



TO:	GENERAL COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN
WARD:	8
PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:	W. LOEVENMARK, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PLANNER EXT.4743
SUBMITTED BY:	R. SUTTON, P. Eng., DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:	D. FRIARY, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:	M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That Shear Park be approved as a location for a third community garden.
2. That staff in the Engineering Department work with the Urban Pantry to implement the community garden in the Fall of 2018.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

3. The purpose of this Staff Report is to obtain approval to open a new community garden in Shear Park.
4. The City has two existing Community Gardens; the 2010 Sunnidale Park garden and the 2012 Golden Meadow Park garden. The gardens are consistently fully rented every year. In 2018, the Sunnidale garden was fully rented by May 25 and currently has one name on the wait list. It is a challenging site due to the lack of water supply, and aggravated by severe gopher intrusions from the natural area but feedback and continuing registration continues to confirm existing demand despite these barriers. The Golden Meadow garden offers a water supply. It was fully rented by January 30, 2018 and as of August 21, 2018 has a wait list of 3 people. The City also receives requests from registered gardeners to rent additional plots within their garden.
5. On March 25, 2013, City Council adopted Motion 13-G-061 regarding the Community Garden Program (Wards 4 and 10) as follows:
 1. "That the Sunnidale Park and Golden Meadow Park Community Gardens continue as a pilot program in 2013.
 2. That staff make best efforts to obtain non-tax based external funding and sponsorship for the continued implementation of the community garden program.
 3. That staff actively continue to investigate additional sites for consideration as future project sites.
 4. That accessible garden plots be approved in principle for consideration in the Golden Meadow Park Community Garden and that they be implemented in the future, where feasible, and where non-tax based funding can be obtained for their construction."

ANALYSIS

6. In early March 2018, Urban Pantry (a project under the Canadian Mental Health Association) as represented by Naomi Wachowiak of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, approached City staff with Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant funding for the construction of a new community garden in the City of Barrie. In addition, the grant funded a contracted Urban Agriculture Development (UAD) Coordinator position to assist with the design and opening of five new community gardens on public lands over the next three years starting in 2018 (see Appendix 'A'), as well as the construction costs (materials and labour) for the new gardens.
7. In order to open a new garden in 2018 in accordance with the terms of the OTF funding, staff proceeded to work with the UAD Coordinator to develop a set of community garden site selection criteria based on known existing garden needs and current parkland usage. Some key criteria included:
 - a) Existing yard hydrant for water supply
 - b) Underserved areas (northeast, central and southwest areas of the city)
 - c) Underutilized parkland
 - d) Sun exposure
 - e) Level area for barrier-free accessibility and drop curb/ roll curb availability
 - f) Impact on adjacent residential properties
 - g) Connections to transit
 - h) Available parking
 - i) Community interest
 - j) Distance from natural area wildlife
 - k) Adjacent residential housing densities
8. Once the site selection criteria were finalized, all parks with an existing yard hydrant were identified and ranked for consideration using the remaining criteria to develop a shortlist. Site visits were undertaken for all the candidate parks and reviewed with the Roads, Parks and Fleet Department regarding feasibility. The following five were selected as the final candidate parks for consideration:
 - a) Eastview Community Park
 - b) Queens Park
 - c) Blair Park
 - d) Shear Park
 - e) Bear Creek Park
9. Five other candidate parks, were removed from further consideration for the 2018 public consultation meeting, which included: Strabane Park, Wessenger Park, Montserrand Park, Batteau Park and Pringle Park. Strabane Park was felt to require more community consultation than the nearby Eastview Park. Wessenger Park would require the loss of the outdoor ice rink, also indicating that more public consultation was needed. Montserrand Park is less connected to a large residential area. Batteau Park is very exposed to residents fronting onto the park. Pringle Park has a small amount of level ground available near the water supply. All of the above are eligible for future reconsideration.

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10. The five final candidate sites were presented for public feedback at a Public Information Centre (PIC) held on August 16, 2018 in the Rotunda at Barrie City Hall. Staff provided displays (see Appendix 'B') showing the garden layout concepts for each of the park candidates and were available for questions. Urban Pantry and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit provided additional information on existing food security initiatives, such as the Fruit Forest through the City, Fruit Share and the Good Food Box Program. Attendees were asked to review the displays and fill out a questionnaire to provide comments.
 11. Sixty-six people signed in at the PIC and sixty-seven hard copy surveys were received. In addition, 66 electronic survey responses were received (by August 20, 2018) for consideration in this report. The following highlights the results of the PIC Questionnaire (Please refer to Appendix 'C' for full survey results):
 - Survey results indicated that the majority of the attendees supported the opening of a new garden location and the preferred location was Queen's Park. The second most preferred location for a new community garden was Shear Park, followed by Eastview Community Park.
 - Most people preferred the double plot size of 3 m x 5 m.
 - It was agreed that water supply is important but almost half of the respondents would consider renting a plot in a location without water supply.
 - Most agreed that offering elevated accessible plots is important.
 - People are divided on whether fencing is necessary.
 - Most would like to have the option to re-rent the same plot annually.
 12. Further to the discussions and feedback at the PIC, Urban Pantry has reviewed the results of the questionnaires and online survey. Urban Pantry has determined that Queen's Park would warrant more discussion as to specific design to better address the needs and interests for the downtown core clientele and therefore, due to the short construction timeline pending Council approval, would defer the selection of the Queen's Park location in favour of Shear Park. Shear Park is recommended as their preferred option instead of Eastview Park for a new garden location for construction in 2018 (see Appendix 'D') due to the existing location compatibility and community support built through the fruit forest planting initiative.
 13. Staff in the Engineering and Road, Parks and Fleet Departments also support the Shear Park Community Garden concept and recommend that this location be approved as a new community garden location for implementation in 2018 through funding and labour provided by Urban Pantry.
 14. Due to OTF funding requirements to implement a new garden in 2018, efforts to date in 2018 have focussed on site selection for this one location. The Community Garden Policy was approved almost ten years ago by Council Motion 09-G-290, with the Sunnidale garden opening in 2010. Given the time that has passed since the initial implementation, and in order to respond to Urban Pantry's request to open five new gardens in total, Planning and Asset Management staff recommend that an update of the Community Garden Program be completed in consultation with Parks Operations to determine if and how the City will approach and sustain the expansion of the Program. The review could achieve the following objectives:
 - a) Consider lessons learned through the City's experience to date with Sunnidale and Golden Meadow Pilot Programs.
 - b) Review Barrie's Official Plan regarding food security policies (note that the Official Plan will be updated in 2018-2019).
 - c) Undertake a comparative analysis of existing sustainable municipal community garden programs and policies and make recommendations regarding all aspects of the Barrie Community Garden Program and the functioning of its existing gardens.

- d) Work with community partners to identify where 'Allotment Gardens' sit within current/future food security initiatives on public lands and consider developing a comprehensive sustainable strategy document for food security on public lands.
- e) Make a recommendation regarding the pilot project status of the Community Garden Program.
- f) Provide an updated cost analysis of staff time and materials used to deliver the program.
- g) Rebrand the existing community garden model as 'Allotment Gardens' under the existing Community Garden Program to better communicate the rental status to the public, while maintaining the option to explore a non-rental (community-sponsored) garden model in the future.
- h) Address the initiatives and recommendations identified in the 2017 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy regarding community gardens. Evaluate the environmental impacts of community gardens and update the policy with best practices.
- i) Work with community partners to develop non-tax based resources to enable the expansion of the Community Garden Program in the areas of garden management, volunteer training, gardening education, Communities in Bloom competitions, and sponsorship to work towards a cost-neutral program.
- j) Recommend whether staff should pursue delegated authority from Council to open future gardens based on a pre-approved criteria schema.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

15. The following environmental matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:
- a) Gardeners in the new garden location will be required to take home their garden waste for pick up through the City's curb side yard waste collection program, which is current practice in the Golden Meadow Community Garden.
 - b) Garden plots are considered to have a minimum impact on the reduction of storm water infiltration surface as the only impervious surfaces added would be the plot borders and a 9 m² maximum area of a garden shed (3 m x 3 m).
 - c) None of the proposed gardens are situated within the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority or the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority regulated areas.
 - d) Gardeners are permitted to use fertilizer. Applied fertilizer mixes, containing a ratio of Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium, infiltrate into the garden plot or directly into the adjacent ground. Phosphorus is introduced to Lake Simcoe through existing watercourse tributaries and storm water drains in Barrie from many sources, one being residential lawn and garden use where fertilizers drain into the storm water system. One of the objectives of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is to reduce loadings of phosphorus to Lake Simcoe. The amount of fertilizer anticipated to be introduced into the groundwater as a result of the new garden is considered minimal. In community gardens, absorption is facilitated by maintaining infiltration surfaces around the garden plots such as turf and mulch. The gardens are typically located far from storm water catch basins. Natural heritage features such as wetlands, woodlands and riparian areas also help filter excess nutrients before they reach water sources.
 - The Queens Park location has a 120 metre distance to a watercourse with vegetated buffer.
 - The Bear Creek location has a 75 metre natural buffer.
 - The Eastview Park location has a 50 metre infiltration buffer to the watercourse. The watercourse itself has a minimum 6 metre naturalized vegetation buffer against mowed turf.

- Blair Park and Shear Park are not within close proximity to watercourses.

It is recommended that staff consult with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to provide public education to gardeners regarding the use of phosphorous.

- e) Gardeners are not permitted to use pesticides in accordance with the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban. The use of pesticides is regulated under the Ontario Pesticides Act through the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). Under the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban, pesticides cannot be used for cosmetic purposes on lawns, vegetable and ornamental gardens, patios, driveways, cemeteries, and in parks and school yards. The exception to the ban refers to Class 11 pesticides (biopesticides and certain lower-risk pesticides), which may be used to manage pests in lawns and gardens. Some examples of these include Borax, corn gluten meal, soap and Sulphur.
- f) Parkland community gardens strengthen biodiversity by supporting pollinators, improving soil quality for microorganisms and reducing private pesticide use as homeowners share organic gardening methods

ALTERNATIVES

16. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could maintain the current number of community garden locations (Sunnidale Park and Golden Meadow Park) and decline to open a third location.

This alternative is not recommended as it is contrary to Council Motion 13-G-061 directing staff to explore new locations and to implement them if non-tax based funding can be obtained for construction. This alternative is also contrary to the recommendations in the Climate Change Strategy to open new community gardens.

Alternative #2 General Committee could alter the proposed recommendation by selecting Queen's Park for a new community garden for development in 2018.

Although this alternative is available, the endorsement from Urban Pantry for the Shear Park location represents their level of confidence in the feasibility of construction of the new garden in 2018. All other options will be strongly considered for development in 2019.

Alternative #3 General Committee could alter the proposed recommendation by approving all five of the proposed garden locations.

This alternative is not recommended as the parkland detailed analysis was limited to locations in the northeast, central and southwest sectors of the City. Staff recommend the remaining northwest and southeast sectors be included in the comprehensive analysis to update the remaining four candidates sought by Urban Pantry to achieve their OTF Grant proposal. Staff further recommend a review of the current program model to explore ways of sustainably expanding the program while managing impacts on staff time, equipment and resources.

FINANCIAL

17. Community garden plots are rented out according to rates in the City's Fees By-law (2018-12) as follows:
- a) Single plot - \$20/year
 - b) Double plot - \$50/year
18. All revenue collected from the rental fees at Sunnidale and Golden Meadow, is used to offset the costs of signage (to identify the garden, and to recognize donors) and other minor capital items. Additional costs associated with the existing gardens are included with the operating budgets of various City departments.

19. Should a new garden location be created in 2018, opening in 2019, the construction costs will be funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant, obtained by the SMDHU and Urban Pantry. The anticipated rental revenue is \$500 - \$650 (to be confirmed once number of plots is finalized). This revenue will be used to erect a garden location sign, as well as signage to recognize donors. The remaining rental funds will be used for long term maintenance of these signs. Additional costs to the City are considered minimal, and are summarized as follows:

Item	Estimated Amount (2018)	Estimated Amount (2019)	Funding Source
Supply and delivery of compost	\$320*	\$800	Parks and Forestry Operations Branch Operating budget
Water supply	n/a	\$60	Parks and Forestry Operations Branch Operating budget
Program promotion, coordination, inquiries, plot registration, coordination with Urban Pantry	Not quantified	Not quantified	Included in work plan for staff in Engineering, Communications and Service Barrie
Yard hydrant seasonal turn on/off and backflow testing	n/a	No additional costs as required for existing ice rink	
Mowing	n/a	No additional requirements	
Washroom facilities	n/a	No additional costs – existing washroom building	
Garbage removal	n/a	No dedicated receptacle required; gardeners responsible to remove own waste	

*Note: This refers to the initial cost required to fill up the newly constructed garden boxes.

20. As noted earlier in the report, staff intend to revisit the Community Garden Policy, and will include an analysis of existing costs, as well as explore options for non-tax based funding going forward.

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

21. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:
- ☒ Responsible Spending
 - ☒ Inclusive Community
22. This project presents an opportunity for responsible spending through partnering with Urban Pantry to use non-taxed based funding to implement a new community garden.
23. Community gardens contribute to the facilitation of community connection and communication through regular or chance encounters over a shared interest in gardening and food or through organized garden initiatives. This further connects people to other related food initiatives and information, such as Fruit Share, the Good Food Box Program and the Barrie Farmer's Market.
24. Introducing community gardens can contribute to diverse and safe neighbourhoods by increasing people's presence in parks. This can have the effect of deterring undesirable behaviour by the increased amount of eyes on the park and by introducing a new activity and interest.

APPENDIX "A"

Urban Pantry Community Garden Request

From: Wachowiak, Naomi
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 3:29 PM
To: Sherry Diemert <Sherry.Diemert@barrie.ca>
Cc: Walter Fischer <Walter.Fischer@barrie.ca>; Jenna Zardo
<urbanpantryproject@gmail.com>
Subject: Garden meeting request

Hello Sherry,

I hope all is well with you.

I am connecting back with you today because the three year Trillium funding for the Urban Pantry (a project of CMHA) has officially started. When we last met we decided that we would meet again to look at how the Urban Pantry project could support community gardens in the City of Barrie once the coordinator was hired. The garden coordinator will start on Monday March 12.

The project has a target of 2 new gardens per year for three years. However, they will only be looking at installing ONE garden on public lands in 2018 because at Mayor Lehman's request, the Urban Pantry will be partnering with Barrie Municipal Non-profit Housing to install and program a garden on one of their larger properties.

**We were looking at meeting sometime the last week of March.
Do you have any availability that week?**

The purpose of the meeting would be to:

1. Clarify common goals and objectives with respect to community gardens
2. Review supports the Urban Pantry is bringing to the table (both cash and human resources)
3. Identify the criteria for picking garden sites from both COB logistics and community building point of views. [How many of the sites previously identified in 2011 are still on the table? Thinking Kempenfelt Park or Nelson Square?]
4. Identify how the Urban Pantry could reduce some of the COB staff workload in administering the gardens and address other barriers to increasing the impact of the current community garden program.

It might be entirely optimistic but The Urban Pantry is hoping to have a site identified by the end of April. Do the required community engagement and co-operative planning with the local neighbourhood through the month of May and get the garden in the ground at some point in June.

Is there anything else the coordinator should come prepared to discuss?
Do you think an hour to an hour and a half would be sufficient?
Thank you very much, really looking forward to the conversation.

Naomi

Naomi Wachowiak, BSc, BScN, RN

Public Health Nurse, Chronic Disease Prevention – Healthy Lifestyle Program
Community and Family Health Department

t: 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 x: 7976

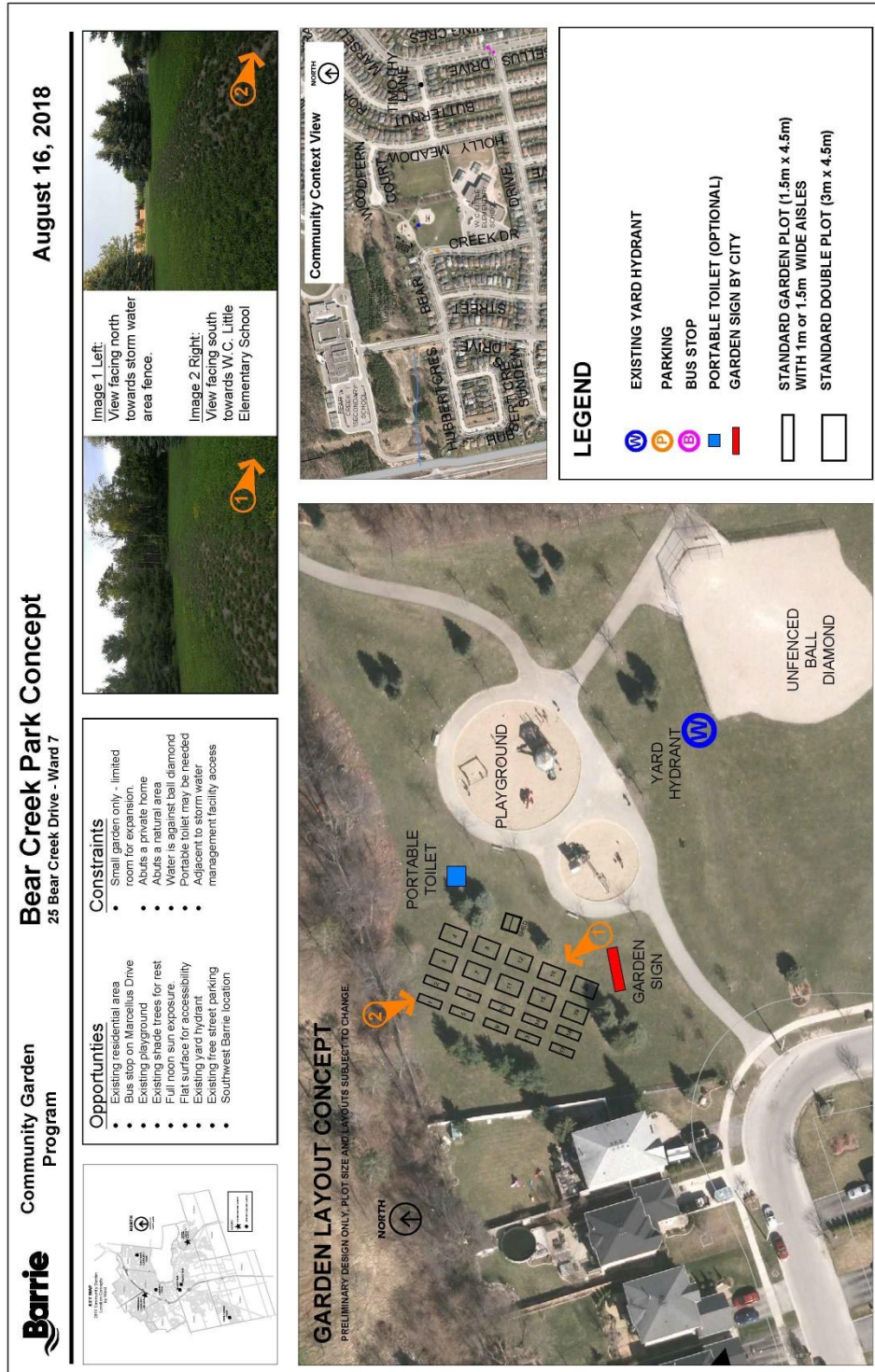
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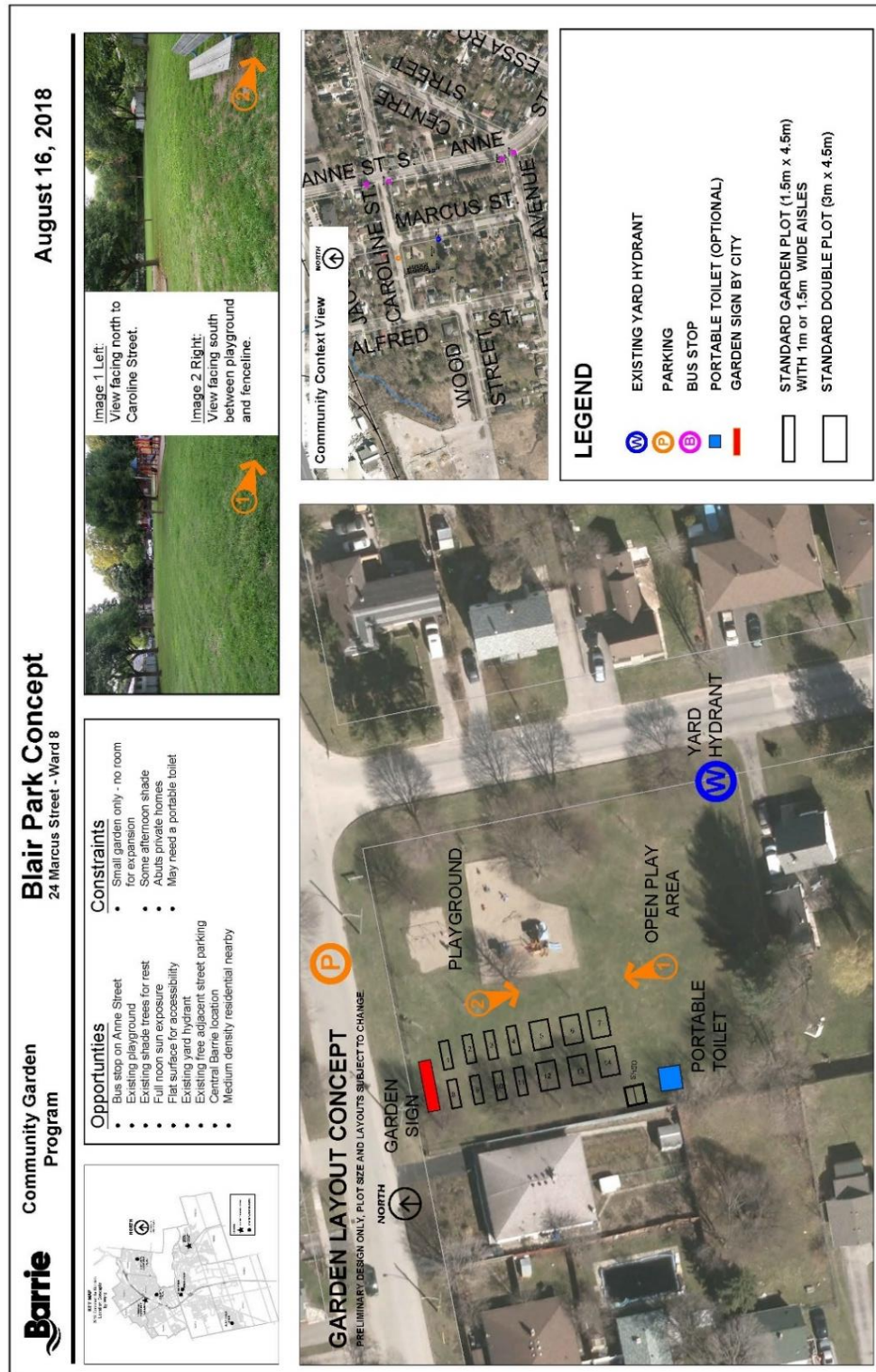
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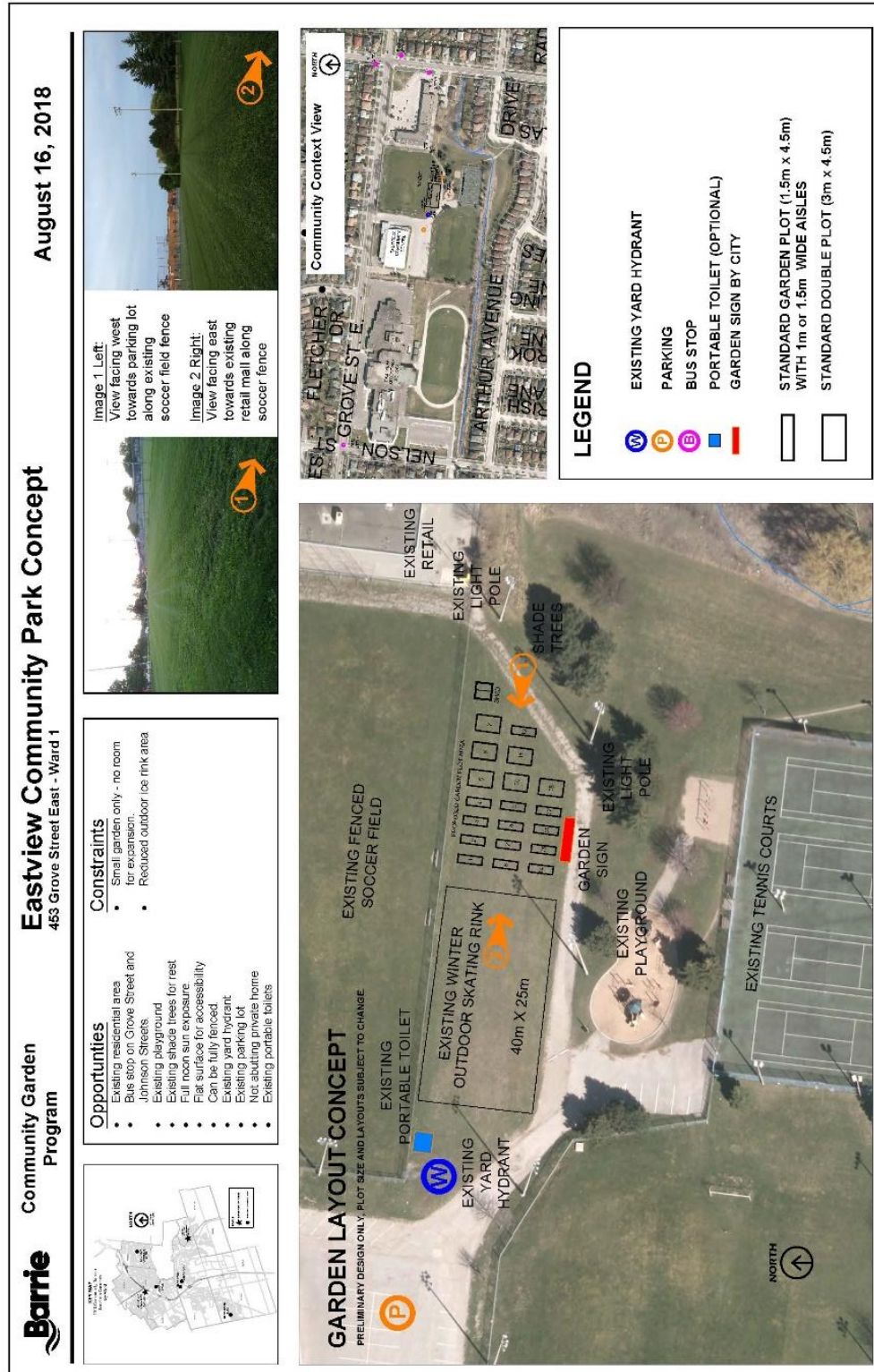
e: naomi.wachowiak@smdhu.org

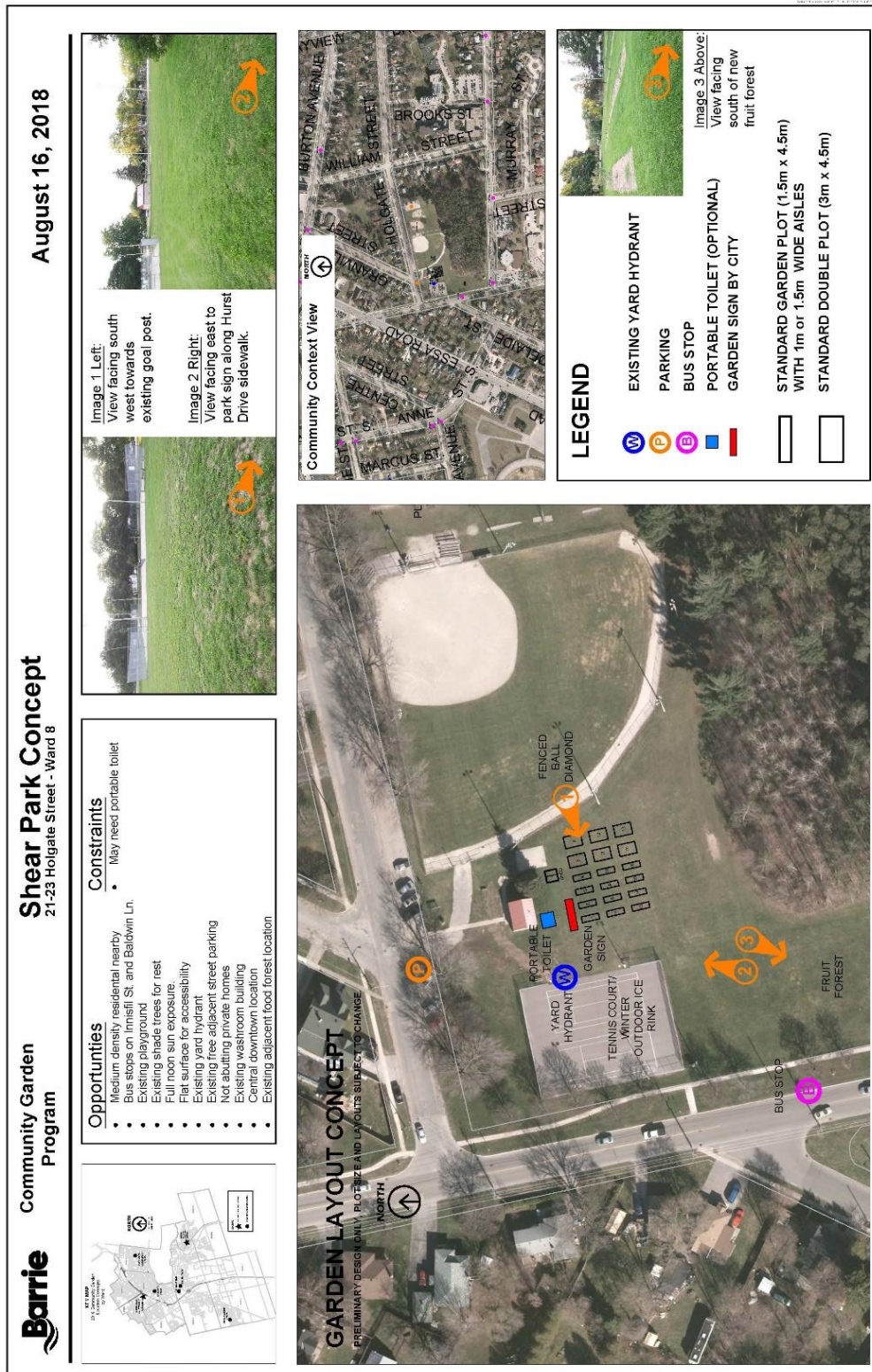
APPENDIX "B"

Community Garden Parkland Concepts





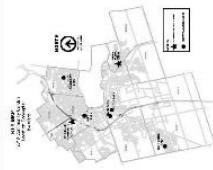




August 16, 2018

Queens Park Concept 55 Ross Street - Ward 2

Community Garden
Program



Opportunities

- Existing residential area
- Bus stop on Ross Street
- Existing playground
- Existing shade trees for rest
- Full moon sun exposure
- Flat surface for accessibility
- Existing yard hydrant
- Existing adjacent street parking
- Not abutting private homes
- Existing washroom building
- Central downtown location

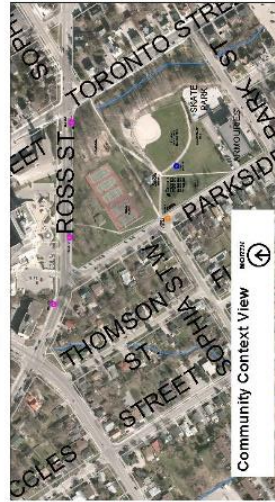
Constraints

- Small garden only - limited room for expansion
- Pay parking



Image 1 Left:
View facing west
towards Parkside
Drive.

Image 2 Right:
View facing east to
ball diamond and
yard hydrant.



Community Context View

LEGEND

- EXISTING YARD HYDRANT
- PARKING
- BUS STOP
- PORTABLE TOILET (OPTIONAL)
- GARDEN SIGN BY CITY
- STANDARD GARDEN PLOT (1.5m x 4.5m)
WITH 1m or 1.5m WIDE AISLES
- STANDARD DOUBLE PLOT (3m x 4.5m)

APPENDIX "C"

Public Information Centre Questionnaire Results and Online Survey Results

PIC Sign in List: 66 names

PIC Questionnaires Received August 16, 2018 Meeting: 67

Online Survey Results Received by August 20, 2018: 66

Total Records: 133

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | Yes | No |
| 1. Do you think this program should be renamed "Allotment Garden Program" to better communicate to the public that this is a garden plot rental program and not free produce for the community? Comments: | <u>85</u> | <u>47</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use signage to educate the public. • <i>OMG NO! HORRID NAME makes me feel like I'm gonna be buried There NO NO NO THIS DOESN'T DO IT</i> • Yes different name - no to the one presented. Not sure public will understand the difference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should encourage the connotation of the word community | | |
| 2. Would you like the City to open an "Allotment Garden" in another park location? | <u>125</u> | <u>7</u> |

If yes, which of the park(s) listed below? Indicate "1" for preferred choice and "2" for second choice.

	Preferred choice	Second choice
Eastview Community Park	35	8
Queen's Park	45	13
Blair Park	2	4
Shear Park	34	14
Bear Creek Park	11	4

Other park location requested:

- East Bayfield Community Centre
- Possibly Shoreview Park because there are several high density apartments nearby as well as a seniors home.
- Vancouver St + Kempenfelt Dr
- Strabane Park
- Coronation Park
- Shear Park
- Any that a) you don't have to pay for parking and b) can expand
- Brock Street Park
- Pringle Park
- Assikinack Park
- St. Vincent Park - near high density/highrise residential
- Berczy Park (great for a free shared space) might be a good way to change the face of the park
- Berczy Park
- Little Lake

- *A garden and/or orchard and memorial forest should be created east of the military Heritage Park at Southshore*

If no, why?

- *I don't know any other parks*
- *Both parks are within close proximity to my home.*
- *Empty city lot.*
- *Other locations are too far away.*
- *Large green area, near condos near stream for water*
- *No location preferred*
- *I don't have enough information yet.*

3. Please indicate your preferred plot size:

- 41 : 1.5 m x 5 m (5' x 15')
- 64 : 3 m x 5 m (10' x 15')
- 17 : 5 m x 5 m (15' x 15')
- 18 : 10 m x 10 m (30' x 30')

Would you like to suggest a different size?

- *Depends on rental cost and park size.*
- *A double plot of 5'x15' works well.*
- *As big as possible for selected lot*
- *Depends on what's being grown.*
- *No*

4. Do you think that water supply is important to have for gardeners?

129 1

- *Absolutely*
- *Rain barrel*
- *Critical*

If yes, would you be willing to pay a higher rental fee for water?

91 38

- *Would be willing to pay more to have mulch and compost supplied - don't own a vehicle; tarps are expensive, too far to haul from grocery store, landlord does not supply bike racks outdoor for parking (parking in locker costs \$15/month)*
- *Love to see free options re: water barrels*
- *Rain barrels?*
- *How about rain barrels*
- *Depends*

Would you be willing to supply your own water in order to have a community garden location near you?

59 69

5. Would you be interested in an elevated plot for accessibility?

95 36

Comments:

- *Not personally - but it's a good idea!*
- *I can manage right now - but it could be useful later years. Taxes are too expensive for me.*
- *N/A to me*

- *If possible, yes.*
- *Necessary!*
- *Yes- and proper path for wheelchair*
- *Back problems*
- *It would be better as stage for my back.*
- *Damn right!*
- *Good idea for those that need it.*
- *If it betters the community awesome*
- *Definitely needed if handicapped or physical issues.*
- *I don't personally need but options would be good - eg. those that need to sit vs bend*
- *Don't personally need it to be accessible but should be some accessible options for those who need it.*
- *Not for me, but seniors might appreciate this*
- *This is better for everyone*
- *I don't need one but many people do.*

6. Is having fencing with a locked gate around a community garden a priority?

66

54

Comments:

- *A locked fence would create an incentive to vandals, and the people who are using the garden might feel stigmatized by a fence. Perhaps a creative security solution, like neighbourhood watch, would suffice.*
- *Not a priority but can see how it may be useful.*
- *Possibly probably saves the program from being called "allotment"*
- *No.*
- *Really depends on the location.*
- *It would help to keep trespassers out.*
- *Yes/No Depending on the neighbourhood. I would add a locked gate only if it became a necessity.*
- *the fence w/ locked gate can also surround the fruit garden and serve the service dogs too.*
- *Aesthetics is important*
- *I didn't realize that this was going to be an allotment garden with plot rentals, so I probably can't participate right now.*
- *Not entirely necessary*
- *Due to thefts*
- *Maybe depending on how it looks*
- *Needed for personal security and to reduce theft.*
- *Personal security as well as safeguarding garden plants & even fenced have been raided once crop came in*
- *What are the learnings from others - yes if it is a deterrent from vandalism/animal damage*
- *If it is on a rental basis and not collective, then individuals will be spending their own money and it should be secure.*
- *No lock but a gate/fence would help things under control*
- *Perhaps or not*
- *I wouldn't like it if kids/animals were messing with the garden therefore I believe that a fence and gate would be needed*
- *Only if necessary*

7. Do you agree that gardeners should be able to re-rent their same plot the following year if they wish?

130 8

Comments:

- Crop rotation/Soil Health
- Yes
- Absolutely!
- Unless being underutilized
- Re-occurring crops, or crops that can take a long time to develop (asparagus)
- Yes. The connection established is important.
- You put lots of work into the garden & need to keep working it.
- As long as there's communal plots available.
- Definitely
- People invest time and materials and shouldn't have to start from scratch every year (waste of time)
- Garden start up of fencing, soil prep etc. take time so should be entitled to return next year to same plot.
- Depends on the feedback. Will there be sponsorships/is there a limit by household?
- If this makes waiting lists too long, then the city needs more gardens. Gardens should keep pace with demand, to avoid waiting lists.
- Marijuana will likely be legal although it may be regulated publicly should specify cannot be grown here
- Unless not being used to a reasonable amount
- This way you could make it your own
- I believe everybody should have a chance to grow their own vegetables
- They should be offered up to previous year plot owner first

8. Are there any changes or additions you would recommend to the Community Garden Policy? Please explain below or attach a page:

- Gardener should include Gardener/Group/Agency
- Consider language that encourages agencies to arrange for plots client programming. Enriches the garden experience for everyone to have ^ diversity of programming & potentially increases sustainability
- Item 10 - Service dogs who demonstrate appropriate public access behaviour are permitted
- Thoughts – water barrels access – policy note re: moquitos – location for compost?
- Item 11 - Consider revising; many garden teach other skills to gardeners ie job readiness in terms of sales, business skills etc. You can increase the impact & achievable outcomes of the garden by limited allowance of this kind of activity. Agree eg., charity support as well.
- This seems like it could be a good way for people to make a little extra income so long as it is within reason.
- Item 18 & 19: Shade area for gardeners – eg. picnic table
Not to weigh down the city with potential bickering
- City of Barrie Responsibilities, Item 5 - Include community input.
- The bottom line is that people who have faced food insecurity should have access to a communal space, rather than allotment only, to grow + harvest food. The experience of using these spaces should not become a stigma.
- The city needs to prioritize community gardens by hiring dedicated staff at city hall who deal with gardens. This is every bit as important as other recreation programs, like organized sports or swimming.

- *Gardeners should be able to sell their food.*
- *N/A*
- *Indicated on markup sheet. Mainly consideration of hybrid models& not strict allotment*
- *Difficult to comment without seeing the policy.*
- *There should be both allotments and communal gardening spots.*
- *Why would the city rent a plot as an allotment and change the idea of a community garden program? Will subsidy be available for those people who cannot afford rent costs?*
- *More of them. Perhaps allow for-profit enterprise on a reasonable scale so long as it doesn't negatively impact other gardeners.*
- *City shouldn't be able to cancel community garden program without notice or good reason.*
- *18. Consider having a system for complaints that doesn't go to the City first (ex: an external/partnered group that can field questions so as to not weigh the city down.*
- *There should be strict adherence to the policy i.e: a 10'x15' is a 10'x15' plot - there seems to be a slow expansion of plot size - a concern for safety and access.*
- *No changes.*
- *We shouldn't have to get it approved by city council EVERYTIME we should have an urban agriculture strategy planned for all future gardens.*
- *No change*
- *Perhaps ensure 25-40% of lots have a lottery if people are interested or rotate every other year.*
- *Just familiarized myself so no comment.*
- *I recommend a change in policy that a space be allotted @ the garden to discard weeds + compostable material*
- *The city should not be able to cancel the program without giving gardeners due notice prior as well as reasoning*
- *Make it a 1 year or 3 yr payment plan so people don't have to remember year to year*
- *Cannot sell vegetables*
- *Once marijuana is legal it should be listed as not allowed to grow. Rented city public gardens not the place for it.*
- *Try to solve the problem yourself first before you complain to the city.*
- *I would ask that there not be any pesticides or chemicals permitted, strictly organic or non-chemical use.*

9. What are your main reasons for wanting to rent a plot to grow your own vegetables?
Check all that apply.

32 Cost savings

87 Fresh organic food

61 Leisure/fitness activity

74 Social connection (persons with similar interests)

67 Lack of space at residence or shaded garden

32 Learning gardening techniques from other gardeners (sharing info)

11 Other:

- *Encourage myself to live a more balanced lifestyle.*
- *The fun of "playing" in the dirt*

- *The fun of*
- *To grow my healthy clean food to feed my boy*
- *Community resilience.*
- *Can give some of crop to various charity groups to feed others*
- *Children learn where food is from*
- *Lower ecological foot print, lower carbon footprint*
- *Volunteer to provide fresh vegetables etc for those in need*
- *To promote local food.*
- *Community building*
- *Climate change mitigation + water filtration.*

10. Any further comments? Feel free to attach a paper.

- *Protected/shared spaces for ACMPR patients to grow medical cannabis should be allowed*
- *The city needs to seriously adopt an urban agriculture strategy. See the City of London, Ont. for information*
- *We need more community gardens all around the city - so I love the new proposals.*
- *See - Unopened road allowance. Location beside wst at corner of Kempenfelt Drive & Vancouver St.*
- *Please integrate this plan with the Shear Park Service Dog off leash plan that has been provided to Cheryl in accessibility office.*
- *This is very important option for the people of Barrie.*
- *Rain barrels on site, work great for water source.*
- *Shared space is essential for building community support. For community gardens please consider communal gardens alongside allotments.*
- *Great to see if a plot can support community groups eg. student 40 hours*
- *A garden close to downtown would be nice because there are many homes without yards. It would also be nice to have a communal plot to promote community as well as providing access to fresh/organic food for low-income people (maybe one plot at each site?)*
- *Higher rent for water -> installation of rain barrels at those parks might help reduce costs of water rental*
- *I feel every location should have 2 plots that would be dedicated to community based incentives. Mental health, school age, senior tours and learning classes and teaching.*
- *Fantastic Staff.*
- *Lets get growing!!! Shared space that would be free for everyone to use would be a great add on*
- *There are so many other municipalities doing this we could model after instead of reinventing the wheel. We should also allow backyard hens.*
- *Great work!*
- *Allotment garden does not sound right but it's still important to communicate that it's a rental system. This can be communicated through signage. "Community" is more positive and attractive and people will know what it is. Consider having a mixture of allotment and communal.*
- *Golden Meadow Park Community Garden - Not enough families in this area need/want to grow food. They barely have enough time to shop @ Zehrs and cook =(.*

11. Map DOT VOTE: a map was provided at the PIC inviting attendees to place a dot on any park where they would like to see a community garden. Results of the Dot Vote are:

1. Assikinack Park – 2
2. Bear Creek Park – 3



3. Berczy Street Park – 1
4. Brown Wood Park – 2
5. College Heights Park – 1
6. Coronation Park – 1
7. Davidson St Gore – 2
8. Dunsmore Park – 1
9. Eastview Community Park – 8
10. HG Robertson Park – 1
11. Lampman Lane Park – 1
12. Lennox Park – 1
13. Little Lake Park South – 1
14. MacMorrison Park – 1
15. Pringle Park – 1
16. Queens Park – 7
17. Riverwood Park – 1
18. Shear Park – 13
19. Shoreview Park – 1
20. St Vincent Park – 1
21. Steel Street Park – 2
22. Tree Top School – 2
23. Vancouver Street unopened Right-of-Way @ Kempenfelt Dr – 1

Demographic Background Information

11. Indicate your level of gardening experience:	Beginner: <u>23</u>	Intermediate: <u>32</u>	Advanced: <u>7</u>	
12. Indicate your age group:	Under 25: <u>14</u>	25– 44: <u>49</u>	45 – 65: <u>51</u>	66+: <u>14</u>
13. Circle your ward:	Ward 1: <u>23</u>			
	Ward 2: <u>35</u>			
	Ward 3: <u>15</u>			
	Ward 4: <u>12</u>			
	Ward 5: <u>8</u>			
	Ward 6: <u>3</u>			
	Ward 7: <u>9</u>			
	Ward 8: <u>16</u>			
	Ward 9: <u>2</u>			
	Ward 10: <u>4</u>			

APPENDIX "D"

Urban Pantry Endorsement

From: Ruth Hardy [mailto:ruth@urbanpantrybarrie.ca]
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Wendy Loevenmark <Wendy.Loevenmark@barrie.ca>
Subject: Our decision

Dear Wendy,

Our statement:

Urban Pantry would like to recommend that their preferred choice of a potential new community garden be located in Shear Park. In planting a fruit forest in Shear Park, Urban Pantry has developed excellent working relationships within the local community and with local schools. However, we feel that Eastview, Queens or Shear Park would all be excellent choices of garden location to help meet the demographic of economically vulnerable people who are the main target user group of Urban Pantry.

Thank you again for all your efforts.

Kind regards,

Ruth Hardy

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Ruth Hardy, BSc
Urban Agriculture Development Coordinator