



## Current Project: Urban Agriculture in Town of Mount Royal

### Background

Inspired by recent reflections on urban agriculture, the Town of Mount Royal is announcing a project that aims to enrich our living environment by promoting vegetable gardening. The goal is not to achieve food sufficiency or to replace large grocery chains and restaurants, but rather to help citizens build a closer relationship with the food they eat. Recent pandemic-related events have put stress on our food distribution networks, leading to questions about the source and quality of our food.

Urban agriculture has a number of benefits, which is why the Town of Mount Royal wants to promote this practice. Examples include:

- Promotes food independence
- Increases the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables
- Allows consumers to know the source of their food
- Increases children's contact with nature
- Can serve as an outreach activity for seniors
- Beautifies green spaces
- Encourages citizens to spend time outside
- Reduces stress, and other therapeutic effects of gardening
- Strengthens social connections

In light of these many benefits and in response to a citizen request, the Town has decided to create an urban agriculture policy. The Town of Mount Royal intends to

provide its citizens with the tools they need to increase their quality of life, food independence and resilience to climate change.

In adopting an urban agriculture plan, the Town wants to encourage citizen initiatives and increase its service to the general population beyond existing community gardens. Discussions are already being held internally, but the Town also wants to hear from its citizens and consider their views on the subject, which includes issues such as year-round agriculture, rooftop gardens, edible flowerbeds and gardening incentives. The Town of Mount Royal is fortunate to be located at the heart of the Island of Montreal, close to all amenities, while having numerous green spaces to brighten our lives. It is worth taking the opportunity to increase residents' enjoyment of the Town while making the space more useful by developing local food-growing.

The Town is considering the following objectives in developing an urban agriculture plan:

- Improving residents' relationship to nature
- Enhancing relationships between residents by increasing the area dedicated to community and/or collective gardens
- Raising awareness of urban agriculture and promoting its education in schools
- Integrating urban agriculture into the Town's vision and sustainable development goals
- Fostering food security and social inclusion
- Supporting residents in learning about urban agriculture
- Facilitating the adoption of urban agriculture by different stakeholders in the Town
- Highlighting local and urban agriculture

### **Project Stages (completed in agile mode)**

1. Online public consultation

2. Policy and regulatory framework analysis for the Town of Mount Royal
3. Mapping and overview of initiatives
4. Consultation with community organizations and institutions
5. Consultation with different departments of the Town
6. Establish an urban agriculture committee to implement the action plan

The contribution of citizens to this project will be greatly appreciated. Successfully implementing an urban agriculture plan will be closely tied to its adoption within the community. For that reason, the Town of Mount Royal asks that you to take a few minutes to complete this short survey on urban agriculture.

[Complete the survey](#)