

Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan

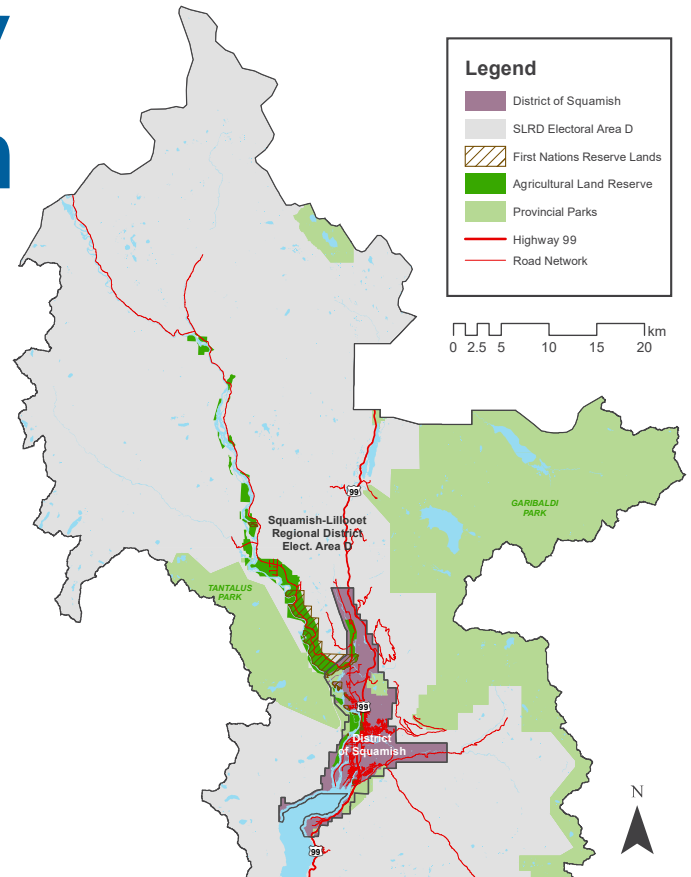
AT A GLANCE

What is it?

The Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan is a long-term plan that: identifies opportunities and actions to strengthen agriculture; protects and increases productivity of foodlands; contributes to the community's long-term sustainability; and aims to integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives in food system planning.

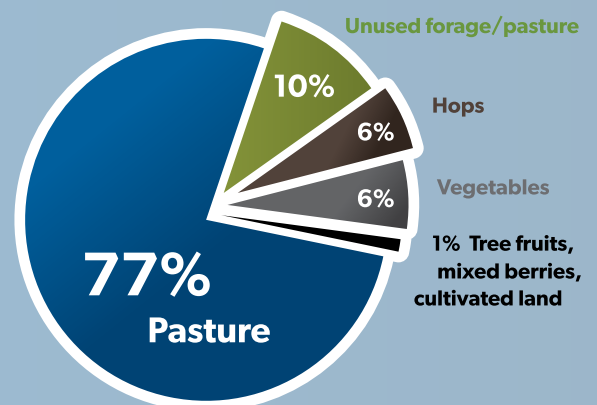
What area does it cover?

The Plan focuses on agriculture within the Squamish Valley, an area of 3,047 km² within the traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and within the District of Squamish as well as the Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) - Area D.



Did you know?

- **Only 2% (47 hectares) of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)** and an additional 21 hectares outside the ALR are currently being farmed in the Squamish Valley, for a **total of 68 ha of farming on 22 parcels of land**.
- **551 additional hectares** (34% of privately owned ALR) **have potential for agriculture**, with both small and large (> 16 ha) parcels available.
- **Soil is good quality for farming** in the Squamish Valley; **however, most farmland needs tree clearing and drainage**.
- Livestock in the Squamish Valley:
 - **Horses** are the most abundant, accounting for **62%** of all livestock in the area.
 - **Sheep**, and **goats** account for **17%** of livestock.
 - **Beef, swine, and poultry** account for **7%** each.
 - All livestock are farmed on a small scale (<25 animal units per parcel).
- Actively used pasture fields account for **77%** of all **cultivated crops**.
- There is **good access to markets** and a **local consumer demand** that **could be strengthened**.
- **Warming climate** may **increase growing degree days**; however, there may be increased risks of flooding, fire and drought.
- **Local processing facilities**, particularly abattoirs and butcher shops, **are currently limited**.



Main field crop types by percentage

Goals, Objectives, and Recommended Actions

There are 6 goals and associated objectives, along with a total of 38 prioritized actions to be implemented on a high, medium, low and ongoing basis.

GOAL 1

Expand and encourage agriculture and food production.

OBJECTIVE: Increase agricultural land productivity and improve access to foodlands in the Squamish Valley, by removing barriers to support existing farm businesses, encourage new entrants, and attract new producers to the area.

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Enhance land access for agriculture initiatives.
- Determine the feasibility of a community farmland trust for the Squamish Valley.
- Deepen dialogue with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) on foodlands and agricultural activities.

GOAL 2

Improve sector growth and market viability.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance agricultural market viability of the Squamish Valley through strengthened value chains, labour market, and relationships.

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Establish a permanent year-round Squamish Farmers Market.
- Identify and pursue viable solutions for local meat processing.

GOAL 3

Promote stewardship of natural resources and regenerative agricultural practices.

OBJECTIVE: Steward natural resources and the environment through sustainable and regenerative agricultural management practices.

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Work with urban and rural producers on reducing conflicts between food production, agriculture, and wildlife.
- Encourage regenerative agricultural practices.

Who will implement the Plan?

Actions will be led by collaborators including local government partners and the Squamish Food Policy Council, and supported by community organizations and the agri-food sector.

The Squamish Food Policy Council is an independent entity focused on food security, education, and food waste reduction in Squamish, and is made up of two dozen members including individuals, community groups and local government.

Key contacts:

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District - Planning and Development Services:

www.slrd.bc.ca
planning@slrd.bc.ca | 604.894.6371

District of Squamish – Community Planning:

www.squamish.ca
planning@squamish.ca | 604-815-5002

BC Ministry of Agriculture AgriService Desk:

agriservicebc.gov.bc.ca | 1-888-221-7141

Squamish Food Policy Council

www.squamishfoodpolicycouncil.com
squamishfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com

GOAL 4

Plan and prepare for climate change and emergencies.

OBJECTIVE: Include the agricultural community in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning and emergency preparedness to create a more resilient food system.

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Communicate with and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning.
- Develop a climate adaptation and sustainable farming practices strategy for the Squamish Valley.

GOAL 5

Align policies and strengthen regulations for agriculture and food.

OBJECTIVE: Build on existing local and regional food policies and amend bylaws to strengthen regulations that will in turn stimulate agricultural production.

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Create and maintain Development Permit Area Guidelines for Farmland Protection.
- Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection.

GOAL 6

Increase communication, awareness and education.

Objective: Improve awareness of local agriculture and access to local food, and support farmers who wish to increase agricultural skill set.

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map.
- Create an annual Squamish Valley Farm tour.

To learn more:

slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/current-projects-initiatives/squamish-valley-agricultural-plan



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