



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Rob McAulay, Recreation Division and Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre Manager

Meeting Date: May 17, 2022

Subject: Community Garden in Wedgewood Park, Report APRAC22-009

Purpose

A report to inform the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee of a request to establish a community garden within Wedgewood Park.

Recommendation

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC22-009 dated May 17, 2022 of the Recreation Division and Peterborough Sport and Wellness Manager as follows:

That the request to establish a community garden within the southeast section of Wedgewood Park be supported.

Budget and Financial Implications

Costs associated with establishing the community garden in Wedgewood Park can be accommodated within the approved 2022 Recreation Services operating budget.

Background

In 2021, Nourish, a collaborative partnership between GreenUp, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, Peterborough Public Health and COIN approached the City with a request to establish a community garden in the southeast section of Wedgewood Park. Interest in establishing a garden at this site was identified by several residents living within the neighboring homes surrounding the park.

In 2022, the Wedgewood Park location was reviewed for suitability as a community garden location by city staff from the Recreation Services, Corporate & Legislative Services, Planning, Public Works, Transportation, Engineering, and Facilities & Special Projects Divisions. No concerns were identified with the garden being established in the southeast section of the park as identified in Appendix A of this report.

Location Considerations

- The recommended garden location is a small section of the park, limiting the total number of plots to between 8 and 10 plots total;
- Wedgewood Park is a small but highly utilized park located by two elementary schools, that back on to the park, and high school students from St. Peter's;
- This park is rented regularly for youth soccer leagues, creating additional volume in the park in the summer months;
- The recommended garden location is on a small hill, which Public Works is taking into consideration in the development of the garden; and
- There is no municipal access to water within the park.

Residents were invited to attend a neighborhood meeting, facilitated by Nourish on April 6, 2022, virtually to determine interest and hear feedback about the proposed garden. Responses were received from 10 area residents in attendance and included 8 individuals who were supportive of the garden, and 2 whom had a neutral opinion of the location but were seeking additional information, such as specific location.

Aside from the virtual meeting, additional comments were received by 2 residents and from the Principal of St. Teresa Catholic Elementary School, both of whom were in support of the garden, and 1 resident who emailed their concerns about the potential garden to Nourish, noting possible parking and animal related issues.

A site planning meeting took place on April 27, 2022, to determine the specific location of the proposed garden. This meeting was attended by staff from Nourish, 10 residents living within the neighboring homes, Councilor Clark, and city staff from the Recreation and Public Works divisions.

A second consultation, facilitated by Nourish, occurred on May 5, 2022 virtually to inform residents about the specific location being recommended for the garden. This meeting was attended by 1 resident, who was supportive of the proposed garden. As a regular user of Wedgewood Park, Peterborough Youth Soccer Club was invited but unable to attend the meeting. They were provided a copy of the arial map and indicated support for the proposed garden location. Four additional residents expressed their regrets as they could not attend, indicating their support for the garden over email.

Staff is seeking endorsement from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to proceed with the establishment of a community garden in Wedgewood Park. The land use agreement between the City and Nourish will identify that the park does not have a municipal water supply. Nourish will initiate water provision through the on-site Peterborough Utilities pump house, or through Public Works upon approval of the garden.

Submitted by,

Rob McAulay
Recreation Division and Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre Manager

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Arial Photo – Approximate Location of Wedgewood Park Garden.

APRAC22-009 – Appendix A

