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**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICY

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** W. FISCHER, B.L.A. *W. Fischer* *SR*  
SUPERVISOR OF PARKS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (EXT. 5101)

**SUBMITTED BY:** R. W. MCARTHUR, P. Eng. *R. W. McArthur*  
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** R. J. FORWARD, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng. *R. J. Forward*  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** JON M. BABULIC *Jon M. Babulic*  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That the Sunnidale Park Community Garden continue as a pilot program for 2011.
2. That Golden Meadow Park be implemented as a location for a second community garden as part of the 2011 pilot program.
3. That the existing draft Community Garden Policy be amended based on recommendations contained in Appendix "B" of Staff Report ENG020-11.
4. That staff make best efforts to obtain non tax based funding associated with the implementation of community gardens.
5. That the 2011 Fees By-law be modified to include a community garden plot rental fee of \$50.00 for a larger (double size) 3 metre by 4.5 metre garden plot and to remove the listed provisional cost for an additional area at a rate of \$1.00/m<sup>2</sup>.

**PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

6. On June 22, 2009, City Council adopted Motion 09-G-290 regarding the Community Garden Policy as follows (see Appendix "A" for the Community Garden Program History):
  - (a) That staff make best efforts to implement portions of the Sunnidale Park Community Garden Pilot Project in 2009 subject to community interest.
  - (b) That a Sunnidale Park Community Garden Pilot Project, associated yard hydrant and portable toilet be considered for inclusion in the 2010 Capital Plan and Budget in the location identified in the Sunnidale Park Master Plan.
  - (c) That the remaining works associated with the Sunnidale Park Community Garden be considered for inclusion in the 2011–2020 Capital Plan and Budget.
  - (d) That the Engineering Department hold a Public Information Centre on other potential Community Garden locations in the City of Barrie and report back to General Committee upon completion of the one year pilot project.
  - (e) That the Draft Community Garden Policy be approved, in principle, but updated upon completion of the one year pilot project and report back to General Committee.

- (f) That staff make best efforts to obtain non tax based funding associated with the implementation of the proposed Community Garden Pilot Project.
  - (g) That the Fees By-law 2009-020 be amended to include a Community Garden rental fee of \$20.00 per standard 1.5 metre by 4.5 metre garden plot plus \$1.00 / m<sup>2</sup> for additional area. (ENG030-09) (File: R04-C0) (P6/09)
7. In November 2009, Living Green Barrie provided a grant to Urban Harvester, a local business that provides edible landscape consulting services to coordinate the installation of 35 plots at the Sunnidale Community Garden through volunteer labour and to oversee the establishment of the new garden. The City installed fencing, a portable toilet, and supplied mulch and topsoil from the Environmental Centre. The plots were fully rented by March 2010 with a waiting list of 15 people. The Sunnidale Community Garden was officially opened in April 2010 without water service or a parking lot.
8. In September 2010, staff circulated a questionnaire to all the gardeners to evaluate the pilot project, and received a 23% response rate. The respondents were an even mix between beginner and experienced gardeners within a wide range of ages. All of the gardeners recommended continuing the program with a strong interest in expanding the program to the other locations originally considered. Strong concern was expressed regarding the lack of water on-site, safe access and keeping up on maintenance (weeding). It was also agreed that the position of Garden Coordinator should be shared because it was too much work for one person.
9. Based on the extremely positive feedback received through the questionnaire, the City permitted gardeners to re-rent their plots, in accordance with the draft Community Garden Policy, in anticipation of the continuation of the Community Garden Program in some form in 2011. The remaining plots were made available to general residents to rent beginning December 1, 2010. Currently for the Sunnidale Park Community Garden, 100% of the community garden plots have already been rented prior to the start of the 2011 spring planting season. Several modifications to the draft Community Garden Policy are proposed based on feedback received.

## **ANALYSIS**

10. On March 3, 2011, staff held a Public Information Centre to consult with residents as per Council Motion 09-G-290. Staff reviewed the existing Community Garden Policy and Garden Contract (see Appendix "B"). There are seven (7) potential locations for new community gardens (see Appendix "C" Locations Summary). A questionnaire was provided to capture public preferences.
11. The sign-in sheet records that 30 people signed in at the Public Information Centre. Staff received 23 questionnaires, in total, (refer to Appendix "D" for questionnaire results). The comments are summarized as follows:
- **The Community Garden Policy**
    - i) Option for larger plots
    - ii) Maintain current fee
    - iii) Pick your own plot from available options
    - iv) Clear emphasis on organic gardening methods
    - v) City stay out of management
  - **Garden Locations**
    - i) Expand Sunnidale Park Community Garden and open another location
    - ii) Preferred locations: Golden Meadow Park and Nelson Square
    - iii) Preference for a water supply
    - iv) Buy in from local neighbourhood
    - v) Development driven by local neighbourhood
    - vi) Strong opposition to waterfront park locations, especially Kempenfelt Park and St. Vincent Street Park
    - vii) New locations suggested included City Operations Centre on Ferndale Drive.

- **Demographics**
    - i) Most respondents considered themselves experienced gardeners
    - ii) Most respondents were over 40 years of age
    - iii) Most of the respondents live in either Ward 1 or Ward 2. There were no respondents from Wards 5, 6, 7, or 9.
12. Overall, the Community Garden Policy (Appendix "B") seems to function well. There are several modifications that would benefit the long-term goals of the policy as outlined in Appendix "B" including an increased size of garden plot and rental changes for the plots.
  13. Further to public feedback, the current community garden in Sunnidale Park continues to be an acceptable location although lacking in water service and parking. Staff postulate that the long-term success of this location is dependent on water service and parking which would also serve the well-used dog off leash area users. Once this servicing and parking is in place, staff recommend that the existing garden be expanded along its southern boundary to double its capacity.
  14. Gardeners in the 2010 program resided in most areas within the City (see Appendix "E"). This indicates a willingness to drive leading to the need for a facility best fit rather than tailored local demand at this early stage in the development of community gardens in Barrie (this suggests that staff could explore the suggestion to locate a community garden at the Operations Centre) although, in the long term, local gardens should meet local needs and support active transportation access.
  15. Nelson Square was also identified as a potential location. Nelson Square is within walking distance of many apartment buildings along the waterfront as well as being adjacent to the Parkview Senior Centre. The questionnaire indicated a strong interest in accessible community gardens, and Nelson Square currently offers the only existing accessible washrooms that could accompany a community garden of the sites reviewed to date. The locations were presented at the North Shore Trail Vegetation Master Plan Public Information Centre. Some comments suggested that more activity in Nelson Square would help to alleviate some of the security issues reported along the North Shore Trail such as panhandling. Gardening remains one of the top leisure activities and favoured by baby boomers. With more consultation with staff and residents, Nelson Square could be explored further as a viable option if demand and interest increases.
  16. Residents have expressed concerns and opposition to the proposed location within the Trans Canada Pipeline Corridor in the Sundew Drive area. Their objections relate to the garden's location, appearance, and facilities that would be required to start up a new garden (i.e. compost and mulch piles, portable toilet, fencing and the role of the volunteer coordinator). Staff will not be recommending a community garden at this location. As several of the original gardeners originate from the southwest sector of Barrie, staff will continue to look at alternative locations in the area and potentially in new parkland within the future annexation lands.
  17. Golden Meadow Park was identified as the preferred location for a new second community garden. This would place an alternative location in the south end with easy access by transit and is therefore being recommended by staff as an additional community garden pilot site.
  18. Dunsmore Park was favoured by questionnaire respondents. Dunsmore Park is anticipated for redesign in the 2012 Capital Plan, and a community garden is therefore being considered by staff to be included in its programming design pending the outcome of the pilot program.

19. The 2010 Pilot Program and subsequent feedback had not been completed prior to the development of the 2011-2020 Business Plan. As a result, exclusive Community Garden elements were not included for consideration in the Business Plan. The proposed parking lot in Sunnidale Park associated with the Dog Off Leash Recreation Area and Community Garden was considered and is currently being proposed for the 2012 Business Plan.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

20. The following environmental matters have been considered in the development of the Community Garden Policy and Contract:

- Providing additional community garden locations will reduce automobile use.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

21. The following Alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

**Alternative #1** General Committee could direct staff not to continue to implement the pilot program for 2011 which is proposed to include Sunnidale Park and a new location at Golden Meadow Park.

This Alternative is not recommended based on the extensive benefits and opportunities afforded by community gardens, at a very low cost to the municipality. This would also not allow the City to further refine the Community Garden policy and potentially establish the Community Garden as a permanent program for the City.

**Alternative #2** General Committee could choose to not approve the amendments to the Policy.

This is not recommended as it does not reflect the gardener's requests to enhance the Community Garden Program.

#### **FINANCIAL**

22. In keeping with the principle from Council Motion 09-G-290 directing staff to obtain non tax based funding to implement the pilot project garden; Urban Harvester has applied to Wal-Mart-Evergreen Green Grants (<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/funding/grants/walmart.sn>) for the establishment of the Golden Meadow Community Garden. Wal-Mart Canada and the Evergreen Foundation have joined to offer a national program funding up to 50% of a project's cost to a maximum of \$10,000 for community-based stewardship initiatives in urban areas. Urban Harvester would use the requested \$7,000 in grant funds to offset consulting fees and volunteer honorariums to build the new garden, as well as furnish it with gardening tools, supplies, storage and native plant material.
23. The remaining 50% of the project's costs, based on the Wal-Mart Evergreen Foundation application, is established from the City's in-kind funding in the form of staff salaries, the supply of existing printed promotional materials and the supply and delivery of mulch and compost for the community gardens. A portable toilet that is currently part of the existing park program at Golden Meadow Park can be utilized by community gardeners.
24. Urban Harvester, as noted previously, pursued and received funding through Living Green Barrie in 2009 for the establishment of the Sunnidale Community Garden.

25. Staff time required to continue to administer the Sunnidale Park community garden, is estimated at approximately 100 hours of staff time (Engineering Parks Planning and Parks Operations) for an estimate of approximately \$6,500. For a new garden to be administered, staff estimate this new location would be approximately 25% more time to establish (\$8,000 in total).
26. Gardeners will obtain water through an existing yard hydrant in Golden Meadow Park that currently supplies water for the winter ice rink. By allowing the gardeners to use this water supply, there will be an increase in water consumption at this park location from May to September. Consumption for this community garden will be monitored through the water meter on the yard hydrant. Determining the actual volume used by gardeners will assist City staff in establishing appropriate fees for water usage in the future.
27. Staff will consider a program change to establish the Community Garden Program as a permanent level of service as part of the 2012 Business Plan.
28. In response to feedback received from residents at the March Public Information Centre, gardeners requested both an option for a larger plot size and higher plot rental fee. It was felt that an increased plot rental fee would encourage more commitment towards the maintenance of a larger garden plot. For a double plot size (3 metres by 4.5 metres), staff are suggesting a plot rental fee of \$50.00. With the double plot size now available, the provisional cost noted for the additional area of \$1.00 per square metre within the Fees By-law 2010-020 is no longer required.

**LINKAGE TO 2010 – 2014 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

29. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan:
  - ☒ Improve and Expand Community Involvement and City Interactions
30. Based on the recent Public Open House, City Staff have requested and received public feedback on its current policy and new locations for community gardens in the City. This feedback, beyond what was received in 2009 during the development of our first community garden at Sunnidale Park, has allowed for increased opportunities for public input.

**APPENDIX "A"**

**Community Garden Program History**

1. The City of Barrie Community Garden Policy defines community gardens as:

“...outdoor spaces on designated public lands where Barrie residents meet to grow and care for vegetables and flowers, and where the gardeners pay a small annual fee to the City to register and rent their own plot and take initiative and responsibility for organizing, maintaining and managing the garden area.”
2. Staff received a request from a resident in the spring of 2008 through the Community in Blooms Committee to use a portion of municipal land for a community garden, reflecting a revived interest in community gardens in Barrie. Prior to 2000, community gardens were attempted in Allandale Station Park and Sunnidale Park on an informal basis. The community garden projects started with high enthusiasm but after several seasons fell into neglect. The Operations Department then closed the gardens and restored the landscape to turf. To achieve a more successful outcome this time, a policy was needed to avoid misuse of public lands and to ensure a standardized approach to renting a garden plot.
3. On February 2, 2009, City Council adopted Motion 09-G-026 regarding Community Garden(s) as follows:

“That Staff in the Engineering Department investigate the creation of a Community Food Garden Policy for the City of Barrie;

That as part of the investigation, appropriate locations for community gardens on City lands be identified; and

That Staff report back to the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee by April, 2009.”
4. On April 27, 2009, Resolution 09-A-026 directed staff to report directly back to General Committee as follows:

“That further to Motion 09-G-026 concerning a Community Food Garden, staff report directly to General Committee with the proposed Community Food Garden Policy.”
5. On June 8, 2009, Council approved the Sunnidale Park Master Plan which included the recommendation for a community garden off of Coulter Street as part of its Phase 1 implementation plan (years 1 to 3).
6. A draft policy was prepared and reviewed by the Simcoe County District Health Unit, Good for Life, Living Green Barrie, the Barrie Community Health Centre and the resident submitting the original request. The draft policy was also reviewed by the Operations Department, Real Estate Services, Finance Department, By-law and Parks Planning. The new policy proposed that residents assume the responsibility for all details related to garden management thus encouraging a citizen-driven approach. The role of the City would be to supply and administer (but not manage) the land for the gardeners. Gardeners would be required to follow the Community Garden Policy and to sign a Community Garden Contract which includes a hold-harmless clause protecting the municipality against all liability.
7. Through consultation with the Communities In Bloom Committee, Staff identified five potential locations suitable for community gardens that would ensure equal distribution across Barrie: Pringle Park, Sunnidale Park (off of Coulter Street), Bayshore Park, Dunsmore Lane and the TransCanada Pipeline Corridor. Selection criteria for these locations included: underutilized land, balanced distribution across the City, parking access, park vehicle access, emergency vehicle access, potential future access to water service, compatibility with existing passive park uses, opportunity for future expansion, adequate daylight hours and adjacent neighbourhood. Community gardens proposed in existing or proposed high density neighbourhoods, within walking distance, were preferred. Sunnidale Park was recommended as the location for a pilot project.

APPENDIX "B"

**Amended Community Garden Policy and Gardener's Contract**  
(new items noted in bold text)

The City of Barrie supports the use of public and private land for community gardening. City owned community garden sites will be subject to Council approval and shall only be used by City of Barrie residents in accordance with the Community Garden Policy and Contract. Where land is owned by the City of Barrie, but leased to another party, use of that proposed site as a Community Garden shall be subject to the lessee's approval as well. Gardeners shall sign the Community Garden Contract and abide by the Community Garden Policy.

City of Barrie Community Gardens are outdoor spaces on designated public lands where Barrie residents meet to grow and care for vegetables and flowers, and where the gardeners pay a small annual fee to the City to register and rent their own plot and take initiative and responsibility for organizing, maintaining and managing the garden area. Each Community Garden location must select one person to act as their Garden Coordinator who shall be the main contact person with the City.

**Responsibilities**

**Gardener**

1. Will pay an annual plot rental fee to rent a garden plot within a designated Community Garden Area.
2. The period of the plot rental shall be seasonal. Fall cleanup of the garden is required. All aboveground material, including stakes, must be removed by October 31 **unless the gardener has reserved the same plot for the following year; then only perennials may remain.**
3. Plots will be assigned on a first-come/first-serve basis. Gardeners wishing to reserve their same plot for the next year shall register for that plot by October 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
4. Garden plots must be planted by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. If a gardener is unable to continue gardening, he/she shall notify his/her Garden Coordinator or the City of Barrie Community Garden Program Administrator. Gardeners wishing to cancel mid-season should notify his/her Garden Coordinator or City of Barrie so that plots may be reassigned. There will be no fee reimbursement and all aboveground material, including stakes, must be removed by the gardener.
5. Pesticide use is discouraged. Fertilizers must be used as per manufacturer's instructions and shall not be left on-site unattended at any time. Organic fertilizers are recommended.
6. Gardeners shall keep their plots weeded and tidy and maintain tidy pathways **of one long edge and one short edge** surrounding their plot.
7. If a gardener's garden bed is unkempt, they will be given two (2) weeks notice to clean it up. If they do not comply in two weeks, their bed may be reassigned and their annual fee forfeited at the discretion of the Garden Coordinator and/or the City of Barrie.
8. Gardeners will not plant corn and any tall crops where they will shade other people's plots unless the gardener can demonstrate that there will not be a negative effect. Illegal plants are strictly prohibited. Trees and other woody plants are not allowed on garden plots unless the gardener can demonstrate that there will not be a negative effect. Vegetables, grains, berries, fruits, beans, herbs and flowers (annuals and perennials) are allowed on garden plots.
9. Smoking on City lands is prohibited as per By-law 88-260 Section 4.1.1.
10. Pets are not allowed in the garden.
11. Gardeners shall not sell garden produce or engage in for-profit business practices. Gardeners may fundraise towards site improvements.
12. All structures shall be approved by the City of Barrie and must be in compliance with zoning and building requirements. Installation of any fencing, boards or any other materials to enclose the individual garden plots requires consent from the City of Barrie.

13. Vehicles are not permitted in public parkland as per City By-law 88-260.4 unless they are within designated parking areas.
14. Gasoline or other flammable or toxic substances shall not be stored overnight in any designated Community Garden Area.
15. Please report any vandalism to the Garden Coordinator and the City of Barrie. Repairs must be completed in a timely manner in accordance with the Property Standards By-law 2006-262 within 14 days.
16. Each gardener's contact information will be provided to their Garden Coordinator and the City of Barrie. The Garden Coordinator's contact information shall be shared with other Garden Coordinators and posted on the City of Barrie website.
17. Theft of items, in or around the garden, will result in expulsion from the garden.
18. Any member who feels rules governing the garden have been violated, is to provide a written complaint to the Garden Coordinator and the City of Barrie.
19. Gardeners shall not remove corner garden plot stakes.

#### **City of Barrie**

1. Community garden plot sizes, layout and locations shall be determined or approved by the City. Typical plot sizes shall be 1.5 metres by 4.5 metres **and/or 3 metres by 4.5 metres**. Plots are to be marked with four corner stakes.
2. City staff will supply, place and empty recycling and trash containers as part of routine property maintenance.
3. City staff will conduct the regular inspection of garden areas. If any contravention of rules is found, the Garden Coordinator will be notified, and it may result in the cancellation of the gardener's privileges.
4. All produce, crops, or personal property belonging to the gardener must be removed by October 31, unless the gardener has reserved the same plot for the following year; only then, perennials may remain. After the expiration of the above period, any produce, crops, or other personal property shall be disposed of at the discretion of the City, and there shall be no liability of such disposal.
5. The City of Barrie reserves the right to discontinue the program at any time with written notice to all gardeners.

#### **Gardener's Code of Conduct**

1. Be considerate of neighbours when planting garden plots.
2. Pick only your own crops unless permission is given by the other gardener.
3. Gardeners are responsible for supervising those individuals they bring to the garden including other adults, youths and children.
4. Abide by all City of Barrie By-laws.
5. Work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden peacefully in a neighbourly manner.
6. Use on-site recycling, compost and trash bins as provided. Community Garden groups are encouraged to establish and maintain a composting area.
7. Laneways and paths are to be kept clear of obstacles. Tools and personal property must not be left on the site overnight.
8. Loud music is prohibited. Please respect the neighbours.



**Sunnidale Park Community Garden  
2011 Plot Rental Contract**

I understand and agree to all the Responsibilities set forth by the City of Barrie Community Garden Policy and Contract. I am a resident of the City of Barrie.

Name of Gardener: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount due: \$22.60 (\$20 + 13% HST) *Please note, only one plot per person, first-come/first-serve.*

Payment Method: ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque

**Hold Harmless Clause**

I understand that neither the Garden Coordinator nor the City of Barrie is responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CITY OF BARRIE FOR ANY NEGLIGENCE, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE GARDEN BY MYSELF, MY FAMILY, ASSOCIATES, OR ANY OTHER OF MY GUESTS.

Signed/Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you are interested in being a Garden Coordinator, please fill out the Garden Coordinator section below:*

**Garden Coordinator**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Garden Coordinator) understand that as Garden Coordinator I am responsible for the following:

1. *Being the person that City staff will contact regarding site issues (e.g. tools left on site, site upkeep etc.). Duties include but are not limited to; coordinating overall site upkeep, fall cleanup and compost maintenance.*
2. *Orienting new gardeners on operating procedures, horticultural information, coordinating trash removal, mulch, composting activities and cleanup days, answering questions and settling disputes.*
3. *Maintaining a current list of gardeners for communication purposes.*
4. *Arranging to repair any vandalism as quickly as possible.*
5. *In the event of non-compliance with the Garden's Responsibilities, a written notice will be issued to the gardener. If, at the end of a two-week period, the problem has not been solved, the plot may be reassigned and the gardener's gardening privileges revoked.*
6. *Informing the City of the above responsibilities cannot be fulfilled.*
7. *Organizing the annual selection of the Garden Coordinator.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY USE ONLY**

Plot Number Assigned:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX "C"

**Summary of Proposed Community Garden Locations and Staff Recommendations**

Park	Opportunities	Constraints	Recommendation
<b>PRINGLE Option 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing flat surface from uncompleted basketball court, adjacent to future school</li> <li>Existing water service, on-street parking</li> <li>Good south exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little high density development in the area</li> <li>Previous winter use as ice rink</li> <li>No room for expansion</li> </ul>	Explore alternate park location if future demand warrants
<b>PRINGLE Option 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjacent to Pringle Drive for good security</li> <li>Existing water service in the park, ability to connect to garden, on-street parking</li> <li>Good south exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little high density development in the area</li> <li>Little room for expansion</li> <li>Community reports existing use</li> </ul>	Explore alternate park location if future demand warrants
<b>DUNSMORE LANE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South exposure, on-street parking, visual security</li> <li>Close to town homes and Georgian College</li> <li>Location minimizes impacts on adjacent residents to the east</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potentially a storm water pond</li> <li>Limited space for expansion</li> </ul>	Proceed with Council approval
<b>GOLDEN MEADOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing parking lot, water service, bus stop, on intersection for security, full sun, portable toilet</li> <li>Residents have small back yards</li> <li>No neighbour backs onto proposed garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No high density development in the area</li> <li>Change in park use – impact on neighbours</li> </ul>	Proceed with Council approval
<b>KEMPENFELT PARK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing high density residential area</li> <li>On-street parking, south exposure, downtown</li> <li>Increased park activity adds safety and sense of community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No existing water or expansion</li> <li>Potential security of garden and infrastructure</li> <li>Loss of park space and view</li> </ul>	Explore alternate park location if future demand warrants
<b>ST. VINCENT PARK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjacent to high density residential area</li> <li>Existing washroom building, south exposure</li> <li>Parking available on street, bus stop</li> <li>Close to downtown as requested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocate specific trees</li> <li>Small garden only</li> <li>No existing water, can service</li> </ul>	Consult public on park location if future demand warrants
<b>NELSON SQUARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On street parking, bus stop, south exposure</li> <li>Underutilized park, opportunity to increase activity and security, link to senior's programs</li> <li>Washrooms available at Parkview Senior Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small garden only</li> <li>Change in park use – impact on neighbours</li> <li>May need to relocate an internal tree</li> </ul>	Consult public on park location if future demand warrants
<b>TRANS CANADA PIPELINE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available on-street parking</li> <li>Significant underutilized easement lands available</li> <li>South exposure</li> <li>Residents have small yards</li> <li>Sundew Drive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development restrictions and legal agreements required</li> <li>No existing water – can service</li> <li>Potential visual impact on neighbours across the street</li> <li>Concern expressed at PIC regarding more urban wildlife being attracted</li> </ul>	Consult public on park location if future demand warrants

APPENDIX "D"

**Community Garden Program Public Information Centre Questionnaire Results**



Parks Planning & Development Section

**Community Garden Program  
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

Public Information Centre, March 3, 2011

**Total Responses received: 23**

**Demographic Background**

1. Circle your level of gardening experience:      3 (13%) Beginner    10 (44%) Intermediate    4 (17%) Advanced
2. Circle your age group:    0 (0%) Under 25                      3 (13%) 25-40                      10 (44%) 40-55                      10 (44%) 55+
3. Circle your Ward: 13 WARD 1 (B. Ainsworth)(56%)    4 WARD 2 (L. Strachan) (17%)    1 WARD 3 (D. Shipley)(4%)  
1 WARD 4 (B. Ward) (4%)                      0 WARD 5 (P. Silveira) (0%)                      0 WARD 6 (M. Prowse) (0%)  
0 WARD 7 (J. Brassard) (0%)                      2 WARD 8 (J. Robinson)(9%)                      0 WARD 9 (B. Jackson) (0%)  
1 WARD 10 (A. Nuttall) (4%)

**QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY**

1. Would you like to see the Sunnidale Community Garden location expanded?  
15 Yes (65%)    4 No (17%)
2. Would you like the City to open a Community Garden in another Park location?  
14 Yes (61%)    6 No (26%)

If yes, which park(s)? Please circle and number in order of preference (*top three preferences recorded, with no.1 = 3 points, no.2 = 2 points and no.3 pick = 1 point. If no preference is given all get 3 points.*)

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 18 | Nelson Square                                 |
| 18 | Golden Meadow Park                            |
| 13 | Dunsmore Park                                 |
| 12 | Trans Canada Pipeline Corridor – Sundew Drive |
| 9  | Kempfenfelt Park                              |
| 9  | Wildflower Park at Minet's                    |
| 9  | Bayview                                       |
| 8  | St. Vincent Park                              |
| 6  | Ferndale Drive City Greenhouse                |
| 4  | Pringle Park Option 2                         |
| 3  | Greenfield Park                               |
| 3  | Little Lake                                   |
| 0  | Pringle Park Option 1                         |
| 6  | Nowhere on the waterfront                     |
| 12 | NOT Nelson Square                             |
| 21 | NOT St. Vincent                               |
| 24 | NOT Kempfenfelt                               |

**Comments**

- a. Absolutely nowhere on the waterfront
- b. St.Vincent/Kempfenfelt – highly used in the Spring/Summer, also limited parking.
- c. Nelson Square – absolutely – underutilized – has parking, seniors centre with washroom.
- d. Don't care for any of these options
- e. Kempfenfelt Park garden not appropriate – that area definitely used on summer days by people relaxing.
- f. Kempfenfelt Park is very inappropriate. That park is highly utilized. It would kill that park. Parking is insufficient.
- g. No water view parks! Not in St. Vincent and Kempfenfelt Park.

## Community Garden Program QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Public Information Centre, March 3, 2011

- h. *If necessary Operations Centre or Bayview or Wildflower Park at Minet's.*
  - i. *Perhaps Wildflower Park or Bayview Park*
  - j. *Greenfield Park*
  - k. *Wildflower Park Lake Shore*
3. Would you be willing to supply your own water in order to have a community garden location near you?  
8 Yes (35%) 11 No (48%)  
 a. *As a senior, water is heavy.*  
 b. *Yes, but it's not convenient*
4. Some of the characteristics of an optimal Community Garden include *water supply, fencing, shed storage, individual and communal plots, a garden coordinator, shared tools, free compost and mulch supply, parking or near a bus stop or close to home, low rental fee, toilet access, full sun exposure, shade spot for breaks* – are there other features you'd like to see?  
 a. *Advertise and explain gardens are for individuals or groups – the word community garden is misleading. It suggests that the proceeds are for the community i.e. Food bank.*  
 b. *A portion of the yield being donated to the Grocery Assistance Program.*  
 c. *Raised plots – easier on the back.*  
 d. *Commitment from neighbours in which you select a park.*
5. Would you be interested in a larger plot size (now 5'x15' or 75ft<sup>2</sup>)?  
5 Yes (22%) 14 No (61%)  
 If yes, how big?  
1 - *5'x25' (125ft<sup>2</sup>)*  
1 - *5'x20' (100ft<sup>2</sup>)*  
1 - *10'x15' (150ft<sup>2</sup>)*  
1 - *10'x30' (300ft<sup>2</sup>)*  
1 - *20'x20' (400ft<sup>2</sup>)*
6. Do you think the \$20 rental fee (plus HST) is a fair fee or do you think a higher fee would encourage a higher level of personal commitment towards the ongoing use of a plot?  
13 Yes (56%) 7 No (30% with 13% suggesting \$50 - \$100)  
 If no, what would you suggest?  
 a. *It needs to be an affordable fee for all*  
 b. *\$100.00 minimum*  
 c. *\$50.00*  
 d. *\$50-\$100*  
 e. *Don't charge more - it will discourage the population you are trying to attract.*
7. Do you think that two weeks is fair notice to complete tidying to a gardener with an unkempt plot?  
17 Yes (74%) 4 No (17%) What do you suggest?  
 a. *3-4 weeks allowing for vacation.*  
 b. *Provided they are contacted directly and have no valid reason for not maintaining plot.*  
 c. *Provided they are not on holidays or ill.*  
 d. *More than enough as seed from weeds will affect other plots and intent of the plot.*  
 e. *Three days.*  
 f. *Minimum two weeks.*  
 g. *If they are not interested, pass it on to someone who is.*
8. Do you agree that gardeners should be able to re-rent their same plot the following year if they wish?  
20 Yes (87%) 0 No (0%)  
 a. *Some people worked very hard.*  
 b. *In England, some families keep the same plot for generations.*  
 c. *Openings could be lottery system, like Marina.*  
 d. *Policy #3 states they can along as register by Oct.31 of current year.*  
 e. *Within reason – maybe put a three year limit on it*  
 f. *Only if they have been responsible and used it.*

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- f. *If they have fulfilled the intent/regulations.*
  - g. *Builds commitment.*
9. Do you think that people signing up for plots should be assigned a plot in order of sign-up or should they be able to pick their plot from the available selection?
- 4 Be Assigned (17%)                      14 Pick (61%)
- a. *Best to pick out of a hat.*
  - b. *More pride of ownership if you can pick. We are not talking high numbers of people – easily manageable.*
10. Do you agree that the emphasis should be on organic gardening methods, including organic fertilizers and avoiding pesticides?
- 21 Yes (91%)    1 No (4%)
- a. *Avoid pesticides.*
  - b. *Sustainable farming focus.*
  - c. *To the best of own abilities, include compost and mulching.*
  - d. *It should be required. I would likely leave if my neighbour was using pesticides.*
  - e. *Through correct planting methods and weed care – no pesticides should be necessary. Safety issue.*
  - f. *Depends, follow North Bay – leadership in this area.*
  - g. *Follows provincial guidelines.*
11. Are there any other responsibilities that should be added for the Gardener or the City in the Community Garden Policy?
- 7 No                      6 Yes – please elaborate below or attach page
- a. *The City should only administer the rental NOT provide gardening advice or staff to teach gardening. This could deter average gardener.*
  - b. *I think the community should be more involved.*
  - c. *Everyone needs to help with general maintenance.*
  - d. *Regular weeding/maintenance policy of the plot.*
  - e. *Weekly/tending cleaning & work in the park for litter pick up weeding /maintenance.*
  - f. *Area cleanliness no tools/bags/equipment left out and in sight.*
  - g. *Annual review of usage, appearance, popularity. Add them to apartment buildings as part of beautification of property.*
  - h. *Enhance the park they're using, select sites available to young children.*
12. Do you have any further comments regarding the existing Community Garden Policy?
- a. *This in my first year to do a garden, questions will arise through the season.*
  - b. *Expand and keep growing, grow local, grow healthy*
  - c. *Keep consulting, expand, expand, expand*
  - d. *It's a great concept – good work! However, please reference under "Responsibilities" #11 – how does this reconcile with the courses being provided by Kyla Cotton? (instructor for gardening program courses offered through COB Recreation Guide)*
  - e. *It is important to bring the Community Gardens to underutilized parks – which will build community.*
  - f. *There is absolutely no way community gardens should be in waterfront parks – we want to encourage people to use them for walking, watching, fireworks etc.*
  - g. *Select parks where groups can work in existing parks i.e. Blake/Dunlop at Bayclub, top of St. Vincent st.*
  - h. *Let neighbourhoods ask/request and dictate to the City as desire. From the people to the City, not City to the neighbourhood.*
  - i. *Make sure you know what OTHER groups are doing i.e. Back to Basics & where their gardens are.*
13. Would you be interested in a wheelchair accessible community garden?
- 13 Yes (56%)    3 No (13%)
- a. *Sunnidale garden is already wheelchair accessible.*
  - b. *Equal accessibility is key.*
  - c. *For future thought.*
14. How can we improve the Community Garden Program? Feel free to use the back of the paper.
- a. *Advertise more as individual lots in many places call allotments.*
  - b. *Advertising.*
  - c. *Always ensure ample water.*
  - d. *Just keep increasing the # of plots.*
  - e. *Expand, promote, get it going.*

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- f. Select parks that are not already enjoyed and busy. Parks that are successful loved leave them to be enjoyed.
- g. Wait for community to propose to the City and check with entire neighbourhood - especially Tax payers.
- h. Careful selection of park.
- i. Make sure you get information about the project out better to citizens. Lots of lead time.

15. Any further comments? Feel free to use the back of the paper or attach paper.

- a. Have some where the Bradford green houses teach children as a community (-unknown word-) they have the ground, purchase of plants right there. Nominal charge to kids i.e. \$5.00. Otherwise costs proceeds those who really need to learn how to grow vegetables i.e. single parents, Canada Works recipients etc Does the City really need to hire a teacher when volunteers could do this.
- b. Post notices in apartment building "grow your own vegetables, rent a lot" Keep City out it except for renting and allocating. Include compost and mulch on the rent. Use volunteer garden contacts. Good luck.
- c. Water should be on site. If people have to bring water from home, you will limit the age of people, seniors – children or disabled?? All new sites should have water on demand, number one issue.
- d. In reviewing the list of parks for future Community Garden sites it is very important that the Parks Planning & Development Committee take into consideration the problem that three of them pose. St. Vincent Park, Kempenfelt Park and Nelson Square are ALL along roads that young people walk on their way home (back up to the East End) from the downtown bars any given night of the week. My father was an avid gardener and took great pleasure in his garden plot that was made available to him years back along the Cundles Road East area. I cannot even begin to fathom his distress if when arriving to his garden in the morning to find out that 'bar patrons' had kicked in his tomato plants, stomped on his beans or destroyed his budding pumpkins. This is could be a very real and possible situation is gardens are planned in any of these three very open and 'short cut' home parks. I hope the committee takes this into very serious consideration as I am sure they do not want to hear the 'emotions' of the gardeners when their gardens have been wantonly trespassed and destroyed by partiers returning home after a night of drinking at the bars downtown! The waterfront area parks in Barrie (Kempenfelt, St. Vincent are for the tranquil enjoyment of our greatest assets, not for gardening.
- e. Local food is a growing concern we need to teach people how to grow their own food.
- f. Please note if the Golden Meadow Community Garden is approved, I would like to buy a plot. Please contact me at 705-730-0790. We are on the right track, land for food not removing trees etc ... a good thing.
- g. Along North Shore Trail, Nelson Square is the only viable option. Kempenfelt Park is the only park with a view – people use it for picnics, tai chi, boot camps, picture taking etc.etc. A garden there is a BAD idea. St. Vincent – my concern is it is heavily used by groups and my worry is this would impinge on usage.
- h. Is there available land near Holly Community Centre – bathrooms already there!
- i. Georgian College – parking?? Garden to table – teaching unit with students.
- j. Southshore area – bathrooms available, parking, a plot should easily be formed here.
- k. Plots – locations like Sunnidale are excellent – not invasive to residents. Parking/bathroom in walking distance/public areas/ water is important.
- l. Both Kempenfelt Park and St. Vincent Park are extremely well utilized year round by a wide variety of users. During the summer months, these parks often become 'over utilized'. The area in which these parks are situated in an older established residential area that experiences fairly heavy year round traffic flow, both vehicular and pedestrian. Considering the addition of another 'new' use to these already well utilized parks, that do not have adequate parking, will only make an already tenuous situation worse and frustrate all users trying to access the park as well as area resident simply trying to navigate their way home. Parking is a functional issue as well as a safety issue for Kempenfelt Park and St. Vincent Park users and residents. Events or gatherings now take place at these parks during the summer months almost every weeknight and weekend which is due to the size of our city and the number of active groups we have. Kempenfelt Drive, the actual roadway itself, is also used by many people who are exercising using the paved road surface (runners, cyclists and rollerbladers), all through the day and night; however the main concentration occurs at the same time as the gatherings at the parks -the streets become congested with parked cars on both sides, people interact with moving vehicles in tight proximity. Cars are regularly parked illegally at the corner of Kempenfelt Drive and St. Vincent Square blocking all vision of oncoming traffic for drivers making a right hand turn. When these gatherings occur, residents often end up sharing their driveways with park users who are unloading or turning their vehicles around. The fence on the western perimeter of St. Vincent Park has become the ad hoc back stop for soccer balls, baseballs as young families teach their typically pre-school children new sports. Placing partitioning gardening fences in this park will surely frustrate many users of the park. Removing any usable 'real estate' from this park for gardening will impact hundreds of park users each year who are now unable to fit their event into the park due to the compression of space and increased 'over-crowding'. A great deal of people simply pull their vehicle over and stop to enjoy the view consistently throughout the entire 24 hour period of every day all year round (Kempenfelt Park). City staff has identified Kempenfelt Park as a "major lookout point" I agree with this designation. Community gardening in this setting does not appear to be at all in keeping with the intended or current use of Kempenfelt Park. The physical size does not lend itself to a Community Garden either (comments summarized, full letter on file available).
- m. Some potential locations that do come to mind are beside the City Operations center or expanding the concept at Sunnidale Park. There also seems to be adequate land available at Southshore Park, Little Lake or even Bayview Park that would work well too.

END OF QUESTIONNAIRE.

APPENDIX "E"

Proposed Community Garden Locations Map

