

Relocation of the *Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts*

(Formerly *Michigan Street Community Garden*)



Purpose

Seeking Council approval for the relocation of the Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts (formerly Michigan Street Community Garden) to MacDonald Park, adjacent to Niagara Street



Garden Background

- Original garden opened in partnership with Lifecycles Project Society on provincially-owned lands in 1999
- In 2013, the Province agreed to the sale of a portion of this land and the lot is currently being redeveloped as part of the Capital Park Project
- Staff assisted the garden group, James Bay Neighbourhood Association, Lifecycles Project Society and other interested parties to identify potential new sites
- In July 2014, Council approved a recommendation to relocate the garden to South Park, subject to consultation
- Upon further consultation, became evident that South Park would not be a suitable



Site Selection

- In early 2015, staff prepared information for all City-owned lands in James Bay, including available land area, potential growing conditions, environmental considerations, site access, associated costs and other land use considerations
- Niagara Street frontage of MacDonald Park identified as preferred site



Proposed Garden Design



Features:

- 15 standard plots
- 3 accessible plots
- 1 tool shed
- 4 composters
- Fencing on 2 sides



Community Consultation

- Garden group responsible for consultation on the proposed garden. Public engagement activities included:
 - James Bay Neighbourhood Association
 - James Bay Community School
 - James Bay Garden Association
 - White Eagle Hall
 - James Bay Athletic Club
 - Nearby residents on Montreal, Niagara and Dock Streets
 - Community outreach at the James Bay Community Market



Strategic Alignment

2015-2018 Strategic Plan:

- Objective #2: Engage and empower the community
- Objective #8: Enhance and steward public spaces, green spaces and food systems.

2015-2018 Financial Plan:

- Cost for water hook-up and some fencing will be provided by City within the approved budget
- Garden will be maintained by the applicants. The agreement will be for a nominal sum of \$1.00 per year.

Official Community Plan:

- Project is consistent with Goal 17B, *"Victorians have access to skills, knowledge and resources to produce and process their own food in urban areas."*



Summary

- Relocation of the Neighbourhood Garden of All Sorts (formerly Michigan Street Community Garden) to MacDonald Park represents a community-driven response to an unanticipated situation
- Proposal is consistent with existing policy, the Official Community Plan, the 2015-Strategic Plan, and is supported by the James Bay Neighbourhood Association and the local community



Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve the proposal for a community garden at MacDonald Park; and,
2. Authorize the Mayor and Corporate Administrator to execute a new License of Occupation with Lifecycles Project Society for a community garden at MacDonald Park for a period of three years, at an annual consideration of \$1.00, in a form satisfactory to staff and subject to the publication of the statutory notices required by the Community Charter.

