



**City of Kingston
Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee
Meeting Number 01-2024
Addendum 2**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Hosted at City Hall in Council Chamber**

11. Correspondence

- b)** Correspondence received from Joyce Hostyn, dated Wednesday, December 13, 2023, regarding the Community Garden Policy Update Report.

Addendum Pages 1 – 5

- c)** Correspondence received from Cathy Christie, dated Wednesday, December 13, 2023, regarding the Community Garden Policy Update Report.

Addendum Pages 6 – 9

City of Kingston
 120 King Street West
 Kingston, Ontario K7L 3Z2
 613-336-4321
www.kingston.ca

The City of Kingston acknowledges and thanks you for your participation. Your correspondence has been provided to the Members of the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee and appropriate City Staff. Please be advised that your correspondence may form part of the public agenda and minutes, and therefore will be made available to members of the public at the meetings, through requests, and through the website of the Corporation of the City of Kingston. Contact information, such as phone numbers and email addresses, will be redacted from documents shared with the public.

The City of Kingston acknowledges that we are an traditional homeland of the Anishinabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, and thanks these nations for their care and stewardship over this shared land.

Meeting Requirements for open house and open house by invitation

- Meeting open to the public at the City of Kingston is a means to receive feedback from citizens on the development of a draft community plan. It is not a means to make decisions on behalf of the Council. Feedback is collected and used to inform the development of a final community plan. The City of Kingston is committed to transparency and accountability. All feedback received will be made available to the public.
- Feedback received at open house is not a substitute for public consultation. The City of Kingston is committed to transparency and accountability. All feedback received will be made available to the public.

Universal Inclusivity

Recognizing the rights of language as a living being

Not just EVERY-ONE

ABOVE THE SYSTEM

→

but EVERY-THING

WITHIN THE SYSTEM

© 2020-2021 THE CITY OF KINGSTON

Introduction: While the public agenda includes inclusion, which is defined as "the inclusion of individuals and communities by recognizing their individual needs and experiences in the development of a draft community plan," it is a broader concept that also encompasses the inclusion of language as a living being. Language is a fundamental part of our identity and culture, and it is essential for our well-being. The City of Kingston is committed to recognizing the rights of language as a living being and to ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to participate in the development of a draft community plan.

Land Stewardship

An approach for change based on land stewardship.

Economic

Social

Cultural

Ecological

CREATE A PLACE

Caring for a piece of land regardless of its ownership

Introduction: Land stewardship is a holistic approach to managing land resources that recognizes the interconnectedness of economic, social, cultural, and ecological systems. It is a process of caring for a piece of land regardless of its ownership, and it is essential for our well-being. The City of Kingston is committed to recognizing the rights of language as a living being and to ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to participate in the development of a draft community plan.



The City of Kingston is committed to transparency and accountability. All feedback received will be made available to the public.



Project Manager: [Name] | Date: [Date] | Location: [Location] | Photo credit: [Name]





2020 Garden Bed Setup
This garden bed was set up in the fall of 2020. It is a raised bed with a wooden trellis structure on top. The garden bed is located in a rural setting with a field of tall grass in the background. The sky is cloudy.



The 50 Project: Shared, Safe Garden
The 50 Project is a community garden in the City of Seattle, Washington. It is a place where people can grow their own food and share it with others. The garden is open to everyone and is a great place to learn about gardening and to meet other people who are interested in growing their own food.

Source:
David Miller

From: [Jaynes, Janet](#)
To:
Cc: [Campbell, Jennifer](#); [Gargaro, Tony](#); [Sullivan, Iain](#)
Subject: RE: Community Garden Policy
Date: December 13, 2023 1:05:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hello,

The City of Kingston acknowledges and thanks you for your communication. Your correspondence has been provided to all Members of Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee and appropriate City staff. Please be advised that your correspondence may form part of the public agendas and minutes, and therefore will be made available to members of the public at the meetings, through requests, and through the website of the Corporation of the City of Kingston. Contact information, such as phone numbers and email addresses, will be redacted from documents shared with the public.



Janet Jaynes (she/her/hers)

City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk

City of Kingston
City Hall,
216 Ontario Street Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3
613-546-4291 extension 1262
jjaynes@cityofkingston.ca



The City of Kingston acknowledges that we are on the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, and thanks these nations for their care and stewardship over this shared land.

From: cathy christie
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 12:53 PM
To: Osanic, Lisa <losanic@cityofkingston.ca>; Stephen, Wendy <wstephen@cityofkingston.ca>; Chaves, Paul <pchaves@cityofkingston.ca>; Boehme, Ryan N. <rboehme@cityofkingston.ca>; Amos, Don <damos@cityofkingston.ca>; Ridge, Gregory <gridge@cityofkingston.ca>
Cc: Jaynes, Janet <jjaynes@cityofkingston.ca>; Ayla Fenton
Subject: Community Garden Policy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Greetings,

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has worked on this critical policy document.

My name is Cathy Christie. I am on the Board at Lakeside Community Garden, and I serve as the Chair of KASSI- Kingston Area Seed System Initiative. KASSI is a small, local non-profit working to ensure that locally adapted, climate resilient seeds are always available for everyone in our community. You can learn more about our work at seedsgrowfood.org.

Seeds are the foundation of our local food systems and ecosystems. They need to be acknowledged, celebrated and included in the Community Garden Policy.

People have been saving and sharing seeds for thousands of years. This practice is being undermined by the four multinational chemical companies that control the global seed supply. Most of the seed sold in Canada is grown somewhere else in the world (often under conditions that exploit the environment and the growers) and transported to Canada where it is packaged and sold.

We need to grow and save local seeds because they are the foundation of local food systems and local ecosystems.

Community Gardens provide a unique place to bring people together to recover the lost art of seed saving and protect our local seeds for all the excellent reasons outlined in the draft policy.

I have included edits in the Appendix (below) that demonstrate how easy it would be to strengthen the policy by adding SEEDS wherever possible.

I would also like to respectfully suggest that you replace the term “food security” with “food and seed sovereignty” in the policy.

“Food security does not distinguish where food comes from, or the conditions under which it is produced and distributed. National food security targets are often met by sourcing food produced under environmentally destructive and exploitative conditions, and supported by subsidies and policies that destroy local food producers but benefit agribusiness corporations.

Food sovereignty emphasizes ecologically appropriate production, distribution and consumption, social-economic justice, and local food systems as ways to tackle hunger and poverty and guarantee sustainable food security for all peoples. (Change for Children <https://change4children.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Food-Security-vs-Food-Sovereignty.pdf>)

To have food sovereignty we must have seed sovereignty because local seeds (for food, medicine and our native kin) are the foundation of local food systems and local ecosystems.

“The Lexicon of Sustainability defines seed sovereignty as “The farmer’s right to breed and exchange diverse open source seeds which can be saved and which are not patented, genetically modified, owned or controlled by emerging seed giants.”

When smallholder farmers are empowered to take control of their seed security, they also build seed sovereignty. Keeping seeds in farmers’ hands and maintaining a high diversity of seeds is critical for building resilient food systems in the face of climate change.” (SeedChange- <https://weseedchange.org/food-sovereignty/>)

Community Gardens play a vital role building and maintaining local resilient food and seed systems and ecosystems when we include gardener or grower in this definition.

Finally, I would like to add my voice to the many people who have expressed their concerns about raised beds in Community Gardens. Of course, there is a place for them to ensure accessible places for everyone who needs them, but they should not be a requirement for every bed. Here’s why...

In 2018 we were thrilled when KASSI received a grant from the City of Kingston and the United Way to build eight raised beds at Lakeside Community Garden (LCG). At the time the space that we had

kindly been allocated at Lakeside was overgrown with pasture grass. Our attempts to plow it in previous years (when there was a lot of rain) simply churned up the clay and created a swamp where thick clumps of pasture grass were the only plants that grew and thrived.

It was our first attempt to use raised beds to grow seeds and it has been an unmitigated disaster. Every fall we would prepare the beds for the subsequent growing season and no matter what we did to remove or suppress the pasture grass it would emerge again! and take over the raised beds. The boards that we used to raise the beds provided a sanctuary for the pasture grass lurking below or growing in the areas around the KASSI Seed Gardens. It was a nightmare.

We removed the boards this year. It was a lot of work. I hope that you can picture our relief every time we removed a board, knowing that the roots of the pasture grass would have nowhere to hide. These beds without their boards will be so much easier to plant and maintain in the spring.

We also created several beds to grow KASSI seeds with leaf bags and compost (no boards just to be clear) over the past few years. These are inexpensive and ready to plant when we make them. The pasture grass is easy to access and remove so they are much easier to maintain.

These beds give us the flexibility that we need to grow enough plants to produce seeds that preserve the genetic variation of a given crop or species. Some of our crops require 80+ plants. We simply couldn't afford to build raised beds following the directions in the Draft Policy. Our ability to grow locally adapted, climate resilient seeds would be severely limited by this requirement.

Thank you for considering these requests.

I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns that you have about any of these suggestions. I would also be happy to meet you at Lakeside Community Garden so that you can see all the wonderful things that are happening there.

Thank you for the work that you are doing to make Kingston a more sustainable city.

Sincerely,

Cathy Christie

Appendix: Please use these suggestions to guide your work and add SEEDS anywhere that food is included in the draft document. If you send me this information as a Word document, I could make these changes and send it back to you.

3.0 Policy Statement

3.1 Policy Goal

...Supporting the Community Gardens Program will:

- i. Ensure an inclusive, healthy, and safe community by removing barriers to urban food AND SEED production and supporting the development of a broad community food sustainability plan.
- ii. Assist in the protection and conservation of the natural environment through less waste generation, proactive 2 environmental management and building a resilient local food AND SEED systems, in alignment with the development of a community food SOVEREIGNTY security plan

- iii.
- iv. Maintain and increase the protection of green infrastructure (e.g., existing greenspaces, new trees, and SEED and pollinator gardens) in alignment with Kingston’s Tree Equity Program.

3.2 Community Gardens Program

The Community Gardens Program encompasses any piece of land gardened collectively by members of the community, in partnership with a non-profit society and the City. The Community Gardens Program includes, but is not limited to, the following types of activities:

- i. Growing annual and perennial food plants, medicinal plants, and flowers
- ii. Growing Indigenous, cultural, and native plants
- iii. Pollinator gardens
- iv. Little forests
- v. Community Orchards and Edible forests including fruit trees, nut trees and/or shrubs
- vi. Edible landscaping

The City recognizes that community led planting management on City owned lands promotes community development, increases opportunities for recreation, socialization and healthier lifestyle, provides access to healthy LOCAL food AND SEED, permits sustainable agriculture, and contributes to an increased tree canopy.

3.4 Policy Application

3.4.1 Community Gardens Program Features

The Community Gardens Program may have the following features:

- i. Allotment plots, communal plots, donation plots or gardens and amenities such as access to water supply and shared tools.
- ii. Accessible compost bins, a tool storage shed, signage and other provisions necessary for the operation of the Community Gardens Program, subject to City approval.

The Community Gardens Program may:

- i. Promote the production of local, healthy and fresh food AND SEED;
- ii. Enhance local food AND SEED SOVEREIGNTY ~~security~~;
- iii. Provide gardening and other environmental education activities to encourage the involvement of schools, youth groups, and older adults in gardening AND SEED SAVING activities;
- iv. Host harvest festivals and other family-oriented activities that encourage positive social interactions among all community members;
- v. Encourage partnerships with other community organizations; and

Donate surplus food AND SEEDS to local food AND SEED distribution organizations, food pantries, food