

Report to Council

Report Title: COVID-19 Plan to Re-open Brockton Community Garden

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: May 12, 2020

Report Number: REC2020-01 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments: Guidance for Community Food Programs – Grey Bruce Health Unit

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2020-01 – COVID-19 Plan to Re-open Community Garden, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves the proposed Plan to re-open the Brockton Community Garden therein to implement appropriate health and safety protocols related to COVID-19 to support the controlled access and use of the community garden beds by the public.

Report:

Background:

On March 30, 2020 the Ontario government extended the Emergency Declaration to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 to include the closure of all outdoor recreation amenities including Community Gardens. The municipality immediately implemented the closure of parks amenities including the community garden in Walkerton to become compliant with the provincial order.

On April 25, 2020, Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs forwarded a letter to the municipalities of Ontario that the government had made an amendment to the emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act as set out in O Reg. 104/20. That effective immediately, the Ontario government is allowing the use of allotment and community gardens across Ontario, provided that people practice physical distancing and do not gather in groups of more than five. The decision is endorsed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Those taking part in a community or public allotment gardens are required to follow the advice of their local medical officer of health and adhere to the requirements that pertain to the use of any facilities.

Following this announcement, the Municipality of Brockton Parks and Recreation Department began considerations on how to re-open the community garden in Walkerton.

Analysis:

With the province changing the emergency order and classifying community gardens as essential, the following plan is proposed to re-open the community garden:

- 1) No more than 5 persons to enter garden area at a time. Signage to be posted as such at gates.
- 2) Beds to be numbered. Odd number beds allowed to access on odd numbered calendar days. Even numbered beds to access on even numbered calendar days.
- 3) Storage shed to remain locked. Bring/use your own tools required. No sharing.
- 4) Garden closed 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday for staff maintenance as required.
- 5) Hand sanitizer station(s) to be installed at shed and gates.
- 6) No expansion or sales of future beds at this time. Existing vacant beds can be sold/reserved.
- 7) Communicate the COVID-19 rules of use and bed numbering being put in place to the yearly list of tenants for each garden bed and the community groups involved. We would work to be open by Friday, May 15, 2020.

	East										
<North		South>									
	West										
	8	7									
	9	6 vacant									
	10	5 vacant									
Future Beds	11	4									
	12	3									
	13	2									
	14	1									
	Shed		Water Tank	< Gate	<div>Firehall parking</div>	<div>Firehall</div>					
	15	Raised Accessible Beds 1 of 6 vacant									
25	16										
24	17										
23	18										
22 vacant	19										
21	20 Compost	Composters	<Gate								

In reviewing the [Guidelines for Community Gardens](#) from the Grey Bruce Health Unit website (as attached), the proposed re-opening plan appears to satisfy the guidelines.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?


- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? Yes

- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Revenues will continue to be retained and collected for the remaining vacant garden plots thus reducing the overall forecast of lost revenues and budget implications for the Parks and Recreation Department and the Municipality resulting from COVID-19.

Reviewed By:

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer