Our City, Tomorrow

Integrating sustainable food and green spaces workshop: synthesis and analysis

Global Research *for* **Wellington City Council**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW

This report contains analysis of the comments received during the Our City, Tomorrow 'Integrating Sustainable Food and Green Space' workshop, held on November 7th 2017 at Te Papa.

Sixty stakeholders participated, including representatives from local food businesses and community food groups across the region.

Participants completed six activities regarding urban food systems and green spaces. Topics covered were:

- How do the wider city challenges threaten our urban food systems and green spaces? How can our urban food system help alleviate the challenges?
- Frequency of interactions with elements of the urban food system.
- Food production systems that best suit Wellington, while improving food resilience, community cohesion and market demands.
- Frequency of interactions with elements of nature.
- Green spaces that fulfil the nature needs hierarchy and are most likely to work in Wellington
- What role can the Council, community, and private sector play in the implementation? How can they support each other?

Analysis process

All comments were transcribed verbatim from the workshop's prepared sheets. The comments were then entered into specialist qualitative analysis software (NVivo), which assisted analysts in the organising and synthesis of information into appropriate themes and topics. Every comment was read by an analyst and all coding was peer reviewed. The content of the information collected informed the synthesis and presentation of findings, which appear in this report.

For most of the exercises, the data that was collected was in note or bullet point form. Some points were single or a few-word statements. Analysts were required to organise this information into appropriate topics, without over-interpreting the points made. In some instances, when analysts were unsure of the full meaning of comments or when synthesising a broad range of ideas made finding common themes difficult, participants' notes have been presented verbatim.

Report structure

This report is divided into six sections, containing the results from each of the activities.

Each section commences with a summary of findings, followed by a synthesis of the workshop comments and results. The synthesis of comments is broken into themes, and each theme is discussed in order of most commonly mentioned theme, to least commonly mentioned theme. Where there are a large number or range of comments, additional sub-topics have been created, to enable precise discussion of the topics discussed.

Key findings for each activity are discussed on pages 6, 11, 14, 20, 23 and 29 respectively.

SUMMARY OF ALL FINDINGS

The following discussion presents the key findings of the workshop, regarding urban food systems and green space.

Activity One: A key challenge to integrating urban food systems and green space, as identified by activity one, is the use of space within the city. Competition between public/green space and private development was identified as a significant barrier to shifting to more sustainable food systems.

Ensuring more space is dedicated to green space, or incorporating green elements into existing structures, were the two key solutions suggested by participants.

Participants also identified the way that a more developed urban food system could alleviate Wellington specific challenges. Locally sourced food, community connections through gardening and green space, and alternative water management systems were identified as improving Wellington's resilience to threats such as earthquakes, flooding and rapid population growth.

Activity Two: Participants indicated they most commonly interact with the most convenient and accessible elements of the urban food system. Aspects of the system such as buying local food, home fruit trees and vegetable gardens were most commonly included in the 'most often' section. Less accessible elements such as visiting lifestyle blocks or farm stays, foraging, or beehives were suggested frequently in the 'less often' sections.

Wellbeing benefits of an urban food system included: community connectedness, education about food, personal pride from growing own produce, and physical health benefits of fresh local food.

Activity Three: Composting, community gardening, markets, beehives, rooftop gardens and Kaibosh food rescue were among the most popular food production systems suggested for Wellington by participants. Participants suggested community connectedness, stronger resilience to threats, and increased knowledge and awareness of food production as key outcomes of these suggestions.

Activity Four: The elements of green space that participants interact with most frequently were those that they would encounter during their normal routine, or could access without travelling a great distance. Therefore, national and regional parks were frequently placed by participants into the 'less often' section. Elements in the 'most often' section were street trees and flowers, and indoor flower/herb pots.

Participants suggested three key wellbeing benefits of green space, including: physical fitness and health, mental wellbeing and relaxation, and sense of place.

Activity Five: The types of green space that participants favoured for Wellington varied. Open grassed areas, pedestrian streets with various green elements, alleyways and space between buildings with greenery, and green space that provided sustainable water management were among the popular selections. Comments suggested that participants would like provisions for dedicated green space, or existing structures to incorporate more green elements (green roofs and walls, rooftop gardens etc.).

Activity Six: The role of the Council was defined by participants. Many comments suggested people think the Council should be the facilitator, leading the implementation and development of urban food systems and green space. Some policies from the Council to incentivise and encourage the private sector to be more involved were also suggested.

Participants also discussed co-operation between all of the groups involved, stating the high importance of communication, support, and information sharing between key stakeholders.

WCC*: Our City, Tomorrow* – Integrating food and green spaces   G l o b a l   R e s e a r c h

ACTIVITY ONE

Workshop question: ***How do the wider city challenges threaten our urban food system and green spaces? How can our urban food system and green spaces help alleviate the challenges?***

Summary of section findings

Participants suggested a number of aspects that may challenge urban food systems or green space.

Some common themes and comments were:

- **Use of space** was the most frequently mentioned topic. Several participants discussed the way that space is used or allocated within the central city as an important aspect of sustaining urban food systems and green space.
    - The competition between building developments and green space was frequently mentioned. Participants felt like the value of green space was underestimated, and population growth pressures were leading to reduced public spaces, such as green space or community gardens, to make space for more buildings.
    - One recurring idea was to use the existing infrastructure to provide gardens and food sources within the city. Incorporating green walls and rooftop gardens into existing buildings, removing carparks and vehicle space, and replacing street-side flowers with edible plants were among the suggestions for changing the existing landscape to include more of an urban food system.
- **Urban development and population growth** was mentioned by several participants. Participants identified population growth and urban development as a challenge to creating green spaces and an effective urban food system.
    - Some comments suggested incentivising or encouraging new development to include dedicated green space, or community gardens.
    - Population growth and its effect on food security and pressure was a concern for some participants.
- **Green space** and its protection was also a frequently mentioned topic. Participants clearly identified and acknowledged the benefits of green space within a city.
    - Participants highlighted their desire for more green space to be included in the city.
    - Some comments also discussed the need for better protection of current green spaces, ensuring they are not compromised for building developments and infrastructure.
- **Resilience and climate change** were mentioned by a group of participants. People seemed to understand the threat of climate change to food supply, and the need to develop a better, more resilient food system. This included one discussion of the benefits of green space in providing a 'bumping space', that can increase social resilience.
- **Gardens** were suggested by many participants. Community gardens, shared backyard neighbourhood gardens, rooftop gardens and personal gardens were among the ideas shared. Participants recognised that gardens and local food can create a better urban food system.
- Reducing **food waste** was expressed as a key factor from some participants.

Synthesis of comments

Use of space

11 comments	Several participants suggested that the use of space within the city is a key aspect of creating and maintaining an urban food system.
	Comments referred to the pressure on land, buildings and development as a key threat to the use of space for productive food purposes.
	Many participants suggested freeing up more land for public green spaces would enhance Wellington's urban food system. Three participants suggested removing car parks, or vehicle infrastructure as a way of gaining more public space. Other comments suggested utilising aspects of the built environment that are already available, including creating rooftop gardens, and replacing flower boxes and aesthetic CBD gardens with edible food.
	A one-off comment also suggested a mindset of "green space = wasted" space as a key barrier to urban food systems.
	Increased buildings threatens amount of available green space
	People don't like car parks taken away. Public transport links could free up land for other uses

Green space

10 comments	Participants mentioned green space several times. The majority of these comments discussed green spaces and parks as being threatened by urban growth and development. Comments also stated more protection and preservation of existing parks and green space is needed.
	A couple of participants discussed stronger guidelines and incentives for developers to provide green space.
	Include greenspace as a mandatory requirement for development.
	A few participants mentioned the attitudes and perceptions around green space. They suggested the value of these spaces needs to be more recognised.
	How can we quantify the benefits of green spaces so people value them more - people are undervaluing them
	Can't measure value of green space by use. Purely seeing it has huge benefits

Development and growth challenges

8 comments	Population growth and urban development was identified by many participants as a key barrier to urban food systems and green spaces.

Comments regarding this topic were mostly similar, and stated participants concerns for reducing green spaces as the city grows and more buildings are developed.

Growth by developers will not provide infrastructure w/out incentive or requirements.

How do we balance green, food, buildings, concrete. Green spaces vs housing

A couple of comments also suggested the pressure of population growth on food supply.

Resilience

6 comments

Participants suggested hazards as a key threat to the current food systems.

Cut off w/ EQ - how do we feed people

Key roads cut off by slips - suburbs isolated

Urban food islands - post earthquake

One participant commented on green spaces and community gardens as an opportunity to increase resilience to natural hazards and mitigate the threat of earthquakes and flooding to the urban food system.

Green space and community gardens provide bumping spaces to build resilience

Gardens

6 comments

Community gardens and public food sources were mentioned by several participants. They agreed space could be used for growing food which would be positive for the urban food system. Spaces mentioned included:

− Community gardens
− Rooftop gardens
− Replacing flowers with edible food in the CBD
− Public spaces

[Ways the green and food systems can be a benefit] planting food in public spaces, verges etc.

One participant discussed the loss of garden knowledge and motivation over generations, expressing concerns that people do not know much about plants anymore.

Rules

4 comments

Some participants indicated support for more rules and guidelines that encourage public green spaces and urban food gardens to be included in future development.

*Not building these ideas into lower level rules and ideas -
especially regarding infill housing*

*Concreting over green/gardens, 4 or 5 houses with long drive.
Large scale affect no permeability of surfaces - roll on affect.
Urban rules - no overall vision*

Food waste

4 comments	Four participants suggested eliminating food waste as a key aspect of the urban food system. One participant stated a specific programme currently operating that decreases food waste.

Food waste is an opportunity

*New World café coffee grounds used by Tawa Community
Gardens - alleviates food waste*

Climate change

3 comments	A few comments raised concerns about the threat of climate change. The topics of these comments varied so all are quoted verbatim.

*Pressures of economic scale being made more challenging by
climate change*

[Pop growth threats] Risk of climate change, biodiversity threat

*Supermarket chains already affected by climate change - need
more sustainable systems*

Benefits

3 comments	The health benefits and value of green space were mentioned by a few participants. These comments also suggested the value of these spaces should be more widely recognised.

*Need to recognise importance of green space for well-being and
mental health*

Other

3 comments	Three other comments suggested by participants during activity one were regarding unique topics. These comments are included verbatim.

*[Ways the green and food systems can be a benefit]
private/public water wells*

*[Ways the green and food systems can be a benefit] donations =
Wellington is generous, systems in place (Supermarkets)*

*[Ways the green and food systems can be a benefit] Distribution
and resources to allocate (Kaibosh)*

ACTIVITY TWO

Workshop question: ***As urban food system develops how often do you imagine interacting with its various elements? Use cards provided to build your food interactions pyramid. Add any other forms of interaction.***

What wellbeing benefits do you get from different types of interactions?

The results of this section are shown in the diagram on page 10. Each group poster was separated into five sections, to rank the various elements from most often, to least often. 'Most often' is represented by the bottom section of the pyramid. 'Least often' is shown by the top section of the pyramid. The elements of urban food systems were then put into one of the five sections. Some elements were included in the same 'often' section in multiple posters. This is indicated by a number in brackets next to the text. Other elements were located across the five sections. This is represented by copying the element into multiple sections.

Some groups annotated their posters, adding other forms of interaction, or showing the wellbeing benefits of the various interactions. These comments are summarised at the end of the section, on page 13.

Overall, most elements were located similarly along the scale, across all group posters.

Summary of section findings

This summary should be read in conjunction with the diagram on page 12.

Participants suggested they most commonly interact with the most convenient and accessible elements of the urban food system.

Buying local food was rated a 'more common' overall interaction than elements that required growing themselves, or travelling away from local areas. Visiting the local urban farm, community supported agriculture, lifestyle block or farm stay was consistently rated within the top two 'less often' sections.

Elements that required commitment and effort were also identified as 'less often' interactions by participants. Volunteering (aside from one outlying group) or being a Fruit Tree Guardian were some of the elements less likely to be interacted with.

Community elements varied in rating but were frequently included in the middle of the pyramid, or in low 'most often' sections.

Some common occurrences were:

- **Buying local food** was commonly stated as an element interacted with often. All posters placed the three local food elements (buying from the supermarket, market, and cafes and restaurants) within the bottom three sections.
- **Home fruit trees, and vegetable gardens** were suggested within the three bottom sections, suggesting most groups considered it to be an element they interact with quite often.
- **Visiting lifestyle blocks or homestays** was unanimously stated as an element interacted with least often.
- **Beehives** were placed on the pyramid by all groups. It's location along the scale varied between the second and third top sections, indicating participants interactions are quite moderate.
- **Volunteering** ranged up and down the scale, with most placing the element in the middle, some placing it less often, and one group identified interacting with it most often.

Participants identified some other elements which they annotated their diagrams with. Some of the suggested elements included: green walls, hens, rooftop gardens, balcony gardens, less meat, and decreasing food waste.
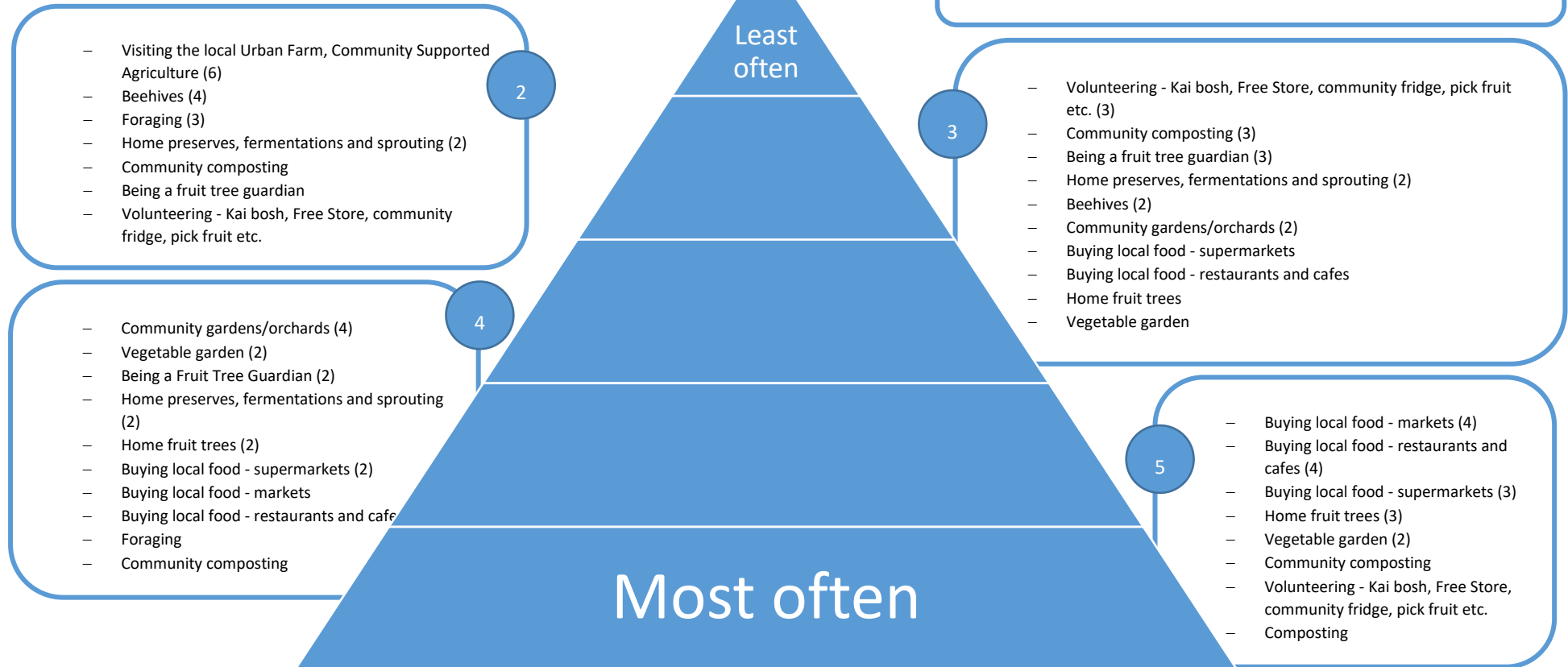
The wellbeing benefits that some participants identified included:

- Community connectedness and social wellbeing
- Education and awareness
- Personal pride and growth from creating own produce
- Physical health benefits of fresh local food

Synthesis of activity

Least often = Elements of the urban food system participants interact with the least.

Most often = Elements of the urban food system participants interact with the most

1
- Visiting lifestyle blocks or farm stays (6)
- Foraging (2)
- Volunteering - Kai bosh, Free Store, community fridge, pick fruit etc

2
- Visiting the local Urban Farm, Community Supported Agriculture (6)
- Beehives (4)
- Foraging (3)
- Home preserves, fermentations and sprouting (2)
- Community composting
- Being a fruit tree guardian
- Volunteering - Kai bosh, Free Store, community fridge, pick fruit etc.

3
- Volunteering - Kai bosh, Free Store, community fridge, pick fruit etc. (3)
- Community composting (3)
- Being a fruit tree guardian (3)
- Home preserves, fermentations and sprouting (2)
- Beehives (2)
- Community gardens/orchards (2)
- Buying local food - supermarkets
- Buying local food - restaurants and cafes
- Home fruit trees
- Vegetable garden

4
- Community gardens/orchards (4)
- Vegetable garden (2)
- Being a Fruit Tree Guardian (2)
- Home preserves, fermentations and sprouting (2)
- Home fruit trees (2)
- Buying local food - supermarkets (2)
- Buying local food - markets
- Buying local food - restaurants and cafe
- Foraging
- Community composting

5
- Buying local food - markets (4)
- Buying local food - restaurants and cafes (4)
- Buying local food - supermarkets (3)
- Home fruit trees (3)
- Vegetable garden (2)
- Community composting
- Volunteering - Kai bosh, Free Store, community fridge, pick fruit etc.
- Composting

Least often

Most often

Synthesis of comments

Some groups heavily annotated their pyramids. Comments reflected either additional elements of the urban food system that they interact with, or wellbeing benefits of the system.

The additional elements included:

– Green/living walls
– Worms
– Hens
– Roof top garden
– City food storage unit for emergencies
– Grow mushrooms in our abundance of coffee grounds and shade/cool spaces
– People know about seed sowing
– Swap networks (labour, equipment and produce
– Out of date rules. Redistribution
– Much less meat
– Co ops
– Decrease food waste
– Hunting and fishing
– Balcony gardens

The suggested wellbeing benefits of urban food systems covered a several topics.

Participants discussed community connectedness and interactions with other people as one key benefit. Comments stated building community cohesion and networks through the urban food systems.

Well-connected networks of people involved in the local food cycle (system). Seeds through to composting food waste

[Being a fruit tree guardian] creating/enhancing community

A few comments referred to education and awareness of the food system. Getting more people involved was identified as a key way to increase awareness of the food network, and educate the public so they can be involved. Sharing knowledge and skills was discussed as another key idea.

Understanding where food comes from

A couple of comments mentioned growing their own produce as providing them with a strong sense of pride in their efforts, and personal growth and gain from growing their own food.

Personal pride – growing your own produce

Growing your own is retro, RETRO IS COOL!!

Some other comments were received which referred to the physical health benefits of healthy food systems within the city.

Health ecosystem = healthy humans

Edible food in city, fresh and healthy

Workshop question: ***Select 5 photos of food production systems that best suit Wellington weather and environment while improving food resilience, community cohesion and market demands. Explain why you chose those photos. What actions should Wellington prioritise?***

Summary of section findings

The first aspect of Activity Three was the selection of images that participants identified as one of five food production systems that they thought would best suit Wellington. This part of the activity is represented in a table on page 15. Many participants also annotated the posters that their photos were posted on. These comments were analysed and grouped by theme, shown on pages 17-19.

- The most popular image was the photo of a women in front of her compost cycle trailer.
    - All group posters included this image, suggesting they support local composting initiatives to improve the urban food system.
    - Eight participants also annotated their poster with comments about composting. These comments showed support for more composting, identified the benefits of composting, and suggested education about how to compost effectively.
- The image of the group meal at a community garden was another popular image. The recurring selection of this photo suggests people valued the community cohesion aspect and like the idea of community gardens that cook and share produce together.
    - Some annotated comments also expressed desire for shared meals at community gardens, to create a culture of shared food and community cohesion through the urban food system.
- The Kaibosh food rescue truck photo was also popular. Participants appear to support the Kaibosh organisation and see it as having an important role in the future of Wellington's urban food system.
- A few similar photos showing public green spaces utilised for food production were among the photos suggested by participants. Participants chose a number of images showing large open spaces with gardens. The most popular image also appeared to be a market where the public could browse and pick their own produce on site. Other images of markets were also selected by a number of groups.
    - Comments also discussed support for gardens in general. Community gardens and gardens built into existing infrastructure were favoured.
    - Three participants wrote comments about markets, including suggestions for permanent, daily markets.
- There were two images of beehives, or beehive related, that were selected by participants. Participants implied they supported urban beekeeping as part of their urban food system.
- An image of three waste bins was selected twice by groups. While there were no comments to indicate why participants chose this picture, the bins represent three different waste streams, which groups may have associated with reducing waste, or dealing with waste more sustainably.
- An image of a community kitchen was selected by one group. Also, an image of a man guiding sheep through an urban area was selected by a group.
- Annotated comments mostly followed the themes of photos. However, some other topics discussed included:
    - Education
    - Use of space
    - Resilience

Food production systems that best suit Wellington

The participants were asked to select up to five photos that best suit Wellington weather and environment while improving food resilience, community cohesion and market demand.

The images selected by participants are displayed below, with the most frequently chosen image top left. Number of times chosen is displayed next to the image

WCC: Our City, Tomorrow – Integrating food and green spaces   G l o b a l   R e s e a r c h
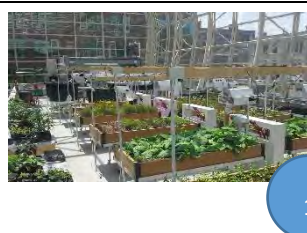
Participants were asked to accompany their images with comments stating why they chose them. These comments are synthesised below, by theme.

Gardens

10 comments	Several participants mentioned gardens. Most of the comments referred to either community gardens, or gardens built into urban infrastructure (such as rooftop gardens).

Community garden

Community roof gardens. Worm farms, basement storage (food), waste bins

Three participants mentioned combining backyards for community gardens.

Backyards and combining neighbourhood gardens. Benefit of being together

One comment suggested school gardens that students learn how to maintain over one year. Bee and insect hotels in schools were also suggested by this participant.

Compost

8 comments	Participants mentioned a range of aspects of composting. Some participants simply stated composts indicating support for them.

Some comments discussed the benefits of composting, which included:

- Assisting local food production.
- Regenerating the soil.
- Supporting worm farms.

Several participants also mentioned education around composting, suggesting there is a need for teaching the public how to compost.

City wide/regional systems for composting. Providing the where and the how

Education: schools, churches, helping people understand how to get involved, how to compost, how to grow own food.

A single comment suggested composting toilets.

Composting toilets as a new larger way to provide.

Community

7 comments	Comments referred to community suggesting it is an important aspect of future food systems.

Some comments specifically mentioned community gardens and shared spaces.

Community backyard neighbourhood gardens

Several comments also drew inspiration from the image of a group dinner at a garden. Participants mentioned community dining and shared meals/food. Comments discussed social connectedness, resilience, and celebration of community values also.

Shared meals at gardens. Cultural for Wellington, food is important in our identity - eating seasonal

Education

7 comments	Several participants mentioned education. Comments referred to a number of topics which included:

- Education in schools.
- Education through churches.
- Teaching skills to the community.
- Passing on Maori knowledge/Matariki, seasonal growing patterns.
- Education as a driver for cultural and behavioural shifts.

Use of space

5 comments	Participants commented on the use of space in the city regarding urban food systems. Suggested uses included:

- Using green space to grow food.
- Re-zoning areas to provide more space for gardens.
- Better designing buildings and the space between them.
- Integrating agriculture into urban infrastructure (re-zoning, multi-use).
- Repurposing/rethinking large fields/sports fields to become another source of food.

Resilience

4 comments	Resilience was mentioned by four participants and referred to either community resilience, or food network resilience.

Reduce food insecurity.

Priority for change towards community resilience

Locally sourced food

4 comments	Four participants suggested sourcing food locally.

Food not being sourced from outside of Wellington (supermarkets ship food from Auckland)

Creating a local food economy

Markets

3 comments	A few participants suggested concepts for food markets. These included:
	− Permanent markets that are open daily, reliable, covered, and have zero waste.
	− Week-round markets
	− "Ugly food market = good food"

Food waste

2 comments	Two participants stated the need to reduce food waste and prevent food ending up in landfill.
	Food waste reduction: reduce what goes into landfill, reduce food insecurity.

Other

9 comments	A range of other comments were noted in activity three. All comments are included verbatim.
	Sites e.g. Flagsteff Mill. Terrace gardens
	[Loop diagram] design - product - educate – community
	No reliance on fuel
	Permaculture
	Benefits of green spaces walkthrough as well as open space
	Regional policy
	All show important elements of integration
	What role, if any, for the regional hinterland? (transitional role?)

ACTIVITY FOUR

Workshop question: ***How do you most often interact with nature? Daily? On a weekend? During holidays? Use cards provided to build your interactions pyramid. Add any other forms of interaction.***

What wellbeing benefits do you get from different types of interactions?

The results of this section are shown on the diagram on page 20. Each group poster was separated into five sections, as best as possible, to rank the various elements from most often, to least often. Most often is represented by the bottom section of the pyramid. Least often is shown by the top section of the pyramid. The elements of nature were then put into one of the five sections. Some elements were included in the same section in multiple posters. This is indicated by a number in brackets next to the text. Other elements were located differently across the five sections. This is represented by copying the element into multiple sections.

Some groups annotated their posters, adding other forms of interaction, or to show the wellbeing benefits of the various interactions. These comments are summarised at the end of the section.

Overall, most elements were located similarly along the scale, across each groups poster.

Summary of section findings

This summary should be read in conjunction with the diagram on page 21.

Participants suggested they most commonly interact with elements of nature that are the most accessible. The most popular elements included in the bottom section of the pyramid were elements that people would easily find in their daily schedule/routine, e.g. street trees and flowers, inside flower/herb pots, city squares and local parks/reserves.

Some common occurrences across all group posters were:

- **Botanical gardens and local streams** were rated in the second lowest section, suggesting relatively frequent interaction, but not the most often.
- **National parks, West hills farmland and destination beaches** were commonly ranked in the top sections, suggesting people don't interact as much with elements of nature that may be further away from home/require travelling.
- **Waterfront** was ranked within the bottom two sections by all groups, suggesting participants interact with the waterfront quite often and consider it to be an important natural element of Wellington.
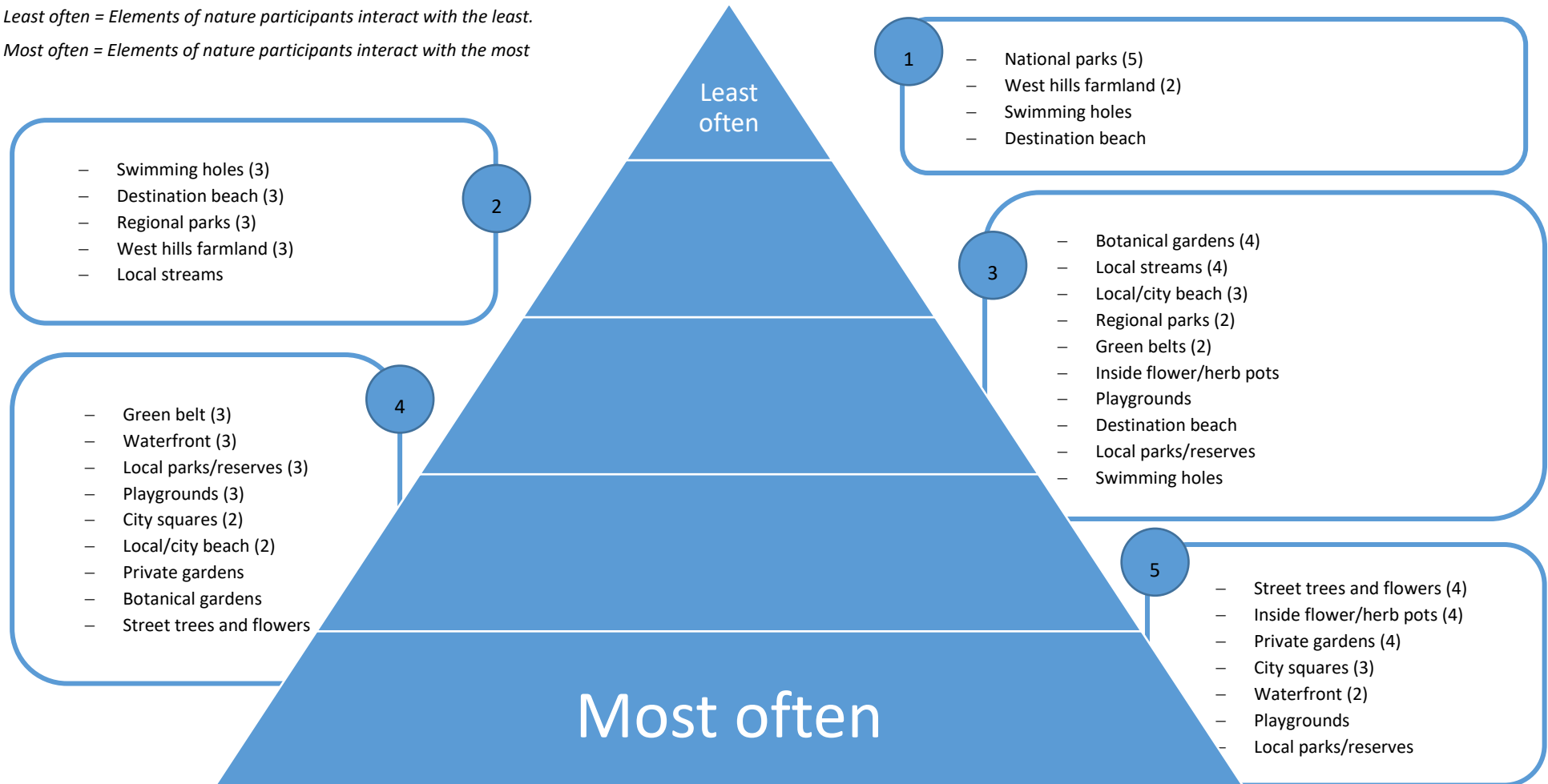
The wellbeing benefits that some participants identified included:

- Physical fitness and health
- Mental wellbeing and relaxation
- Sense of place

Synthesis of activity

Least often = Elements of nature participants interact with the least.

Most often = Elements of nature participants interact with the most

Least often

Most often

1
- National parks (5)
- West hills farmland (2)
- Swimming holes
- Destination beach

2
- Swimming holes (3)
- Destination beach (3)
- Regional parks (3)
- West hills farmland (3)
- Local streams

3
- Botanical gardens (4)
- Local streams (4)
- Local/city beach (3)
- Regional parks (2)
- Green belts (2)
- Inside flower/herb pots
- Playgrounds
- Destination beach
- Local parks/reserves
- Swimming holes

4
- Green belt (3)
- Waterfront (3)
- Local parks/reserves (3)
- Playgrounds (3)
- City squares (2)
- Local/city beach (2)
- Private gardens
- Botanical gardens
- Street trees and flowers

5
- Street trees and flowers (4)
- Inside flower/herb pots (4)
- Private gardens (4)
- City squares (3)
- Waterfront (2)
- Playgrounds
- Local parks/reserves

Synthesis of comments

A small number of annotated comments were received for Activity Four. The comments suggested wellbeing benefits of nature and green space. No suggestions for additional elements were included.

The wellbeing benefits that participants mentioned included:

− Physical health and fitness: having the opportunity to walk, run or exercise provides wellbeing benefits for people. This topic was raised in four comments.

Fitness/exercise, calmness

Activity contributes to wellbeing and body health

− Mental wellbeing was suggested in a few comments. Participants discussed the calming effect of interacting with green space.

Focus, destress, head-clearing

Seeing green, hearing birds, seeing blue

− Some other comments referred to the sense of place and Wellington identity, that they experience through interactions with nature. The opportunity for community events was stated in one comment and another commented on the diversely spread geography.

Workshop question: ***Select 5 photos of green spaces that you think best fulfil the nature needs hierarchy and are most likely to work in Wellington considering our challenges. Explain why you chose those photos. What actions should Wellington prioritise?***

Summary of section findings

The first aspect of Activity Three was the selection of five images of green space that best fulfil the nature needs hierarchy.

– The most popular image was the photo of people seated on a large open green space, mostly grassed with trees. The space is evidently located within an urban setting and many people are enjoying the space in groups.
  o All but one group poster included this image.
  o The popularity of choice for this image suggests open and public green space would be favoured by many participants.
– Three different picture that were included in one image were also popular.
  o The composite image included a picture of Silo Park in Auckland during a market day, and a map drawing and photo of green urban infrastructure, also at Silo Park in Auckland.
  o This image, alongside a couple of others showed the use of urban green space as effective water management systems.
– Images of pedestrian spaces between buildings with incorporated green space were also identified by a few groups.
– A few similar images showing high-rise, high density buildings with green space elements were frequently chosen by groups.
– Other images identified by participants included some of groups of people socialising, children learning about green space and nature, public art, and community gardens.

The annotated comments were analysed and grouped into themes. The popular themes tended to reflect the subject of the most popular images.

– The most popular theme of the comments was green space. This included comments that mentioned green space, as well as suggested ways green space should be incorporated into urban infrastructure.
– Participants frequently mentioned the built environment and suggested a number of ways the existing structures could be enhanced to provide more green space.
– Recreation and transport outcomes of increased green space were discussed by several participants. Comments generally stated green space would increase recreational activities and improve pedestrian spaces.
– A number of participants mentioned water management and the role of green space. Participants recognised the benefits of green space as a permeable surface to help manage stormwater.
– Participants also mentioned aspects of community and gardens as well, suggesting green spaces could bring together communities and enable community gardens to flourish.
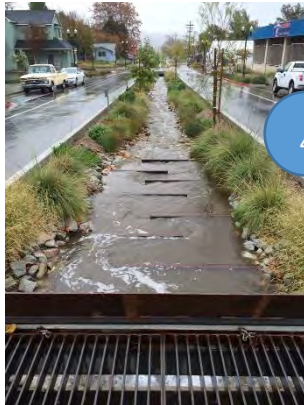
WCC*: Our City, Tomorrow* – Integrating food and green spaces
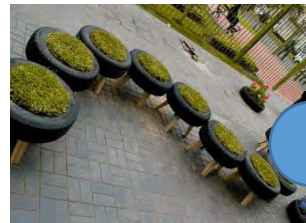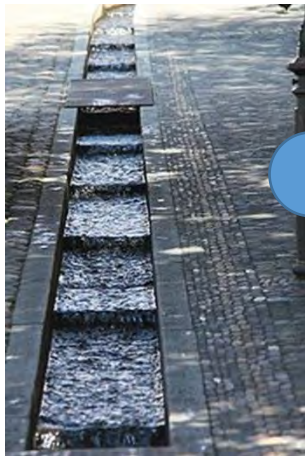
Synthesis of comments
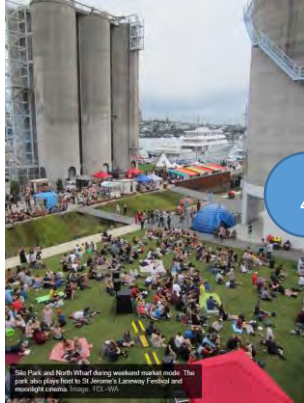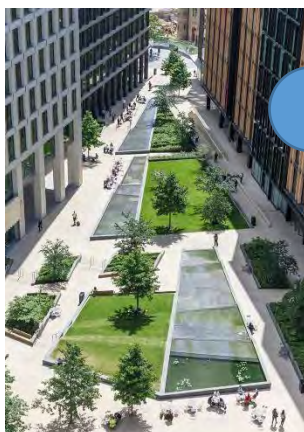
Green space

18 comments	Several participants discussed green space. Most comments stated green space, areas, buildings or streets as their preference.

Some participants also discussed a number of ways green space could be incorporated into the design of the city. Suggestions included:

- Integration of stormwater and green space
- Roof gardens, balconies and ground floor green areas
- Developer incentive to build higher if they add green space and community areas
- Raised sitting areas

A couple of participants also commented on other aspects of green space. Their comments are included verbatim.

Education in/of green space

Competition/balance: inner city living - liveable for apartments but also allow others to use from outside. Difficult for families to engage with green space, sense of community, missing = not a "neighbourhood"

Built environment

9 comments	Participants discussed a number of ways that the built environment could be designed or changed to accommodate more for nature.

The range of topics was broad and included:

- Green buildings.
- Using vertical space.
- Functional design.
- Using raised areas to grow food.
- Making use of current built environment.
- Permeable surfaces.
- Urban sanctuaries; described as similar to laneways but with more people.

Green spaces lower down, visible for people passing by, void spaces of bottom of building - developer incentive to build higher if they add a void space for green space and community areas.

Adding to existing infrastructure. Use raised areas to grow food. Quick and easy solution. Cost effective. Makes use of the current built environment

Recreation

6 comments	A number of participants commented on recreational or social areas. These comments associated green spaces with social or recreational activities.

Open central areas: gathering, reflect, connect, accessible points, quick relaxation from lunch breaks to all day picnic

Value of spaces to allow activation and engagement: different types, arts and culture, car free, fun, beaches and water, programming but do allow organic activities

Green space: connections with pedestrians, lunch opportunities, water, raised sitting areas, squares in the city.

Transport

6 comments	Comments regarding transport referred to either pedestrian friendly spaces, active transport, or removing cars.

Pedestrian only spaces: Lambton Quay, side streets, lower Tory Street, lower Cuba Street, Aitken Street etc. etc. etc…

Pedestrian friendly. Active transport. Remove cars

Community

5 comments	Participants discussed a range of topics regarding community values and engagement. Some of the things mentioned included:

− Changing public mindset to challenge themselves more
− Increasing community consultation and engagement
− Community spaces in the city
− Developing a sense of community.

Gardens

5 comments	Participants suggested incorporating edible food sources and gardens into the city.

Bringing in food/edible

Food [green space]

Water

5 comments	Comments regarding water referred to either permeable surfaces or stormwater management.

A few participants suggested ways to manage stormwater including:

Integration of stormwater and green spaces

Use of water. Returning stormwater to natural conditions - reduces pressure on our infrastructure. Designed to be accessible/usable by people. Wetland and parks integrated.

	Green/blue infrastructure: water - :flooding" planting to filter pollution. Water/air
	Participants discussing permeable surfaces simply stated the idea implying support for it.

Other

1 comment	One other comment was received, referring to the impacts of climate change.
	Climate - transformed version [picture of beach]

ACTIVITY SIX

Workshop question: ***What role can the Council, community and private sector play in the implementation? How can they support each other?***

Summary of section findings

Participants suggested insightful roles that the Council, community and private sector should be considering, in regards to implementing urban food systems and green space.

Some common themes and comments were:

– **Collaboration and co-operation:** many participants highlighted the need for different sectors to work together, share knowledge and establish connections to implement urban food systems and green space. These comments also frequently referred to community engagement and consultation, to understand what the public wants.

– **Rules and regulation** were suggested by some participants. This included a range of policies that could incentivise the implementation of urban food, and green space. Policies included: regulation, incentive schemes and effective district planning

– **Innovation** comments included participants who mentioned new thinking, creative thinking and design, social enterprise and innovators. Participants mentioned the need for people who were innovative in order to successfully implement ideas.

– **Community** values such as engagement, consultation and involvement were mentioned by several participants.

– **Support** was discussed by a few participants. Comments mostly referred to the Council being in a support role.

– **Facilitation and leadership** was referred to by a few participants. People expressed that the Council should be the sector taking leadership and facilitating urban food systems and green space.

– **Investment and sponsorship** was mentioned as an important factor. Most participants suggested this role would be for the private sector. However, it was also suggested that the Council facilitates funding and investment.

– **Attitudes and culture:** it was expressed by some participants that attitudes towards food need to shift within the public before urban food systems can be effectively implemented.

Collaboration and co-operation

6 comments	Several participants discussed collaboration and co-operation between different groups. Some comments specifically referred to the role of the three groups stated in the workshop question (Council, community and private sector), while a couple of comments referenced other groups, or no particular groups at all.

Education and collaboration - council, community, public sector

Map groups available/already working in the sector (directory, social capital facilitator)

The idea of the distributed network

Rules and regulation

5 comments	Comments regarding rules and regulation suggested a range of policies including:

- Incentivisation of green space.
- Regulation: using tangible objectives to link ideas with private and community actions.
- Council needs to mandate infrastructure and building quality and design.
- Rethinking district plan and governance models.

Innovation

5 comments	The role of innovation was mentioned by five participants. Comments indicated social enterprise and innovation as a key way to encourage creative and new thinking.

Open to innovation. Rethink infrastructure. Provide variety/options for natural systems. Community education. Educating other within the whole of council to see value of community

Community

5 comments	Participants discussed a range of community based roles and actions. Comments suggested:

- Having a wide and diverse community.
- Importance of community/residents' groups.
- Community gardens.
- A shared vision for the community.
- Community led projects.

Council policy - community led projects - community. Asset mapping, community to connect gap, funding and support, systems

Support

4 comments	Most comments that mentioned support referred to Council support. This included support in the way of information, availability, supplying resources and funding.

Council: co-ordination/information.

Council person available and connected

One participant discussed "mutual support", between the council, community, and business community (especially tourism).

Education

4 comments	A few participants discussed education. Some referred to education generally, while others suggested including concepts of sustainable food and green space within the education system, educating the community, and educating the whole Council to see the value of urban food systems and green space.

Facilitation/leadership

4 comments	Comments regarding facilitation and leadership referred to the Council as the one to take the role.

Council needs to be initial catalyst: getting the right people (from three sectors of council, community and business community), incubators and activists, funders, decision makers (local and national), developers, designers including systems thinkers

Facilitator (WCC) needs to step up

Investment/sponsorship

4 comments	Comments regarding sponsorship and investment either mentioned the concept or suggested the role of finding or supplying investment should be done by the Council or private sector.

Private sector: listening, sponsor environmental infrastructure projects, develop the things people need, social enterprise.

A one-off comment referred to transition costs.

Think about the transition costs: higher "subsidised" costs for local food, high public infrastructure costs

Attitudes and culture

3 comments	Three participants discussed different elements of changing attitudes and culture. These comments are included verbatim.

*Habits and attitudes need to change to bring people back to
where our food comes from*

Foodie culture "posh" barrier/opportunity

*Private sector: corporate responsibility e.g. how to dispose of
packaging*

Other

7 comments	A few other comments referred to aspects of the built environment. These are included verbatim.

Building on areas that use to feed us

Building restricting sunlight

Hard surfaces reducing water uptake for plants

The remaining outlying comments referred to a range of topics. These comments are also included verbatim.

Earthquakes restricting transport routes that feed us

Businesses

Non-profits

Communications planning and story telling