

## CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

### Second Community Garden Site Selection

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#### **Motion:**

That Council approve the development of a second community garden adjacent to the Fort Saskatchewan Curling Rink.

#### **Purpose:**

To provide site options for the second community garden and information pertaining to the expansion of the existing community garden.

#### **Background:**

##### Existing Community Garden

The Fort Saskatchewan community garden located at 8002 - 109 street was created in 2011 with 100 plots available, 55 of which were rented in the first year. Since 2012, the community garden has grown in popularity, filling quickly each year with a limited waitlist significantly made up of current gardeners looking for additional plots. The expansion of the community garden has progressed slowly over the last three years from 130 plots in 2014, to its current size of 142 plots.

Expansion of this site, while feasible, presents logistical challenges. The biggest challenge being that gardeners using expansion plots would have a significant distance to walk and transport water. Ground conditions can prevent the water truck from being able to fill the furthest water barrel due to sinking. Additionally, the distance from the parking lot and facilities provided would be greater to the expansion plots and may encourage gardeners to resume parking on the side of the road, which has previously created issues at the site.

Expanding this site by 80 plots involves an operating expense of approximately \$2,600. Maximum annual revenue would be \$1,600. This would result in a minimum annual deficit of \$1,000. Other internal impacts, such as increased applications, plots to monitor and information to track may require an increase in hours for the Community Garden Contractor.

In the 2017 budget, Council approved the development of a second community garden site. The number of beds being created at this site will exceed the number of gardeners on the waitlist. Additionally, the existing site is being considered for future expansion of the cemetery. As such, Administration does not recommend expansion of the existing community garden site.

##### Second Community Garden

During 2017 budget deliberations, Council approved the development of a second community garden to be placed in a more central location. The location and model of the current community garden is not conducive to residents that do not have access to their own transportation or that have mobility challenges. The intention of the second site is to remove these barriers by creating a centrally located second site that offers exclusively raised garden beds. A portion of the raised beds will be designed based on accessibility standards to address the needs of gardeners with mobility issues. The second community garden will provide residents the ability to walk, bike or take public transit to the site.

### Site Options

The following three sites have been identified as options for the second community garden location:

#### Site 1 – Legacy Park

Site 1 is located in Legacy Park between the parking area and the intersection of 99 Avenue and 101 Street. This location has municipal bathroom facilities and water access on site. Site 1 is closer to the downtown core, positioning it to serve a greater walking population. The land is level and has a positive mix of surrounding uses, including business and residential. This, combined with visibility from the street, means strong natural surveillance.

Site 1 is a heavily utilized public space for major events in the community and as a result the community garden could conflict with these events. Further, the community garden was not considered in the preparation of the Historic Precinct Site Master Plan which includes a Victorian style garden to be located just north of this site.

#### Site 2 - Legion

Site 2 is located in Jubilee Park between the Legion's parking area and the Boys and Girls Club parking area fronting 93 Avenue. This site is closer to potential program partners such as the Boys and Girls Club, Legion and John Paul II High School. Site 2 is also located directly across the street from a senior's apartment complex.

Entering Site 2 from the Legion parking area or street does not meet an accessible standard, due to curbing and the slope of the land. These challenges could be addressed through cutting the curb and building a ramp down the slope. While the estimated cost to complete the work is between \$10,000 and \$20,000, this cost was not contemplated in the 2017 budget request. The potential for gardeners to use the Boys & Girls Club parking area to avoid the grade issue would create a conflict with the Boys & Girls Club.

#### Site 3 – Fort Saskatchewan Curling Rink

Site 3 is located in Jubilee Park, adjacent to the Fort Saskatchewan Curling Rink. This site is also close to potential partners such as the Boys and Girls Club, Legion and John Paul II High School. It is not as close to the senior's apartment complex as Site 2 but is still within a short walking distance. Further, it is close to the downtown core and more accessible to that population. Site 3 has good visibility from the road and surrounding activity generators in the park promoting natural surveillance. Since this site is fairly level and has a pathway along one side, it will be significantly easier for gardeners, particularly seniors and those with mobility challenges, to access. Access for the water truck would not be an issue. An abundance of nearby public parking will prevent potential friction regarding where gardeners choose to park. Site 3 is also significantly larger than the other sites allowing for future expansion.

The location of the community garden will not interfere with the upcoming work at the Curling Rink. Additionally, after completion of the work, the proximity to the Curling Rink would allow for a partnership to run the community garden site off of rain water collection, potentially eliminating the need for a water cistern and the associated expense.

**Financial Implications:**

The 2017 budget includes \$8,000 of one time funding for the development of the second community garden.

**Recommendation:**

That Council approve the development of a second community garden adjacent to the Fort Saskatchewan Curling Rink.

**Attachments:**

1. Existing Community Garden Site
2. Second Community Garden Site Options

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Prepared by:	T.J. Auer Community Social Planning Coordinator	Date: February 2, 2017
Approved by:	Tammy Lautner Director, FCSS	Date: February 22, 2017
Approved by:	Brenda Rauckman General Manager, Community & Protective Services	Date: February 22, 2017
Reviewed by:	Troy Fleming Acting City Manager	Date: February 23, 2017
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: February 28, 2017

Existing Community Garden Site

Attachment 1



*The smaller rectangle represents approximately 900m<sup>2</sup> where up to an additional 80 plots could be accommodated.*

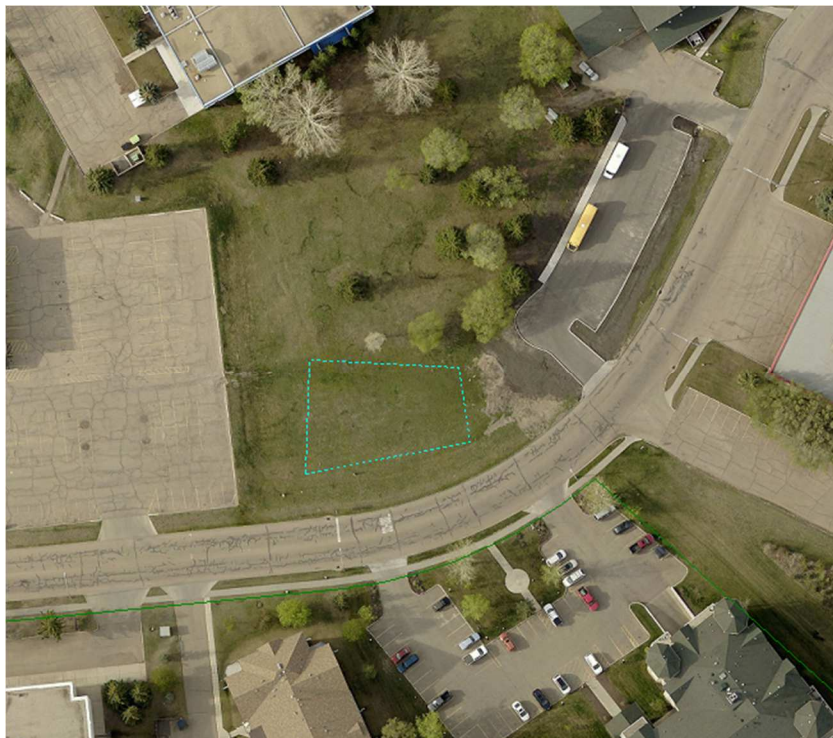
## Second Community Garden Site Options

Attachment 2

### Site 1: Legacy Park



### Site 2: Legion





Site 3: Fort Saskatchewan Curling Rink

