

**Food Charter:
First Steps to Address Food Inequality in Warfield
Backgrounder**

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**Edited by
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**With contributions from many citizens
across the Lower Columbia and the
Village of Warfield**

Acknowledgements

The *Warfield Food Charter* is a first step to addressing food inequality in Warfield and the surrounding region. A group of citizens gathered to discuss food-related concerns and to create a direction proposal for the Village of Warfield. Facilitated by Councillor Cyra Yunkws, the group met over the summer of 2020 to begin a process of fundamentally shifting the way we think about food; how we create and implement food-related policies, decisions and programs. I cannot thank the original group of citizens enough for their time, commitment and passion in the development of this food charter and this report.

Executive Summary

Warfield is a small community tucked on a mountainside, between Rossland and Trail and part of a larger region of communities known as the Lower Columbia. This region includes the communities of Fruitvale, Montrose, Trail, Rivervale, Oasis, Rossland, Warfield and Areas A and B. Though some of these communities have a grocery store, many rely on neighbouring communities for this access to food. There are several local farms, farmers' markets as well as locally owned grocery stores; however, most food is imported.

COVID has impacted the availability of some products and shown us the gaps in our current system. It has also highlighted the potential for far greater impacts in an emergency situation, and more importantly it highlights how vulnerable we are in the current system. The financial impacts of COVID are still unfolding, and we cannot predict the length or severity of this pandemic on the economic situation of our communities, or the food systems we depend upon daily. Certain groups are more vulnerable within our community. These include children, women, seniors, people with varied abilities, newcomers and those living in poverty.

In recognizing the complexities of food policy, there is a role for municipalities to play in creating a more secure, safe and healthy food system. This Food Charter is a guiding principle for the Village of Warfield. It outlines our values and gives us a starting place for future policies, initiatives and programs. This should be a living document and needs to be reviewed regularly to ensure it is used and useful.

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Backgrounder

What is the *current* state of affairs locally?

It is August 2020. It is hot, smoky and we are in a provincial state of emergency. There is a global pandemic, but our local employment rates are steady. We have food in the local stores but use of food banks is on the rise.¹ More people are growing gardens and more people are trying to can food. More people are thinking about food and how we access it. People are worried about school, health care and the state of the economy.

The larger region (the East and West Kootenay and the Boundary District) have food system plans, or have various organizations well established to address food insecurity. Quite a lot of work has been done to understand the limits of our current food systems and suggest steps to increase food security. The Lower Columbia is one of the few without such a plan or study and would benefit from a more in-depth study of this region.

What is the current state of affairs provincially?

There is political instability provincially with the coalition government facing some challenges which may result in an early election. There are concerns about government spending, the recession, and high unemployment rates across the province. Women (their children and dependents) and equity-seeking groups are among the hardest hit. The current NDP/Green government has been supporting many social programs including funding for food security work, food banks and various agricultural initiatives. An election could shift this focus or change it completely. Applying for available funds from the Province now is highly recommended.

The two concurrent states of emergency (opioid crisis and pandemic) are challenging our systems deeply, and the cracks are beginning to show. The lack of beans, toilet paper and yeast in the early days of the pandemic exemplifies our dependence on importing many of our basic goods. This has the potential to be hugely problematic if we are unable to get supplies/food across oceans and borders safely.

What is the state of affairs nationally?

Nationally there is also political unrest, with a minority Liberal government facing heavy criticism on multiple fronts. The government is currently prorogued until late fall. This leaves many questioning whether we will be faced with a federal election in the coming year. High unemployment rates, rapidly increasing national debt, and uncertainty around the length and severity of COVID and its impacts are increasing stresses on the government. In addition, COVID-19 created challenges with migrant worker programs, and increased administrative burdens on farmers. COVID outbreaks in the food processing sector brought the spotlight to the poor working conditions, particularly in the meat sector and the vulnerability of our food system. These are just a few examples of food systems issues that have been highlighted by the pandemic.

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The current Liberal government has put many supports in place across the country, including funding for agriculture and food systems work, and there is likely to be more in the coming months.

What is the state of affairs globally?

There are many reports from the United Nations, and World Health Organization as well as Intergovernmental Panels addressing food inequity around the world and outlining steps that can be taken to address hunger. On a global scale, the food systems take on more urgency due to the drastic situations being faced by many millions. War, famine, drought, climate change and COVID-19 are exacerbating existing heart-wrenching situations where people are starving to death. Our ability to provide food locally plays a role on a much larger scale and provides a deeply human reason to take action. Specifically to our community, many of the countries we rely on for food (USA and Central/South Americas) have had a more challenging time with pandemic management to date.

Municipal responsibility and role

Taken directly from “*Working with Local Government on Food Policy: A toolkit for civil society*” the following clearly illustrates the role of local government.

“The purposes of a municipality include

1. providing for good government of its community,
2. providing for services, laws and other matters for community benefit,
3. providing for stewardship of the public assets of its community, and
4. fostering the economic, social and environmental well-being of its community.”²

Some examples of how a local government can influence food systems within our jurisdiction are listed below:

- Advisory Planning Commission
- Subdivision and Procedure Regulation
- Building Bylaw
- Conservation Covenant
- Development Permit Area
- Farm Bylaw
- Official Community Plan
- Property Tax Bylaw
- Soil Removal and Deposit Bylaw
- Watercourse Protection Bylaw
- Zoning
- * Agricultural Area Plan
- * Animal Bylaw
- * Business License Bylaw
- * Dangerous Wildlife Bylaw
- * Drainage Bylaw
- * Noise Bylaw
- * Parking and Sign Bylaw
- * Regional Growth Strategy
- * Water Services Bylaw
- * Weed Control Bylaw

² Brynne, Abra. (2018). *Working with Local Government on Food Policy: A toolkit for civil society*. Vancouver, BC: BC Food Systems Network.

What is a food charter?

According to the Interior Health website “A food charter is a statement of values and principles that can guide food policy development related to food security. A food charter allows community members and other stakeholders to share their vision of what food security looks like for their community. A food charter can help secure the commitment from local government, businesses and others to move towards building a sustainable food system.”³

And why do we need one?

Warfield currently has no bylaws, policies or general direction around food and/or agriculture. Having a Food Charter creates clarity around what, when, why and how the Village of Warfield will engage on food-related issues. The Food Charter outlines general values and goals and will be the guiding document for all food-related policies. It can be used to develop clear bylaws and policies which support a healthy food system and encourage local growing, production, sales and distribution. In addition, the development of some policies can be beneficial for the larger region and the more complete food system of the Kootenay Boundary, and the Kootenays generally. Though it is not a binding document, it does allow for increased continuity between different councils in years to come. It should be a living document; meaning it can and should change and adapt to new challenges, ideas and focuses. It is important to recognize that local governments must make difficult choices about resource allocation, and this document, created by community members, will add weight to calls for food-system action within the Village and surrounding areas.

Engagement Process

How was this Charter created?

In June of 2020, a group of local community members began work on exploring the idea of developing food policy for the Village of Warfield. There were two working groups, followed by online feedback about the proposed Food Charter and this report. The two sessions included over 14 people; one group met in person and the second was via an online platform. In addition, local food system experts were engaged to support the process and to provide advice.

Each session worked toward understanding our ‘current state’, broadly outlining our values, and prioritising what is important for the Village of Warfield to address food security. There were a number of themes which became clear through the process and these are listed more fully in Appendix B.

³ Interior Health. (2020). *Food Charter and Policy: Principles that guide food policy development*. Kelowna, BC. www.interiorhealth.ca

Equity: was seen as the overarching theme. Every citizen of Warfield should have equal access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food at all times. There was vigorous debate about whether this was too broad, or not broad enough.

Sustainability: any initiative needs to be economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable. Basically, there needs to be some economic consideration given to any project. No harm should be done to the environment for a food-related project, and efforts should include steps to improve existing parks and other public spaces for future generations. Finally, there needs to be community support- in other words, volunteers.

Collaboration: community support is critical for any endeavour and food-related projects offer the opportunity to ‘multi-solve’ various issues such as hunger, access to food, intergenerational health and knowledge transfer. Community groups can collaborate and reduce the cost and effort that each need to give. Recognition that the larger region is inter-dependent in many ways and efforts to collaborate regionally, provincially and nationally are also encouraged.

Access/Use of Public Spaces: every public space is seen as an opportunity for food production and distribution. All zoning, bylaws and policies should support food systems. We have discovered that Warfield has 11.2 hectares of publicly owned space.

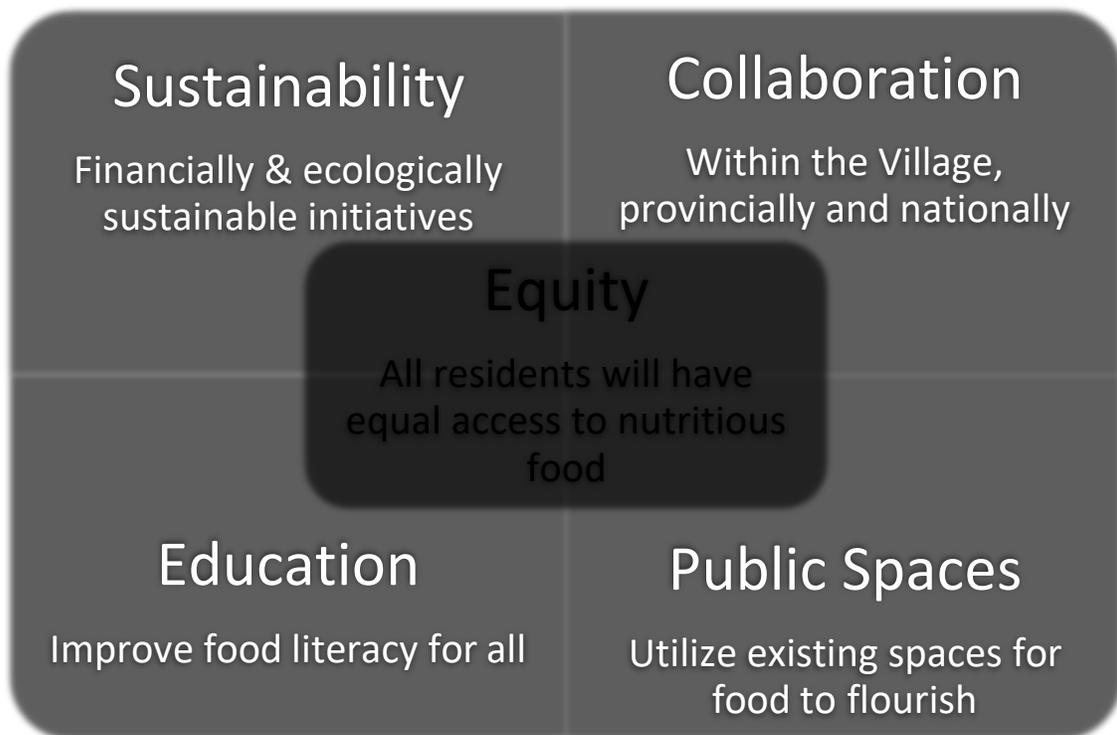
Education: we can all benefit from improving our food knowledge and sharing it through the generations. Food literacy is essential to the health and well-being of all citizens of Warfield.

Food Charter

VILLAGE OF WARFIELD FOOD CHARTER

The Village of Warfield will be food secure by 2050.

ALL members of our community will have access to enough nutritious, affordable, safe, ecologically sustainable and culturally appropriate food at all times.



Top Six Recommendations

The working group recommends the following 6 recommendations as first steps that can be taken quickly, with little cost and big returns.

1. **Form a Food Advisory Commission or Committee immediately.** There are several members of the working group who developed this report and Food Charter who are willing and interested in continuing the work needed to improve Warfield's food security.
2. **Commit to making public spaces available for growing food.** This can be as simple as a council resolution to make the spaces available and support groups or individuals who want to use the space, or it could be a fully developed policy.
3. **Hold a community consultation.** The working group was not representative of the entire community and it is critical that a greater understanding of the interests and needs of the whole community be considered when working to address issues of food security. It is recommended that a part of this process include listing all interested organizations, groups and people for future initiatives. In addition, a clear map of the existing public spaces would provide a solid baseline for all proposed activities.
4. **Develop partnerships/relationships to support existing food growing spaces.** For example: School District 20, at Webster Elementary, has a greenhouse and growing beds, and the Warfield Youth Action Network (WYAN) has a growing bed.
5. **Support a pilot fall gleaning project within Warfield.** This could be a volunteer-run project focused on collecting, sharing and distributing excess harvest within the Village of Warfield. Some suggestions are referenced Appendix C.
6. **Develop food policies to support the Food Charter.** Recommended first policies should address the following: a pesticide use; public space use; and invasive species. There are many more needed, and the Village of Warfield may want to consider hiring a professional to assist with the planning and development of these policies. It is important that any new policies be linked to (and ensure these values are embedded in) other existing plans such as the OCP, 100% Renewable Pledge, Age-Friendly Plan and the Active Transportation Plan (paying particular attention to this during renewal of each).

Economic Benefits

Food is a fundamental necessity for all members of our community. Decreasing barriers to accessing this food is key to reducing costs that individuals, families and the community as a whole face. Each project, initiative and policy that increases local food or improves the local food system is a step to reduced costs and increased health of our community members. Agriculture and food processing can be economic drivers that create meaningful employment in the community.

According to the International Food Policy Research Institute “Food security not only carries significant benefits for human health, but also serves as the basis to achieve sustained economic growth.”⁴ Reducing the cost of food is a direct economic benefit. Reducing the costs of transporting food by growing it locally, supporting local food systems and encouraging buying local are all significant drivers of the economy and local businesses. Warfield currently pays significant taxes towards the costs associated with health care. Improved access to food will not only result in directly benefiting the health of our community members, but also the quality of life that they have.

Growing food has been shown to positively impact many aspects of life for individuals. In one scientific study, the meta-analysis showed that “Studies reported a wide range of health outcomes, such as reductions in depression, anxiety, and body mass index, as well as increases in life satisfaction, quality of life, and sense of community.”⁵ Mental wellness is critical for our community, and the Lower Columbia. The physical, emotional and mental benefits of gardening are clear and should be a consideration for those making decisions on behalf of all citizens.

According to Dr. Richard Thompson of the Royal College of Physicians, “The social interaction provided by communal and therapeutic garden projects for those with learning disabilities and poor mental health can counteract social isolation. Furthermore, it has also been reported that the social benefits of such projects can delay the symptoms of dementia.”⁶ Considering the growing population in Warfield that is over 65, these are important benefits and cost-savings to consider.

When we address the potential for COVID-19 to have mental wellness impacts and the fact that we do not know how long we will live with COVID adjustments, it makes financial, social and economic sense to invest in low-cost programs and policies around food security. We can support local businesses, healthy food for families and develop healthier ecosystems while improving our economic stability.

⁴Torero, Maximo. (2014). *Food Security Brings Economic Growth- Not the Other Way Around*. Excerpt from Devex Global Views blog. [www.ifpri.org https://www.ifpri.org/blog/food-security-brings-economic-growth-not-other-way-around](https://www.ifpri.org/blog/food-security-brings-economic-growth-not-other-way-around) (accessed Aug 30, 2020 7:52am)

⁵Soga, M., Gaston, K. J., & Yamaura, Y. (2016). *Gardening is beneficial for health: A meta-analysis*. Preventative Medicine Reports. Vo 5. P 92-99. ScienceDirect: Elsevier.

⁶Thompson, R. (2018). *Gardening for health: a regular dose of gardening*. Royal College of Physicians: Clinical Medicine. June 18 (3):201-205.

Appendix A

Themes from Session 1 Food Policy

Village of Warfield – black text
Lower Columbia – blue text
Actions/Recommendations – green text

Theme 1: Equity

- Every family should be food secure
- Every child should have access to enough adequate and nutritious food to support their learning
- Anyone can learn to grow food and preserve food
- Food bank in Warfield (many cannot get to Trail)
- Methods of consultation (paper, door to door, online, what do people want/need?)
- Seed library
- Ability to **walk** and purchase food
- Food is cheap to grow but invaluable
- Support home gardening (seeds, soil..)
- **Cultural learning opportunities: sharing meals/sharing stories/building community**
- **Access to culturally appropriate food**
- **We should understand the links between food and good health**
- **Everyone should have access to affordable, nutritious food**
- **Harvest hut-sharing an abundance of fruits/veg/herbs with others**
- **Community meals (focus on seniors)**

Theme 2: Sustainability

- We should encourage food-related businesses to be located in Warfield
- Use of chemical controls (policies to reduce/limit use)
- Pesticide/herbicide use within the VOW (many yards back on green spaces)
- Replace dead trees with fruit-bearing trees
- Eliminate single-use plastics
- **How to get residents to support local farmers directly**
- **Local restaurants to support local farmers**
- **Discourage pest and herbicide use by private citizens and larger entities (Fortis/garden committee)**
- **Support local wildlife/animal with reduction of light and noise**
- **Explore opportunities for all-year-around farming**
- **Technology for food growing (vertical gardens)**

Theme 3: Collaboration

- Seed and plant exchange
- Public gleaning (like Rossland)
- Promotion of local (when purchasing for meetings, etc. where is food grown, local first)

- A voice for direction at regional table
- Promotion of regional agriculture
- Encourage farmers to start local farms (reduction in taxes?) incentives (swaps, rebates, discounts)
- Breakfast/lunch program with SD20 (healthy, affordable, available, continue and develop)
- Support local native plant nursery
- Plant medicinal and food plants used by local indigenous population
- Creation of a regional food policy committee and food plan
- Advocacy position to improve food systems/all levels of food production
- Warfield to be an advocate to strengthen regional agriculture, distribution and processing
- Schools (greenhouses and gardens)
- Discussion with SD20
- Plant swap-during growing season, sharing plant seedlings, starts, seeds. Etc.

Theme 4: Access for all/Public space usage

- Community garden and orchard
- Warfield zoning- growing food even front gardens, food (even front gardens), food pollinators, bees, chickens, greenhouses and fences
- Community garden/harvest/processing and compost management
- Encourage cooperation (growing, knowledge sharing, harvest and sharing of harvest)
- Public greenhouse
- Opportunities: lots of vacant land that can be used for a community garden
- Make use of public spaces for food production
- Warfield zoning for distribution and processing
- Temporary empty building lots could be temporary community gardens
- “pick me please” signs available (Food 4 Castlegar has these)
- All bylaws, zoning and taxation systems should enable local food production
- Using grounds during growing season
- Less lawns, more gardens
- Edible landscaping

Theme 5: Education

- Community connections (connecting those beginner gardeners with experienced gardeners)
- Plant native flowers, shrubs, trees to support local gardens (and increase awareness/understanding)
- Education: begin with youth! (growing and preserving, cooking within a budget, label reading, intergenerational)
- Community courses- we have an increase in gardening but what next? How do we help with preserving or utilizing so there isn't waste?
- School involvement- youth involvement (the school has a greenhouse that has sat empty for years so perhaps they just need someone to guide it)
- Teach the importance and value of time to grow your own food
- How to get younger residents involved in their food choices (through school)

- Teaching the importance of local food
- Support community self-sufficiency with supplies and education
- We should encourage and enable home production of food (growing, harvesting, sharing)
- Run programs to teach youth and children how to produce food
- Education in food preservation

Appendix B

Value Statements

1. Equity

- Endeavor for everyone in Warfield to have access to affordable, culturally appropriate and nutritious food
- Access includes education, resources and programs supporting food systems within Warfield and the Lower Columbia

2. Sustainability

- All bylaws, policies and collaborations will endeavor to be sustainable (financially and ecologically)
- Whenever possible, use technological opportunities and collaboration(s)

3. Collaboration

- Use every opportunity to collaborate locally, regionally, provincially and nationally to create and improve food-related policies and programs
- Opportunities within collaborative situations should be used to advocate for improvements in the local, regional and provincial food systems

4. Access for all/Public Spaces

- Every public space is an opportunity for food production
- All zoning, bylaws and policies will endeavor to support food systems for all Warfield residents

5. Education

- Education is fundamental to a healthy, thriving food system and will be supported by all zoning, bylaws, policies and programs

Notes from Session 1

Village of Warfield	Lower Columbia	Actions/Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *every family should be food secure *every child should have access to enough adequate and nutritious food to support their learning *we should encourage food-related businesses to be located in Warfield (zoning, bylaws, tax exemptions) *temporary empty building lots could be temporary community gardens *we should set aside space for growing community gardens *Warfield zoning for distribution and processing *promotion of local (when purchasing for meetings etc. where is food grown, local first) *support home gardening (seeds, soil..) *how to get younger residents involved in their food choices (through school) *teaching the importance of local food *teach the importance and value of time to grow your own food *food is cheap to grow but is invaluable *school involvement-youth involvement (the school has a greenhouse that has sat empty for years so perhaps they just need someone to guide that) *make use of public spaces for food production *ability to walk and purchase food *seed library? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *cultural learning opportunities: sharing meals/sharing stories/building community *how to get residents to support local farmers directly *access to culturally appropriate food *local restaurants to support local farmers *a voice for direction at regional table *promotion of regional agriculture *support local animal/wildlife with reduction of light and noise *support community self-sufficiency with supplies and education *encourage farmers to start local farms (reduction in taxes perhaps?) *can we use incentives? (swaps, rebates, discounts) *"pick me please" signs available (Food 4 All in Castlegar has these) *breakfast/lunch program with SD20 (healthy, affordable, available, continue and develop) *support local native plant nursery *plant medicinal and food plants used by the local indigenous population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *out bylaws, zoning and taxation systems should enable local food production *we should encourage and enable home production of food (growing, harvesting, sharing) *we should understand the links between food and good health *explore opportunities for all-year-around farming *technology for food growing (vertical gardens) *Warfield to be an advocate to strengthen regional agriculture, distribution and processing *everyone should have access to affordable, nutritious food *schools (greenhouse and gardens) *using grounds during growing season *discussion with SD20 *run programs to teach youth and children how to produce food *education in food preservation *less lawns, more gardens *harvest hut-sharing an abundance of fruits/veg/herbs with others *plant swap-during growing season, sharing plant seedlings, starts, seeds etc. *edible landscaping *community meals (focus on seniors)

<p>*community courses-we have an increase in gardening but what next? How to we help with preserving or utilizing so there isn't food waste?</p> <p>*community gardens</p> <p>*eliminate single-use plastics</p> <p>*education- begin with youth!</p> <p>-growing and preserving</p> <p>-cooking within a budget</p> <p>-label reading</p> <p>-intergenerational</p> <p>*opportunities- lots of vacant land that can be used for a community garden</p> <p>*replace dead trees with fruit-bearing trees</p> <p>*public greenhouses</p> <p>*public gleaning (like Rossland)</p> <p>*encourage cooperation (growing, knowledge sharing, harvest and sharing of harvest)</p> <p>*plant native flowers, shrubs, trees to increase pollinators to support local gardens</p> <p>*pesticide/herbicide use within the VOW (many yards back on green spaces)</p> <p>*neighbours use chemical controls</p> <p>*methods for consultation (paper, door to door, online, what to people want/need?)</p> <p>*food bank (many cannot get to Trail)</p> <p>*seed/plant exchange</p> <p>*community garden/harvest/processing & compost management</p> <p>*community connections (connecting those beginner gardeners with experienced gardeners)</p> <p>*anyone can learn to grow food and preserve food</p>	<p>*discourage pest and herbicide use by private citizens and larger entities (Fortis/ garden committee)</p> <p>*creation of a regional food policy committee and food plan</p> <p>*advocacy position to improve food systems/all levels of food production</p>	
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<p>*Warfield zoning- growing food even front gardens, food pollinators, bees, chickens, greenhouses and fences *community garden and orchard</p>		
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Notes from Session 2

Food Policy Group

During the review of notes and items that had been missed, it was noted that the following things should be included somewhere in the plan.

- Transportation (perhaps under “access for all”)
- Sustainability is not only about finances or healthy ecological approaches, but also about the sustainability of any programs (i.e. volunteers, capacity etc.)
- Food Policy should ensure that it is consistent with the 100% Renewable pledge made by council
- Public Spaces should be higher in the list- access to land to farm is huge, without it there won't be food. Should consider creating a community garden
- Could connect a community garden with people needing food or who have mobility issues/are home bound
- There could be programming at the community gardens (teaching people how to plant, grow etc. John able to assist with this in some capacity)
- Community gardens are a commitment- need driving force
- Discussion about Trail's program- was it run by volunteers in a more business-like manner (can check with Gina about this)
- Values overlap in some of the proposed ‘values/themes’ : we need to be consistent in each or it can be confusing and unclear
- Equity is in two of the ‘values/themes’ as well- needs cleaning up

Specific to the themes:

- Access for all/public spaces: should be kept very broad (can narrow in on specifics with follow-up policies etc.)
- Thought needs to be given to the orientation of the community- would some parks work for growing (are they South facing?)
- Water, access and space all need to be considered
- Perhaps the intent is to preserve the space- allow it to be held for future when there is a desire, group or organization that wants to develop some food production (or future council)
- Need to consider neighbouring spaces too (will there be shadows from nearby trees)
- People wanted to see an emphasis on the economic vitality (or similar idea) in the final concept (important to note the economic benefits of food systems)
- Perhaps list the economic vitality piece in the Sustainability section
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For the ordering of the ‘values/themes’

- There was some debate about whether the Public Spaces should be first, and Equity second or if we create a “mission statement” about overarching theme of equity and have public spaces first. This seemed to be the general consensus after some discussion.
- People liked the definitions in the North Shore Food Charter- may want to include these in the final version (or in the report)
- Collaboration needs to be simplified

Mission Statement:

- Could be as simple as “Warfield is a food secure community”

Overall Food Charter Outline:

- Have the mission statement
- Followed by 5 simple statements
- One-pager- similar to Thriving For All (Poverty Reduction Plan for Lower Columbia) can also be used as a promotion or education piece
- Vanessa and Carolyn offer to assist with the design

Cyra will draft up a one-pager, and report and group will provide feedback

North Star process...

Here (present situation- people/organizations etc. that we can approach to support/engage as we move forward):

- Teck (land, money, access to excess heat for greenhouse)
- Home Hardware
- Food Bank
- Faith organizations (Salvation Army, Warfield Community Church etc.)
- SD20- Webster/PAC
- KSCU-
- Wellness \$ that some organizations provide staff with- could we find a way to make in include healthy, local foods?
- Age Friendly Coordinator (Heather)
- WYAN
- CBT
- FAN
- KBRD- they are working toward funding a regional food systems plan/assessment (stay in touch)
- IHA
- West Kootenay EcoSociety
- WorkBC- Skills Centre

Challenges:

- \$
- Space
- People power/volunteers
- Manager to run whatever programs/gardens etc.
- Knowledge/education/communication (of this charter and related initiatives)
- BC employee wages program (Fortis will pay some who volunteer sometimes and others)
- Water access (for village and for specific areas)

Opportunities:

- CBT
- Rainwater
- LeRoi Foundation (grant open now)
- KSCU- fall grant cycle new open/ also a spring grant cycle
- Harvest signs (see other notes)
- BMO- initiatives they support worth looking into
- Walmart (has small grants)
- Grants- generally look around
- FORTIS- (CIP) also have employee release programs
- TECK- \$20 M for COVID-related actions
- CIF- municipality
- CBAL (Carolyn)
- FAIR- some funding for food programming
- Chamber- can host the grants for smaller organizations that do not have charitable status

Top 6 recommendations for council:

1. Dedicate public spaces for growing food
2. Connect with other organizations to use already available spaces more effectively-partner.
3. Do a community consultation: to see what level of interest there is, who (demographics), which community groups might want to participate (i.e. Girl Guides), and further do a mapping of available spaces.
4. Fall project: gleaning/"pick-me" signs/harvest hut
-this could be volunteer run and raise awareness about new policy/charter- make it easy for people/low effort
5. Create a pesticide policy- for public spaces, possibly an invasive species policy
6. Form a community-based committee with Council liaison to continue this work