

STRATEGY FOR CHOOSING FARM LAND PLOT LOCATIONS WITHIN A CITY'S FOODSHED

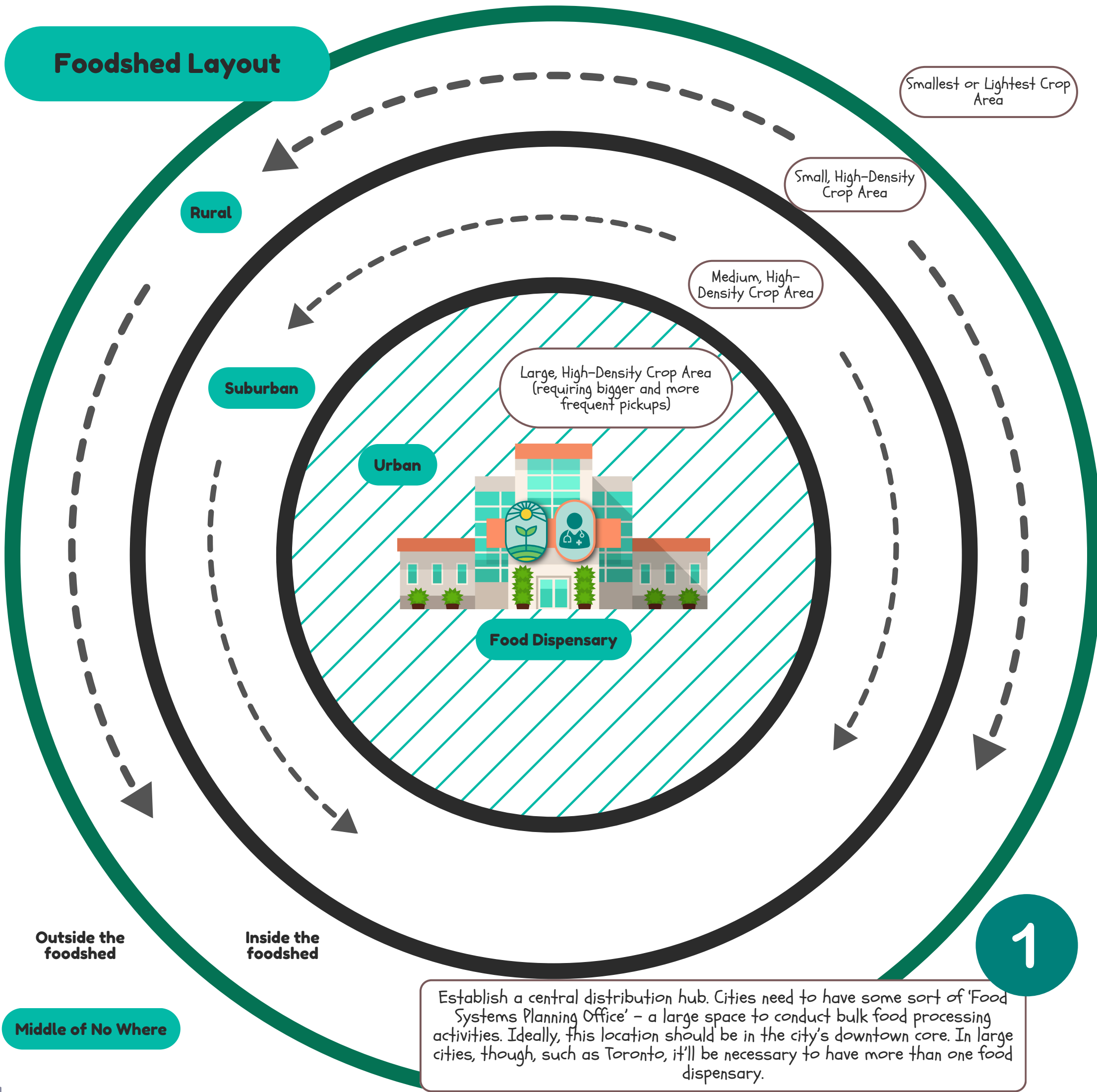
Ensuring Food Security for Future
Generations

by Leah Dyck

Spring | 2024



Foodshed Layout

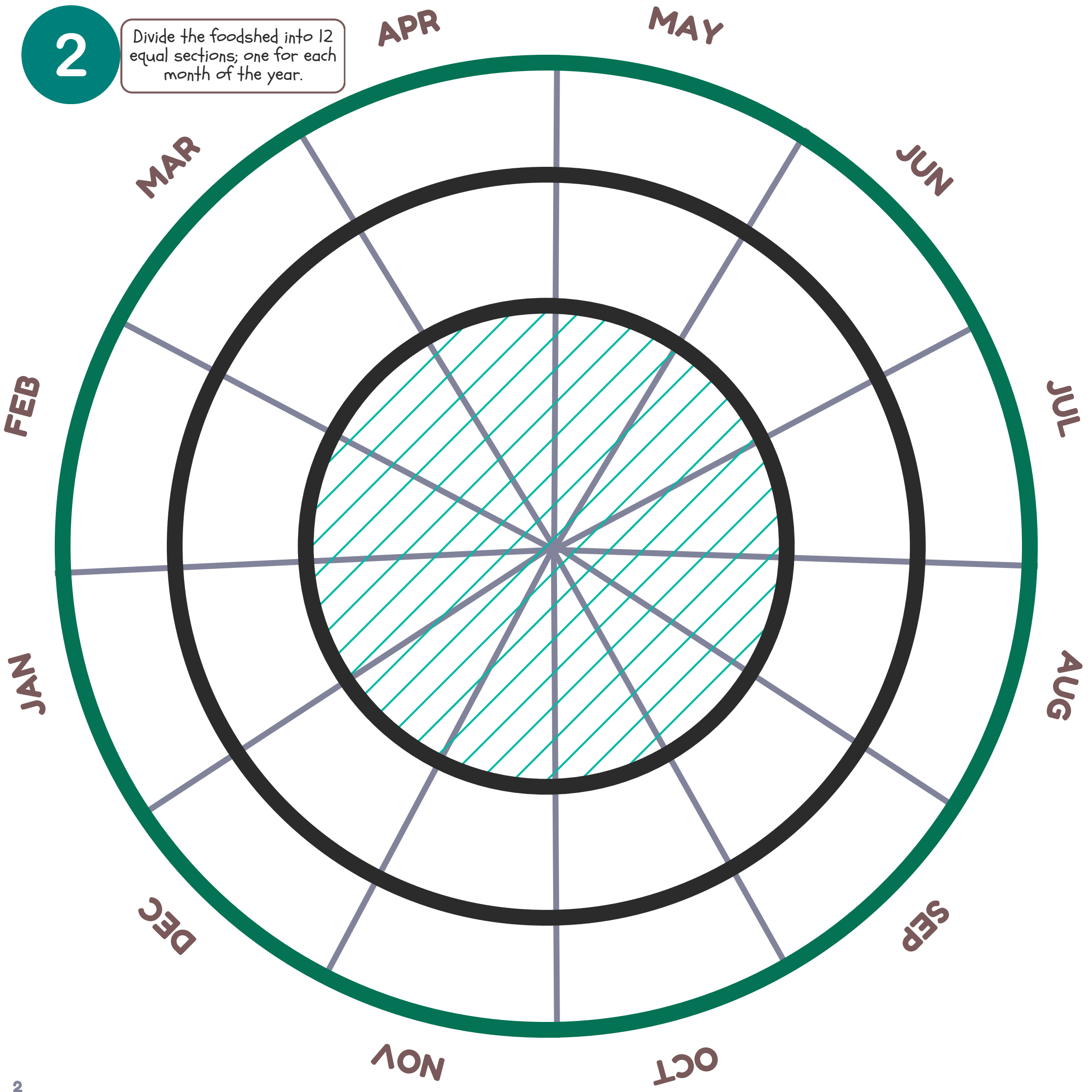


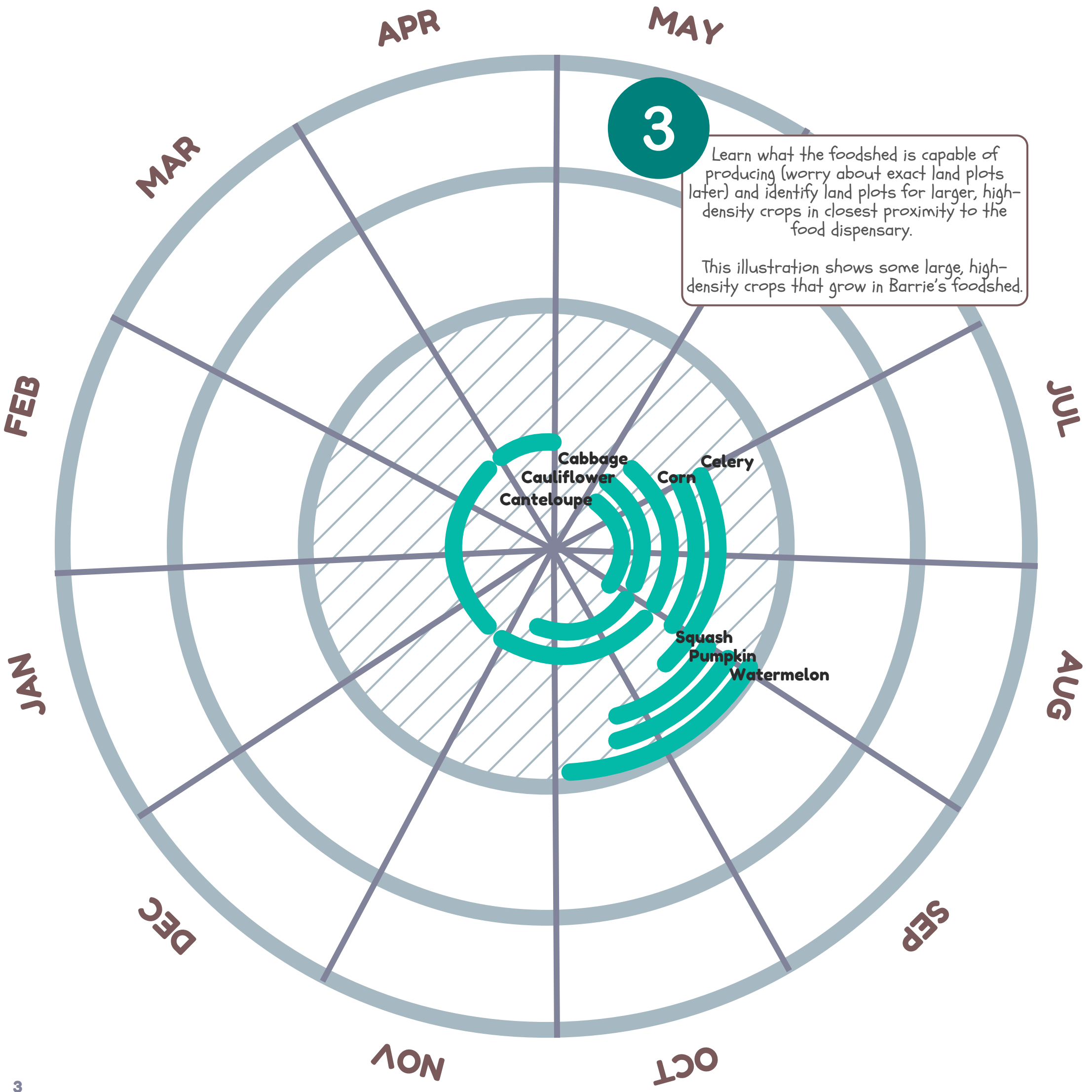
Middle of No Where

Establish a central distribution hub. Cities need to have some sort of 'Food Systems Planning Office' - a large space to conduct bulk food processing activities. Ideally, this location should be in the city's downtown core. In large cities, though, such as Toronto, it'll be necessary to have more than one food dispensary.

2

Divide the foodshed into 12 equal sections; one for each month of the year.





3

Learn what the foodshed is capable of producing (worry about exact land plots later) and identify land plots for larger, high-density crops in closest proximity to the food dispensary.

This illustration shows some large, high-density crops that grow in Barrie's foodshed.

Cabbage
Cauliflower
Canteloupe
Corn
Celery
Squash
Pumpkin
Watermelon

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUL

AUG

JAN

DEC

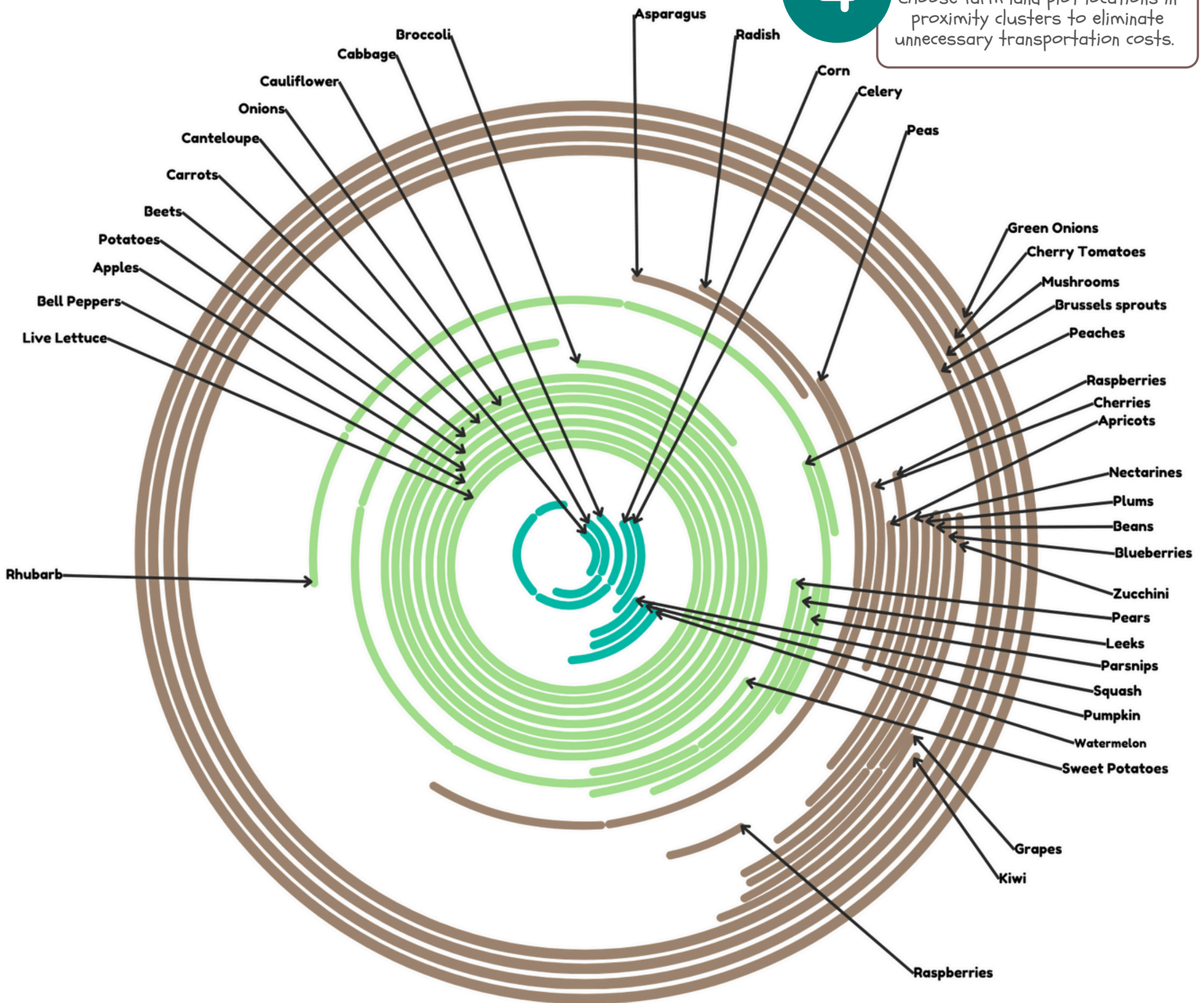
NOV

OCT

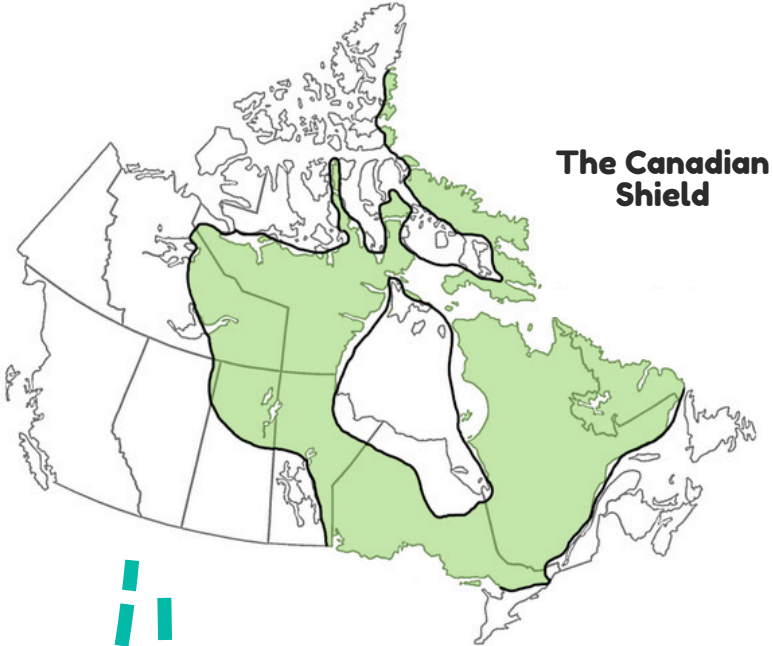
SEP

4

Choose farm land plot locations in proximity clusters to eliminate unnecessary transportation costs.



Barrie's Foodshed Typologies



5

Identify farm land plots that align with cultivation goals, coupled with areas with fertile soil.

Barrie's Foodshed has a diverse range of agriculture topologies, making it the ideal bioregion for surplus production, meaning, it produces significantly more food than it consumes.

Sandy, loamy soils ideal for fruit tree cultivation and viticulture.

Acidic peat bogs and cooler temperatures ideal for cranberry cultivation.

The Blue Mountains

Muskoka

Super rich muck soil ideal for growing root vegetables.

Barrie

Orillia

The Holland Marsh

Leah grew up in Oro-Medonte and so she happens to know of a 300 acre farm land plot for sale across the street from her parent's house, conveniently nestled beside Lake Simcoe. We're guessing this property might be ideal for cultivating a wide range of crops, including fruit trees and probably viticulture too.

Lake Simcoe: large fresh water source.

One of Fresh Food Weekly (FFW)'s Marsh donors with a Loblaws contract is retiring, and happens to live beside FFW's original Marsh donor. Leasing his farm land plot and hiring his neighbour to cultivate it could establish Barrie's Food Dispensary's first production plot.

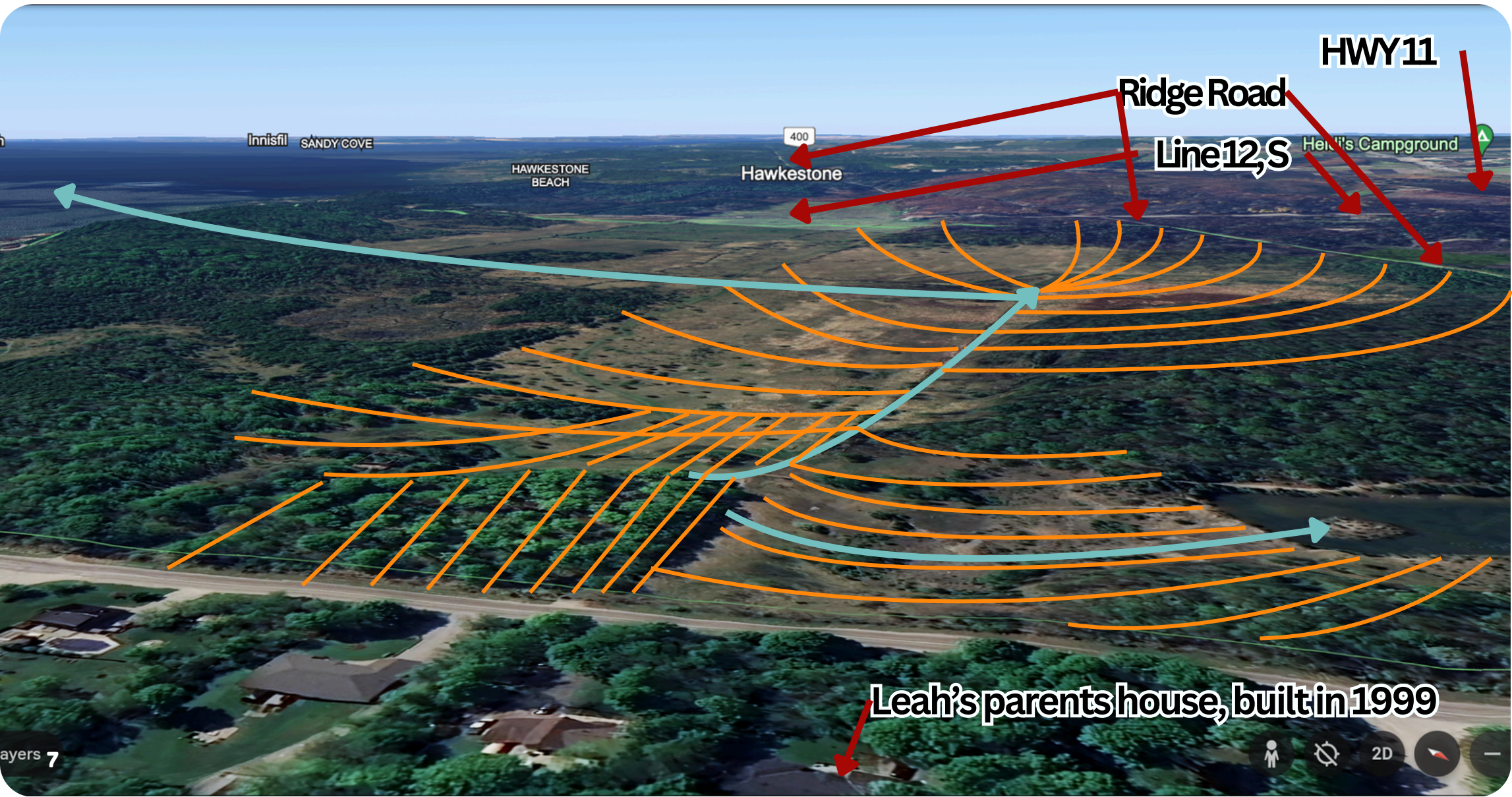
The Oro-Medonte Property



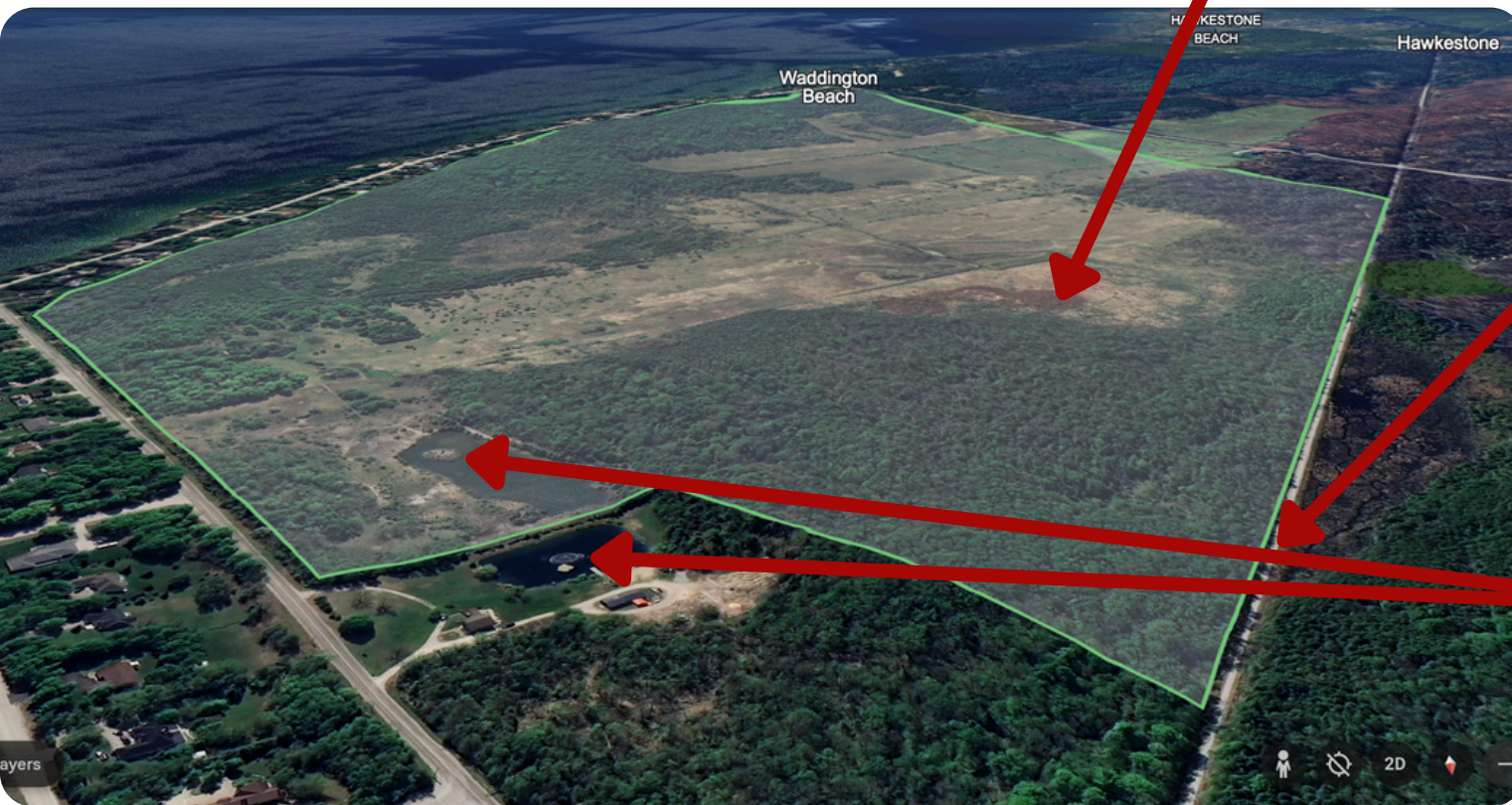
Legend

← Direction of water flow in man-made water drainage system. (If you were to explore this property, you'd find many old water piping systems in and around the old, burned-down structures).

— Land mass slopes



There's quite a bit more water here now, even in the summer months.



This is Ridge Road. It's called that because it literally runs along the edge of a steep ridge.

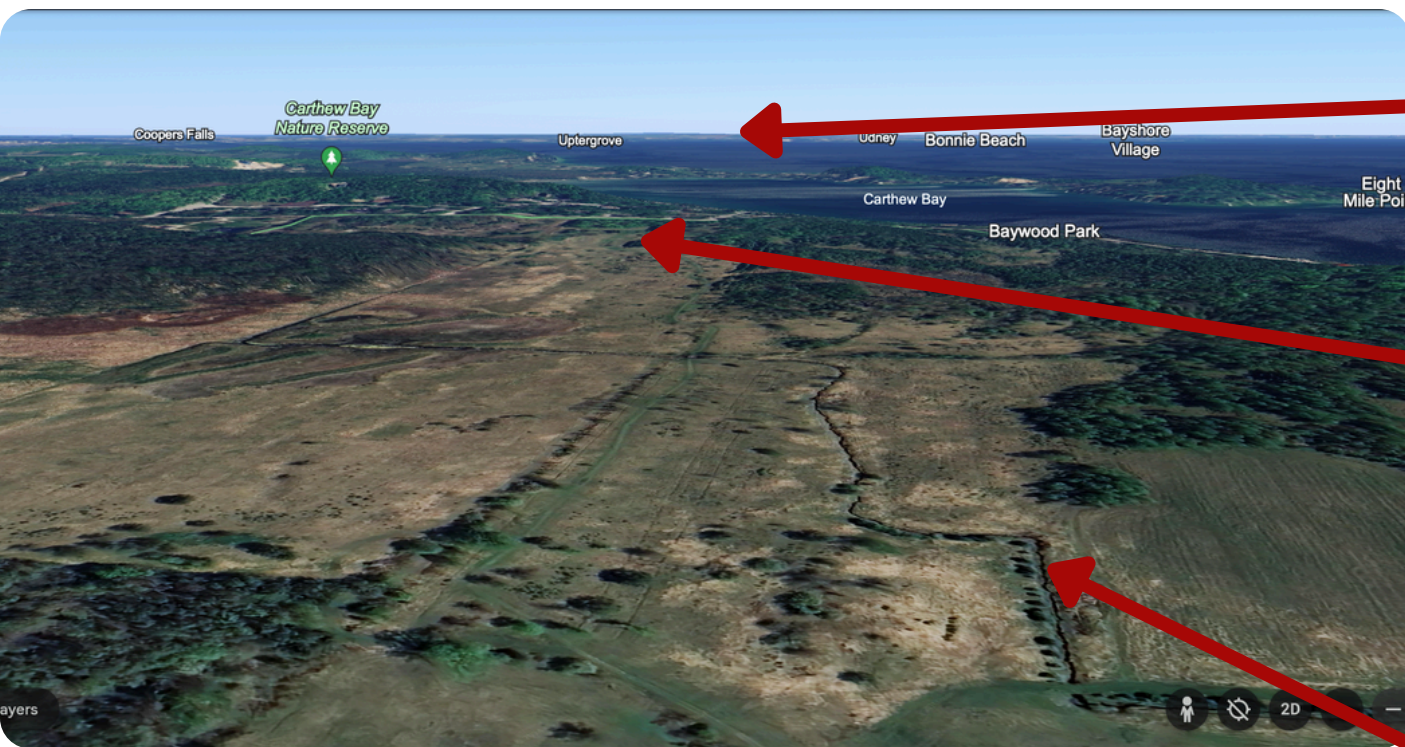
Apparently, this pond 'maintains' its neighbouring pond with the island (the private property pond has a dock and fountain in the middle of it, not a real island like the other one).



Interesting Rumour. Apparently, Auston Matthews bought a cottage in Carthew Bay last summer.

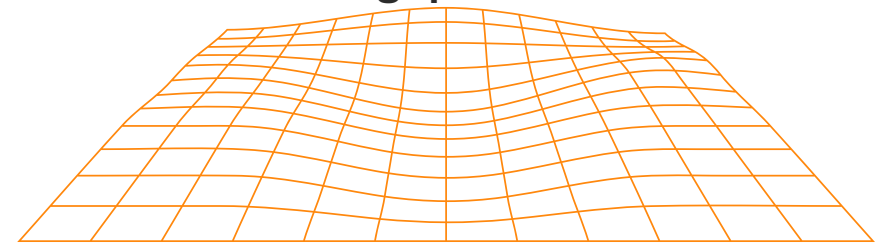
I wonder if this land mass is acting as a wind barrier to the highlighted lot?

Many crab apple trees and other tree varieties are thriving on this property.



I'm pretty sure this is the Rama Reservation (way off in the horizon).

This is a raised hill, and slopes down to the valley, as seen in this geometric grid land plot graphic:



As you can see, there are many man-made drainages covering this entire property.



Bunker From WWII



This property used to be an asparagus farm around 100 to 150 years ago, and it was also used as an artillery training base during World War II. Canons were shot onto Lake Simcoe and people had to take cover in bunkers so they weren't hit with shrapnel.

Establish A Farm Land Trust

Lakehead University was able to establish an experimental farm research station in the City of Thunder Bay which is now called the Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station (Formerly Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station). The purpose of this station is to establish, operate, promote, and transfer agricultural research to further develop and diversify the agricultural industry through small plot research and extension, community-based agricultural research and natural resource management.

The Thunder Bay farming community organized themselves under the leadership of Ben Kamphof, a recognized provincial farm leader (Past President Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association) and formed a not-for profit corporation called Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association (TBARA).

The association was able to get 75 percent of funding, for a five year term (2003-2007), from the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (OMNDM, now MNDF) through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), as well as in kind contributions from the University of Guelph and OMAFRA.

Since one of the goals of the Food Systems Planning Office is to create sustainability, it makes more sense financially to purchase farm land plots instead of leasing them. However, some land owners may not be interested in selling their land but are willing to lease it. In this case, property easements will be useful.