

Procedure Considerations



Community Garden Program

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Strathcona County supports its community gardens through the supply of resources and expertise. Each community garden is self-organized and governed accordingly. How the County is involved in the planning, establishment and maintenance of community gardens will be clarified. Considerations for procedure would include:

- *Planning* – Organize participant workshops to develop a community-generated mandate that can create networking and have a sign-up process.
- *Building Community* – Partner with residents and organizations to establish an operating structure for gardens. Other details such as neighbourhood involvement (supporting foodbanks or other charities, hosting community “garden days” or other events) will also be outlined in group responsibility.
- *Garden Establishment* – Identify suitable sites for new gardens or expansion of existing gardens. Develop a clear registration process that would include guidelines for membership, the collection of rental fees from participants, and participation agreements. Gardens will be provided with soil, compost and beds. Details regarding the provision of signage, services (including water) or other allowable structures would be considered based on site availability or restrictions.
- *Maintenance* – Clear guidelines for upkeep will be developed and agreed to by the group. Regular meetings will be established with the partners managing the gardens to discuss operational issues and successes.
- *Knowledge and skill acquisition* – engage with partners to coordinate extension to support production and post-harvest knowledge.

Responsibilities

- Details to be discussed with Recreation Parks and Culture, Planning and Development Services and Family and Community Services.

Definitions

Community Garden – An agricultural or community development activity where a piece of land is gardened collectively by members of the community. This garden is used to grow annual vegetables, flowers for the personal use of those using the garden, or for donation to a non-profit organization. The community garden may be divided into plots that are assigned to individuals or families; however, members of the group retain responsibility for the management and operation of the garden.

Allotment Gardens – Individual garden plots that are rented, maintained, and harvested by individuals or family member gardeners of a community garden.

Group Production Garden – Community garden where the entire garden area is maintained and harvested by group members. The harvest is shared among the group.

Agriculture Master Plan – The guiding document and plan approved by Council in 2015, to guide the future of agriculture in Strathcona County.

Urban Agriculture Strategy – The vision for urban agriculture in Strathcona County, approved by Council in 2016.

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