



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

**From:** Chelsey Gray, Recreation Development & Planning Coordinator

**Meeting Date:** March 21, 2023

**Subject:** Community Gardens Update, Report APRAC23-007

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## **Purpose**

A report to inform the Arena Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on the activities of the Community Gardens initiative and an update on the deferred request of a community garden in Wedgewood Park.

## **Recommendations**

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC23-007, dated March 21, 2023, of the Recreation Development & Planning Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That the update by the Recreation Development & Planning Coordinator on the Community Gardens program be received for information; and
- b) That the committee support the staff recommendation to not proceed with establishing a community garden in Wedgewood Park.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budget or financial implications associated with the presentation.

## **Background**

In 2010, Council approved corporate policy 0023, the Community Gardens Policy, which recognizes the important role community gardening plays in the community. This Policy establishes a process in which suitable municipal lands are made available for gardening purposes. With this policy, 144 garden plots are in use on municipal lands at 7 locations throughout the City.

The YWCA manages the gardens on municipal lands as part of their Nourish Project Program. In 2022, the YWCA raised concerns to City staff about their continued capacity to operate this program. On July 4, 2022, Council approved a recommendation that the City enter into a Community Garden Administrator Agreement with the YWCA, including a pre-commitment to the 2023 budget of \$50,000 in funding to be maintained annually in support of this initiative.

In 2022, the Community Garden Administrator Agreement was developed, along with updating policies, procedures, plot holder agreements, and a new website to promote the initiative: [www.peterborough.ca/gardens](http://www.peterborough.ca/gardens). Signage is being installed in the Spring of 2023 at each municipal garden location to provide community members with information on how to participate or request a new garden location.

### **Community Garden in Wedgewood Park**

On May 17, 2022 the Arena Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee reviewed report APRAC22-009, with a recommendation to establish a community garden in Wedgewood Park. Due to concerns raised by neighbours to their Ward Councillor, the decision on this garden was deferred until staff were able to consult with Ward Councillors and the neighbourhood, if deemed necessary.

Staff consulted with Ward Councillors and communicated a request to the principals of neighbouring elementary schools, St. Theresa's and Westmount Public School, to determine if the garden would be suitable on either of the school's properties. Both principals denied the request for the garden to be developed on the land due to an already limited access to property at this location.

Wedgewood Park sits adjacent to both elementary schools and is a highly utilized park by the schools, youth soccer leagues, the neighbourhood rink program, and high school students from St. Peter's.

Due to the high volume of activities already taking place in this park, and in response to the consultation staff recommend not proceeding with a community garden in Wedgewood Park.

### **2023 Garden Requests**

Staff have received one request to establish a community garden in 2023, located on the Rotary Trail. City divisions are currently reviewing the suitability of this location. An update on this request will be provided at the April meeting.

Submitted by,

Chelsey Gray  
Recreation Development & Planning Coordinator

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