

1.0 Definitions

Community Garden - The City of Regina recognizes community gardening as a valuable recreation activity that can contribute to community development, educational opportunities, improvements in crime and safety, and building community. For this document, a community garden is defined as a recreation or community development activity operated by a non-profit organization on land used by the non-profit organization to grow vegetables, flowers, or other plants for the personal use of those using the garden or for donation to a non-profit organization. The garden may be divided into plots that are assigned to individuals or families; however, the non-profit organization retains responsibility for the management and operation of the garden.

Open Space Management Strategy - For this document, Open Space Management Strategy shall mean the Open Space Management Strategy.

Park and Open Space - A park or open space identified in the inventory of the Open Space Management Strategy.

2.0 Applicability

The policies and procedures in this document shall apply to all requests for community garden space on City-owned property.

3.0 City Involvement in Community Gardens

- The City will work to identify City-owned land suitable for a community garden. Community gardens shall be considered a program option for neighbourhood-level parks and open space. Community gardens may be considered a program option for zone-level and municipal-level parks and open space. In designing parks and park amenities for new neighbourhoods, allocating space for community gardening shall be considered as an option in the park program design process. Other City-owned land to be considered for community gardens, include vacant lots.
- The City will provide information to non-profit organizations requesting information on how to develop and operate community gardens and general information on community gardens.
- The City will consult with City departments/divisions and the community to ensure that there is support for a garden prior to any location being finalized with a non-profit organization.

- The City will assist non-profit organizations with the garden site design of new community gardens or the expansion of existing gardens where the garden is located within a City park or open space.
- The City will develop leases for approved sites on City land or the expansion of existing gardens on City land.

4.0 Policies

- 1) All requests for community garden space on City property or for expansion of existing gardens on City property shall be considered according to the City procedures established for community gardens.
- 2) Prior to a location in a City-owned park or open space being finalized with the non-profit organization, the City will ensure that there is City and community support for the garden by obtaining input from City departments/divisions and the community, including Community Associations, Zone Boards, and residents.
- 3) A non-profit organization must agree to develop and operate the garden according to a lease which will specify the terms of use, organization responsibilities, and user fees, and which includes the following specific terms:
 - a. Membership in the non-profit organization and the opportunity to be allotted a plot must be open to any resident of Regina, with preference given to residents living within the boundaries of the community association in which the garden is located;
 - b. Allotments of space must be made from a waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis;
 - c. Allotment fees charged by the organization should cover annual water bills, maintenance, site improvements, and other gardening costs and not exceed the amount necessary to cover the normal operating and capital costs of the gardens and other costs that may be identified in the lease;
 - d. Any accessory buildings erected on the site are subject to any applicable bylaws and the approval of the Director of Community Services if the garden will be located on a park or open space, or by the Manager of Real Estate if the garden will be located on other City-owned property;
 - e. The garden site plan must be approved by the Manager of Community Development if the garden will be located on a park or open space, or by the Manager of Real Estate if the garden will be located on other City-owned property;

- f. The organization must adhere to maintenance standards set by the City and to established City policies and bylaws;
 - g. Produce and other plants grown on the site are for the personal use of those using the garden or for donation to a non-profit organization; and
 - h. The City does not accept any liability whatsoever for any damages, loss of property, or personal injury that may result to anyone participating in the community gardens activity. The non-profit organization is responsible for any such loss, damage, or injury and shall ensure that the organization carries adequate liability insurance.
- 4) The garden will be developed at no cost to the City, except those costs that may be established in the lease.
 - 5) Although located on City property with the prior approval of the City, a community garden shall be operated and maintained by the non-profit organization. City staff will not provide maintenance or other services to the garden.
 - 6) Where the City of Regina and the organization agree to a location in a Floodway or Floodway Fringe Zone as defined in *Regina Zoning Bylaw No. 9250*, the City of Regina shall not accept any responsibility for losses that result from flooding.
 - 7) Reviews of possible sites shall be subject to the following locational policies:
 - a. Community gardens shall not be established in significant natural or naturalized areas having ecological, aesthetic, geological, or historic value.
 - b. The garden must not conflict with established park amenities and must fit with the character and the function of the park.
 - c. The removal of trees to accommodate a community garden will be considered subject to policy established in the Regina Urban Forest Management Strategy, Appendix F Tree Removal.
 - d. Preference shall be given to undeveloped parks and open space areas that do not have any amenities or formally landscaped areas.
 - e. The garden site should have on-street, on-site, or suitable parking arrangements available for gardeners.

- f. If new or additional vehicular access points to the garden site are required, the proposed access points must be approved by the Director of Development Services.
- g. The garden use must be compatible with surrounding land uses.

Community gardens policy approved June 21, 2006 (updated April 2015)