
Allow sales of home grown produce from residential properties.	Allowed for registered home occupations.
Prepare an inventory of traditional and non-traditional farms and products.	Completed, on website. District lacks capacity to update and maintain inventory.
Encourage food plants and plant diversity in its Development Permit guidelines and sustainability guide.	Not completed, potential to be pursued.
Plant trees.	Ongoing action.
Encourage integrating rain collection into development guidelines.	Selected examples of rainwater collection, opportunity to continue to be encouraged.
Support regional food and agricultural committees.	Ongoing action.



## APPENDIX B: WCAS Top Priority Actions and Next Steps Summary

Priority Action	Potential Next Step	Key partners	Progress Indicator Suggestions
1. 1. Protect working agricultural lands and enhance public agricultural holdings in the region with a farm land trust fund and acquisition program.	Support/champion Regional Farmland Trust at the CRD level through the Food and Agriculture Strategy Advocate for and participate in intergovernmental task force	CRD, Local Government, community organizations, agriculture community	Task Force established Farmland Trust and Agriculture Fund established  # amount of farmland accessible through trust  #of land in production in trust
2. Promote the utilization of rainwater and grey water for food production.	Host District workshops in partnership with specialists and conservation organizations, provide brochure to residents consider tax incentives for system upgrades Consider resident measurement of capture to show collective benefit	Rainwater/greywater consultants Conservation organizations	# of residents educated  # of systems developed  # amount of water diverted to for food growing
3. Implement drainage upgrades.	Identify and assess key “trouble spots”. Develop upgrade plans and secure budget	District in consultation with agriculture community	# of drainage upgrades of priority trouble spots
4. Provide an agrologist and government extension services at the regional or sub-regional level.	Hold intergovernmental meeting, including the CRD to address issue, Gather models to discuss, potential to fund through Farmland Trust Agriculture Fund in future?	CRD, Local governments, PAAC, MAL	Municipal stakeholders statement of support  Model selected  Agrologist in place  # of producers supported
5. Support the connections between agricultural producers, processors and wholesaler	Coordinate a meeting to better determine key needs and opportunities  Continue to consider supportive zoning changes	District of North Saanich and key agriculture and food sector businesses	Map of infrastructure assets in the District  producer and processor infrastructure needs assessment complete  # increase in appropriate aggregation and processing infrastructure

Notes: