

# Memorandum

---

Date: December 9, 2021  
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Parks Division  
Subject: Art Wilkinson Community Garden – Consultation Results

---

At the March 23, 2021 Regular Council meeting, Council considered a report dated February 24, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Food Security – Food Production in Parks (**Attachment 1**) and passed the following resolution:

RC21/150-152

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 up to \$62,000 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;

AND THAT the Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden be expanded from 40 plots to 60 plots.

In preparing the February 24, 2021 report, staff analyzed the suitability of several potential community garden sites within parks. Criteria included solar access, site accessibility for transit, school or community partnership potential, access to water, current and future site use, and the number of available parking spaces. Based on these factors, regional attention on food security issues, and the need for additional community gardens to alleviate long waitlists, staff recommended Town Centre Park and Art Wilkinson Park as suitable areas to address demand for community garden space.

At the April 13, 2021 Regular Council meeting, Council provided the following additional direction to staff:

RC21/179

AND THAT the Glenayre Community Association be consulted prior to establishment of the Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden.

At the April 20, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council also directed staff to conduct community consultation prior to making changes to neighbourhood parks and amenity spaces.

On September 20, 2021, staff launched a public engagement process through [engage.portmoody.ca](https://engage.portmoody.ca) to gauge resident support in the Glenayre neighbourhood for the addition of a new community garden at Art Wilkinson Park.

In response to the question, “Are you in favour of adding a community garden to Art Wilkinson Park, of the 119 responses received, 60.5% were “No”, 31.9% were “Yes”, and 7.6% were “Unsure” (**Attachment 2**).

Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to provide feedback on the community garden proposal. Common themes included concerns related to increased traffic in the neighborhood, the gardens being an attractant for bears and increasing the potential for human-bear conflicts, and a community garden being unnecessary for the neighborhood as Glenayre features predominantly single-family homes with large yards. There were also concerns about a potential increase in crime and impacts on the safety of children.

Based on Council direction and the results of the public engagement process, the recommended resolution is:

**THAT staff be directed to report back on alternate locations for the community garden as recommended in the memo dated December 9, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Art Wilkinson Community Garden – Consultation Results.**

Should Council wish to proceed with the Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden, the following alternative resolution may be considered:

THAT the results of the public engagement process for the Art Wilkinson Community Garden be received for information as presented in the memo dated December 9, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Art Wilkinson Community Garden – Consultation Results;

AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with the Art Wilkinson Park Community Gardens.

Attachment(s)

1. Report considered at the March 23, 2021 Council meeting – Food Production in Parks.
2. Public Consultation Summary – Community Garden at Art Wilkinson Park.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Art Wilkinson Community Garden – Consultation Results.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Report considered at the March 23, 2021 Council meeting - Food Production in Parks.pdf - Attachment 2 - Public Consultation Summary - Community Garden at Art Wilkinson Park.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 23, 2021

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

Robbie Nall for Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks - Dec 15, 2021 - 8:33 AM

Ron Higo, General Manager of Community Services - Dec 15, 2021 - 8:35 AM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Dec 15, 2021 - 4:43 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Dec 15, 2021 - 9:38 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Dec 16, 2021 - 10:24 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Dec 23, 2021 - 7:35 AM