

# HUNGER IN THE CITY

Relieving Homelessness in Moss Park with Accessible Urban Agriculture

## DESIGN INTENT

This project is an exploratory look into Moss Park, a neighbourhood of Toronto that faces significant development pressures and social issues. With some of the highest rates of unemployment and population density in the city and a significant homeless population, it presented itself as a perfect case study to explore the role of urban agriculture as a means to create safe and accessible areas where individuals can improve their food security, social connections, employability and food literacy. The project explores different forms of urban agriculture in locations which the community has identified as under-used. By creating green connections and accessible gardens the goal is to create a design that is available and accessible to all people physically and socially.

## MOSS PARK



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### SOCIAL

- Creation of accessible public space
- Community integration of homeless population into public space
- Improve neighbourhood food security & nutrition
- Unify homeless resources
- Facilitate positive social interactions and disband stereotypes and stigma
- Use food as starting point to improve mental and physical health

### ENVIRONMENTAL

- Create new accessible green space and connections throughout the community
- Provide a variety of urban agriculture opportunities that can be accessed and managed by existing homeless services and the public.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Provide accessible public spaces to homeless individuals & residents
- Facilitate urban agricultural practices such as greenhouses and raised planting beds which can be accessed all year long and which is physically accessible to all individuals
- Establish a green connection between parks and revitalize streetscape with small design intervention

### ECONOMIC

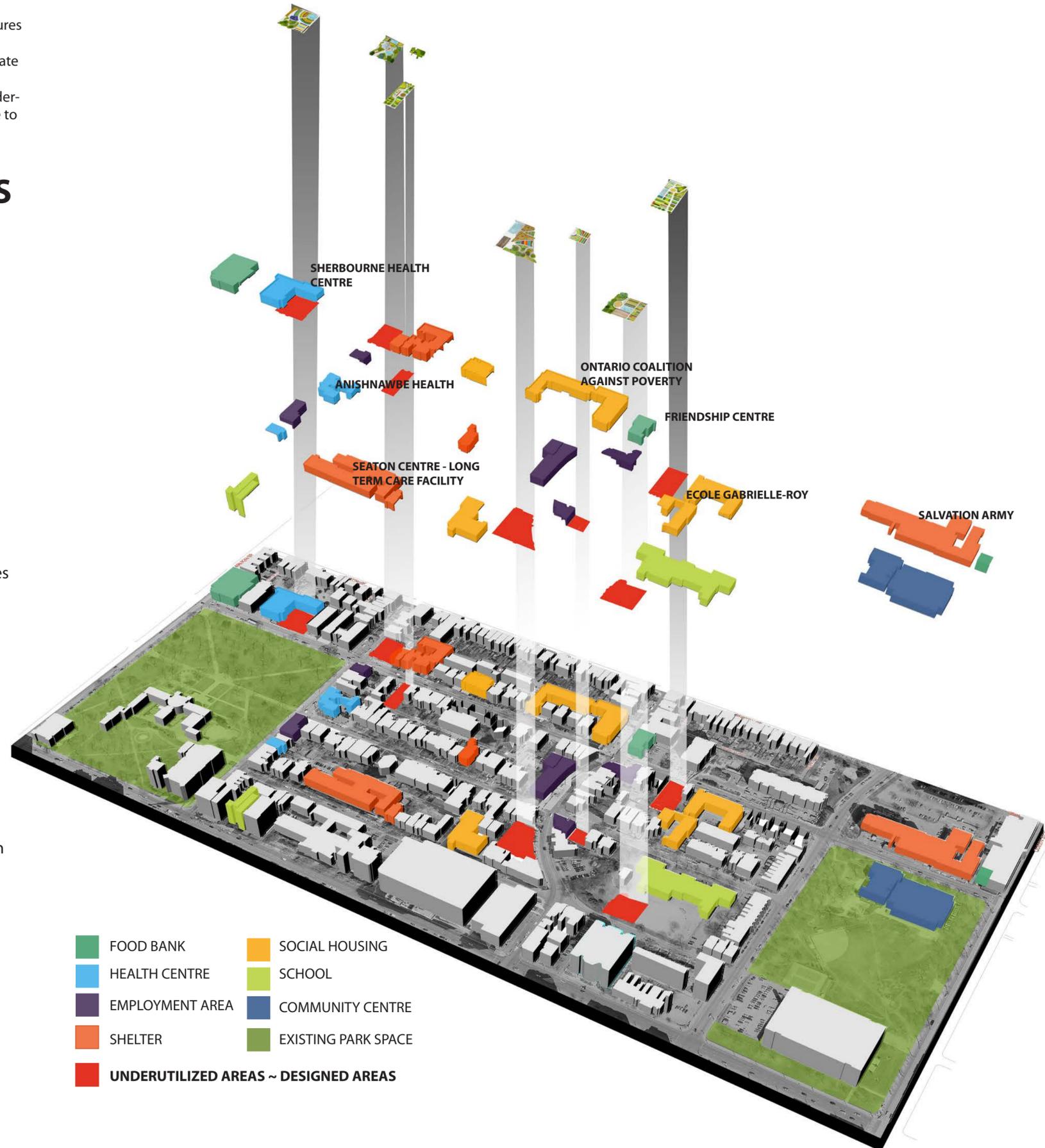
- Increase economic opportunity within the community through employment, job training and business development centered around food production and services

## SOURCES USED

"Barrier-free Community Gardening in the Waterloo Region" Kristin Ross, student placement, Masters of Social Work, Wilfred Laurier University.

"Best Practices for Universal Design." (2005) Sacramento Transportation & Air Quality Collaborative.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE



- FOOD BANK
- HEALTH CENTRE
- EMPLOYMENT AREA
- SHELTER
- UNDERUTILIZED AREAS ~ DESIGNED AREAS
- SOCIAL HOUSING
- SCHOOL
- COMMUNITY CENTRE
- EXISTING PARK SPACE