



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of February 11, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** January 21, 2021
From: Thomas Soulliere, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Subject: 2020 Community Garden Start-Up Grant

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following four organizations to receive a Community Garden Start-Up Grant;

1. Oaklands Community Association - \$10,000
2. Quadra Village Community Centre - \$10,000
3. South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association - \$5,000
4. Canadian Orca Rescue Society - \$5,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the applications received for the 2020 intake of the Community Garden Start-Up Grant.

A total of \$30,000 has been requested from four organizations. Staff recommend that Council approve the amounts requested, as each of the applicants have met the grant requirements.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the recommended applications received for the winter 2020 intake of the new Community Garden Start-Up Grant.

BACKGROUND

In June 2019, Council approved the creation of the Community Garden Start-Up Grant (Appendix A). The purpose of the Community Garden Start-Up Grant is to help guide eligible organizations to acquire funding for the planning, design, engagement and building of new community gardens in the City of Victoria, with a priority to support the development of new allotment gardens.

The Community Garden Start-Up Grant is available in two phases: up to \$5,000 for the design

phase, and up to \$10,000 for the build phase. The 2020 intake for the grant was launched this past November. Two design applications and two build applications were submitted, requiring the total available funds of \$30,000.

Approved grants support organizations during the design phase of the community garden development, and during the build phase once Council has approved a new community garden licence of occupation to be executed (if on City land). Grants awarded do not equate to permission to start a new community garden. All new community gardens on City land first require Council approval.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The project information for each of the proposed recipients of the 2020 Community Garden Start-Up Grant is listed in the table below. Applications were evaluated based on the criteria listed in the Community Garden Terms of Reference which includes: Capacity of the organization to deliver the project (20%), evidence of need (20%), community impact: inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and social equity (30%), and project feasibility (30%).

Table 1: Community Garden Start-Up Grant 2020 Applicants

	1	2	3	4
Community Garden Name	Oswald Community Garden	The Summit at Quadra Village Allotment Gardens	Redfern Community Garden	Orca Community Garden
Non-Profit Applicant	Oaklands Community Association	Quadra Village Community Centre	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Canadian Orca Rescue Society
Garden location	Oswald Park, 3031 Cedar Hill Road	Summit Park 955 Hillside Road	Redfern Park 1755 Redfern Street	Alston Green 190 Bay Street
Garden type	Hybrid: Allotment, commons & orchard	Allotment	Hybrid: Commons & orchard	Allotment
Grant phase	Build	Build	Design	Design
Score %	87%	85%	81%	71%
Project budget	\$43,540	\$32,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Funding requested	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED \$30,000.00				

A. Oswald Community Garden (Build)

The Oaklands application supports building a new community garden in a neighbourhood with no community gardens. It would also increase by 26 plots the total number of allotment plots in the City (230 plots). In 2019 Council approved Urban Food Targets aligned with Council's strategic

priorities (see Appendix A: Table 4. Target setting for urban agriculture and food systems, pg. 8). This application will help to further progress towards all of these targets. Staff recommend approving the full amount requested of \$10,000, pending their community garden proposal approval from Council.

B. The Summit at Quadra Village Allotment Gardens (Build)

The Quadra Village application supports building a new allotment garden on Capital Regional Hospital District land, whereby the land is managed by Island Health. A lease agreement for a portion of the site at the Summit at Quadra Village Project will be converted to a community allotment garden, which will be operated by the Quadra Village Community Centre. The site provides 36 plots in a neighbourhood with a higher population density, no allotment gardens and two existing commons gardens. This application will further progress towards the majority of the 2022 Urban Food Targets. Staff recommend approving the full amount requested of \$10,000.

C. Redfern Community Garden (Design)

The South Jubilee application supports the design phase of a potential future community garden in a neighbourhood with currently no community gardens. This application will advance progress towards 50% of the 2022 Urban Food Targets. Staff recommend approving the full amount requested of \$5,000.

D. Orca Community Garden (Design)

The application from the Canadian Orca Rescue Society supports the design phase of a potential new allotment garden providing 12 plots in a higher population density neighbourhood (Victoria West) with one commons garden, one community orchard, and one small (seven plot) allotment garden. This application will assist with progress towards the majority of the 2022 Urban Food Targets. Staff recommend approving the full amount requested of \$10,000.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The approval of these grants will help support the development of universal design features (pathways, raised beds and access to water and tool shed) at the community gardens located at 955 Hillside Road in Hillside-Quadra and Oswald Park in Oaklands.

The accessibility features of new designs of the community gardens in Redfern Park and Alston Green will be assessed in the review of the forthcoming community garden proposals. Universal design will be encouraged.

2019 - 2021 Strategic Plan

The applications received align with the strategic actions and outcome statements relating to Objective 8: Enhance and steward public spaces, green spaces and food systems.

Impacts to Financial Plan

The Financial Plan includes annual operating budget of \$30,000 for this grant program.

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; and
- Objective 17.7 Support the establishment of at least one allotment garden per neighbourhood, co-located with community facilities or services where possible, and more in neighbourhoods that feature a high proportion of rental or attached housing, where feasible.

CONCLUSIONS

A total request of \$30,000 from four applicants has been requested from the 2020 intake of the Community Garden Start-Up Grant program. Pending approval of the new Oaklands Community Garden proposal (Oswald Park) listed in this report, staff recommend that Council approve the grants for each applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant Director,
Parks and Recreation

Thomas Soulliere
Director,
Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

List of Attachments

Appendix A: June 6, 2019 Staff Report *Update: Growing in the City Urban Food Program*
Appendix B: Community Garden Start-Up Grant Terms of Reference