

June 16, 2025

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RE: Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 18, 2025
11.6 SRPBS.25.051 LOCAL FOOD AND URBAN AGRICULTURE IN RICHMOND HILL



York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) commends efforts to move forward with expanding local food opportunities and establishing urban agriculture in Richmond Hill. However, it is important that 'organic' agriculture be added as a requisite requirement for these initiatives. Otherwise we will not be able to further our goals to protect pollinators, watersheds, the environment or human health, as pesticides are a major cause of pollinator decline, watershed degradation and human health issues. Food must be free of harmful toxins for the benefit of all.



Expanding community gardens is indeed worthwhile but establishing urban farms as a way to create local business opportunities and supporting the next generation of young farmers is equally important. This would be a way to have residents connect directly with the farmers who provide them with nutritious local food. YREA has suggested that the Phyllis Rawlinson farm/park be one of the considered locations. TRCA would be an excellent partner with their experience in [CSA urban agriculture](#). YREA encourages the development of these initiatives in an expedited manner so that local food needs can be addressed to support the increase of our population and recent surge of development.

Sincerely
Gloria Marsh, Executive Director
York Region Environmental Alliance
Partnering for a greener planet