

2. Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program Examen du plan d'action sur les jardins communautaires
--

Committee Recommendation(s)

That Council approve:

- 1. Formalizing a City-wide mandate for a formal Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program, to be managed by the Recreation, Cultural and Facilities Services, as further described in this report; and**
- 2. Delegating authority to the General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facilities Services, to develop and implement a program that integrates both community-led green initiatives and community gardens, as further described in this report; and**
- 3. Expanding the existing community gardens policy statement to recognize community-led green initiatives as valuable community activities that contribute to community development, civic participation, neighborhood revitalization, environmental awareness, and community wellbeing.**

Recommandation(s) du Comité

Que le Conseil approuve :

- 1. La formalisation d'un mandat à l'échelle de la ville pour un programme officiel de jardins communautaires et d'initiatives vertes menées par la communauté, qui serait géré par la Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations, comme le décrit plus en détail le présent rapport;**

- 2. La délégation du pouvoir au Directeur général des loisirs, de la culture et des installations, afin qu'il puisse élaborer et mettre en place un programme intégrant les jardins communautaires et les initiatives vertes menées par la communauté, comme le décrit plus en détail le présent rapport;**
- 3. L'élargissement de l'énoncé de politique actuel sur les jardins communautaires afin de reconnaître les initiatives vertes menées par la communauté comme des activités communautaires utiles qui contribuent à l'enrichissement communautaire, à la participation citoyenne, à la revitalisation des voisinages, à la sensibilisation environnementale et au bien-être de la communauté.**

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

The committee approved the following DIRECTION to staff (M. Carr):

Through the Community-led Green Initiative and Gardens Program, staff from Recreation, Culture and Facility Services (RCFS) will assume responsibility from the Community and Social Services Department (CSSD) to lead the program and approve applications for community gardens.

To ensure a smooth transition, that RCFS staff be directed to create a centralized resource, or interdepartmental group, to support the Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program, to facilitate interdepartmental input, to maintain continuity of expertise during the transition from CSSD to RCFS, and to streamline decisions regarding community garden applications. In addition, that the removal of invasive species being undertaken as part of garden initiatives be incorporated into this program and be coordinated with the work underway within Public Works related to invasive species.

As part of this work, RCFS staff be directed to report back to the Community Services Committee after two application intake periods, or by Q4 2026, to share lessons learned during the transition period and provide an opportunity for feedback on the Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program.

POUR L'INFORMATION DU CONSEIL MUNICIPAL

Le comité a également approuvé la DIRECTIVE au personnel suivante (M. Carr):

Le personnel de la Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations (DGLCI) assumera, par le truchement du Programme des jardins communautaires et des initiatives vertes menées par la communauté, la responsabilité qui incombait à la Direction générale des services sociaux et communautaires (DGSSC) de diriger le programme et d'approuver les demandes de jardins communautaires.

Afin d'assurer une transition en douceur, le personnel de la DGLCI aura pour consigne de créer une ressource centralisée, ou un groupe interdirections générales, pour soutenir le Programme des jardins communautaires et des initiatives vertes menées par la communauté, de faciliter l'apport interdirections générales, de maintenir une continuité d'expertise pendant la transition de la DGSSC à la DGLCI et de simplifier les décisions concernant les demandes de jardins communautaires. En outre, il est demandé que l'enlèvement des espèces envahissantes effectué dans le cadre d'initiatives en matière de jardins communautaires soit incorporé dans ce programme et coordonné avec le travail en cours aux Travaux publics relativement aux espèces envahissantes.

Dans le cadre de ce travail, il est demandé au personnel de la DGLCI de rendre compte au Comité des services communautaires après deux périodes de réception des demandes, ou d'ici le quatrième trimestre de 2026, afin de partager les leçons apprises pendant la transition et de donner l'occasion de fournir une rétroaction sur le Programme de jardins communautaires et d'initiatives vertes menées par la communauté.

Documentation/Documentation

1. Extract of the draft Minutes, Community Services Committee, April 22, 2025.

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité des services communautaires, le 22 avril 2025.

2. Report of the General Manager, Community and Social Services, and of the General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, submitted on April 9, 2025. (ACS2025-CSS-GEN-007)

Rapport de la directrice générale, services sociaux et communautaires et du directeur général, direction des loisirs, de la culture, et des installations, soumis le 9 avril 2025. (ACS2025-CSS-GEN-007)

**Community Services Committee
Report 15
April 30, 2025**

5

**Comité des services
communautaires
Rapport 15
Le 30 avril 2025**

**Extract of Draft Minutes 15
Community Services Committee
April 22, 2025**

**Extrait de l'ébauche
du procès-verbal 15
Comité des services communautaires
Le 22 avril 2025**

Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program

File No. ACS2025-CSS-GEN-007 – City-wide

Clara Freire, General Manager, Community and Social Services, and Dan Chenier, General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, presented an overview of the report and answered questions from the Committee. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Committee received the following written submissions, and a copy of each is filed with the Office of the City Clerk:

- Olivia Davis letter and video recording received April 15
- Scott Clark email dated April 16
- Harry Fischer (Bel-Air Community Association and the Maitland Area Pollinator Project) email dated April 16
- Masuma Rustamzada and Kathy Vandergrift (Queensway Terrace North Community Garden) email received April 16
- Sharon Boddy (Friends of Hampton Park/Friends of Carlington Woods) email received April 17, 2025
- Geneviève Mollema (Greater Avalon Community Association) letter received April 21
- Dinah Robinson emails dated April 21 and 22
- Ron Ridley (Riverview Park Community Association) email dated April 22

The following members of the public spoke before the Committee and provided comments on the item:

- Kath Stevenson and Kate Veinot (Just Food) – slides on file
- Erica Shardlow (Community Action for Environmental Sustainability Ottawa) – slides on file
- Harry Fischer (Bel-Air Community Association and the Maitland Area Pollinator Project) – speaking notes and slides on file
- Janet Mark Wallace
- Adrian Di Giovanni
- Masuma Rustamzada (Queensway Terrace North Community Garden)
- Velvet LeClair (McNabb Park Community Garden)
- Lynne Patenaude (Ottawa-South Eco-action Network) – slide on file
- Rebecca Last (Michele Heights Community Gardens)
- Christine Johnson – slide on file

Staff accepted the **direction to staff** (M. Carr):

Through the Community-led Green Initiative and Gardens Program, staff from Recreation, Culture and Facility Services (RCFS) will assume responsibility from the Community and Social Services Department (CSSD) to lead the program and approve applications for community gardens.

To ensure a smooth transition, that RCFS staff be directed to create a centralized resource, or interdepartmental group, to support the Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program, to facilitate interdepartmental input, to maintain continuity of expertise during the transition from CSSD to RCFS, and to streamline decisions regarding community garden applications. In addition, that the removal of invasive species being undertaken as part of garden initiatives be incorporated into this program

and be coordinated with the work underway within Public Works related to invasive species.

As part of this work, RCFS staff be directed to report back to the Community Services Committee after two application intake periods, or by Q4 2026, to share lessons learned during the transition period and provide an opportunity for feedback on the Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program.

Following discussions, the Committee considered the report recommendation(s) as follows:

Report recommendation(s)

The Community Services Committee recommend Council approve:

- 1. Formalizing a City-wide mandate for a formal Community-led Green Initiatives and Garden Program, to be managed by the Recreation, Cultural and Facilities Services, as further described in this report; and**
- 2. Delegating authority to the General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facilities Services, to develop and implement a program that integrates both community-led green initiatives and community gardens, as further described in this report; and**
- 3. Expanding the existing community gardens policy statement to recognize community-led green initiatives as valuable community activities that contribute to community development, civic participation, neighborhood revitalization, environmental awareness, and community wellbeing.**

Carried