



Memo to Council

Date: May 17, 2023

Subject: Gardening on Boulevards – Motion Served by Councillors Agtarap and Lubik

Motion Served

Notice of the following motion was provided at the May 9, 2023 Regular Council meeting:

THAT staff investigate developing guidelines for gardening on City boulevards similar to the City of Vancouver programs and identify grassy boulevards and similar underused public spaces that can be planted with native and drought-tolerant plant species, including species that support pollinators and/or non-bear attractant foods, and/or provide program ideas to meet a similar intent. Investigation could include conversation with the Tri-Cities Grow Local Society.

AND THAT any recommendations be forwarded to the Tri-Cities Food Council for incorporation into future food security and climate action plans.

Background

The demand for community garden plots exceeds the current capacity of the City's garden plots. There are hundreds of people on waiting lists for community garden plots. Staff are currently exploring up to 40 additional boxes at Kyle Centre to alleviate the long waitlists at the three existing community gardens. In addition, as development occurs in the City, staff and Council will continue to explore opportunities for food growing.

Currently, most city boulevards are seeded with grass which require maintenance and water to ensure tidiness, and are not productive for pollinators or community benefit. Additionally, there are city maintenance costs associated with boulevards.

Increasing food security, taking part in food growing and other gardening opportunities for those living in MURBs can be positive experiences and create sense of pride in the neighbourhood while contributing to placemaking. Community gardens are also some of the best opportunities to increase social connections. The City of Vancouver Green Streets Program and Gardening on Boulevards programs appears to be successful in enhancing the public space, managing rainwater, providing pollinators with food, and adding greenspace to the public realms.

[City of Vancouver programs](#) have clear guidelines and encourage residents to beautify their streets. Similar programs for Port Moody residents could have similar positive effects both on

residents' wellbeing, sense of place and potentially decrease boulevard lawn maintenance costs.

Council Strategic Priorities

These recommendations support the following Council Strategic Priorities:

- Healthy Community Development – Enhance community wellbeing,
- Vibrant and Prosperous Community – Enhance vibrancy through placemaking, arts, culture, heritage, and tourism, and
- Vibrant and Prosperous Community – Leverage public spaces.

Council Options

The following options are available for Council consideration:

1. Receive for information.
2. Refer to staff for a report back on the feasibility of the proposed motion considering budget, alignment with Council's Strategic Priorities, and work plan implications, including but not limited to operational capacity, policy, legality, etc.
3. Other.