



# SUSTAIN

Alliance for healthy, just and sustainable food & farming  
Working across Indigenous Territories / Ontario

## Ensure Communities can Grow and Harvest our Own Food

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- Increased food costs, health concerns, urbanization, and the need for green spaces are driving **increasing demand for community food production**.
- Community food production refers to shared spaces where people grow, raise, and gather food for personal use, social enterprise or donation, including land, forests, and water.
- Community food production promotes food security, self-sufficiency, neighborhood revitalization, environmental stewardship, and improves well-being through community-driven food production.
- Gentrification in community gardens must be mitigated, ensuring they also meet the needs of food-insecure populations.
- **Existing Barriers:** Zoning restrictions, lack of food production in housing developments, and poor land management prevent many communities from accessing resources for food production.

### Recommendations:

- Mandate municipalities to **develop and update food production plans** and **maximize integration** of community food production into land use planning.
- Designate community food production as **an essential service** in provincial and local planning.
- **Allocate public spaces** (parks, greenbelts, vacant lots) for food production purposes.
- Provide **tax incentives for landowners and developers** to incorporate food production infrastructure into developments.
- **Include food production in provincial emergency preparedness plans** and **integrate it into public infrastructure designs**.

These policies have been created with the input of 90+ Ontario organizations collaborating over 4 months and have been vetted by the Sustain Board as of February 4, 2025. For more information, please go to:  
<https://sustainontario.com/vote2025/>