

## City seeds urban agriculture in Edmonton

City Council [has approved changes](#) allowing for more urban agriculture and local food production activities in Edmonton starting in February 2016.

The changes establish three new land use classes for urban agriculture within the City's [Zoning Bylaw](#) - Urban Outdoor Farms, Urban Indoor Farms, and Urban Gardens. These new land use classes officially create a place for urban agriculture and distinguish it from related activities, such as conventional farming, greenhouses, plant nurseries and garden centres.

"Removing barriers and creating opportunities for residents to cultivate and process food in urban areas encourages local economic development, and will help make Edmonton a more environmentally sustainable and resilient city," says Colton Kirsop, Senior Planner for the City's Zoning Bylaw Implementation Team. "The changes mean residents can expect to see beautification of vacant and underutilized lots, more community gardens, and an increase in local food businesses in commercial areas and temporary spaces."



The changes help align rules for the development of land in Edmonton with food production policies in [The Way We Grow](#) and [fresh: Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy](#). The new regulations will also ensure that the appropriate design, maintenance and operation standards are in place, and that urban agriculture activities are compatible with the surrounding community.

The City has launched a [vacant lot inventory for urban agriculture](#) to help residents and small businesses make use of underutilized land in the city. This online tool allows users to search for lots that are appropriate for urban agriculture.

The City's [fresh](#) strategy helps guide Edmonton towards the vision of a resilient food and agriculture system that contributes to the local economy and the overall cultural, financial, social and environmental sustainability of the city.

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### For more information:

[edmonton.ca/urbanagriculturezoning](http://edmonton.ca/urbanagriculturezoning).

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