



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: February 24, 2021  
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Parks Division  
Subject: Food Security – Food Production in Parks

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### Purpose

To update Council on options for City supported edible gardens, including community involvement, and the proposed establishment of two new satellite community garden locations.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT staff be directed to proceed with facilitating the establishment of two new satellite community gardens at Art Wilkinson Park and Town Centre Park as recommended in the report dated February 24, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Food Security – Food Production in Parks;**

**AND THAT the budget of \$53,000 to establish two new satellite community gardens be referred to the Finance Committee to identify a funding source.**

**AND THAT the report dated February 24, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Food Security – Food Production in Parks be referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further input on food security initiatives, including establishing a formal process for future community garden expansion.**

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### Background

At the Closed Council meeting held on June 9, 2020, Council passed and released the following resolutions on Food Production:

CC20/112 to 114

That Port Moody invite the rest of the Tri-Cities to take part in a mapping study to identify available space on public and private land for community gardens;

AND THAT staff be directed to report back on options, costs, and implications associated with planting edible but non-animal-attractant plants in City green spaces;

AND THAT Port Moody support the Tri-Cities Farmer's Market to hold markets weekly in Port Moody all year;

AND THAT staff be directed to report back on costs and options for replicating the Victoria model of young plant distribution.

At the Regular Council meeting held on July 28, 2020, staff presented a report to Council focusing on the second and fourth resolutions (**Attachment 1**).

For the second resolution, staff highlighted three edible planting locations at City Hall, Pioneer Park, and the Arts Centre. These areas were intended to promote education and outreach, and were to be installed and maintained by staff.

For the fourth resolution, following consultation with the City of Victoria, staff determined that replication of a similar program would not be achievable at this time. Insufficient staff resources, absence of infrastructure such as greenhouses, lack of specialized food growing programs, and the need for better identification and coordination of food security and food production community partners, were identified as factors limiting the replication of the Victoria model.

Following discussion and clarification of the staff report, Council passed the following resolution:

RC20/311

THAT this item be referred to staff to report back on staff supported community involvement and on the possibility of turning the proposed food production areas into community gardens.

## Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2016) has a number of references to food security and urban agriculture, with an emphasis on enhancing food security and social connectedness through more urban agriculture.

Currently, there are two community gardens in Port Moody:

- The Inlet Community Garden (established 2002) with 16 plots; and,
- Port Moody Police Tri Cities Community Garden (established 2013), with 62 plots.

Both gardens have long waitlists and experience a slow turnover of plots. The community garden at the Public Safety Building has a current waitlist of 65 and the Inlet Community Garden has a standing waitlist of 27; it can take many years to obtain a plot in Port Moody.

The options presented by staff for edible gardening areas in the July 28, 2020 report were selected for educational outreach purposes. The three locations put forward at the July 28, 2020, Regular Council meeting, are located at:

- City Hall Front Entrance containers (which were previously used for the ‘Where the Wild Things Grow’ community outreach project) and the City Hall traffic circle;
- Pioneer Park (raised planter); and
- Arts Centre (creation of a victory garden using existing landscape beds).

These locations are more appropriate for educational workshops for community engagement as they are smaller in size, and in the case of the City Hall traffic circle, not suitable for volunteers based on vehicle traffic safety considerations. Due to limited size, they will not alleviate long waitlists, with community involvement focused on educational outreach.

Staff analysed a variety of sites within parks (**Attachments 2 and 3**) in order to determine suitability for community garden expansion. Factors included solar access, site accessibility for transit, school or community partnership potential, access to water, current and future site use, and the amount of available parking spaces. Based on these factors, Art Wilkinson Park (**Attachment 4**) and Town Centre Park (**Attachment 5**) were identified as suitable locations to further consider the establishment of pilot satellite community gardens. Staff recommend that neighbourhood consultation be undertaken with the Glenayre Community Association for the Art Wilkinson location. Both areas of land provide sufficient space for a community garden to flourish, and have the capacity to meet future expansion needs. In addition, the data collected in **Attachment 2** will be made available for the mapping study to identify available space on public and private land for community gardens, put forward by Council as a resolution on June 9, 2020.

With respect to community involvement and expanding community garden spaces, staff are proposing the establishment of two satellite community garden locations in City parks as a pilot. Staff propose that the satellite locations be managed by the existing community garden groups within Port Moody, both who have expressed interest in expanding, with the intent of reducing their waitlists and providing additional areas within the City to promote food security. Moreover, the addition of two satellite community gardens will contribute to community development, environmental awareness, enhance positive social interactions, offer mental wellness benefits, and provide access to fresh food.

At both locations, site preparation is necessary, including the establishment of a water connection, the construction of raised timber plots, and the installation of soil and signage. Estimated costs are summarized below in Table 1.

Staff would prepare the area and construct the community garden for community groups to manage. This would involve design consultation with both the Grow Local Society (Public Safety Building Community Garden) and the Inlet Community Garden group.

Table 1 – Summary of Estimated Costs

<b>Expenses (start-up costs)</b>	<b>Art Wilkinson (40 plots)</b>	<b>Town Centre Park-loco Road (20 plots)</b>	<b>Estimate Per Plot*</b>
Site preparation and Design	\$1,000	\$500	
Water Connection	\$10,000	\$8,000	
Soil/mulch	\$1,600	\$800	\$40
Materials (raised planters**)	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$250
Fencing	N/A	\$3,600	
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$1,000	\$500	
Labour to construct (staff)	\$7,000	\$4,000	\$160
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,600</b>	<b>\$22,400</b>	<b>\$450</b>

\* Based on planter dimensions of 8'x4'x1'

\*\* Constructed out of untreated cedar

Once operational, the community gardens will operate at no cost to the City of Port Moody, with the exception of the winterization of the water supply in the spring and fall of each year by Parks staff.

The City would enter into a five-year agreement for the satellite community gardens. Each community garden group would adhere to the Parks Division Community Garden Guidelines (draft), **Attachment 6**. Existing agreements and garden bylaws apply to the new locations.

Staff consulted a variety of stakeholders and regional experts, including both the Inlet Community Garden and the Port Moody Police Tri Cities Community Garden, Farm to School BC, the City of Victoria, and Port Coquitlam, in order to establish the best practices for community gardens.

Furthermore, staff propose the two additional sites as a pilot project, with the intent of monitoring and establishing a future grant process for food security initiatives, including a formal process for future garden expansion. Staff propose that the Parks and Recreation Commission be consulted on these measures.

In addition, to provide educational outreach, staff propose the use of the Arts Centre horticulture beds for the installation of a Victory Garden. Parks staff will install and maintain edible plants combined with flowering annuals and perennials. The Victory Garden could be used to host educational seminars, with any harvested food to be donated to the food bank.

### Other Option(s)

That the report dated February 24, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Food Security – Food Production in Parks be received for information.

### Financial Implications

To establish two new community garden satellites at Art Wilkinson Park and Town Centre Park, a funding source will need to be identified for the budget of \$53,000.

### Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

The establishment of two new community garden satellites will require external engagement with both of the existing community garden groups. Staff have liaised with both the Public Safety Building and Rocky Point Community Garden. Additional education material to support Urban Agriculture will be publicly shared on the City's website.

### Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Enhancing food security is consistent with the Healthy Communities priority in the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan.

## Attachment(s)

1. Report Considered at the Regular Council Meeting of July 28, 2020.
2. Potential Community Garden Locations – Parks.
3. Overview of Satellite Community Garden Sites.
4. Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden.
5. Ioco Road Community Garden.
6. Community Garden Guidelines.

## Report Author

Robbie Nall

Superintendent of Parks

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Food Security - Food Production in Parks.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attachment 1 - Report Considered at the Regular Council Meeting of July 28, 2020.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 2 - Potential Community Garden Locations - Parks.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 3 - Overview of Satellite Community Garden Sites.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 4 - Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 5 - Ioco Road Community Garden.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 6 - Community Garden Guidelines (Draft).pdf</li></ul>
Final Approval Date:	Mar 15, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks - Mar 9, 2021 - 10:42 AM

Ron Higo, General Manager of Community Services - Mar 9, 2021 - 11:09 AM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Mar 9, 2021 - 11:16 AM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Mar 9, 2021 - 4:09 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Mar 10, 2021 - 9:56 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Mar 15, 2021 - 4:42 PM