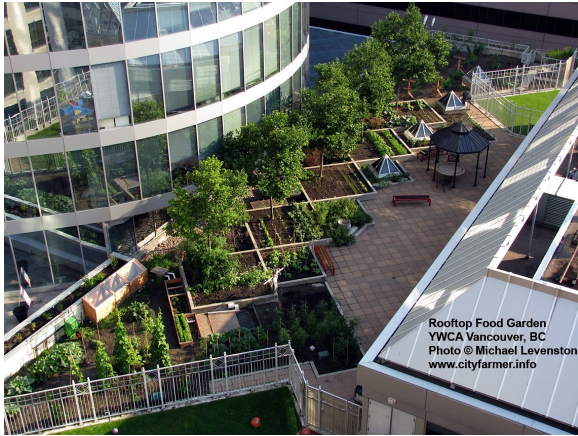


Background

In order to promote food security and encourage a more sustainable lifestyle, as part of the City's new Zoning Bylaw all Nanaimo residents and property owners will have the opportunity to grow and sell food on any property within the City of Nanaimo.



Urban food gardens are intended to be small-scale gardens which can be easily incorporated into a neighbourhood. The size of an urban food garden is limited to 600m², or 24% of lot area where the lot is greater than 2400m². No pesticides, herbicides or artificial lighting is permitted within an urban food garden. On-site sales are permitted, but are limited to no more than 60 days within the calendar

year and cannot generate more than five vehicle trips per day.



What else is the City doing to promote food security?

Ensuring access to local, sustainable food is included as a goal (see section 3.4) within the City's Official Community Plan (OCP). In addition to allowing urban food gardens, in order to promote and protect local food, the City has:

- Amended the "Licensing and Control of Animals Bylaw 1995 No. 4923" in order to allow up to six chickens or ducks on all lots greater than 450m² and four chickens and ducks on lots less than 450m².
- Worked with Neighbourhood Associations and community groups in supporting community gardens on City-owned and private land, including supporting the Young Professionals of Nanaimo in reclaiming former gas station sites as community gardens.
- Established an Urban Containment Boundary, which provides a clear separation between urban and rural land uses.
- Participated in the "Food For You" program, in which the City helped build connections between local farmers and food banks who wish to provide or purchase local produce.
- Worked with the Regional District of Nanaimo in establishing a kitchen compost pick-up program. Kitchen waste is given to a private company to produce garden compost.

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URBAN FOOD GARDENS

PLANNING GUIDELINES



www.nanaimo.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an urban food garden?

An urban food garden is defined within the Zoning Bylaw as:

“The use of land on a limited scale for the growing, harvesting and selling of fruits, vegetables, edible plants and the like, but specifically excludes the growing of mushrooms”

In other words, an urban food garden is a garden where food is grown for the purposes of sales or exchange either on-site or off-site.

What are the limits for selling food on site?

Urban food gardeners may sell food grown on-site, provided the size of a roadside stand does not exceed 9m² and no more than five daily vehicle trips are generated as a result of food sales. In order to maintain the residential character of Nanaimo neighbourhoods, food sales are limited to no more than 60 days within a calendar year. Food sale days do not have to be consecutive and can be applied throughout the entire year. For example, if an urban food gardener wanted to sell their produce every weekend, this would be permissible within the bylaw.

How large of an urban food garden can I have?

An urban food garden is intended to be a small-scale, commercial garden that can be easily incorporated into an urban area. The area under cultivation for an urban food garden cannot exceed 600m² per lot, or 25% of the lot where the lot is greater than 2400m². This size limit shall only apply to food that is grown for sale on or off-site.

What if I do not want to sell my food?

Nanaimo residents have always been, and will continue to be, permitted to have a garden in which to grow food for their own personal consumption. There are no size limits or other restrictions for community gardens or personal gardens which are accessory to a single family home.



Can I have a garden on a vacant lot?

Yes, the Zoning Bylaw allows both urban food gardens and community gardens on any lot within the City, regardless of what other uses exist on the lot.



What is the difference between an urban food garden and a community garden?

An urban food garden is intended to allow for the growing and selling of food on a limited scale.

A community garden is a non-commercial garden for the use of residents within a neighbourhood or other organized group in which the garden area is shared among a number of individuals. A community garden and an urban food garden may exist on the same lot.