



DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
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February 11, 2014

**JOINT - DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
& COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT 2014-07**

TO: Committee of the Whole

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Community Gardens

ORIGIN: Commissioner Development and Infrastructure Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Joint Development and Infrastructure Services and Community Services Report 2014-07 dated January 20, 2014, regarding Neighbourhood Community Gardens be received and the following recommendations be adopted:

- 1. THAT Town of Newmarket Staff seek public input regarding interest in establishing Neighbourhood Community Gardens in additional locations in the municipality**
- 2. AND THAT staff consult with the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee and report back to Council regarding the input received in time for the 2015 Budget Considerations.**

COMMENTS

Minutes of Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee of October 3, 2012 recommended that Members of Council explore any areas suitable for garden plots within their respective wards in an effort to increase the community gardening concept Town wide in anticipation of the 2013 growing season. At Committee of the Whole on October 29, 2012 Council referred the matter to staff for a report for consideration in future budget discussions.

Staff have reviewed the matter and suggest gauging community interest in Neighbourhood Community Gardens as the first step. The proposal to seek locations in every ward neighbourhood is not the recommended approach, as there may be no interest in a proposed location. Community garden specific site considerations and decision making criteria would need to be established along the same lines as the

process followed in the past involving leash free dog park evaluation criteria that was developed a number of years ago.

Staff suggests notifying the public of the opportunity to provide this input via the Town Page in the Era Banner, the Town's website, and social media. Information collected as a result of the public notification will allow staff to determine the areas with sufficient interest as well as the most viable location within a Ward.

Based on the input received from the community staff would consult with the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee and compile a budget item for consideration as part of the 2015 Budget.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPACT

Capital Budget

Depending on the input received from the community staff estimate the preliminary initial costs to establish a small community garden within a single ward would be approximately \$25,000. These capital costs would include the installation of a water service, top soil, fencing for the area, a bench, waste cans, establishing a composting area, a small tool shed, paved paths to the garden area, as well as any signage that would be required.

Operating Budget

Ongoing maintenance costs would range from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per year. These costs would include water used, soil materials as required and any staff time associated with spring set up and fall close up.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Living Well

- Emphasis on active lifestyles and recreation opportunities
- Environmental protection and natural heritage preservation

Well Balanced

- Recreation facilities and services
- Green and open spaces, parks and playing fields

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Staffing levels are not anticipated to be impacted as a result of the recommendations in this report however, this will be reviewed once staff has received input from the community.

CONSULTATION

Public Works will work with Community Services and Communications to determine the best course of action to garner public interest as and to gather the necessary information from the public to determine a future course of action.

CONCLUSION

Once staff has gathered the necessary information we will report back with recommendations for consideration as part of the 2015 Budget process.

CONTACT

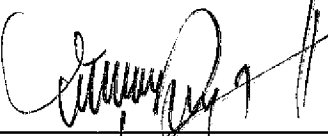
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