



Squamish CAN
Climate Action Network



Jan 12, 2021

Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan - 2020 Implementation

Prepared by: Squamish CAN
Presented to: District of Squamish

Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan Implementation - 2020

- SVAP endorsed by District of Squamish (DOS) and Squamish to Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) in April 2020
- Received \$20,000 from PILT funding, \$2,500 from DOS, and \$2,500 from SLRD for implementation
- Signed implementation agreement (SLRD, DOS, CAN/SFPC)



Figure 1: SVAP Implementation Committee, 2020

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Leveraged \$30,000 funding to support community members wanting to grow food and for growing and donating produce
- Soil donated by Sea-to-Sky Soil, DOS donated storage space at Brennan Park
- Grew and donated more than 7,300 vegetable plant starts as well as donated thousands of seeds
- Supplied 255 garden kits (planter, soil, seeds, starts, guidance)

- Subsidized weekly produce bags and weekly donations to Squamish Food Bank/Helping Hands Society
- Outreach with Squamish Nation, 30 seed kit donations and enlarged growing calendars for elders that garden



Overview

The SVAP identifies opportunities and actions to strengthen agriculture within the District of Squamish and the SLRD Electoral Area D. A core plan objective is to protect and increase the productivity of food lands and the Agricultural Land Reserve within the plan area.

First Phase of implementation:

- High and Ongoing priority actions where SFPC Lead
- Timeframe: 12-14 months after endorsement
- May-December 2020 focused on 4 actions (highlighted in pink)

Actions	Urgency
1.1 Continue to support and facilitate land-linking programs locally.	Ongoing
1.2 Identify opportunities and locations for enhancing land access for agriculture initiatives and determine the feasibility of a community farmland trust for the Squamish Valley.	High
3.1 Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health	Ongoing
3.3 Work with urban and rural producers on reducing conflicts between food production, agriculture, and wildlife	Ongoing
3.5 Encourage regenerative agricultural practices	High
4.1 Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders	Ongoing
6.1 Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map	Ongoing
6.2 Work with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous food system and resource management perspectives and knowledge within food plans and initiatives.	High
6.4 Facilitate educational workshops for farms and agri-food businesses.	High

2020 Accomplishments

1.1 Continue to support and facilitate land linking programs locally

- Collaborating with Young Agrarians (YA); SFPC local point-person for land-linking
- Met with five different community members/organizations looking for land or farmer
- Promoted YA land matching program & workshops



1.2 Identify opportunities and locations for enhancing land access for agriculture initiatives and determine feasibility of a community farmland trust for the Squamish Valley

- Engaged with School District 48 leadership to get support for expanding the Edible Schoolyard Program
 - Applied for joint funding to start a new program at Howe Sound Secondary & Squamish Elementary
- Provided feedback and best practices on inclusion of food in neighbourhood plans
- Bailey Street Garden five-year lease signed with DOS, readiness for buildout in 2021



6.1 Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map

- Maintain and further develop Regional Food Asset Map, promoted amongst regional partners
- Farm Guide printing January 2021

FARM & COMMUNITY FOOD ASSETS MAP

WHY BUY LOCAL?

Did you know that BC local businesses create more than double the economic impact of their chain competitors? For every \$100 spent with a BC local business, \$63 is re-circulated back into our BC economy (vs \$14 for multinational corporations). And, it re-circulates 4.6 times more revenue in the local economy: Local retailers re-circulate 63% compared to 14% for chains!

SQUAMISH FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

The Squamish Food Policy Council (SFPC) has been advancing sustainable place-based food systems and food security initiatives in the region since 2015. SFPC's mission is for all members of Squamish to have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times, and that Squamish Valley food and agricultural lands are protected and productive, and producers, processors, growers, foragers, and knowledge holders are valued and supported. Squamish CAN is the backbone to the Squamish Food Policy Council. squamishfoodpolicycouncil.com

The land represented in this guide is the ancestral and unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation).

- To learn more about Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and their history visit squamish.net
- To learn more about Indigenous Food Systems visit indigenousfoodsystems.org

This project is brought to you by Squamish Food Policy Council as part of the Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan Implementation. Thank you to our funders:

SQUAMISH FOOD & FARM GUIDE

support local

We encourage you to explore, taste, and get to know Squamish's growing farming community by supporting local. We also encourage you to get growing too! Squamish has rich, fertile soil, and a temperate climate suitable for a long growing season. Supporting locally grown food is good for you, the planet, and our community!

6.4 Workshops

- Feeding Growth Workshops
- YA Virtual Land Forum
- Squamish Farmer Panel

SQUAMISH FOOD POLICY COUNCIL PRESENTS

SQUAMISH FARMER PANEL DISCUSSION

Join us to hear first-hand experiences from local farmers about the ins and outs of raising livestock and growing vegetables in the Squamish Valley.

December 2, 2020, 7-8:30pm
VIRTUAL

— TOGETHER WE GROW —

FEEDING GROWTH

PROGRESSIVE FOOD BUSINESSES

Are you ready to expand your sustainable food business? The Scale Your Progressive Business Workshop Series is here to help!

Fall 2020

Details

- \$199 for residents who live in a community between Britannia and Lillooet
- \$99 if you are also a Vancity business member
- Register at www.feedinggrowth.com



Additional Accomplishments

2.4 Support Local Procurement Initiatives

- DOS Local Food Procurement Policy & Regional Good Food Program endorsement
- \$20,000 secured for feasibility study for a virtual, regional food hub as part of regional procurement work

6.5 Identify and support opportunities for school-aged children to learn about and engage in the food system

1.4 Disseminate information about range of crops that can be grown in the Squamish Valley

3.1 Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health

(Support) 2.1 Develop an agri-food sector strategy for Squamish Valley

- Work with DOS Ec-Dev team and regional branding initiative



Plans for 2021 – SVAP Implementation

- **Continue to support:**
 - DoS in local food procurement efforts
 - Feedback on neighbourhood plans
 - Wildfire risk reduction
- First Phase of Implementation
- 6.2 - Host a three-part series in Winter/Spring 2021
 - Learn from Squamish Nation Elders and Educators
 - Watch Indigenous film
 - Workshop on Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Food Systems
- 6.7 - Engage and educate the financial sector and real estate industry in agri-sector land use issues
- Update Squamish Food Policy Council Website
- Continue to pursue additional actions as additional funding is secured

Funding

2020 Confirmed Funding - Total \$82,300

\$6,000 - Whistler Centre for Sustainability
\$20,000 - PILT
\$2,500 - SLRD
\$2,500 - DOS
\$16,300 - Canada Summer Jobs
\$15,000 - Community Food Centres Canada
\$15,000 - United Way
\$3,600 - Community Gaming Grant
\$2,000 - Vancouver Coastal Health

2021 Confirmed Funding - Total to date \$36.4 K

\$6,000(ish) - Carry over from 2020
\$20,000 Vancouver Foundation
\$2,000 Vancouver Coastal Health
\$5,000 Vancouver Coastal Health (one-time only)
\$3,600 Community Gaming Grant

2021 Pending Funding

\$20,000 - PILT
\$20,000 - DOS

2021 Planned Grant Applications \$80 K +

\$25,000 Real Estate Foundation of BC
\$25,000 + Bullitt Foundation
\$25,000 + Carthy Foundation
\$5,000+ BC Community Gaming Grant and more

