
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 26, 2005
File No.: 6120-01
To: Ron Born, City Manager
From: Joe Creron, Parks Manager
Subject: Community Gardens and Rutland Pilot Project
Prepared by: Mark Tompkins

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Parks Division work with the Central Okanagan Community Gardens group to expand the community gardens program.

That guiding principals outlined by Schedule 1 form the basis of the program.

BACKGROUND:

At the Regular meeting of City Council held April 18, 2005 City Council approved the development of a community garden pilot project in Rutland Recreation Park.

The pilot project at Rutland Recreation Park has been a huge success and both the Parks Division and the Central Okanagan Community Gardens Group are very pleased with the progress to date. The performance of the COCG has been exceptional and the outcome of the gardens has been very beneficial to the community. The Parks Division contributed irrigation and fencing for the garden. The COCG will now focus on adding additional community gardens subject to City approval. The Parks Division will earmark up to \$5,000 which must be matched through community contributions through the 2006 Partners in Parks Program subject to City Council approval of the 2006 Budget.

Although the use of parks has been the primary focus of community gardens to date, we believe that public and private undeveloped and unsightly lands should also be considered by this program. In fact these types of lands are used in other municipalities which have an added benefit of beautification.

Joe Creron, Parks Manager
Parks & Leisure Services Department

Attachments

Cc David Graham, Director, Parks and Leisure Services
Mark Tompkins, Parks Division

Schedule 1

Guiding Principles

- The City may match up to 50% of the cost of developing a community garden.
- That an agreement be developed for each community garden site with these guiding principles applying to all community gardens...
- The City is not responsible for any vandalism or theft.
- That it is COCG's intent is to make and maintain improvements to the community garden site.
- That the Park Division's intent is to play a support role in assisting COCG achieve their desire to develop the community garden.
- That all plans, designs and improvements be approved in writing by the Parks Division prior to implementation.
- That if COCG is to disband or default on obligations to implement or maintain any or all improvements made to the site, that the Parks Division is under no obligation to complete or accept maintenance responsibilities.
- COCG is to appoint a primary contact person with authority to represent the group in liaison with the Parks Division.
- COCG is to provide proof of and maintain Liability Insurance to the satisfaction of the City of Kelowna.
- COCG is to prepare formal and written proposals or requests for any improvement, change to maintenance procedures or events in the community garden site to the Parks Division for approval.
- COCG is responsible for coordinating the financing, implementation and maintenance of projects and educational events approved by the Parks Division.
- COCG agrees that the site will be maintained free of weeds and visually neat and tidy at all times.
- COCG is responsible for managing the operations of the garden to a level acceptable to the City of Kelowna Parks Division including finding volunteer gardeners; setting rules; education of gardeners and general public, providing necessary tools and storage facilities.
- COCG is to make all volunteers, partners and contributors to the pilot project aware that the improvements may be temporary in nature and can be removed at any time.
- All gardens are to be pesticide free but understand that the City may use pesticides on adjacent parkland as part of the City's IPM program.