

parks and recreation
interoffice memorandum

to: Parks and Recreation Commission

from: Manager Parks Services

subject: ALLOTMENT GARDEN RECOMMENDATIONS

date: January 26, 2010

In follow up to the Allotment Garden meeting of January 20th, staff recommends the following subject to Commission's approval:

1. Explore possibility of modifying existing plots to create more garden plots

- a) Current plots to be grandfathered, re-establishing the size and configuration once the current plot user relinquishes their spot.
- b) If a current plot user is ill for one year and cannot cultivate their assigned plot, they must contact the Manager of Parks who will contact people from the waitlist to determine if there is interest in cultivating this plot for a one year period.
- c) If a plot user is unable to make use of the entire plot they can contact the Manager of Parks who will contact people from the waitlist to determine if there is interest in sharing the cultivation of this particular plot with the current plot user. However, the current plot user would retain responsibility for the plot and they would be responsible to ensure the sharing party follows all terms and conditions set out in the use agreement. The plot user who signs the use agreement would be responsible to pay the Municipality the designated user fee.

2. Plot Rotation - 3 Year Term

Currently a year to year use agreement with option for renewal is in effect. It is recommended not to change this practice.

3. User Fee

The current \$15 user fee be increased to \$30 to cover costs (water \$340 per year, plus some staff costs for leaf mulch delivery 1 - 2 times per year).

4. Create additional allotment gardens in Municipality

- a) 12 additional garden plots be created on the south side of Bowker Creek, in the same location of present allotment gardens. Due to the existing topography of the land these plots will not be on a level grade. Staff has been in contact with residents neighboring the proposed additional garden plots as well as the Friends of Bowker

Creek and neither has expressed concerns with creating the additional garden plots. The creation of these additional garden plots will accommodate 12 of the 25 people on the current waitlist. Although the size of the new garden plots would be smaller than some of the current garden plots, it is recommended the same \$30 user fee be implemented for the new plots.

- b) Attendees at the January 20th allotment garden meeting suggested several other areas in the community to locate additional allotment gardens. Over the next year staff will consider these suggestions and investigate the possibility of additional allotment gardens for 2011.
- c) Attendees also suggested the municipality connect residents with uncultivated garden areas with those residents wanting garden areas to cultivate. Staff will investigate the possibility of the Municipality creating such a list.

5. Spokesperson for the allotment gardeners to liaise with parks staff

Allotment gardeners will designate one spokesperson each year to liaise with the Manager of Parks Services. The Manager of Parks Services will be notified of this person's name by April 15th each year. Spokesperson must have an assigned plot.

6. Other items

- a) Staff to investigate the possibility of year round access to washrooms at Fireman's Park.
- b) Staff to ascertain the cost of installing a gated fence around the current allotment gardens to help deter animals, joggers and bikes. Depending upon the cost of fencing this item may be included with the 2010 Capital Budget requests for consideration.