



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: April 26, 2022
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Parks Division
Subject: Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden

Purpose

To seek further direction on the proposed community garden at Art Wilkinson Park.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT staff facilitate the establishment of 20 community garden plots at Town Centre Park (option 2A).

THAT staff conduct community consultation on the feasibility of the proposed 40 plot temporary community garden at Kyle Centre (option 1),

AND THAT the Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden Project be cancelled.

Background

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.

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.

Additionally, with regards to public consultation, at the April 20, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

CW21/048

THAT staff be directed to conduct community consultation prior to changes to neighbourhood parks and amenity spaces.

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

At the January 11, 2022 Regular Council meeting, staff reported back on the consultation results. Council considered a memorandum dated December 9, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Art Wilkinson Community Garden – Consultation Results (**Attachment 2**) and passed the following resolution:

RC22/010

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the Art Wilkinson Community Garden;

AND THAT staff be directed to report back on community impacts after one year;

AND THAT staff be directed to use the Port Moody online engagement platform to provide those who took part in the survey with information to ease their concerns.

Following further discussion between the Glenayre Community Association and Council members, at the January 25, 2022 Regular Council meeting, the following resolutions were passed:

RC22/028

THAT work on the Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden Project be paused for 30 days.

RC22/029

THAT a meeting with the Glenayre Community Association be scheduled as soon as possible.

Discussion

In the staff report Food Security – Food Production in Parks – Feb 24, 2021 a number of potential community garden locations within park sites were reviewed and analyzed (**Attachment 1**). Criteria reviewed 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, Art Wilkinson Park and Town Centre Park were selected as suitable locations. Following approval of the project, however, some Glenayre residents voiced their concerns regarding the garden location at Art Wilkinson Park (**Attachment 2**).

The directed 30-day pause of the Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden Project has expired. Options for consideration are provided below to address the need for additional community garden plots throughout the city. Direction from Council is also required to cancel proceeding with the approved garden at Art Wilkinson Park.

Option 1 – Area Adjacent to Kyle Centre

Option 1 provides for 40 temporary community garden plots at Kyle Centre

Although not technically a park, the grass area adjacent to Kyle Centre would be a suitable site for a temporary community garden (**Attachment 3**). Prefabricated raised garden beds, installed on top of pallets, can be used at this location. The site was successfully used last summer as part of Recreation programming and offers an opportunity for recreational programming involving seniors. The grass area is large enough to host a diverse number of uses. If solely used for a community garden, the site has the potential to fit 40 garden plots. This would be the more economical option and provide a larger number of garden plots.

Community engagement would be required to determine if this use would be supported by the neighbouring homes. Undertaking engagement may mean delaying the implementation of this temporary community garden until the 2023 growing season.

Option 2 – Town Centre Park/ Chip Kerr Park

Option 2 combines two potential locations spread throughout the city in an effort to provide broader access to food growing opportunities. A total of 35 community garden beds would be provided through this option.

Within the grounds of Town Centre Park at the Recreation Centre complex, there is another option to consider as a partial replacement for Art Wilkinson Community Garden. The grass area adjacent to Knowle Street (**Attachment 4**) has good solar exposure and has the potential to fit 20 plots. Currently, the area is assigned as a muster station for the Recreation Centre; however, another muster point can be found within the Recreation Centre grounds. A community garden at this location has the potential to align with the Farmer's Market and Recreation programming. The Town Centre Park location can be ready for part of the 2022 growing season and would be a quicker short term solution of all of the proposed locations.

Additionally, Chip Kerr Park (**Attachment 5**) was initially reviewed as an option for a community garden in the report dated February 24, 2021 (**Attachment 1**). The site has the potential to host

a smaller number plots, with 15 feasible. It is close to multi-family housing, rental apartments, and condominiums. Community engagement would be required to determine if this change to a neighborhood park would be supported by the community. Undertaking engagement may mean delaying the implementation of this temporary community garden until the 2023 growing season.

At the Town Centre Park, Kyle Centre, and Chip Kerr Park locations, site preparation is necessary, including the establishment of a water connection, the construction of raised timber plots, and the installation of soil.

Estimated costs of all options are summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of Estimated Costs

Expenses (start-up costs)	1.Kyle Centre (40 plots)	2A. Town Centre Park – Knowle Street (20 plots)	2B. Chip Kerr Park (15 plots)
Site preparation and Design	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000
Water Connection	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Soil/mulch	\$1,600	\$800	\$600
Materials (raised planters*)	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Fencing	N/A	\$5,000	N/A
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$1,000	\$500	\$500
Labour to construct (staff)	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Total	\$31,100	\$25,300	\$17,600

Any additional community garden sites would be managed by the Grow Local Society. The Grow Local Society currently manage the Port Moody Police Community Garden and were intended to manage the Art Wilkinson Park location.

Staff will continue to investigate opportunities for potential community garden sites in order to alleviate long waitlists at the 3 existing community gardens in Port Moody.

Other Option(s)

THAT staff conduct community consultation on the proposed community garden at Chip Kerr Park (option 2B).

THAT staff proceed with the Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden.

THAT the report dated April 26, 2022 from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Art Wilkinson Park Community Garden be received for information.

Financial Implications

There is \$38,297 remaining in PK21051 – Satellite Community Garden project. If Council provides direction to proceed with the temporary community garden proposed at Kyle Centre (option 1), or with the additional 20 plots at Town Centre Park (option 2A), no additional funds would be required. Alternatively, if Council provides direction to proceed with the two areas identified in option 2, then an estimated additional \$5,000 would be required.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

The establishment of additional community garden spaces will require external engagement with the existing community garden groups. Staff have been directed to conduct community consultation for any changes to neighborhood parks and amenity spaces.

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 March 23, 2021 Council Meeting – Food Production in Parks.
2. Memorandum considered at the January 11, 2022 Council Meeting - Art Wilkinson Community Garden – Consultation Results.
3. Kyle Centre Community Garden
4. Town Centre Park Community Garden
5. Chip Kerr Park Community Garden

Report Author

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Superintendent of Parks

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Art Wilkinson Community Garden.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attachment 1 - Report considered at the March 23, 2021 Council meeting - Food Production in Parks.pdf- Attachment 2 - Memorandum considered at the January 11, 2022 Council meeting - Art Wilkinson Consultation Results.pdf- Attachment 3 - Kyle Centre Community Garden.pdf- Attachment 4 - Town Centre Park Community Garden.pdf- Attachment 5 - Chip Kerr Park Community Garden.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 2, 2022

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

Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks - Apr 27, 2022 - 10:01 AM

Anna Mathewson, General Manager of Community Services - Apr 27, 2022 - 12:00 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Apr 28, 2022 - 10:38 AM

Paul Rockwood. General Manager of Finance and Technology - Apr 28, 2022 - 4:02 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - May 2, 2022 - 12:16 PM