

# A *fresh* Perspective on Edmonton Urban Agriculture

Amelia Van Hoffen  
The King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta



Photo by Amelia Van Hoffen, 2014.



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Photo by Green and Gold Community Gardens. <http://www.greengoldgarden.com/galleries/green-gold-community-garden/>

## The *fresh* Context:

The City of Edmonton approved and released the Food & Urban Agriculture Strategy in late 2012 called *fresh*. To develop *fresh*, over 3000 Edmontonians were consulted for their views and opinions about food and urban agriculture within the city; the document was then developed by an Advisory Committee. The committee identified five goals and nine strategic directions for the food and urban agriculture strategy:

### GOALS:

1. A stronger, more vibrant local economy
2. A healthier, more food secure community
3. More vibrant, attractive, and unique places
4. Less energy emissions and waste
5. Healthier ecosystems

### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

1. Establish the Edmonton Food Council
2. Provide Food Skill Education and Information
3. Expand Urban Agriculture
4. Develop Local Food Infrastructure Capacity
5. Grow Local Food Supply and Demand
6. Enliven the Public Realm Through a Diversity of Food Activities
7. Treat Food Waste as a Resource
8. Support Urban Farmers and ecological Approaches to Farming
9. Integrate Land Use for Agriculture

## Case Studies & Methodology:

Three semi-structured interviews were carried out in November and December 2014, as approved by The King's University College's Research Ethics Board. The three urban agriculture projects were chosen based on participant agreement and filling the prerequisite of categories falling within: inner urban core, urban residential, and peri-urban agriculture as defined by the City of Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan 'The Way We Grow'. The local projects chosen were: The Green and Gold Community Garden, The LIVINGbridge, and Reclaim Urban Farm.

Project	Location	Founding Year	Acres	Objective	Success?	Distribution	Work	<i>Fresh</i> Strategy Considered?
Green and Gold Community Garden	Peri-Urban: University of Alberta South Campus	2009	2	Non-profit, charity	Yes	On location, paid	Volunteer	No, <i>fresh</i> was developed after GGCG began.
LIVINGbridge	Inner Urban Core: On top of the abandoned rail bridge above 97 Street at 105 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	2013	0.16	Non-profit	Yes	On location, free	Volunteer	No
Reclaim Urban Farm	Urban Residential: 15 properties spanning south of the North Saskatchewan River to Parkallen, and from Bonnie Doon to Garneau	2014	0.5	For profit	Yes	Farmers Market, paid	Paid & Volunteer	No

## Green and Gold Community Garden

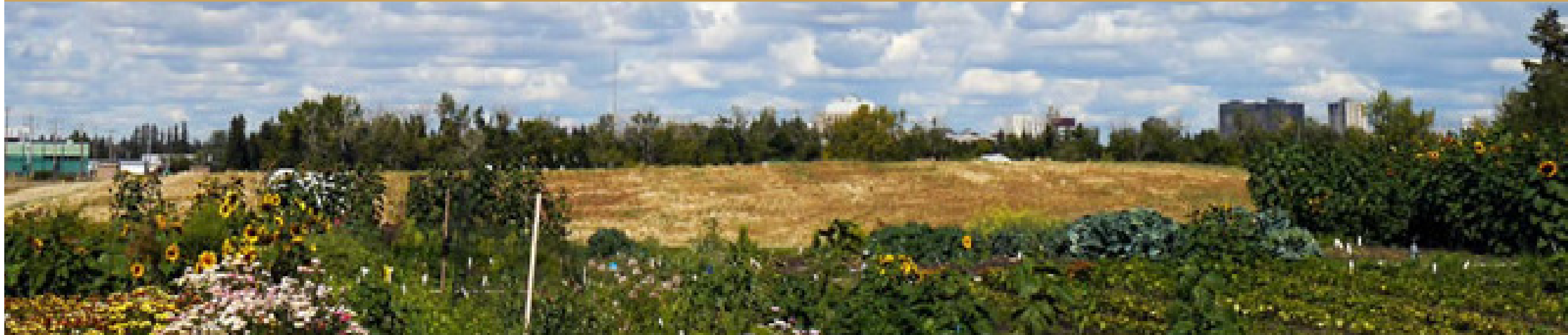


Photo by Green and Gold Community Garden. <http://www.greengoldgarden.com/galleries/green-gold-community-garden/>

- Land provided by the University of Alberta Farm
- Managed by a 12-person volunteer board, supported by the School of Public Health and the Faculty of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta.
- Goals:
  - raise money for Rwandan non-profit *Tubahumurize*
  - build community
  - model urban agricultural practices in Edmonton

## LIVINGbridge



Photo by LIVINGbridge. <http://www.livingbridge.com/>

- Land used is abandoned rail bridge
- Managed by 4 organizers, and supported by volunteer contributions of products and time.
- Goals:
  - build community
  - model urban agricultural practices in Edmonton

## Reclaim Urban Farms



Photo by Reclaim Urban Farms. <http://www.reclaimurbanfarms.com/>

- Land provided by owners: backyards, frontyards & empty lots
- Managed by 2 founders, and supported by volunteer contributions of land and time.
- Goals:
  - reach production goals & provide locally grown food for purchase
  - model urban agricultural practices in Edmonton
  - build Community

“... our approaches to how we grow and use land must balance different and divergent needs, values and pressures.”  
*fresh*. Edmonton's Food & Urban Agriculture Strategy

## Recommendations:

1. Education and Awareness:
  - a. Campaign
  - b. Open Food Council Meetings
3. Adaptive Management
  - a. *fresh* reexamined
  - b. Implementation Plan Update

## 2. Integrated Land Use Planning

### Contact:

@amelia.vanhoffen@gmail.com  
Amelia Van Hoffen  
akvanhoffen

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