



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of November 15, 2018

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 3, 2018
From: Thomas Soulliere, Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Subject: Community Garden Licenses of Occupation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute new Licences of Occupation for the following existing community gardens, subject to the publication of notices as required by the Community Charter, and with all terms to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department:

1. Burnside Allotment Garden (Cecelia Ravine Park, near Napier Lane and Burnside Rd East)
2. Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts (Macdonald Park, adjacent to Niagara St)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to enter into new Licences of Occupation for two existing community gardens.

The Licence of Occupation for the Burnside Allotment Garden expired in May 2018. The Licence of Occupation for the Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts will expire in November 2018.

The Community Gardens Policy outlines the process for the creation and retention of community garden sites on City-owned lands. These gardens help facilitate positive community experiences, including educational and celebratory opportunities for citizens. Community associations play an active role in organizing events, providing signage and developing other place-making features.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to enter into new Licences of Occupation for two existing community gardens.

BACKGROUND

The City's Community Gardens Policy (Appendix A) outlines the process for the creation and retention of community garden sites on City-owned lands. When licence agreements with the City are renewed, community gardens are required to amend their operating agreements in alignment with the current policy.

A standard license agreement for a community garden is three (3) years. License agreements may be renewed for multiple terms providing the project continues to meet the criteria of this policy.

The location of each garden is shown in Appendix B.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Burnside Allotment Garden

The Burnside Gorge Community Association oversees the Burnside Allotment Garden. The garden was built in 2012 and covers approximately 450 square metres. The garden consists of 23 allotments, which operate at full capacity with a waitlist. There is also one plot for use by the Burnside Gorge Community Association, and two commons plots that are open for community harvest. Approximately 30 to 40 volunteers, including allotment gardeners, are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the gardens.

Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts

The LifeCycles Project Society oversees the Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts. Built in 2015, this allotment garden has 17 individual plots and one commons plot in an area of 425 square metres. A volunteer pool of 15 committed gardeners help the garden thrive, and two work parties were held in 2018.

In 2017 and 2018, gardeners at the Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts reported challenges with the current site, including the lack of light due to tree canopy, shoots stemming from tree roots, and strong winds and cool air coming from the ocean. City staff pruned the trees when the garden was built in 2015, with the understanding that no additional tree limbs would be removed. Recent discussions with the gardeners indicate no strong interest at this time in pursuing potential relocation.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The Burnside Allotment Garden and the Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts each have three raised garden beds designed to accommodate individuals with limited mobility.

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan

Community gardens support Objective 8 (Enhance and steward public spaces, green spaces and food systems).

Impacts to 2015 – 2018 Financial Plan

There are no additional financial costs to the City in renewing the licence agreements for the existing community gardens in Burnside Gorge and James Bay.

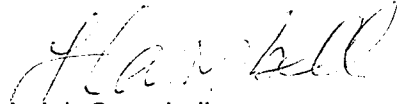
Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Community gardens help support goals identified in the Food Systems section of the Official Community Plan, including specifically Objective 17.5: Encourage food production activities in visible and suitable public places to foster a connection between people and the process of growing, harvesting and eating fresh produce.

CONCLUSIONS

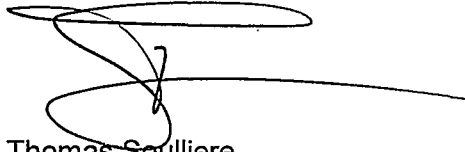
The community gardens described in this report align with the objectives identified by Council. Staff support the new Licences of Occupation for these two gardens, for three-year terms.

Respectfully submitted,



Leigh Campbell

Manager, Parks Planning and Design

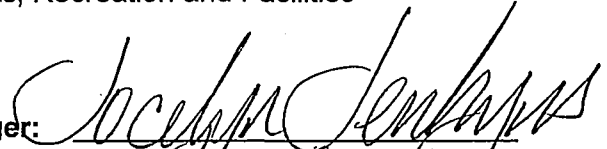


Thomas Soulliere

Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:



Nov 8, 2018

List of Attachments

Appendix A: Community Gardens Policy

Appendix B: Location of Burnside Allotment Garden and Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts