



Community Gardens Policy Update

Community Services Committee
February 15, 2023

Community Gardens Policy, 2011

- Approved by Council July 2011
- The Policy guides the placement and operation of Community Gardens on City-owned lands

Since 2011 Community Gardens have successfully been established in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association at:

- St. George's Park – The Fresh Roots Food Forest
- East harbourfront wall

R-210719-020

“THAT in consideration of the Community Services Committee minutes dated July 7, 2021 respecting Item 8.a.1 being the establishment of a community garden at Stobbe Park, City Council:

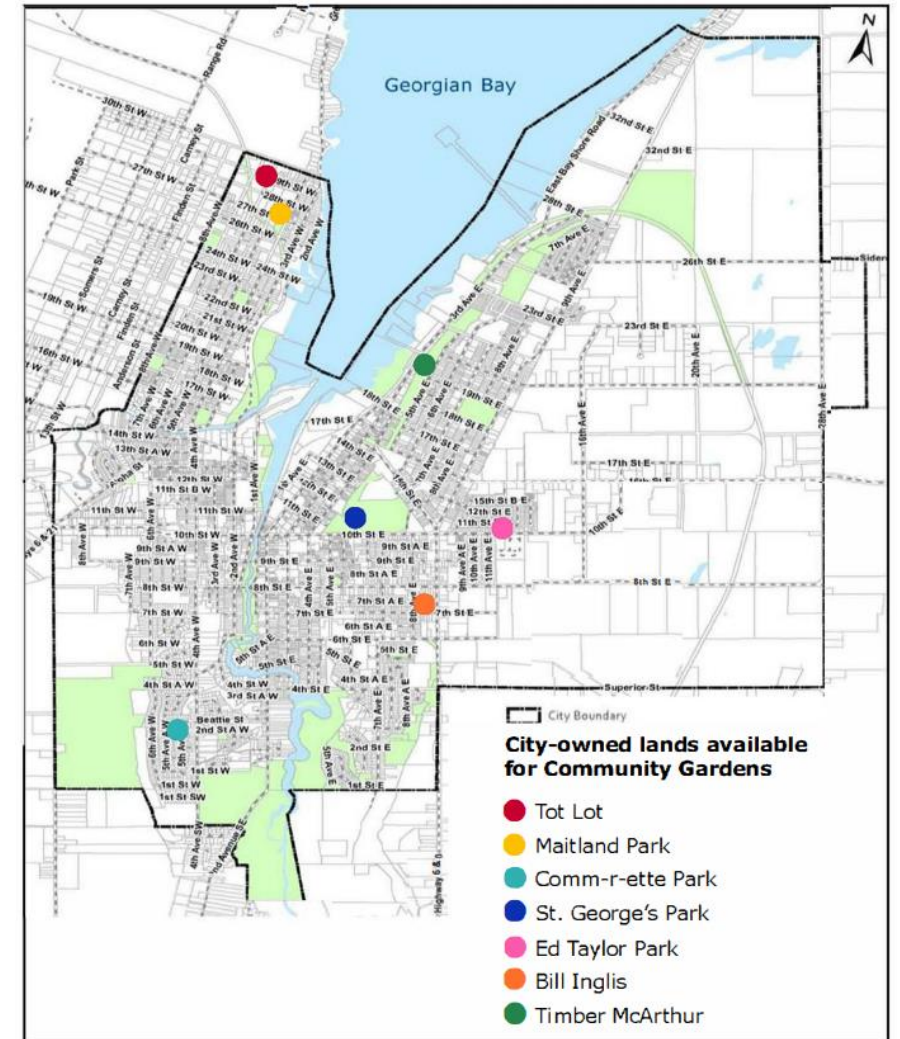
- 1. Does not approve the recommendation in Item 8.a.1;*
- 2. Directs staff to undertake a full review of the Community Gardens Policy, save and except Stobbe Park which would be removed as a permitted community garden location; and*
- 3. Directs staff to include public input in the Community Gardens Policy review.”*

Staff Approach to the Policy Update Process:

- Review of the City's existing Community Garden Policy
- Review of the Community Garden Policies and Best Practices in other communities (e.g. Guelph, Barrie, Vaughn, and Vancouver)
- Review Policy Context:
 - PPS
 - County of Grey Official Plan
 - City of Owen Sound Official Plan and Zoning By-law
 - Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan
 - Grey Bruce Health Unit – Community Gardens Guidelines

Community Gardens Policy Table of Contents:

- Policy Basis
- Background
- Policy Objective
- Definitions
- Sec. 1) Promoting Health & Partnerships
- Sec. 2) General Provisions
- Sec. 3) Locating Community Gardens
- Sec. 4) Operations & Amenities
- Sec. 5) The City's Role
- Sec. 6) The Community Garden Collective's Role
- Sec. 7) The Licence Agreement



Community Gardens Policy Update



The City first developed a Community Garden Policy in 2011. That policy was developed with public consultation and identified several Community Garden locations. Since the policy was approved, community gardens have been established at St. George's Park and along the East Harbour front. In July 2021, Council requested that staff undertake a review of the Community Gardens Policy and that as part of that review, Stobbe Park be removed from the Council endorsed list of suitable community garden locations.

The draft Community Gardens Policy was presented to Community Services Committee on December 14, 2022 through staff report [CS-22-157](#). The staff report with schedules and a recording of the meeting is available on the [City's website](#).

The purpose of this public consultation is to present the proposed draft Community Garden Policy to the public for consideration. The public commenting period will take place up to January 30, 2023. Please use the **survey** and **question** tool feature below to provide your comments. Thank you for your time and interest.

Relevant Community Garden Policy documents:

- [Schedule 'A' Draft Community Gardens Policy](#)
- [Schedule 'B' Map of Community Garden Program Area and list of City-owned lands available for Community Gardens](#)
- [Schedule 'C' Community Garden Application Form](#)
- [Schedule 'D' 4-Step Process for Considering Community Garden Requests](#)

More information about Community Gardens in the City of Owen Sound can be found on the City's Website on the [Community Gardens Webpage](#).

Community Gardens FAQs

- What is a Community Garden?
- What is a Community Garden Collective?
- What is a Community Garden Executive?
- Where can I find more information on Community Gardens in Owen Sound?
- How do I submit a comment or question regarding the Community Gardens Policy Update?
- Why should I participate in the survey or submit a question regarding the Community Gardens Policy update?

Who's Listening

Jocelyn
Wainwright
Junior Planner



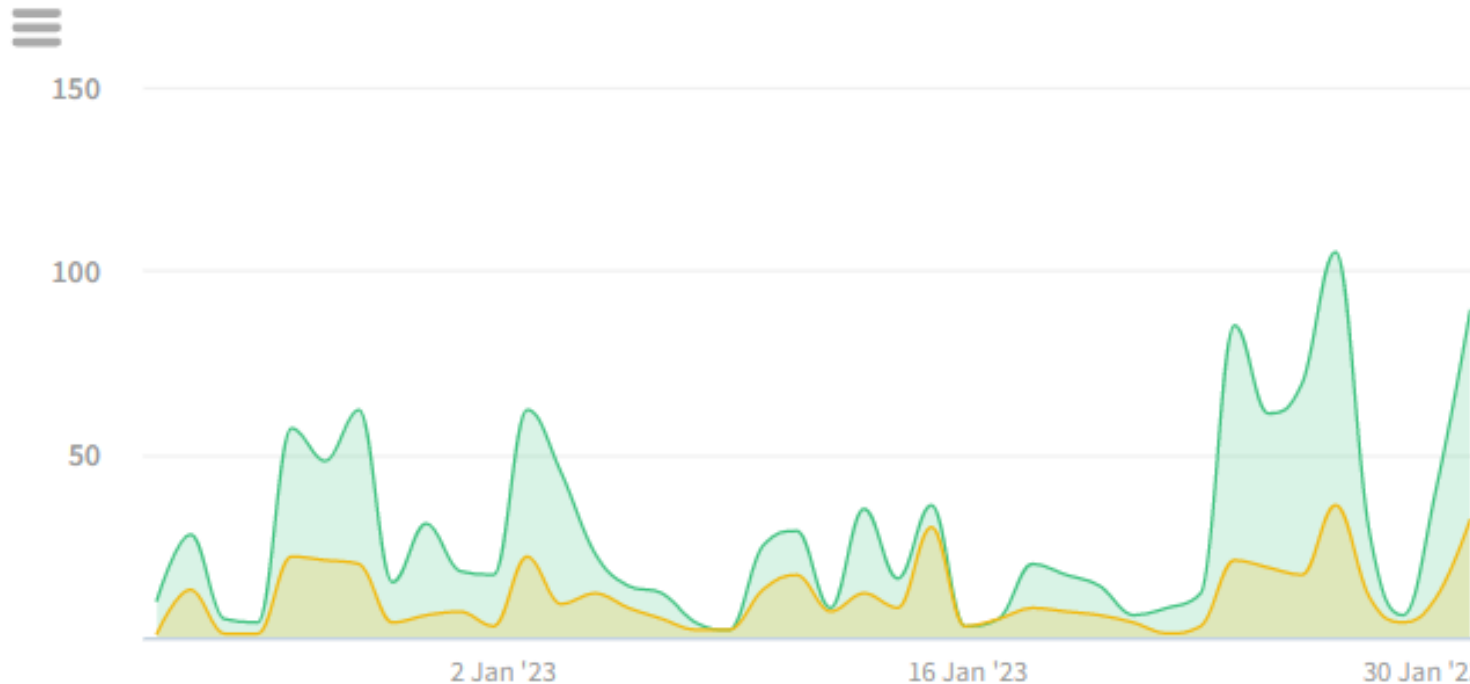
Phone 519-376-4440 ext
1250

Email jwainwright@owen-sound.ca

Visitors Summary

Owen Sound from 22 Dec'22 to 30 Jan'23

DAILY MONTHLY



Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	NEW REGISTRATIONS
477	36	4
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
122	212	393

- Survey Responses = 118
- Guestbook Entries = 6
- Questions asked = 2

- Emails received = 5
- Phone calls received = 3

Visitors Summary

Owen Sound from 22 Dec'22 to 30 Jan'23

DAILY

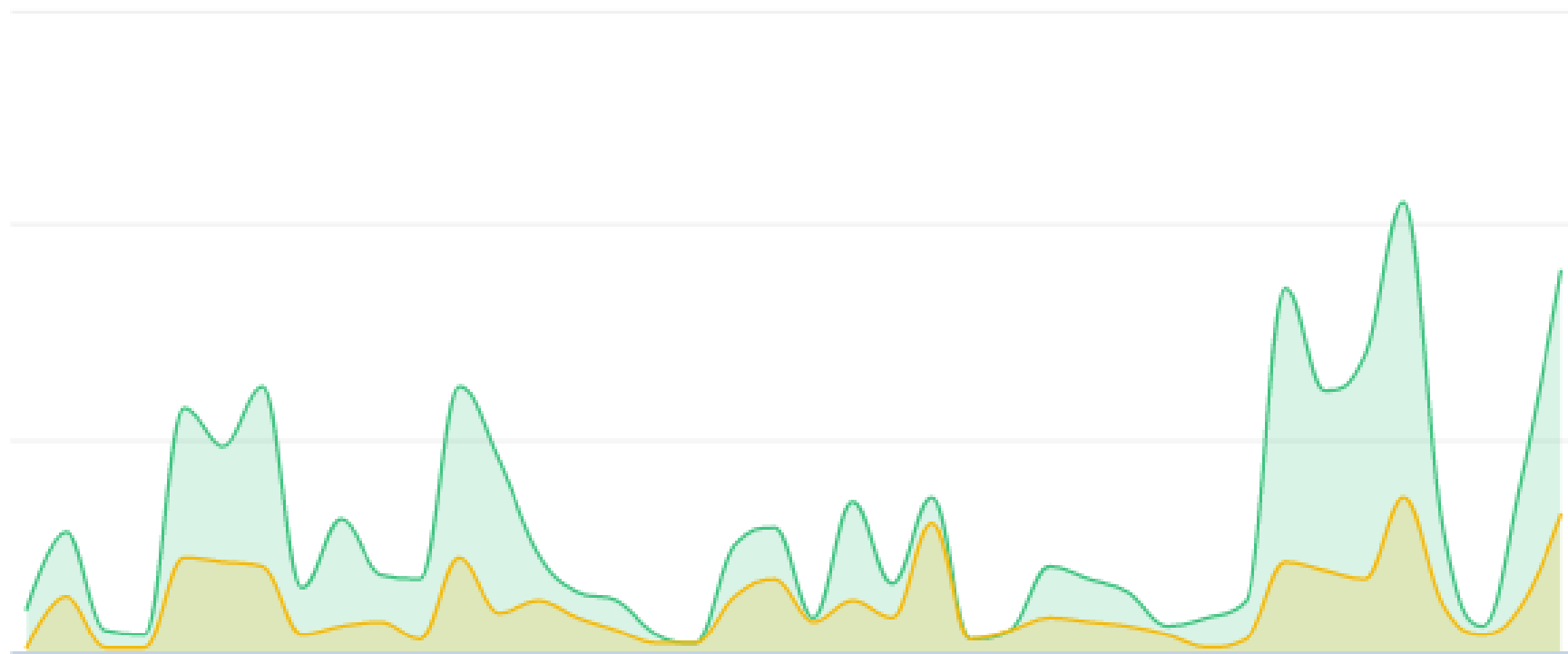
MONTHLY



150

100

50

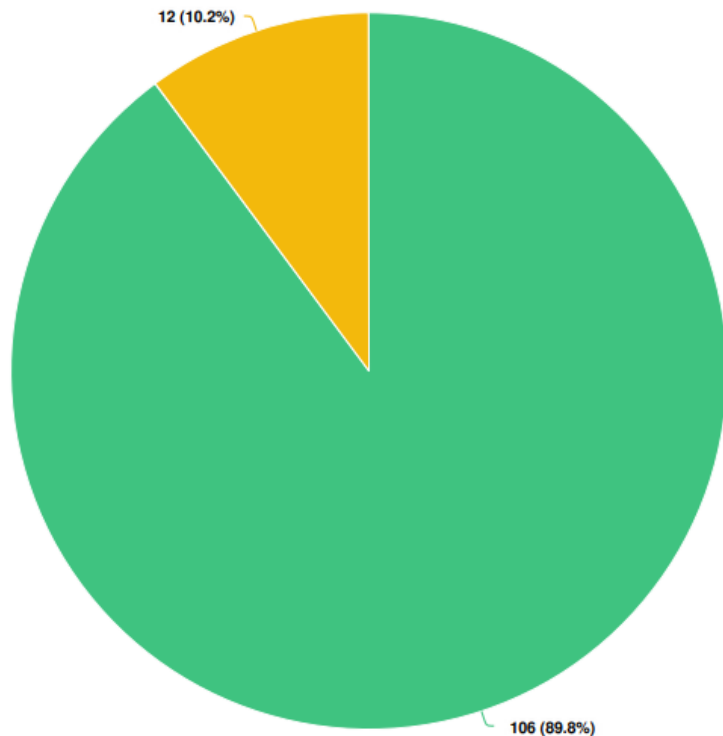


2 Jan '23

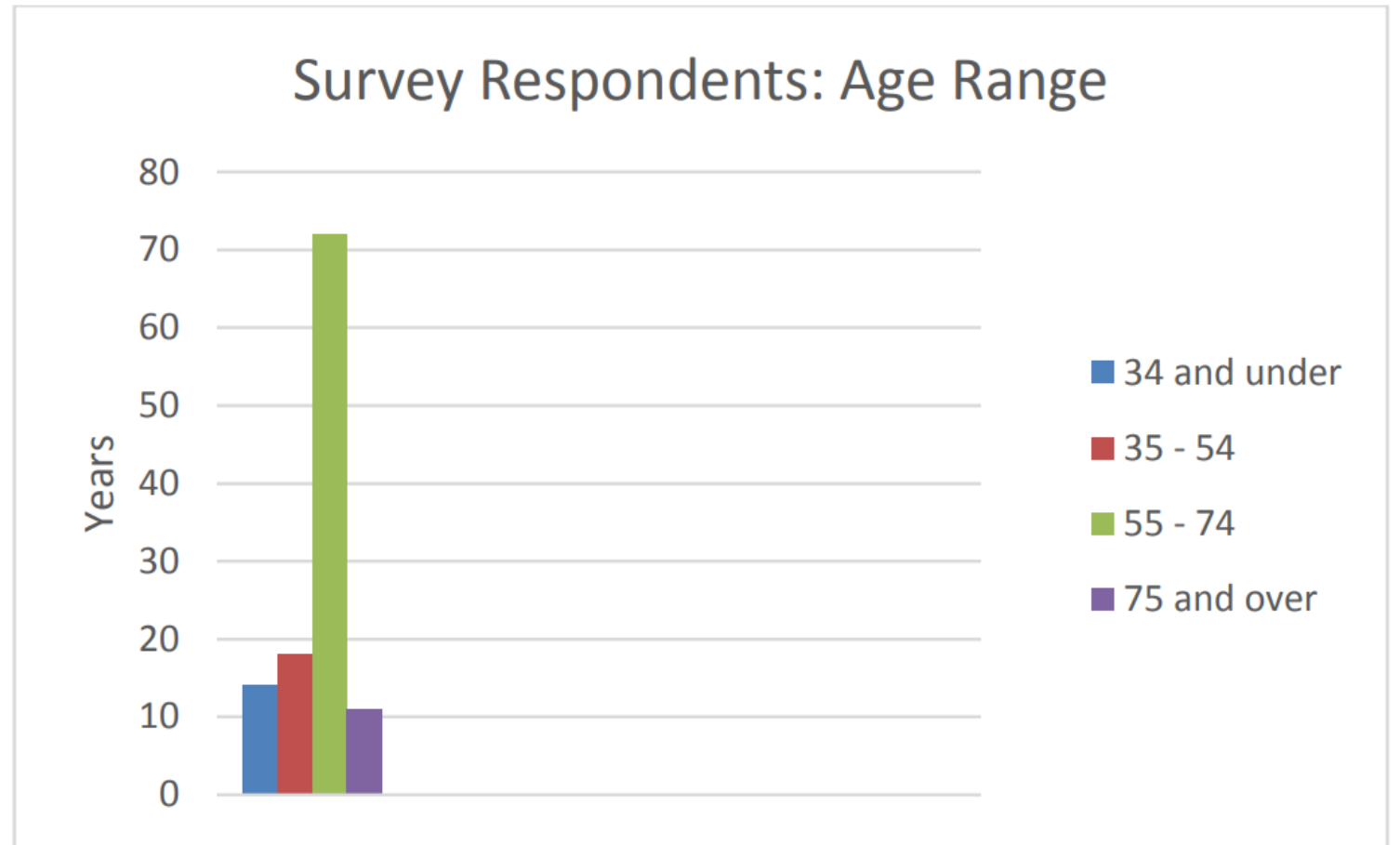
16 Jan '23

30 Jan '23

Profile of survey respondents



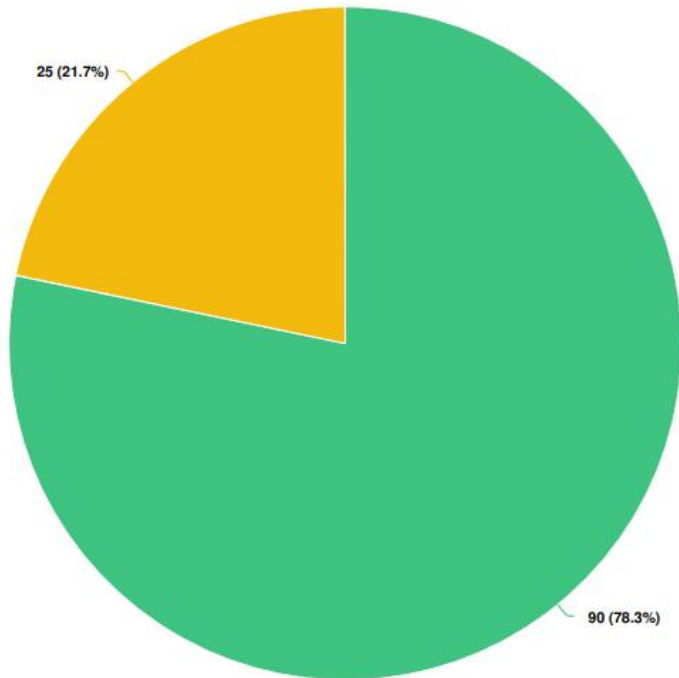
Q2. Do you live in Owen Sound?
Yes = 90%
No = 10%



Focus Areas of Public Feedback on the Community Gardens Policy:

- Support for proposed locations
- Siting community gardens within approved locations
- Further public consultation for community gardens on approved locations

Support for Proposed Community Gardens Locations:



Q9. Do you support the 7 City-owned parks proposed as suitable locations for Community Gardens?

Yes = 78%

No = 22%

Where respondents were not supportive of these locations (22% or 25 respondents), the following parks were cited as not being suitable and should be removed from the list of suitable locations for community gardens:

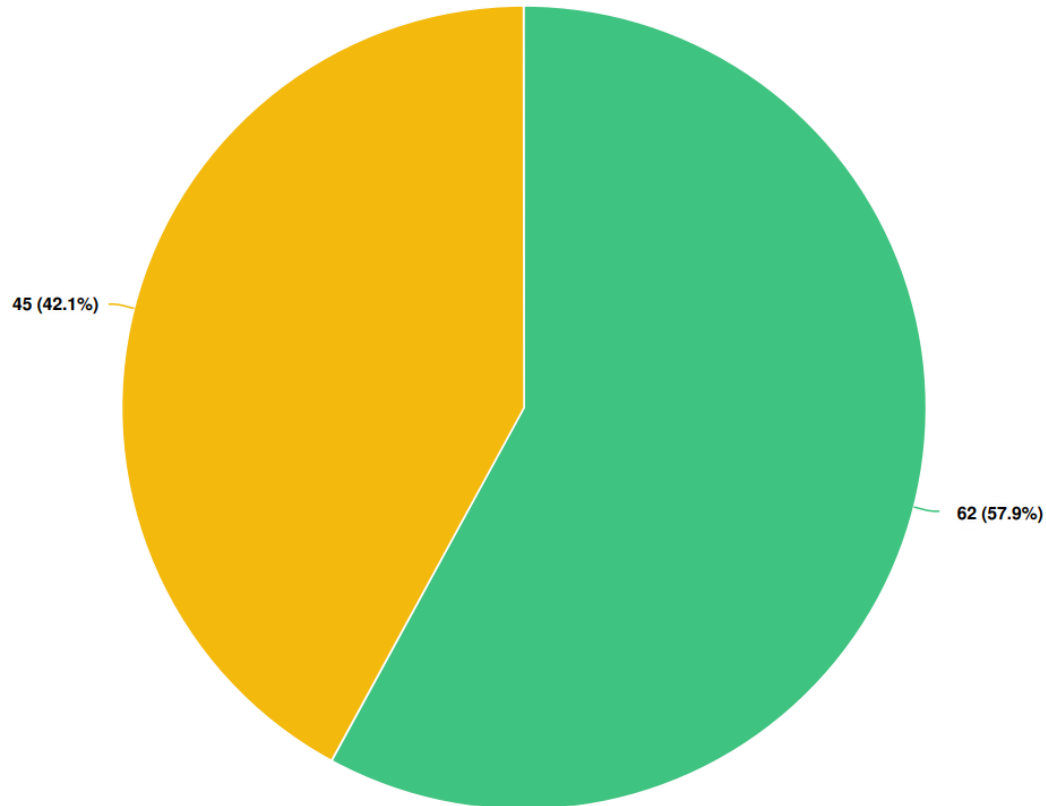
- Ed Taylor Park (3 people)
- Comm-r-ette Park (6 people)
- Timber McArthur (6 people)

Common Concerns:

- Possible lack of garden maintenance
- Not properly located (in proximity to single detached dwelling neighbourhoods) and are inaccessible
- Lack of water source at proposed location

Public Feedback – Locating Community Gardens

Q14. The Community Gardens Policy is proposing that applications for community gardens on approved locations will not require further public consultation other than to be committed. Do you support this approach?



- Public consultation on the proposed policy is sufficient to properly locate Community Gardens = 58%
- Further consultation with the neighbourhood surrounding each Community Garden location should be required = 42%

Siting Community Gardens

Existing Criteria

- Proximity to transit, trails, high density residential areas
- Availability of parking
- Size of park
- Existing park amenities

Suggested Criteria

- Availability of on site amenities e.g., water source, compost, storage
- Proximity to groups that are interested in establishing community gardens
- Security features that would deter pests and vandalism e.g., lighting and fencing
- Matters of accessibility
- Optimal gardening conditions e.g., sun exposure, clean soil, and drainage
- Opportunities where biodiversity could be increased e.g. pollinator gardens
- Gardens should not impede other park uses e.g. playing sports, dog walking.

Internal Criteria Checklist

Criteria	
1. Located in an approved location as defined by the Community Garden Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Located in proximity to interested parties/ community garden collective (participants)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Meets minimum setback requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Meets maximum lot coverage requirement of 10%	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Vegetative buffer or fence around the perimeter are provided	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Optimal garden conditions are present including clean soil, sun exposure, sufficient depth to bedrock	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Secure storage area for tools and materials is provided (If applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water source is provided (may include rain barrels, cistern, or water servicing)	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Compost and waste receptacles are provided (If applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Sufficient parking is provided in proximity to the community garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Matters of Accessibility are addressed	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. In proximity to transit stops	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. In proximity to trails	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Garden is sited appropriately to compliment other uses within the park	<input type="checkbox"/>

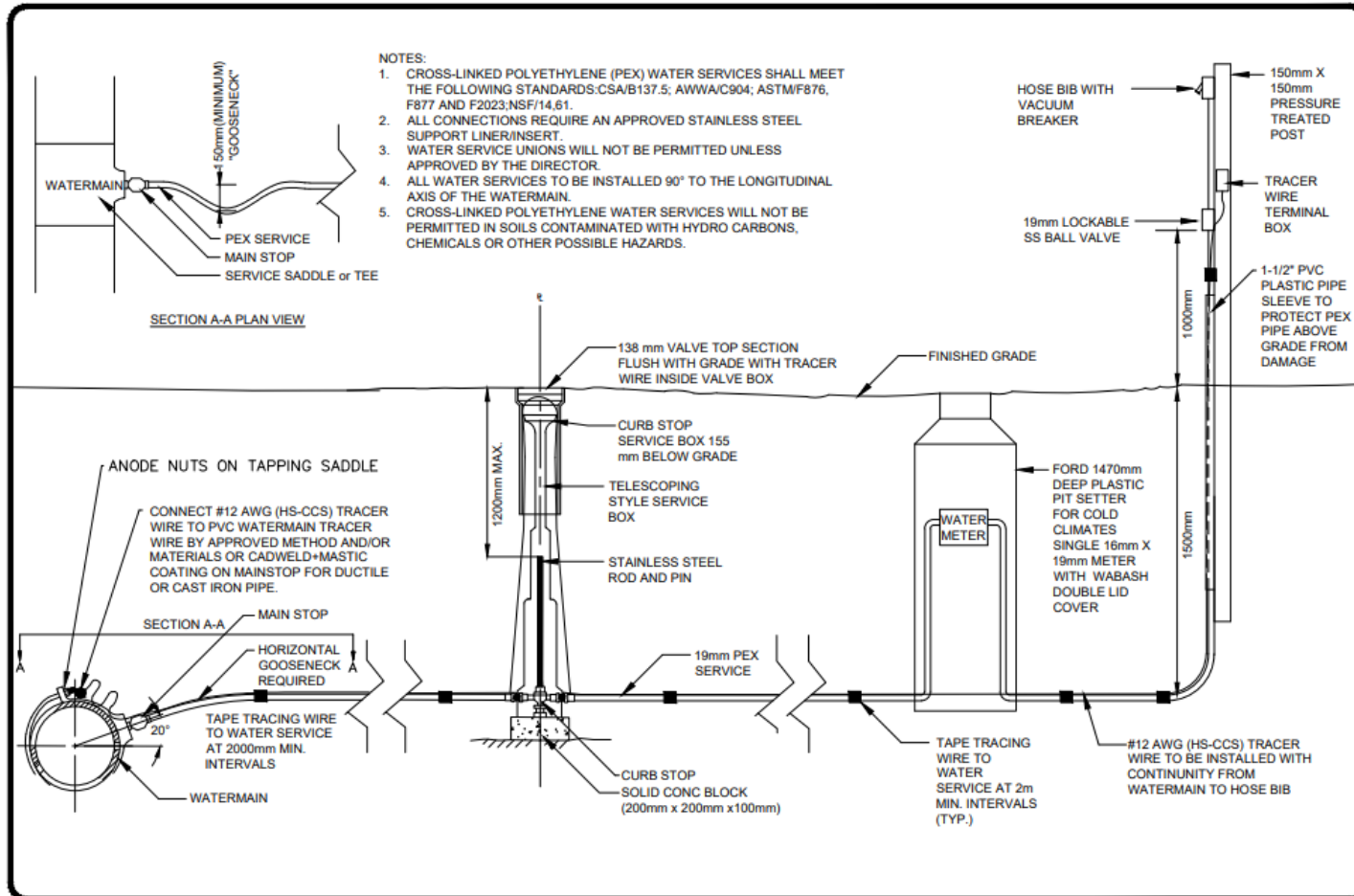
Siting Community Gardens - Water Sources



Ed Taylor Park

- Potential water servicing connection point off stub.

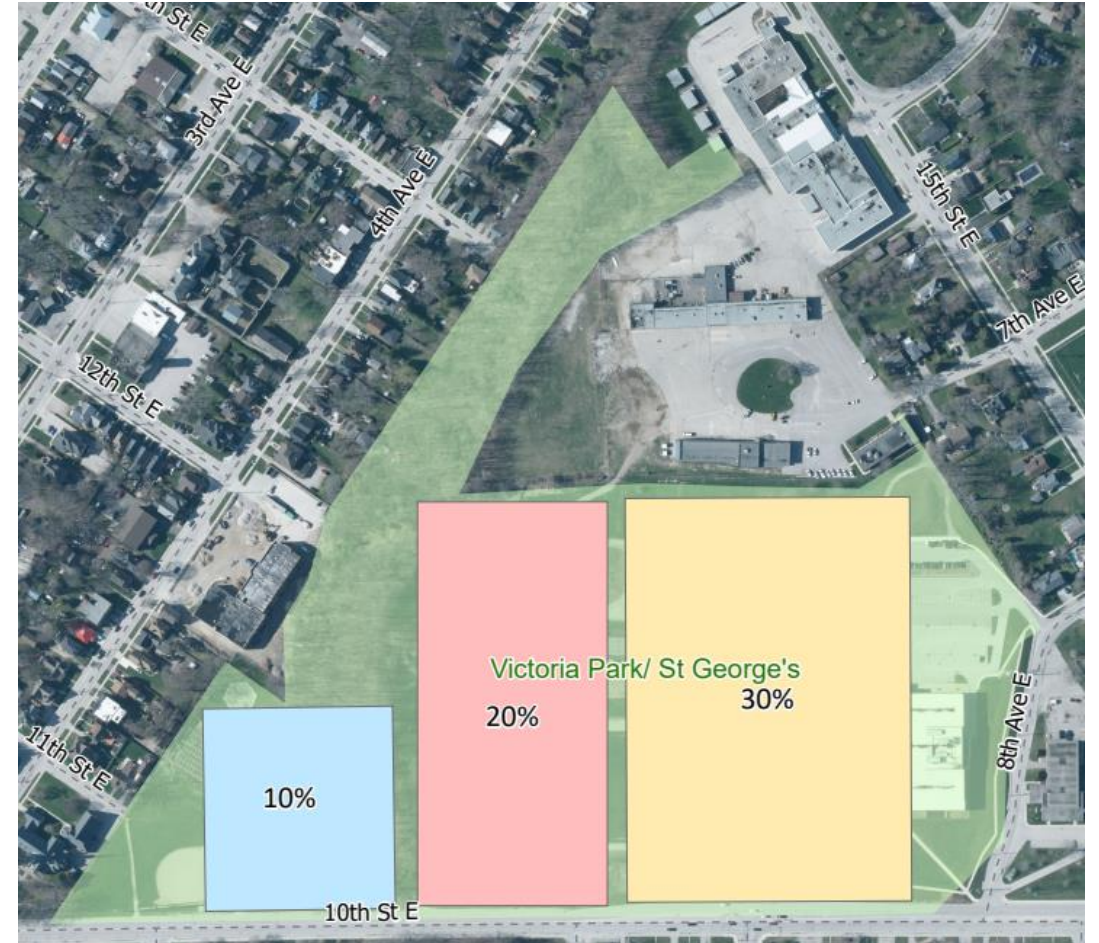
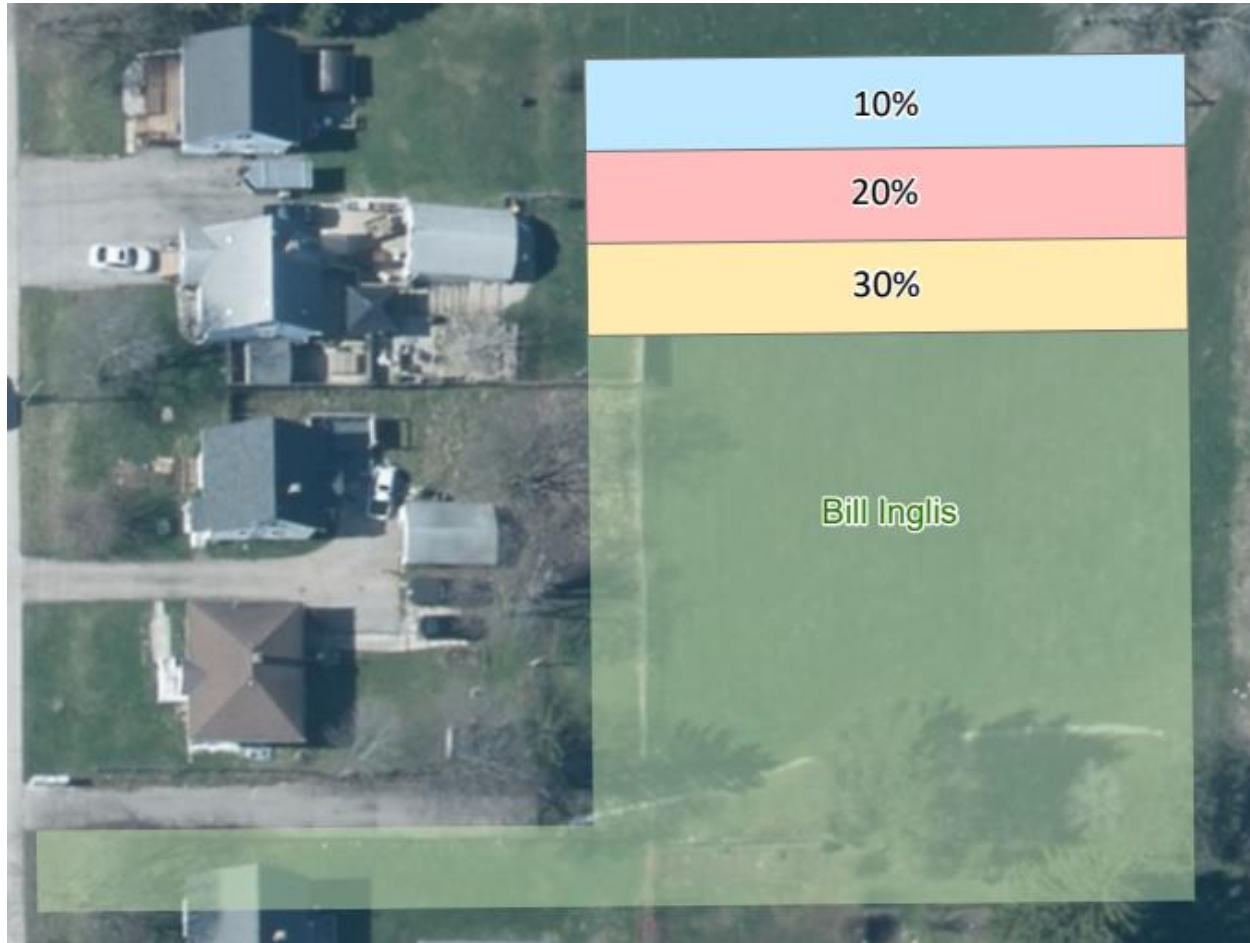
Siting Community Gardens - Water Sources



OSS-413A

Standard drawing for all water servicing to community gardens

Siting Community Gardens – setbacks, buffers and max. coverage



Changes to the Community Garden Policy:

- Incorporates recommendations from the County of Grey to include that rain gardens are a community garden type supported by the City (Sec.1.e) and that the City encourages the planting of native species where possible within community garden projects (Sec.1.f).
- Amended Sec.2.f) to clarify that applications to establish Community Gardens on the lands listed under “City-owned lands available for Community Gardens” identified in Schedule ‘A’ shall be considered using an internal criteria checklist and provide the staff delegated decision to CSC for information in accordance with the 4-Step Process
- Provides that Sec.2.j) of the Community Garden Policy shall regulate the following aspects of community gardens:
 - Maximum lot coverage of 10%
 - Minimum front yard setback of 6.0 m
 - Minimum rear yard setback of 3.0 m
 - Minimum interior yard setback of 3.0 m
 - Minimum exterior yard setback of 6.0 m

Community Gardens Policy Summary continued

- Includes that community gardens shall require a vegetative buffer around the garden perimeter (Sec.3.i).
- Amends Sec.5.m) to identify that where a water source is installed for the purposes of providing water to a community garden on city-owned lands, the Community Garden Collective shall be responsible for the annual costs of water. The draft policy previously identified the City as the party responsible for the annual cost of the water.
- Amends Sec. 7 Licence Agreement, to include that where a water source is installed for the purposes of providing water to a community garden the conditions identified by the City's Public Works and Engineering staff and the City's Utilities Collection Clerk shall be included within the terms of the Licence Agreement (Sec.7.f);
- Includes additional circumstances under which the Licence Agreement may be terminated within the term of the agreement.

The Community Gardens Policy is consistent with:

- Provincial Policy Statement (PSS);
- The County of Grey Official Plan;
- City of Owen Sound Official Plan;
- City Zoning Bylaw (2010-078, as amended); and
- Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan

The next steps for the Community Garden Policy update are:

1. City Council approves by Bylaw to adopt the Community Garden Policy together with checklist;
2. City Council approves amendments to the City's Community Improvement Plan, Property & Landscaping Improvement Grant Program Guidelines to add Community Gardens as an eligible project, subject to certain criteria including compliance with the Community Garden Policy and executing a Community Garden Agreement with the City;
3. City Council directs staff to amend By-law No. 2014-109 Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law for the purposes of appointing the Director of Community Services as Council's delegate to approve where an application is consistent with the Community Gardens Policy and meets criteria of the internal checklist, and,
4. Staff develop a standard Community Garden Licence Agreement to be reviewed by the City Solicitor.