



City of  
**Peterborough**

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

**FROM:** Rob Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

**MEETING DATE:** March 16, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Report APRAC10-012  
Community Gardens Policy

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to request input from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding the draft Community Gardens corporate policy.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC10-012 dated March 16, 2010, of the Recreation Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That report APRAC10-012 be received for information; and
- b) That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee provide input to staff regarding the draft Community Gardens corporate policy

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget or financial implications as a result of approving the recommendations in report APRAC10-012.

## BACKGROUND

In February 2009, the City's Corporate Policy Coordinator assembled a working group to draft a Corporate Community Garden Policy. The working group was comprised of staff from the following Divisions: Public Works, Planning, Recreation, Legal, Housing, and Social Services. The initial planning meeting took place February 11, 2009 to consider the following issues:

- What are community gardens
- Inventory of established community gardens in the City of Peterborough
- Who should the policy be directed towards and what should they be aware of
- What are the key issues or considerations to be addressed
- What should be captured in policy

As part of the policy development process, the working group reviewed community garden policies established by other Cities, such as Toronto, Barrie, Waterloo, and the Victoria Community Garden Council.

On April 7, 2009, the working group hosted a community gardens consultation, with specific invitations sent to known community gardeners, Peterborough County City Health Unit, Trent University, Fleming College, Peterborough Green-up, YWCA, Local Food Advocates, and the Peterborough Community Garden Network, a not-for-profit group of garden enthusiasts that advocates for an increased presence of community gardens in the City and County of Peterborough.

The consultation was designed to obtain Information regarding the following:

- Existing community garden operations in the City of Peterborough
- Benefits of community gardens
- Demand for additional community gardens
- Ideal locations for community gardens
- Key amenities
- The City's role
- Other possible community partners and their roles

Over the next few months, the working group continued to refine the draft policy and to identify related procedures. The working group recognized that further research would be required to finalize the policy and to a greater degree assist in creating appropriate procedures. On September 18, 2009, the working group met with representatives of the Trent Centre For Community Based Education, who committed to conduct the required research and to provide reports by December 2009 addressing the following items:

- Proposed guidelines for site selection and development
- Managing a successful community garden operation

- Municipal community garden delivery models
- Identifying and interviewing local stakeholders

On February 18, 2010, the draft policy was presented to the Community Garden Network, as a final opportunity to provide feedback to the working group. On February 24, 2010, the City's Access Coordinator, on behalf of the Council For Persons With Disabilities, provided recommendations to be considered for inclusion in the final draft of the community garden policy and related procedures.

Attached, as "Appendix A" is the draft policy, which incorporates the information and input received, from the sources identified above. The working group is seeking input, from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, prior to presenting the draft community garden policy to City Council.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson  
Recreation Coordinator

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Draft Community Gardens Policy