

Farming and Food Production



Possible Change:

The updated RGS will set clear direction for supporting farming and food production.

What is food security?

Most of the food we eat comes from other parts of the world. In Canada, the average meal travels 2,400km from where it was grown to the place where it is consumed.

This means that local residents are completely at the mercy of weather and political events that are happening thousands of kilometers away. As well, world energy prices also play a large role in the price of food as transportation costs are a significant portion of food costs. Having greater food security means that more food is grown locally and therefore is not as susceptible to events occurring outside the region.

Why is this important for a sustainable region?

Food security is important to the region's sustainability as locally grown or raised agricultural products support a local food supply and reduce the region's reliance on imported food products. The local production of food supports the RDN commitment to sustainability by reducing emissions from transportation and contributing

towards local employment opportunities in food production. Maintaining this food source requires that agricultural land is preserved for farming uses and farming remains a commercially viable option for property owners.

The RGS could assist in achieving a number of social, economic and ecological goals by providing more direction on how to protect farmland, remove obstacles to urban agriculture and support local food production.

How can the RGS provide direction to protect local food sources?

Securing access to local food sources requires the preservation of existing resource lands for farm use and supporting farmers to maintain their land for actively producing food for local consumption. The RGS could include strategies to remove barriers to farming and promote local food consumption. The RGS could also support the use of lands outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve suitable for farming related uses such as food processing. The RGS could give direction for the implementation of these strategies through official community plans and other appropriate tools.



For more information on this topic please see the discussion papers at www.shapingourfuture.ca