

Food Secure Oliver

A Community-Driven Plan for Increasing Food Security in Oliver and Area C

Winter 2018

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Community Development activities to support the development of this plan were provided by Casey Hamilton. Agriculture profiling was provided by Lone Smith, Upland Consulting. The research, engagement, development, and production of this plan has been provided by Janine de la Salle, Urban Food Strategies.

Executive Summary

Residents in Oliver face many challenges to food security. People identified issues such as being able to buy and get to healthy food sources as barriers. Regional health data also suggests that residents experience diet-related illnesses and that household incomes are lower with housing costs being higher in Oliver, compared to Provincial averages. These conditions exist despite the town being in a highly productive agricultural area in an affluent region and country. *Food Secure Oliver* is a community-driven plan that brings together research and engagement outcomes to form a comprehensive framework including a vision, goals, objectives, strategies, and ideas for plan implementation. *Food Secure Oliver* is intended to guide community planning for increasing food security for the next 10 years.

Food Secure Oliver brings together diverse ideas and people to provide a coordinated approach for increasing community food security. Partnerships and collaborative networks between local and provincial government, health authorities, non-profit organizations, the education sector, businesses, food producers, local food retailers, and passionate citizens are core to the sustainability and effective implementation of *Food Secure Oliver*.

It is recognized that household food insecurity cannot be resolved with food security programs, or plans, alone. Systemic changes are needed for everyone to be able to access the food they need, when they need it, without relying on emergency food sources. While areas such as household income are largely out of the jurisdiction of communities and local governments, this plan acknowledges that there are many ways that Oliver can begin to address food security while also creating advocacy action around the root causes of food insecurity. *Food Secure Oliver* focuses on the objectives and strategies that can be addressed at the municipal and community level, while also including strategies and ideas for advocacy.

Within the objectives, strategies, and ideas, several action areas have emerged. These include: three enabling actions, three quick starts, and eight big moves which have been identified to transition *Food Secure Oliver* into the next stages of action planning and plan implementation. These action areas have been determined by assessing readiness, cost and level of priority including impact, urgency and measurability.

Enabling actions include ideas and strategies that will help to enable all aspects of the plan and include three actions:

1. Establish an Oliver and Area C Food Committee/Council, including Terms of Reference, to oversee and engage in the sustainable implementation of Food Secure Oliver.
2. Establish a community development coordinator position to support action planning and implementation.
3. Explore and establish a long-term sustainable funding model for plan implementation and monitoring including strategic and innovative funding partnerships.

Quick starts apply to activities that are already underway and working relatively well and include three actions:

1. Promote urban agriculture already permitted by the Town of Oliver.
2. Integrate food system opportunities into the Downtown Revitalization Plan.

3. Maintain the agricultural zoning in the Agricultural Land Reserve and other lands zoned for agriculture.

The eight big moves in the plan include action areas that have been assessed as having a high priority (High impact, urgency, and measurability), but may be low in readiness and include medium to high costs. The eight big moves include:

1. Building on existing programs and assets, launch an *Oliver Community Garden Initiative*.
2. Launch a multicultural food celebration event.
3. Determine low-barrier opportunities to increase fresh local foods in meal and hamper programs.
4. Improve public transportation systems to enable access to healthy food.
5. Provide information and resources on how to establish low-to-no water gardens/landscapes and how to reduce water use overall.
6. Work with partners to protect sensitive environments.
7. Building on existing programs and assets, develop a *Food Skills Initiative*.
8. Consider the viability and feasibility for establishing a central food hub in Oliver.

The main structure and content of *Food Secure Oliver* is summarized in Figure 1 on the next page.

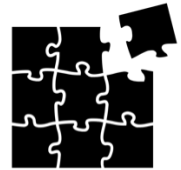


Photo 1: Historic image of Oliver when cantaloupes were a main industry (Town of Oliver)

OUR VISION

Healthy, locally sourced food is available to all and is at the heart of a diverse community culture and the local economy.

OUR GOALS



Food Culture

Create a community food culture that values our agricultural heritage, food quality, cooking and preserving skills, food traditions, and the importance of eating together

Local Food Economy

Strengthen the local economy by supporting economic opportunities across the food system

Access to Food

Recognize the need for and expand dignified access to healthy and safe food as a basic human right for all residents

Sustainable Practices

Foster sustainable food growing, hunting, fishing, and foraging practices

Capacity

Build capacity through leadership, innovation, and collaboration to advance community food security



OUR OBJECTIVES

1	2	3	4	5	6
Increase the Visibility and Practice of Growing Food	Connect and Celebrate a Diverse Community Food Culture	Link Local Food to Local People	Protect Natural Assets that Enable Food Production, Foraging, Hunting and Fishing	Develop and Expand Personal and Professional Food Skills	Increase Leadership, Coordination, and Collaboration Capacity

OUR STRATEGIES & IDEAS FOR TAKING ACTION

2 STRATEGIES	2 STRATEGIES	5 STRATEGIES	4 STRATEGIES	2 STRATEGIES	4 STRATEGIES
8 Ideas	7 Ideas	17 ideas	8 Ideas	8 Ideas	10 Ideas

Figure 1: Food Secure Oliver- Plan Framework

Table of Contents

About Food Secure Oliver	7
Plan Structure	7
A Long-Term, Community-Driven Plan	7
Project Process.....	8
Our Vision	9
Our Goals	10
Food Culture	10
Local Food Economy	10
Access.....	10
Sustainable Practices	10
Capacity.....	10
Our Objectives, Strategies, and Ideas.....	11
Objective 1: Increase the Visibility and Practice of Growing Food	11
Objective 2: Create, Connect, and Celebrate a Diverse Community Food Culture	13
Objective 3: Link Local Food to Local People.....	14
Objective 4: Protect Natural Assets that Enable Food Production, Foraging, Hunting, and Fishing	16
Objective 5: Develop and Expand Personal and Professional Food Skills.....	18
Objective 6: Increase Leadership, Coordination, and Collaboration Capacity	20
Our Strategic Action Areas	22
Enabling Actions.....	22
Quick Starts	22
Big Moves.....	23
Our Next Steps.....	24
Appendices	25
Appendix A: Evaluation of Action Areas	26
Appendix B: Glossary of Terms	36
Appendix C: Acronyms	38
Appendix D: Animal and Livestock Bylaws in Oliver	39
Appendix E: Icon Credits	40
Appendix F: Acknowledgements.....	41

About Food Secure Oliver

Plan Structure

Food Secure Oliver contains five levels of information: the vision, goals, strategies, objectives, and ideas. These levels of information are defined as:

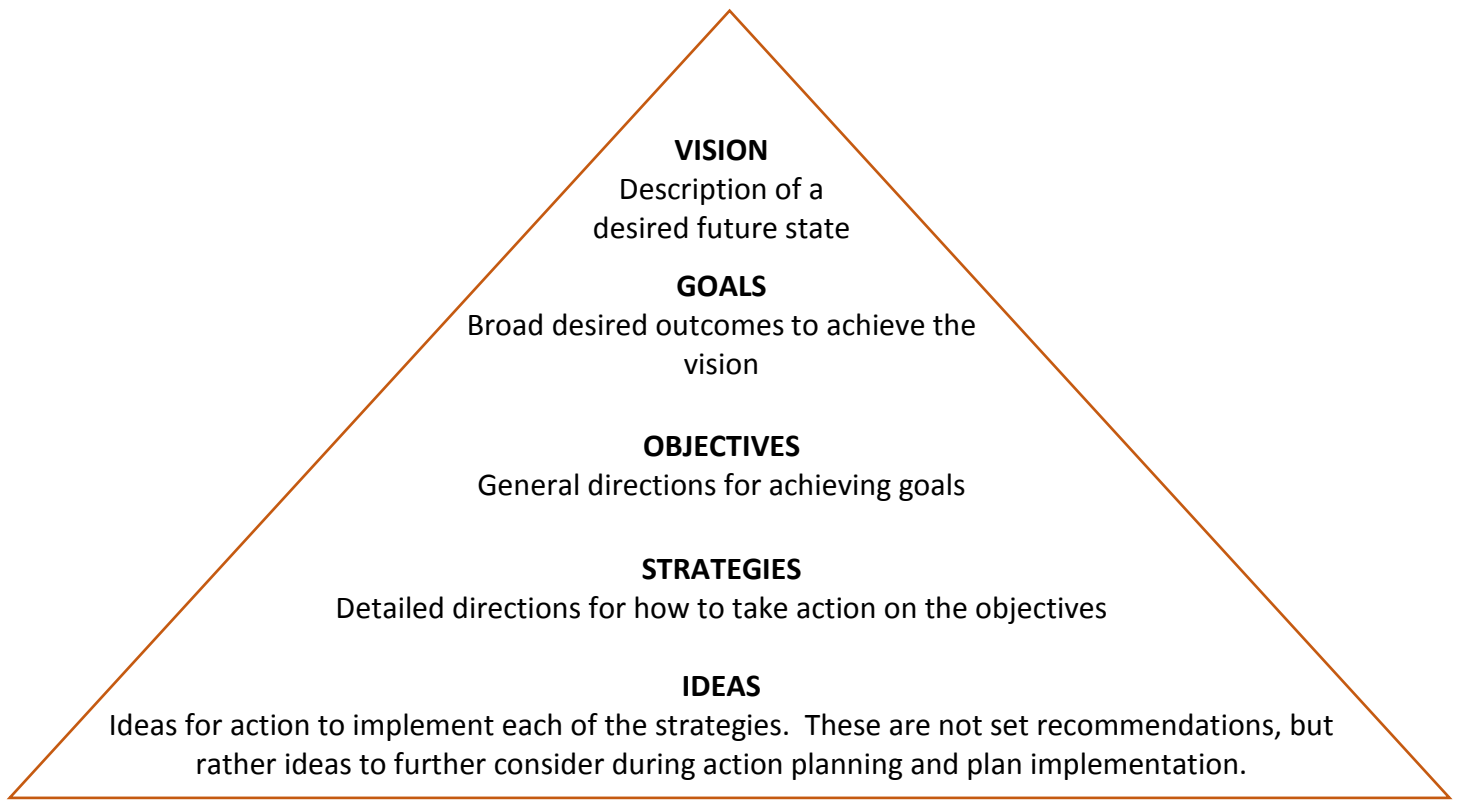


Figure 2: Food Secure Oliver Plan Structure

A Long-Term, Community-Driven Plan

Food Secure Oliver is considered a long-term plan that will be relevant for the next 10-years with plan updates expected after 5 years. This plan is a community-driven plan that will be guided by a multi-disciplinary advisory group. That is to say, no one agency is responsible for the implementation of this plan. Rather, this is a coordinating plan intended to present a shared vision in order to bring together multiple departments, sectors, organizations, and individuals in addressing the complex challenges and opportunities around increasing food security.

It is recognized that household food insecurity cannot be resolved with food security programs, or plans, alone. Systemic changes are also needed for everyone to be able to access the food they need, when they need it, without relying on emergency food sources. While many of these areas of systemic change, such as income, are largely out of the jurisdiction of communities and local governments, there are many ways that Oliver can begin to address

community food security while also creating advocacy action around the root causes of food insecurity. *Food Secure Oliver* focuses goals, objectives, strategies, and ideas in areas that can be effectively addressed at the community level, while also including strategies and ideas for advocacy.

Project Process

The *Food Secure Oliver* planning process took 20 months; beginning in July of 2016 and concluding in February of 2018. Figure 3 below highlights key project phases and timing.

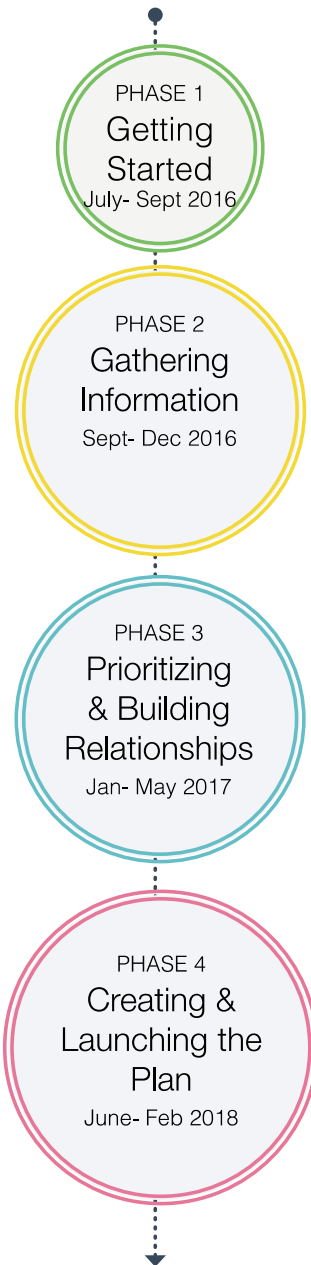


Figure 3: Food Secure Oliver Process

Our Vision

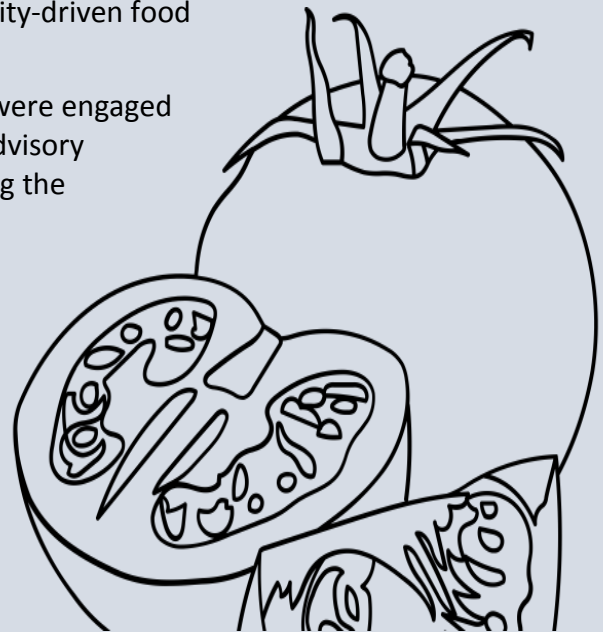
Healthy, locally sourced food is available to all and is at the heart of a diverse community culture and the local economy.

How We Got Here

This vision and plan has been created by the community, for the community.

This plan is the culmination of many collaborative efforts since 2013. The Oliver Healthy Living Coalition, a diverse group of elected officials, health professionals, service providers, non-profit organizations, farmers and business owners, identified healthy eating and food security as a local priority, creating the foundation for this plan. After food insecurity was identified as a challenge that many people face in Oliver and after other opportunities in the local food system came into focus, the process to develop a community-driven food security plan began in 2016.

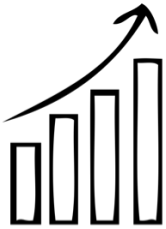
Through this process, the public and stakeholders were engaged in creating this vision and plan. The Food Action Advisory Committee has played an active role in representing the many diverse interests and perspectives in Oliver and Area C. Two community planning forums and four focus groups brought 100 community members together to develop the vision, goals, objectives, strategies, ideas, and action areas for the plan.



Our Goals



Food Culture: Create a community food culture that values our agricultural heritage, food quality, cooking and preserving skills, food traditions, and the importance of eating together.



Local Food Economy: Strengthen the local economy by supporting economic opportunities across the food system.



Access: Recognize the need for and expand dignified access to healthy and safe food as a basic human right for all residents.



Sustainable Practices: Foster sustainable food growing, hunting, fishing, and foraging practices.



Capacity: Build capacity through leadership, innovation, and collaboration to advance community food security.

Our Objectives, Strategies, and Ideas

Objective 1: Increase the Visibility and Practice of Growing Food



Strategy 1.1: Promote and expand the use of and connection with urban agriculture.

Idea A. Build on existing programs and assets to launch an *Oliver Community Gardens Initiative* that:

- Brings garden managers and enthusiasts together to coordinate community gardening efforts, share resources, and support each other.
- Develops community-wide learning opportunities for how to grow food sustainably (e.g. gardening classes/events for all ages, signage).
- Explores the establishment of a Correctional Facility gardening program.
- Provides clear information on where the gardens are and how to become involved.
- Determines new sites for community/neighbourhood gardens based on interest and level of need, considering established properties that have enclosed areas for food growing.
- Works with and includes social service providers in linking produce from community gardens with emergency food services and meal programs.

- Idea B. Promote urban agriculture activities already permitted by the Town of Oliver (e.g. fish, rabbits, bees, and hens) (Zoning bylaw 1350, Animal Control Bylaw 1224). Please see Appendix D for relevant bylaw excerpts.
- Idea C. Develop a strategy for piloting and demonstrating innovative growing techniques (e.g. aquaponics, SPIN farming, vertical gardening, rooftop gardens).
- Idea D. Develop and/or adapt community garden guidelines building on what other jurisdictions have done, including:
 - Location and siting requirements/options.
 - Sample operating agreements.
 - Design and program principles such as creating visibility for the garden from the sidewalk and street, easy, walkable access to the garden by gardeners, safety, and universal accessibility, among others.

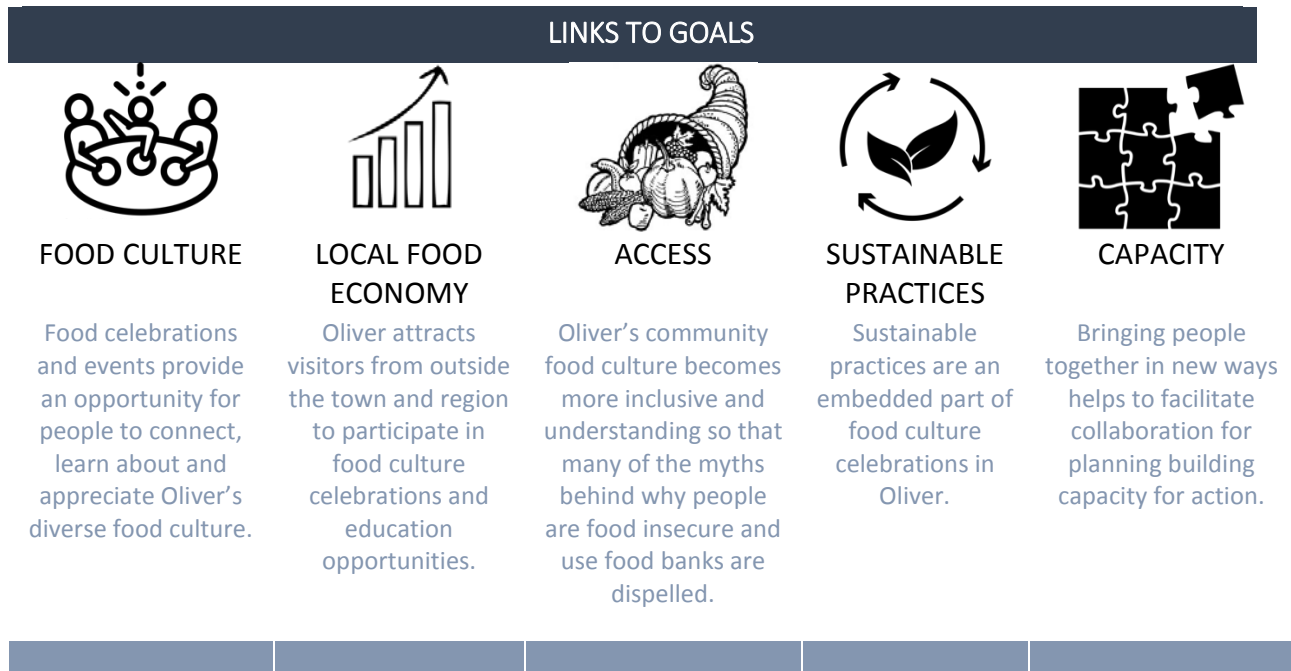
Strategy 1.2: Expand edible landscaping on public land.

- Idea A. Consider an incrEdible pilot project to involve the downtown area businesses in a program to grow food in containers in front of their businesses.
- Idea B. Integrate food system opportunities into the Downtown Revitalization Plan and appoint a liaison from the Food Action Advisory Committee to support the integration of food system opportunities into the plan (e.g. healthy food sources, local food retail, food celebrations).
- Idea C. Determine the feasibility for establishing a food forest and other edible plants on public land.
- Idea D. Update the Town of Oliver’s plant list to include edible varieties that are well-suited to the climate and focus on native species.



Photo 2: Farm to School Students in Oliver

Objective 2: Create, Connect, and Celebrate a Diverse Community Food Culture



Strategy 2.1 Organize and promote community events that celebrate food culture in Oliver.

- Idea A. Launch a multicultural food celebration event that brings together people from all culinary backgrounds to learn about, prepare, share, and celebrate food. (e.g. Taste of Oliver event, community multicultural dinner, recognition and demonstration of indigenous foods).
- Idea B. Promote including a food aspect into established events that would showcase local initiatives and foods.
- Idea C. Publish and promote a community calendar with seasonal food celebrations and education opportunities throughout the year.

Strategy 2.2 Create and support a food culture inclusive to all residents and visitors.

- Idea A. Consider what supports are needed and could be established in Oliver in order to create a welcoming atmosphere and address some of the challenges faced by temporary farm workers.
- Idea B. Support the creation of a community-wide initiative to encourage breast-feeding friendly environments. Consider how to clearly identify these places (e.g. using existing window sticker programs).
- Idea C. Ensure that food assets are accessible by people of all mobility types (e.g. raised beds in community gardens, transportation to healthy affordable food sources).
- Idea D. Provide information and outreach to dispel the negative stigma and stereotypes that can be associated with those who access food banks and meal programs.

Objective 3: Link Local Food to Local People



Strategy 3.1 Increase access to local foods in social services, schools, and neighbourhoods.

- Idea A. Working with or led by social service providers, determine low-barrier opportunities to increase fresh local foods in meal and hamper programs (e.g. coolers, sharing agreements with farmers). Consider preserving foods to make available for distribution throughout the year.
- Idea B. Support Farm to School programs in elementary schools.
- Idea C. Support and create healthy food environments in schools and other settings that children frequent (e.g. daycares, recreation centres).
- Idea D. Improve public transportation systems to enable access to farmer's markets, farmer stands, and grocery stores for those living in rural areas or areas that are further than a 5-minute walk to a healthy food source.

Strategy 3.2 Encourage local food businesses and increase the number of places to buy local food and drink.

- Idea A. Further explore the feasibility of an all-year round local food store, possibly managed as a farmer's cooperative.
- Idea B. Determine the feasibility and community/producer interest in re-establishing a highly visible and accessible Oliver Farmers market.
- Idea C. Work with local businesses (e.g. wineries) to consider a produce market pilot program that would enable a mini-market to be temporarily set up within or just outside of the

building. Consider businesses where people currently go to purchase food, but that don't offer fresh produce (e.g. dollar store, drug store).

Idea D. Consider Oliver food and agriculture as part of local and/or regional branding and promotion campaigns.

Strategy 3.3 Recover high-quality food for sale and/or donation.

Idea A. Work with local organizations to explore the opportunity to adapt the Gleaner model for local distribution.

Idea B. Launch a pilot Food Exchange program that provides a central place people can bring and take surplus garden/ farm product.

Idea C. Implement an Oliver and Area C Fruit Tree Program by funding a coordinator position.

Strategy 3.4 Increase community and commercial food processing and storage capacity for securing year-round supply.

Idea A. Establish and promote community cold storage areas, or food lockers, where people can purchase bulk quantities of shelf-stable produce that can be retrieved throughout the year. Coordinate efforts with the local packing house to determine any opportunities to share facilities and programs.

Idea B. Determine the business model(s) for increasing commercial food processing capacity and storage. Consider how to integrate a business incubation function into existing and/or new processing facilities.

Idea C. Develop an advocacy policy and rationale for establishing a local Abattoir in Area C.

Strategy 3.5 Increase awareness of and advocate for food system and social policy systemic changes.

Idea A. Advocate for legislative changes that address the systemic solutions for food insecurity, namely adequate income, access to affordable housing and good jobs.

Idea B. Participate in Provincial Food Costing data collection as needed and promote recommendations in the Food Costing report and supporting toolkits.

Idea C. Advocate for policies that enable local food procurement in public and private institutions and facilities.



Photo 3: Oliver Gleaners, BC (Photo: Tom Munday)

Objective 4: Protect Natural Assets that Enable Food Production, Foraging, Hunting, and Fishing



Strategy 4.1 Conserve and protect water assets for current and future generations.

- Idea A. Provide information and resources on how to establish low-to-no water gardens/landscapes and how to reduce water use overall. Consider residential, commercial, public, and institutional sectors.
- Idea B. Ensure that new food growing and processing activities are aligned with the Town of Oliver’s Drought Management Plan.¹

Strategy 4.2 Protect food lands.

- Idea A. Maintain the agricultural zoning in the Agricultural Land Reserve and other lands zoned for agriculture.
- Idea B. Work with other partners (OIB, ONA, Conservation groups) to protect sensitive environments such as rivers, lakes, grasslands and other ecologically significant areas that are essential for food production, foraging, hunting, and fishing.
- Idea C. Support participation in the Provincial Environment Farm Planning program.

¹ Town of Oliver (2017). Drought Management Plan. Available on-line: <http://www.oliver.ca/drought-management-plan-0>. [Accessed Nov 14, 2017]

Strategy 4.3 Reduce organic content in the landfill.

- Idea A. Support the RDOS initiative to establish residential food waste composting at the Oliver landfill.²
- Idea B. Consider alternatives for composting spoiled product and creating soil amendments for use in personal or public gardens.

Strategy 4.4 Provide information and tools on sustainable practices.

- Idea A. Develop a public education campaign on sustainable practices. For example, provide education and tools on the legal and ecologically responsible ways to:
- Grow food gardens.
 - Forage for food and medicine.
 - Hunt and fish.
 - Plant native plant species.
 - Manage landscapes without heavy water use and the use of pesticides and herbicides for cosmetic purposes.
 - Compost.



Photo 4: McIntyre Bluff, Oliver BC. Official renaming of this landmark to N̓s̓ayl̓intn (Ny-lin-t̓n) is underway. (Photo: Town of Oliver)

² This would allow residents in Oliver, Osoyoos, Area A and C to place out food waste in their yard waste for weekly collection with garbage and recycling being collected every other week.

Objective 5: Develop and Expand Personal and Professional Food Skills



Strategy 5.1 Facilitate sharing of food skills and knowledge.

- Idea A. Building on existing programs and assets, develop a *Food Skills* initiative that:
- Provides lessons and train-the-trainer models on growing, preserving, and preparing foods for year-round consumption.
 - Provides learning opportunities for children, youth, seniors, and adults.
 - Creates opportunities for people to share and to teach other how to prepare traditional dishes from the many cultural backgrounds in Oliver and Area C.
 - Trains people in foraging safety and importance of sustainable harvesting.
 - Provides opportunities for small businesses to learn skills for developing and marketing new products.
- Idea B. Provide a welcome kit to new food gardeners that includes seeds, tools, and gardening classes.
- Idea C. Provide food-safe training and support for volunteers, organizations, and businesses seeking to establish or operate health and safety certified kitchens and processing facilities.
- Idea D. Establish and promote a central information source on upcoming workshops, canning classes, food availability/locations, and producer events, among others.

Idea E. Offer learning opportunities on healthy food systems for public officials, community agencies, business owners and residents.

Strategy 5.2 Coordinate the sharing and use of food preparation facilities and resources.

Idea A. Inventory all of the kitchen spaces that are available for use or rent in Oliver, times available, conditions of use, and fees required. Consider using this information to coordinate the booking of kitchen space.

Idea B. Use existing kitchen spaces for new food education programs such as cooking classes (e.g. Canning, fermenting, pickling, bread, pastries, freezing, sprouting, Chefig 101, dehydration, cake decorating).

Idea C. Consider the viability and feasibility for establishing a central food hub in Oliver that would integrate many synergistic food functions into a single facility (e.g. processing, incubation, learning, teaching, scaling up small business, distribution).



Photo 5: Pickling Cucumbers

Objective 6: Increase Leadership, Coordination, and Collaboration Capacity



Strategy 6.1 Establish an Oliver and Area C Food Committee/ Council.

- Idea A. Determine the number and type of membership this council would include. Consider representation from the various food system sectors including but not limited to:
- Farmers, vintners, hunters, foragers, and fishers
 - Food processors and distributors
 - Food retail and businesses (including grocery, restaurants, pubs, and cafes)
 - Food celebration event organizers
 - Food educators
 - Social service providers
 - Meal program leaders
 - Youth and senior’s groups
 - Provincial and municipal government
- Idea B. Establish Terms of Reference for the committee. Consider using Terms that have been developed for a similar purpose in other jurisdictions as a starting-off point (e.g. William’s Lake or Kamloops). Include the process for nominating and accepting committee members.

Strategy 6.2 Support Local and Regional Food System Research and Planning.

- Idea A. Consider including a food security component to existing municipal and regional emergency plans.

- Idea B. Support RDOS initiatives to further study and assess agriculture in Area C to determine strategic opportunities for the local food economy.
- Idea C. Support and participate in an Okanagan Bioregion food system design study.
- Idea D. Support and participate when possible in Okanagan Similkameen Healthy Living coalition regional food system activities.

Strategy 6.3 Establish and Enhance Information and Resource Sharing Platforms and Communication.

- Idea A. Establish a central information portal to coordinate community-driven efforts on food security. This portal could include but is not limited to:
 - Information on who needs volunteers, when, and for what purpose, so willing volunteers can easily connect to the many opportunities in Oliver.
 - Availability and location of community gardens.
 - Community food celebration events.
 - Directory of services and locations.

Strategy 6.4 Secure funding for long-term plan implementation, including a community development coordinator position

- Idea A. Explore and establish a long-term sustainable funding model for plan implementation and monitoring including strategic and innovative funding partnerships.
- Idea B. Establish a community development coordinator position to support action planning and implementation.
- Idea C. Include a community development role for the ongoing implementation of this plan. This role would continue to reach out, learn, listen, and connect food security-related activities.



Photo 6: Oliver BC (Town of Oliver)

Our Strategic Action Areas

There are many objectives, strategies, and ideas presented in this plan. This section provides a strategic assessment that uses an evaluation tool to identify areas for action within this plan. The Areas for Action framework, contains three key elements: time estimate, cost estimate, and a priority score (including urgency, impact, and measurability). Each objective, strategy, and idea is considered through this framework. The Areas for Action framework, readiness, cost, and priority assessment for each objective, strategy and ideas is provided in Appendix A.

Strategic action areas have been considered in three categories: 1) Enabling actions that help to increase the capacity to implement the plan generally 2) Quick starts that are relatively easy to take action on and 3) Big moves that are longer-term and include many of the highest priority areas.

This action planning tool is not intended to be a rigid evaluation, but rather to provide guidance into the next stages of this process, which will be to develop an action plan and begin to identify leads to begin implementing specific ideas, strategies, and objectives.

Based on our research, engagement and assessment to date, Food Secure Oliver contains three enabling actions, three quick starts, and eight big moves as key action areas that will help to establish capacity for plan implementation, stewardship, and monitoring. It is acknowledged that more dialogue, feasibility testing, and partnership creation is required for creating an action plan that is best suited to Oliver.

Enabling Actions

Enabling actions help to stimulate and catalyze all other objectives, strategies and ideas in *Food Secure Oliver*. These include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an Oliver and Area C Food Committee/Council, including terms of Reference, to oversee and engage in the sustainable implementation of Food Secure Oliver. | <p>Strategy 6.1: Establish an Oliver and Area C Food Committee/Council.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Establish a community development coordinator position to support action planning and implementation. | <p>Strategy 6.4 Secure funding for long-term plan implementation, including a community development coordinator position.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Explore and establish a long-term sustainable funding model for plan implementation and monitoring including strategic and innovative funding partnerships. | <p>Strategy 6.4: Secure funding for long-term plan implementation, including a community development coordinator position.</p> |

Quick Starts

Quick starts apply to activities that are already underway and working relatively well. For example, an objective or strategy may become an area for action if the community is ready and

the cost is low, i.e. starting with the *low hanging fruit*. These action areas are important to building momentum and demonstrating early success.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote urban agriculture already permitted by the Town of Oliver. | <p>Strategy 1.1: Promote and expand the use of and connection with urban agriculture.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Integrate food system opportunities into the Downtown Revitalization Plan. | <p>Strategy 1.2: Expand edible landscaping on public land.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Maintain the agricultural zoning in the Agricultural Land Reserve and other lands zoned for agriculture. | <p>Strategy 4.2 Protect food lands.</p> |

Big Moves

Big moves include objectives, strategies, and ideas that are longer- term and have been identified as a high priority but readiness is assessed as low and cost as medium to high. This means there is a high degree of potential impact, urgency, and that the objective, strategy or idea is measurable i.e. this action is going to address urgent needs, create great impact, and be measurable, regardless of cost or readiness.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build on existing programs and assets to launch an <i>Oliver Community Gardens Initiative</i> | <p>Strategy 1.1: Promote and expand the use of and connection with urban agriculture.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Launch a multicultural food celebration event. | <p>Strategy 2.1: Organize and promote community events that celebrate food culture in Oliver.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Determine low-barrier opportunities to increase fresh local foods in meal and hamper programs. | <p>Strategy 3.1: Increase access to local foods in social services, schools, and neighbourhoods.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Improve public transportation systems to enable access to healthy food. | <p>Strategy 3.1: Increase access to local foods in social services, schools, and neighbourhoods.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Provide information and resources on how to establish low-to-no water gardens/landscapes and how to reduce water use overall. | <p>Strategy 4.1: Conserve and Protect water assets for current and future generations.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Work with partners to protect sensitive environments. | <p>Strategy 4.2 Protect Food Lands</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Building on existing programs and assets, develop a <i>Food Skills Initiative</i>. | <p>Strategy 5.1: Facilitate sharing of food skills and food knowledge.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Consider the viability and feasibility for establishing a central food hub in Oliver. | <p>Strategy 5.2: Coordinate the sharing and use of food preparation facilities and resources.</p> |

Our Next Steps

As a community-driven plan, there are many individuals and organizations involved in the successful implementation of this plan and the rooting of these ideas in the community. This plan has captured the vision, goals, objectives, strategies, and ideas for what could be done to increase food security in Oliver and provided an initial assessment on the strategic approach for plan implementation. Many of the ideas suggested in this plan require further discussion and consideration of feasibility and next steps.

In addition to starting with the enabling actions and quick starts outlined in above, a key next step will be establishing an action plan for year one of plan implementation that includes who will be responsible for what and by when. A timeframe for updating the plan should also be set to review progress, lessons learned, and updating enabling actions, quick starts, and big moves.

Celebrating the completion of this plan is also an important community milestone to observe. Many volunteer hours and funder resources went into creating the plan and are also in place to begin implementation.



Photo 7: Oliver Winter Orchard (Town of Oliver)

Appendices

Appendix A: Evaluation of Action Areas

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

Appendix C: Acronyms

Appendix D: Animal Bylaws in Oliver

Appendix E: Photo/Icon Credits

Appendix A: Evaluation of Action Areas

Table 1: Food Secure Oliver Action Area Framework

<p>Readiness Estimate</p> <p><i>Resources (\$ or other required assets) and partnerships needed to implement are currently in place or are easily achievable.</i></p>	<p>NR (Not ready)</p>	<p>GR (Getting Ready)</p>	<p>R (Almost ready/ Ready to go)</p>
<p>Cost Assessment</p> <p><i>A preliminary estimate of the cost associated with the strategy or action</i></p>	<p>\$ (Under \$10k)</p>	<p>\$\$ (11k-\$50k)</p>	<p>\$\$\$ (\$51k +)</p>
<p>Priority Score</p> <p><i>The degree of priority based on three criteria. The total possible score is 9, indicating the highest level of priority.</i></p>			
<p>a) Impact / benefit The strategy/action has the greatest impact and/or benefit</p>	1	2	3
<p>b) Urgency The strategy/action is targeted at the areas of most need</p>	1	2	3
<p>c) Measurability The strategy is specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic and time-based</p>	1	2	3

In the tables below, each objective, strategy, and idea presented in the body of *Food Secure Oliver* is assessed for readiness, cost, and priority (including impact, urgency, and measurability). Values have been rounded up to the nearest quarter-point. This assessment is preliminary and included to support next steps around action planning.

* Denotes a Quick Start (Ready, low cost, med to high priority)

Δ Denotes a Big Move (High priority, not ready, med-high cost)

† Denotes Enabling Actions (Action areas that are necessary to support the whole process)

	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 1. Increase the Visibility and Practice of Growing Food	GR	\$	6
Strategy 1.1 Promote and expand the use of and connection with urban agriculture	GR	\$	6.5
Idea A. Δ Build on existing programs and assets to launch an <i>Oliver Community Gardens Initiative</i>	GR	\$\$	8
Idea B. * Promote urban agriculture already permitted by the Town of Oliver (e.g. fish, rabbits, bees and hens)	R	\$	8
Idea C. Develop a strategy for piloting and demonstrating innovative growing techniques (e.g. aquaponics, SPIN farming, vertical gardening, rooftop gardens).	NR	\$	6
Idea D. Develop and/or adapt community garden guidelines building on what other jurisdictions have done.	GR	\$	4
Strategy 1.2: Expand edible landscaping on public land	GR	\$	5.25
Idea A. Consider an incrEdible pilot project to involve the downtown area businesses in a program to grow food in containers in front of their businesses.	NR	\$	6
Idea B. * Integrate food system opportunities into the Downtown Revitalization Plan and appoint a liaison from the Food Action Advisory Committee to support the integration of food system opportunities into the plan (e.g. healthy food sources, local food retail, food celebrations).	R	\$	6
Idea C. Determine the feasibility for establishing a food forest and other edible plants on public land.	NR	\$\$	5
Idea D. Update the Town of Oliver’s plant list to include edible varieties that are well-suited to the climate and focus on native species.	GR	\$	4

Readiness: **R**= Ready, **GR**= Getting Ready, **NR**= Not Ready
 Cost: **\$**= Under \$10,000, **\$\$**=\$11,000-\$50,000, **\$\$\$**= Over \$50,000
 Priority Score: 9 =highest, 1=lowest

* Quick Start
 Δ Big Move
 † Enabling Action

	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 2. Create, Connect, and Celebrate a Diverse Community Food Culture	NR-GR	\$\$	6.75
Strategy 2.1 Organize and promote community events that celebrate food culture in Oliver	GR	\$\$	8
Idea A. Δ Launch a multicultural food celebration event that brings together people from all culinary backgrounds to learn about prepare, share, and celebrate food.	NR	\$\$	9
Idea B. Promote the inclusion of a food aspect to already established events that would showcase local initiatives and foods.	GR	\$\$	7
Idea C. Publish and promote a community calendar with seasonal food celebrations and education opportunities throughout the year.	GR	\$	8
Strategy 2.2 Create and support a food culture inclusive to all residents and visitors	NR	\$\$-\$	5.5
Idea A. Consider what supports are needed and could be established in Oliver in order to create a welcoming atmosphere and address some of the challenges faced by temporary farm workers.	NR	TBD	2
Idea B. Support the creation of a community-wide initiative to encourage breast-feeding friendly environments. Consider how to clearly identify these places.	NR	\$	5
Idea C. Ensure that food assets are accessible by people of all mobility types.	NR	\$\$	8
Idea D. Provide information and outreach to dispel the negative stigma and stereotypes that can be associated with those who access food banks and meal programs.	NR	\$	7

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	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 3: Link Local Food to Local People	NR	\$\$	5.5
Strategy 3.1 Increase access to local foods in social services, schools, and neighbourhoods.	GR	\$\$	8.25
Idea A. Δ Working with or led by social service providers, determine low-barrier opportunities to increase fresh local foods in meal and hamper programs.	GR	\$	9
Idea B. Support Farm to School programs in elementary schools.	GR	\$\$	7
Idea C. Support and create healthy food environments in schools and other settings that children frequent.	GR	\$	8
Idea D. Δ Improve public transportation systems to enable access to farmer’s markets, farmer stands, and grocery stores for those living in rural areas or areas that are further than a 5-minute walk to a healthy food source.	NR	\$\$\$	9
Strategy 3.2 Encourage local food businesses and increase the number of places to buy local food and drink.	NR-GR	\$-\$\$	3.75
Idea A. Further explore the feasibility of an all-year round local food store, possibly managed as a farmer’s cooperative.	NR	\$\$	2
Idea B. Determine the feasibility and community/producer interest in re-establishing a highly visible and accessible Oliver Farmers market.	GR	\$	3
Idea C. Work with local businesses to consider a produce market pilot program that would enable a mini-market to be temporarily set up within or just outside of the building.	NR	\$\$	4
Idea D. Consider Oliver food and agriculture as part of local and/or regional branding and promotion campaigns.	GR	\$	6
Strategy 3.3 Recover high-quality food for sale and/or donation	NR	\$	6

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	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 3: Link Local Food to Local People	NR	\$\$	5.5
Idea A. Work with local organizations to explore the opportunity to adapt the Gleaner model for local distribution.	GR	\$	6
Idea B. Launch a pilot Food Exchange program that provides a central place people can bring and take surplus garden/ farm product.	NR	\$	7
Idea C. Implement an Oliver and Area C Fruit Tree Program by funding a coordinator position	NR	\$\$	5
Strategy 3.4 Increase community and commercial food processing and storage capacity for securing year-round supply	NR	\$\$	4.5
Idea A. Establish and promote community cold storage areas, or food lockers, where people can purchase bulk quantities of shelf-stable produce that can be retrieved throughout the year.	NR	\$\$	5
Idea B. Determine the business model(s) for increasing commercial food processing capacity and storage. Consider how to integrate a business incubation function into existing or new processing facilities.	NR	\$\$\$	4
Idea C. Develop an advocacy policy and rationale for establishing a local Abattoir in Area C.	NR	\$	5
Strategy 3.5 Increase awareness of and advocate for food system and social policy systemic changes	NR	\$	5.25
Idea A. Advocate for legislative changes that address the systemic solutions for food insecurity, namely adequate income, access to affordable housing and good jobs.	NR	\$	7
Idea B. Participate in Provincial Food Costing data collection as needed and promote recommendations in the Food Costing report and supporting toolkits.	GR	\$	4
Idea C. Advocate for policies that enable local food procurement in public and private institutions and facilities.	NR	\$	5

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	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 4: Protect Natural Assets that Enable Food Production, Foraging, Hunting and Fishing	GR	\$\$	6.25
Strategy 4.1 Conserve and protect water assets for current and future generations	R	\$\$-\$	7.25
Idea A. Δ Provide information and resources on how to establish low-to-no water gardens/landscapes and how to reduce water use overall. Consider residential, commercial, public, and institutional sectors.	GR	\$\$	9
Idea B. Ensure that new food growing and processing activities are aligned with the Town of Oliver’s Drought Management Plan. ³	R	\$\$	6
Strategy 4.2 Protect food lands	GR	\$	6.5
Idea A. * Maintain the agricultural zoning in the Agricultural Land Reserve and other lands zoned for agriculture.	R	\$	6
Idea B. Δ Work with other partners (OIB, ONA, Conservation groups) to protect sensitive environments such as rivers, lakes, grasslands and other ecologically significant areas that are essential for food production, foraging, hunting, and fishing.	GR	\$	8
Idea C. Support participation in the Provincial Environment Farm Planning program.	NR	\$\$	6
Strategy 4.3 Reduce organic content in the landfill	GR	\$\$	6.5

³ Town of Oliver (2017). Drought Management Plan. Available on-line: <http://www.oliver.ca/drought-management-plan-0>. [Accessed Nov 14, 2017]

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	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 4: Protect Natural Assets that Enable Food Production, Foraging, Hunting and Fishing	GR	\$\$	6.25
Idea A. Support the RDOS initiative to establish residential food waste composting at the Oliver landfill.	GR	\$	8
Idea B. Consider alternatives for composting spoiled product and creating soil amendments for use in personal and/or public gardens.	NR	\$\$	5
Strategy 4.4 Provide information and tools on sustainable practices	NR	\$\$	7
Idea A. Develop a public education campaign on sustainable practices.	GR	\$\$	7

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	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 5: Develop and Expand Personal and Professional Food Skills	GR	\$	6.5
Strategy 5.1 Facilitate sharing of food skills and knowledge	NR-GR	\$	7
Idea A. Δ Building on existing programs and assets, develop a <i>Food Skills</i> initiative	GR	\$\$	9
Idea B. Provide a welcome kit to new food gardeners that includes seeds, tools, and gardening classes.	NR	\$	5
Idea C. Provide food-safe training and support for volunteers, organizations, and businesses seeking to establish or operate health and safety certified kitchens and processing facilities.	NR	\$\$	6
Idea D. Establish and promote a central information source on upcoming workshops, canning classes, and producer events, and food availability/locations among others.	GR	\$	7
Idea E. Offer learning opportunities on healthy food systems for public officials, community agencies, business owners and residents	NR	\$	8
Strategy 5.2 Coordinate the sharing and use of food preparation facilities and resources	GR	\$	6.25
Idea A. Inventory all of the kitchen spaces that are available for use or rent in Oliver, times available, conditions of use, and fees required. Consider using this information to coordinate the booking of kitchen space.	GR	\$	5
Idea B. Use existing kitchen spaces for new food education programs such as cooking classes.	GR	\$	6
Idea C. Δ Consider the viability and feasibility for establishing a central food hub in Oliver that would integrate many synergistic food functions into a single facility (e.g. processing, incubation, learning, teaching, scaling up small business, distribution).	GR	\$\$\$	8

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	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 6: Increase Leadership, Coordination, and Collaboration Capacity	GR	\$	7.25
Strategy 6.1 Establish an Oliver and Area C Food Committee/ Council	GR	\$	8.5
Idea A. † Determine the number and type of membership this council would include. Consider representation from across food system sectors.	GR	\$	9
Idea B. † Establish Terms of Reference for the committee.	GR	\$	8
Strategy 6.2 Support and Participate in Local and Regional Food System Research, Engagement, and Planning	GR	\$	4.0
Idea A. Consider including a food security component to existing municipal and regional emergency plans.	GR	\$	2
Idea B. Support RDOS initiatives to further study and assess agriculture in Area C to determine strategic opportunities for the local food economy.	NR	\$\$	6
Idea C. Support and participate in an Okanagan Bioregion food system design study.	R	\$	3
Idea D. Support and participate when possible in Okanagan Similkameen Healthy Living coalition regional food system activities.	R	\$	6
Strategy 6.3 Establish and Enhance Information and Resource Sharing Platforms and Communication Systems.	NR	\$\$	8
Idea A. Establish a central information portal to coordinate community-wide efforts on food security.	NR	\$\$	8

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	Readiness Estimate	Cost Assessment	Priority Score
Objective 6: Increase Leadership, Coordination, and Collaboration Capacity	GR	\$	7.25
Strategy 6.4 Secure funding for long-term plan implementation, including a community development coordinator position	GR	\$\$	8.5
Idea A. Δ Explore and establish a long-term sustainable funding model for plan implementation and monitoring including strategic and innovative funding partnerships.	GR	\$\$	8
Idea B. † Establish a community development position for the ongoing implementation of this plan. This role would continue to reach out, learn, listen, and connect food security-related activities.	R	\$\$	9

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Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

Abattoir	An abattoir is a facility where animals are slaughtered for consumption as food.
Community Food Security	Community food security is a relatively new term and is defined as: <i>A situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximize community self-reliance and social justice.</i> ⁴
Dignified access to food	Avenues for accessing food are always respectful and value the individual. Food available is high quality. Ultimate goal is for everyone to be able to source and purchase the food that they need.
Food Forest	A [food forest] mimics the architecture and beneficial relationships of a natural plant/animal community that occurs in that climate. Food forests are not “natural”, but are designed and managed ecosystems that are very rich in biodiversity and productivity. ⁵
Food Insecurity	Household food insecurity occurs when a household worries about or lacks the financial means to buy healthy, safe, personally acceptable food. Household food insecurity can occur at three levels: marginally food-insecure; moderately food insecure; severely food insecure. ⁶ Some researchers define levels of food insecurity as marginal, moderate, or severe in detailed trend analysis and projections on national food security levels. ⁷
Food Security	The Population and Public Health program at BC Centre for Disease Control outlines the goals of food security as: <i>“increase[ing] physical, social, and economic access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable food with a focus on increasing availability of healthy food produced in a sustainable manner”</i> . ⁸ This food security goal encompasses a broad scope of food security definitions, including the UN Food and Agriculture

⁴ Hamm, M.; Bellows, A. (2003). *Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators*. Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior **35** (1): 37–43.

⁵ <https://permaculture.org/demonstration-site/food-forest/>

⁶ Li N, Dachner, N, Tarasuk, V, Zhang, R, Kurrein, M, Harris, T, Gustin, S, Rasali, D. Priority health equity indicators for British Columbia: Household food insecurity report. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) 2016.

⁷ Tarasuk, Valerie, Andy Mitchell, and Naomi Dachner (2012). Household Food Insecurity in Canada 2012. PROOF.

⁸ Provincial Health Services Authority. Food Security. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority; 2016 [cited 2016 Sept 25]

	Organization FAO definition, ⁹ community food security ¹⁰ and individual and household food insecurity. ¹¹
Food Skills	Having the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to choose, grow, prepare and enjoy food to support one’s health, community, and the environment. Also known as Food Literacy as used by Healthy Schools BC.
Food System	A food system consists of the inter-related stages that food goes through from the natural soil, water, and air resources that enable us to grow/raise/hunt/fish/forage food for the personal and commercial practices of harvesting, processing, storing, distributing, buying, selling, eating, celebrating, and recovering waste. These stages make up the basic elements of a food system. Education, governance and capacity building are key supports for the food system. Food systems exist at multiple scales including local, regional, provincial, national, and international. Six elements of a food system may be described as: 1) Primary food production 2) Processing and storage 3) Distribution and transportation 4) Buying and selling, 5) Eating, culture, and celebration, and 6) Waste recovery.
Local food	Food that is grown, raised, hunted, fished, and foraged within the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.
Urban Agriculture	Growing and/or raising food within a town or city. Urban Agriculture includes urban farms, community gardens, backyard gardens, school gardens, raising hens, hobby beekeeping, shared garden plots, and edible landscapes.

⁹ FAO. World Food Summit. United Nations; 1996 [cited 2006 May 1]; Available from: http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm.

¹⁰ Hamm MW, Bellows AC. Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators. Journal of Nutrition Education Behaviour. 2003; 35:37-43

¹¹ Li N, Dachner, N, Tarasuk, V, Zhang, R, Kurrein, M, Harris, T, Gustin, S, Rasali, D. Priority health equity indicators for British Columbia: Household food insecurity report. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) 2016

Appendix C: Acronyms

ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
CD	Community Development
FAAC	Food Action Advisory Committee
IH	Interior Health Authority
OCP	Official Community Plan
OIB	Osoyoos Indian Band
PHSA	Provincial Health Services Authority
RGS	Regional Growth Strategy
ZBL	Zoning Bylaw

Appendix D: Animal and Livestock Bylaws in Oliver

Animal Control Bylaw 1224

Type of Animal	Maximum Number	Special Conditions
Domestic dogs	2 dogs over 6 months in age per residence	(2)
Domestic cats	2 cats over 6 months in age per residence	(2)
Fish	no limit	In aquaria or outdoor fish ponds
Budgies, canaries, parrots and other birds	6 per residence	Must be kept indoors or in an outdoor cage at all times
Gerbils, hamsters and other rodents	6 per residence	Must be kept in an indoor cage at all times
Amphibians and reptiles	6 per residence	Must be kept in an indoor cage at all times
Chickens	No chickens on properties under 500 m ² . Otherwise three hens plus one additional hen for each full 100m ² of lot area greater than 500m ²	Females only

Zoning Bylaw 1350

10 Keeping of Livestock:

- a) On any *parcel* 2.0 ha or less in area, the total number of horses, sheep, or other similar large animals shall not exceed one for each 0.4 ha or fraction thereof of lot or site area in excess of 0.4 ha;
- b) On any *parcel* 2.0 ha or less in area, the total number of fowl, rabbits, or other small fur-bearing animals, or the number of colonies of bees, shall not exceed 25 plus one for each 50.0m² or fraction thereof of lot or site area in excess of 0.4 ha; and
- c) despite sub-section (b), in the case of chinchillas, the maximum number allowed on a lot or site less than 0.4 ha is 500.

Appendix E: Icon Credits



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Appendix F: Acknowledgements

The Town of Oliver and project partners wish to recognize the community volunteers that are supporting the development of the Food Secure Oliver Plan. These volunteers contributed their time, in-kind resources, and networks to help create this plan.

Food Action Advisory Committee Members:

Town Council	Petra Veintimilla	Councillor, Town of Oliver
	Larry Schwartzberger	Councillor, Town of Oliver
Corporate Officer	Diane Vaykovich	Town of Oliver
Parks and Recreation	Carol Sheridan	Oliver Parks and Recreation Society
Food Producers	Shelly Covert	Covert Farms
	Joel Horner	Organic farmer
	Gord Forbes	Forbes Family Farm
Food Bank Volunteer	Jim Oulette	Oliver Food Bank
Public Health Dietitian	Kristi Estergaard	Interior Health
Community Services	Donna Ashcroft	South Okanagan Outreach, Penticton and Area Access Society
Waste Management	David Kassian	Waste management
Business Owners	Chris Van Hooydonk	Backyard Farms
	Sid Ruhland	Fire Hall Brewery
Education	Samantha Dunlop	Health Promoting Schools, School District #53

The Town and the FAAC would also like to acknowledge the many community members who participated in meetings, focus groups, community planning forums, and online surveys.