The hydro corridors of Toronto are sprawling lengths of continuous, mostly vacant land. They are unusual terrain: both physically sparse but culturally intense. Stippled with electrical towers, planted in acres of mowed grass, they hold the promise of light, energy, and power. They have immense cultural equity, but with an underwhelming physical existence.

Rather than pursuing the transformation of a complex network of privatized lawn landscape to create productive greenspace, this project takes on the proposition of aligning the ground of the site with its significance as a place of energy production—this time through food.

FeedToronto is proposed as a force of fiscal, ecological and social productivity. It re-imagines over 6,000 acres of mowed lawn as an abundant urban green that generates affordable, nutritious, local food.
There is enough arable land within the city’s limit to offset the importation of the majority of Toronto’s agricultural produce.

51 FULL COMMERCIAL FARMS: 160 acres is a functioning quarter section

294 URBAN FARMS: 28 acres typical urban farm

58,500 COMMUNITY GARDENS: 0.14 acres typical community garden
MARCHING ORDERS OF IMPLEMENTATION

STEP 1: ESTABLISH FEED TORONTO: FeedToronto is to be the city's newest arm's-length public corporation following in the footsteps of already established entities such as Invest Toronto and Build Toronto. Its mandate: to promote and operate zones of community gardening and local food production at a commercial scale.

STEP 2: CREATE ZONING TYPE UAx: A new zoning designation is needed to permit, promote and protect large scale agriculture within city limits as an appropriate and desirable land use. As such a designation, UAx can be sub-categorized as grazing livestock, open air crops and greenhouse crops.

STEP 3: EXCHANGE CROWN (PUBLIC) LAND & AIR RIGHTS: The publicly owned Hydro One owns the broad network of hydro corridors in the province. It is proposed that FeedToronto inherit the ownership of hydro lands with Hydro One retaining air rights. Such a move multiplies the use of the land and enables the two public corporations to symbiotically pursue their distinct mandates.
Since currently the hydro corridors bisect the urban fabric in a manner that ignores its adjacent context, FeedToronto is based on production corridor typologies. This proposes a different pattern of use for private/residential areas, schools and colleges, industrial warehouse zones, and places intersected by highway or rail. The establishment of new agricultural zoning would be heavily directed by the capacity and scale of these surrounding community conditions.

PLOT TYPOLOGIES AND DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY

- Agriculture / Education
  - schools/colleges

- Agriculture / Residential
  - private residential backyards

- Commercial Agriculture
  - industrial warehouse zones

- Distribution/Storage Hub
  - highway/rail connections

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