

Moreland Food System Framework (MFSF)



August 2016

Moreland Food System Framework (MFSF)

Goals

"Our goal is to achieve..."

A sustainable food system that contributes to a more resilient community and a healthier environment

A just food system that ensures food is socially and economically accessible to everyone in the community

A vibrant food system that protects and nurtures food culture, celebrates diversity and builds community

Outcomes

(Measurable & observable - collectively, our vision)

Local food makes our economy stronger and our community more resilient

Anyone who wants to can produce food at home or nearby

We use sustainable food practices

Our land and spaces are healthy & productive

People are physically and mentally healthier

Anyone who wants to can produce food at home or nearby

Access to food is no longer an issue - we are more food secure

Locally-grown & raised food is a central, celebrated part of our community's identity

Anyone who wants to can produce food at home or nearby

Food literacy, knowledge and skills are valued, fostered and shared

The community has the capacity to build a better food system

Council is actively promoting and enabling a better food system

STRATEGY,
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY,
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY,
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY,
IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL 1

A sustainable food system that contributes to a more resilient community and a healthy environment

OUTCOME

Local food makes our economy stronger and our community more resilient

Anyone who wants to can produce food at home or nearby

We use sustainable food practices

Our land and spaces are healthy & productive

STRATEGY

Objective 1: *We want to make locally sourced food an integral part of Moreland's economic personality, success and strength*

Large quantities of food are purchased every day in Moreland. Whether it is purchased ready to eat, or as ingredients to be prepared later, food is a large and essential part of our economy. The strength of Moreland's food economy lies not only in the level of economic activity that drives it, but in the quality of benefits that flow from it. Locally produced food, sold by locally owned businesses, keeps far more money in the community than non-local food sold by outside-owned businesses. A strong local food economy also provides opportunities for individuals in need of additional income or for social enterprises seeking to empower others economically. Even if these initiatives operate at only a small scale, the additional economic activity can go a long way towards helping to achieve other community goals outlined in this framework.

GOAL 1

A sustainable food system that contributes to a more resilient community and a healthy environment



STRATEGY

Objective 2: *We want to empower people to grow food - at home and in community spaces*

People's food growing experiences and needs vary. For many people in our community, food growing is part of their heritage, or of not-so-distant daily activities in other countries. For others, it is an passionate recreational activity. And for others again, it is a way to reconnect with their food, to lighten their environmental impact, or to simply enjoy better tasting food. No matter the motivation, being able to grow your own food is an intrinsically satisfying and healthful experience for those who choose to do so.

An urban setting can provide opportunities to produce food in ways and places that maximise food production, but also provide other benefits. Initiatives such as urban food forests, 'meanwhile farms' that grow food in temporarily unused locations, or the establishment of rooftop gardens or nut-producing street trees all provide opportunities for wider community participation in the act of growing food. In backyards, where urban food has traditionally been grown, Moreland's residents are exploring innovative ways to grow a wider variety of foods, and to contribute to greater personal and community resilience.

GOAL 1

A sustainable food system that contributes to a more resilient community and a healthy environment



STRATEGY

Objective 3: *We want to be more responsible in how we grow food, produce waste, conserve nutrients and keep our food and soil healthy*

Our environment supports our daily lives, and a range of Council strategies and policies are geared towards improving our environmental performance in many areas. Issues of water conservation, of reduction of waste and emissions, and of our usage of pesticides, herbicides and timber preservatives - all have become more pressing. A better local food system relies on better environmental performance, but can also directly contribute to environmental improvements. The connections between food waste, compost and soil health; between use of poisons and human health; between water infrastructure to support food growing in gardens and food resilience; and between locally sourced food and reduced transport emissions - these are all examples of the synergies between a better food system, a healthier environment and a better place to live.

GOAL 1

A sustainable food system that contributes to a more resilient community and a healthy environment



STRATEGY

Objective 4: *We want to properly care for places that can or do grow food*

Moreland's urban personality varies from place to place, but cool, accessible green spaces are a welcome part of any neighbourhood, especially in a sweltering summer. Research shows the many community health benefits of greener neighbourhoods, whether they are in outer suburbs or dense inner city locations. Increasingly, with permission from owners of vacant or unused sites, communities are 'greening' neighbourhoods - often including edible plants as parts of these temporary new landscapes. Privately owned or rented land is also being increasingly used to grow food and shade.

In some locations, Moreland has legacy of contaminated soil from past land use, which can sometimes render existing soils unsuitable for food growing. As more people seek to use Moreland's 'unused' spaces to produce food, the chances of encountering soil contamination increases. It is important that the benefits of a better food system are not compromised by legacy issues, and that we actively protect and improve the health of our soils in private and public spaces.

GOAL 2

A just food system that ensures food is socially and economically accessible to everyone in the community



STRATEGY

Objective 5: *We want to realise the health benefits that good food can bring, across the whole community*

A better local food system provides many opportunities to improve the health of our entire community. The rise in food-related diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, obesity, poor nutrition and other illnesses all present ongoing risks and costs to individuals and the wider community.

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STRATEGY

Objective 6: *We want to create opportunities for anyone to access good food, no matter what their economic or social situation might be*



Moreland is a diverse community, in social and economic terms as well as culturally. While our cultural diversity is one of our core strengths, many residents’ economic circumstances have very real effects on their ability to feed themselves and their families. It is saddening to know that within Moreland, ‘food deserts’ exist - neighbourhoods where no fresh food is available to be found or purchased, and where residents are sometimes unable to travel to reach fresh food elsewhere. ‘Food security’, the ability of people to quite literally know where their next meal is coming from, is an important and urgent social justice issue that requires action on multiple fronts. Increasing opportunities for people to have economic and geographic access to food is therefore a critically important objective of our Food System.

GOAL 3

A vibrant food system that protects and nurtures food culture, celebrates diversity and builds community

OUTCOME



STRATEGY

Objective 7: *We want to nurture and celebrate Moreland's rich food cultures*

Moreland has a long and proud history of food foraging, growing and sharing, from the first peoples to use the resources of the land, to the many cultures that have lived here since and continue to bring their food cultures with them to add to our collective identity. Some parts of Moreland are already widely recognised for their food culture identity, and as new communities arrive to make Moreland their home, our food culture is further enriched.

In backyards, in kitchens and at community gatherings, the raw material for this identity includes heirloom seeds, rare breeds, cooking and preserving techniques, and a range of other food-related activities that can often be traced back through generations. These techniques of growing, saving and sharing local food is an integral part of Moreland's heritage and identity.

GOAL 3

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STRATEGY

Objective 8: *We want to build our skills in food production and management to help support our food system*

Plants and animals grown and raised for food rarely grow best without help. Science, art, tradition, skills and deep connections to food and the land all contribute to a vibrant and diverse offering of local food in the community.

In order to maintain these arts, skills and traditions, we must celebrate and value them for the contributions they make to our quality of life. We must also recognise that without them, our ability to reap the benefits of a functioning urban food system are diminished, making it more difficult to meet our goals for the environment, our economy and our community.

GOAL 3

A vibrant food system that protects and nurtures food culture, celebrates diversity and builds community



STRATEGY

Objective 9: *We want to enhance the community's ability to achieve better food outcomes through greater participation*



Creating a better food system will not be achievable if only some sections of our community participate in building it. Because food is central to the daily lives of everyone in our entire community, it is necessary and appropriate that anyone who wishes to can contribute.

Building the community's capacity in areas such as volunteer management, community group organisational skills, financial management and other skills can greatly accelerate the change to a better urban food system. Building community capacity also increases the likelihood that a given food initiative will succeed and become sustaining - success breeds success.