

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Adam Parsons
Meeting Date: March 17, 2021
Report Code: CS-21-026
Subject: Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Public Input and Next Steps

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-026 respecting the Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Public Input and Next Steps, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Endorse one of the four options outlined in the report and the associated costs to implement the preferred option;
2. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the execution of a 1-year license agreement with an option of a two-year renewal based on the results of the community garden's initial year of operation; and
3. Direct staff to bring forward a report no later than March 2022 with an overview of the community garden's first year of operation.

Highlights:

- A Community Garden at Stobbe Park is consistent with Provincial Policy statements, the City's Official Plan and Zoning requirements.
- The proposal meets the goals of the City's Community Garden Policy.
- A full report of public input survey results and direct correspondence with City staff and Council.

- The proposal includes a request for \$12,673.00 in start-up funding, \$5,500.00 for the installation of a water line and yard hydrant, and \$1,000.00 in-kind from the City. Funding for a Community Garden at Stobbe Park has not been identified in the City’s capital or operating budgets.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

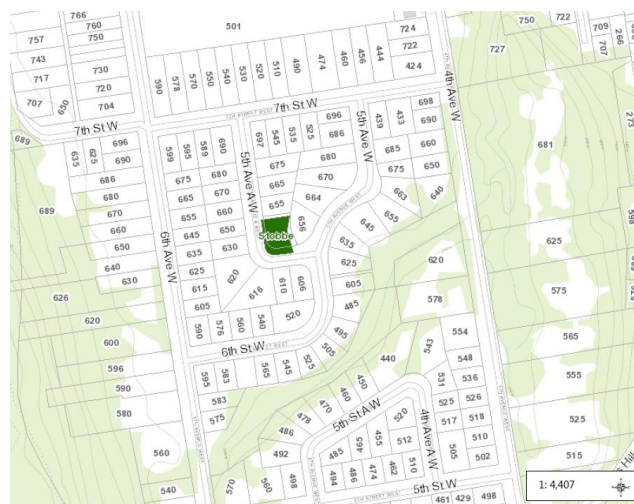
- 7. Encourage and promote participation in cultural activities and active lifestyles
- 8. Support community safety and social inclusion
- 14. Maintain, improve, and promote the use of our local parks and trails
- 15. Ensure the responsible management of natural resources

Background:

On January 6, 2020, Mr. Jake Bates contacted the City with a request that a community garden be established at Stobbe Park, located between 655 5th Avenue 'A' West and 656 5th Avenue 'A' West.

This report provides:

- 4. Background to the request and process;
- 5. A request for financial and in-kind support from the City in support of this community garden;
- 6. The policy context; and
- 7. The results of public input.



Background to the Request and Process

At the February 19, 2020 meeting of the Community Services Committee, report [CS-20-020 Stobbe Park Community Garden Request – Process for Evaluation and Neighbourhood Consultation](#) outlined the request, and the process in the Recreation, Parks & Facilities Master Plan for transition of use for a park from an existing passive park to a community garden.

At the October 21, 2020 meeting of the Community Services Committee, report [CS-20-120 Stobbe Park Community Garden Request and Transition of Use](#) was approved detailing a modified process for the proposed transition of use for a portion of Stobbe Park from a passive park type use to a more active park type use – a community garden.

Modified Process

The approved recommendations in report CS-20-120 allowed modifications of the 8-step process outlined in the City’s Recreation, Parks & Facilities Master Plan to a 4-step process.

The revised process recommended and approved in October 2020 still included an opportunity for public feedback.

Request for Financial Support

The Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective has identified \$12,673.00 in anticipated start up costs (attachment 1), and details the materials required for the establishment of a community garden, including:

- Lumber, landscape cloth, hardware, and soil for the construction of raised garden boxes, \$7,280.00.
- A 1,200-litre tote and materials for constructing and placing the water filled tote on a concrete pad, \$1,113.00; this item would be in lieu of the dedicated installation of a water line in kind by the City detailed below.
- Lumber, hardware, patio stones, paint, and padlocks for the construction of a shed, including a decorative mural, \$4,280.00.

At the request of the Community Garden Collective, the City’s Water Distribution Division has provided a quote of \$5,500.00 for the supply and installation of a permanent water line and yard hydrant for the purpose of providing water to the proposed community garden. The request for the City

to provide water access for a proposed community garden includes that water use would also be in kind.

The City's in-kind contributions and promotion of any community garden project is subject to funding availability from year to-year. In the past, support for established community garden projects has been in-kind. To date, funding for the Stobbe Park Community Garden or any other community garden has not been identified in the City's capital or operating budgets. The current Parks capital and operating budgets do not support this request.

The request includes an option to sub-excavate the footprint of the community garden and infill with wood chips to create a defined zone, promote drainage and water infiltration into the soil, and provide a stable base for gardening activities. Providing a wood chip base, including sub-excavation and the diversion of wood chips generated by the City's forestry operations destined for the City's compost facility is estimated to be \$1,000.00. Pending approval, the sub-excavation and preparation of a wood chip base could be provided by the City in-kind.

Policy Framework

Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) establishes the land use planning policy framework for the province. The PPS calls for the wise use and management of lands in the interest of creating healthy, resilient communities. The PPS speaks directly to the provision of public spaces, recreation, parks, trails, and open space in the interest of creating a complete community. The PPS states that healthy, active communities should be promoted by planning for public spaces that are safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction, and facilitate community connectivity. The notion of creating an active public park use, in the form of a community garden creates space for neighbourhood interaction and contributes to combating feelings of isolation. These concepts are particularly important at a time when the ability to gather indoors is extremely limited.

It is the opinion of City Planning Staff that the proposed community garden is consistent with the direction of the PPS for the provision of public space that facilitates community connectivity and a healthy, active community.

City Official Plan

The 2006 City Official Plan (OP) is a key planning tool to implement the PPS at the local level. The subject property is designated 'Residential' in the City OP, which permits residential uses and those uses that are complimentary and provide service to residential uses, such as schools, places of worship, and parks.

Sec. 7.5 of the OP addresses parks and recreation and provides that the City shall promote health in its population by providing and supporting a variety of public recreational uses for persons of all ages and abilities. The OP stipulates that redevelopment of City parks is encouraged where financially feasible and where community needs are addressed.

As written in section 7.1.11 of the OP, the City recognizes community gardens as valuable community resources that provide open space and a local food source, offer recreational and educational opportunities, and build social connections. The location of community gardens shall give consideration to compatibility, prior land use and lot area. A community garden located in Stobbe Park would be compatible with the surrounding low-density neighbourhood. The use does not constitute a nuisance or create an incompatible use. The property has been vacant since created through subdivision and has no known adverse soil condition. The lot size and frontage exceed the minimum requirements of the OP for a park. The proposed location of the Stobbe Park Community Garden satisfies the requirements of the OP.

The OP also maintains that the City will support community gardens through initiatives, which may include offering City-owned lands as community garden sites, such as undeveloped parcels, City parkland, and unopened road allowances, where appropriate. Stobbe Park is a vacant, undeveloped City-owned parcel that provides opportunity for community garden placement or other active parkland use.

It is the opinion of Planning Staff that the proposed community garden conforms with the City's Official Plan as the use is permitted and encouraged within the designation, does not present a land use conflict, and the lot is appropriately sized and sited.

Zoning By-law

The subject property is zoned 'Low Density Residential' (R1) in the City's Zoning By-law (2010-078, as amended). Single-detached dwellings, places of worship, and parks are permitted in the R1 zone. The subject property meets and exceeds the minimum lot area and frontage requirements of the Zoning By-law for a park. Buildings and structures associated with a park use in the R1 zone are required to meet the setback regulations of the Open Space (OS) Zone. The raised garden beds proposed as part of a community garden on the lot would be required to be 2.0 m from the rear and side lot lines and 6.0 m from the front lot line. For context, a single-detached dwelling erected on the lot would be required to meet the site and building regulations of the R1 zone. A house with an attached garage could be located 0.9 m from the interior lot line, as well as a deck and patio. A play structure located on the lot is not required to be setback from any lot lines in accordance with the Zoning By-law.

Given the lot size and shape, the required setbacks for structures associated with a community garden can adequately be met. A Building Permit will be required for the construction of any structures larger than 10 m² or that otherwise trigger the need for a permit under the Ontario Building Code.

Subject to meeting the required setbacks, the proposed community garden conforms to the City's Zoning By-law.

Community Gardens Policy

The City's Community Garden Policy was adopted by City Council in 2011 with Committee, agency, and public consultation. The Community Gardens Policy outlines a series of policy objectives including that the purpose of the policy is to guide the placement and operation of community gardens on City-owned lands.

The policy encourages the promotion of health and community partnerships through community gardens initiatives and it outlines location criteria for new gardening projects. The policy identifies eight (8) City-owned parcels that could accommodate a community gardening project. Stobbe and Comm-r-Ette Park are in the south-west quadrant of the City and are both identified as parks that can contain a community garden in the event of an expression of interest. The policy also guides operations and amenities, the City's role, and the contents of required licence agreement for gardens located on City-owned lands.

Section 2 of the Community Gardens Policy outlines provisions for locating community gardening projects. Attachment 2 provides the clauses from Section 2 of the policy and provides an analysis of how the proposed community garden at Stobbe Park aligns with the policy.

If Council permits the creation of a community garden in Stobbe Park, the administrative particulars outlined in the policy will be followed. The proposed location of the community garden adheres to the location criteria in the Community Gardens Policy (2011).

Recreation, Parks & Facilities Master Plan

The City completed a [Recreation Parks & Facilities Master Plan](#) study in 2018.

Although community gardens are not featured with the recommendations of the plan, the [public input survey results](#) detailed in the background information (available on the City's Recreation, Parks & Facilities Master Plan webpage) point to a strong desire for the City to support community garden initiatives.

In response to survey question 29 *"what are the top 3 new recreational programs/activities you would like to see offered in the City of Owen Sound?"* the top three were:

- Indoor Turf Facilities.
- Dancing Lessons for Adults.
- Community Gardens.

Public Input

Given public health restrictions to hosting public gatherings during the global COVID-19 pandemic, City staff created a dedicated tile on the City's website and a dedicated [Community Gardens website](#). This site includes:

1. The Community Gardens Policy;
2. A list of potential community garden sites included on Schedule A of the Community Gardens Policy;
3. A registry of existing community gardens in Owen Sound; and
4. Stobbe Park request background information, a video presentation outlining the request and proposed site plan, and a link to the public input survey.

The survey was live for 16 days from January 27, 2021 to February 12, 2021. In addition to the information and survey provided online, a hard copy notice and survey was mailed to 95 households within 150m of Stobbe Park on January 25, 2021. A media advisory was released to inform the public of the background information and input process, and to provide links where these items were located online.

The purpose of the video presentation and public survey was to inform the public of the proposed layout/footprint for the project and gather feedback on the proposal.

In addition to the survey results, many took the time to write emails or letters. All inputs were logged. The correspondence included with this report is current to March 5, 2021. Correspondence received after this date continues to be considered but does not form part of the public comments attached to this report.

Who Answered the Survey?

- 135 people responded to the survey:
 - 110 respondents (81 per cent) indicated they lived in Owen Sound, 25 (19 per cent) indicated they did not live in Owen Sound.
 - 128 (95 per cent) respondents indicated they watched the video presentation. 7 (5 per cent) indicated they did not.
 - 29 respondents (26 per cent) indicated they lived within 100m of Stobbe Park, 29 respondents (26 per cent) indicated they lived within 200m of Stobbe Park, 52 respondents (24 per cent) identified as living more than 200m from Stobbe Park. 10 respondents skipped the question about how close they lived to the subject property.
 - Question 5 asked to choose all that apply, indicated the following responses:
 - 60 indicated community gardens are important community resources for local, sustainable food production;
 - 59 indicated that they are great places for social interaction;
 - 61 indicated that community gardens help support community health;
 - 60 indicated they have a role in teaching food production and agricultural skills;

- 47 indicated that community gardens contribute to civic engagement and beautification;
 - 39 indicated that they felt a community garden would not have any of these benefits in their neighbourhood;
 - 32 indicated that community gardens are generally problematic and should not generally be permitted on public lands; and
 - 39 provided written responses to question 5, summarized within the themes discussed in table 1.
- 14 respondents (10 per cent) indicated they were interested in participating with a Community Garden at Stobbe Park.
 - 54 respondents (41 per cent) indicated that all the provisions for a successful community garden were shown in the video presentation. 79 respondents (59 per cent) felt elements were missing.

68 written responses to question 7 were received with respect to the proposed garden layout, and supportive of the general concept of community gardens; individuals also wanted to provide an opinion respecting perceived drawbacks of building a community garden at Stobbe Park. Those responses are summarized within the themes in table 1. A full report of public input survey results, comments, and correspondence received with respect to the proposal are included as attachment 3.

Analysis

Themes, What we Heard

Staff took the 135 survey responses and correspondence received up to and including March 5th and grouped the input by themes. Table 1 summarizes this and provides comments or suggested mitigation to address public input themes from the survey and direct correspondence.

Table 1

Comment Theme	Comment/Suggested Mitigation
How does a community garden at Stobbe Park achieve the goals of the	Promoting Health and Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective has established a partnership with OSHaRE for the distribution of fresh produce for the purpose

<p>Community Garden Policy?</p>	<p>of providing healthy, locally grown food to support overcoming hunger in Owen Sound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Garden Collective has established a partnership with Hillcrest School to engage young gardeners in the production of fresh produce. <p>Locating Community Gardens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stobbe Park is included on Schedule A of the Community Gardens Policy as a parcel of City-owned lands available for community gardens. <p>Operations and Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through their terms of reference (attachment 4), the garden would be operated under the supervision of a garden planning committee, identified as the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective. • Through their terms of reference, the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective outlines and commits to the transparent, responsible, and democratic governance of the proposed Community Garden. <p>License Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through a recommendation included with this report, pending approval, the City would negotiate a license agreement for the operation and maintenance of the community garden, detailing the responsibilities for each party.
<p>Loss of recreation/green space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed community garden layout (attachment 5) allocates 28 per cent of the total park area. The proposed layout maximizes the remaining available space for existing spring, summer and fall recreation uses. Winter use is not impacted by the proposal; however, the garden would need to be staked to the satisfaction of the City each fall to ensure the

	<p>location of the garden boxes are identified when snow accumulation obscures them from view.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees, including memorial trees, are not impacted by the proposal. • Through their terms of reference, the proponent acknowledges existing uses at Stobbe Park, and commits to co-existing with recreational and passive uses at Stobbe Park. • The ability for other park uses to continue with any community garden would be included in the license agreement.
<p>What would a community garden look like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft community garden layout was included and detailed in the online video presentation soliciting public input. Key elements of the proposal include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Space for raised, white cedar garden boxes, 4.8m (16ft) long by 1.2m (4ft) wide and 0.6m (2 ft.) tall; the boxes would rest on the existing turf, or on a prepared base of mulched wood fibre. ○ The garden boxes are proposed to be located 2m from the north interior lot line, satisfying the Zoning By-law, buffered from the adjacent residential property by a mature cedar hedge. It is important to note that the cedar hedge is on private property, and the City does not have the authority to cause the property owner to retain or remove the hedge. ○ A compost area that includes a visual screen. ○ The City would include a refuse container with a lid for the purpose of waste produce from the garden that is non-compostable and support existing uses of the park. To date, a refuse container has not been deployed at Stobbe Park. The inclusion of an additional container within the context of the wider Parks trash management

	<p>program would have a nominal impact on service delivery and costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No portable washroom is proposed; Garden Collective members are generally expected to live within walking distance of the park and would have access to their residences.
<p>Public parks should be for everyone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the public input survey and direct correspondence, neighbourhood residents identified concerns that the park would become unavailable to the neighbourhood. Report CS-20-120 discusses that a community garden is considered a park type use. The establishment of a community garden on a park property does not change the subject lands from a park type use to a non-park type use. Community gardens and neighbourhood parks are a permitted use under the R1 zoning designation at Stobbe Park. • Community garden projects provide the opportunity for numerous community and individual gains, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mental and physical health promotion through the activity of food production; and ○ The opportunity for social engagement with family, neighbours, and fellow gardeners.
<p>Compatibility</p> <p>Sub-themes:</p> <p>Negative impact on views.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the public input survey, many concerns were raised with respect to the potential impact to adjacent residential properties, and the wider neighbourhood. These have been further divided into 'sub-themes' as concerns: <p>Comment: The proposal aligns the layout to minimize the impact on views of the park from adjacent residential properties. A mature cedar hedge is present to the north, the layout is in profile when viewed from the east or west, and the maximum distance between a residential property</p>

<p>Potential for property devaluation.</p>	<p>and direct view is from the south, obstructed by the Stobbe Park sign, and mature trees.</p> <p>Comment: There is little data available with respect to the impact community gardens may have on adjacent property values. A comprehensive white paper "The Effect of Community Gardens on Neighboring Property Values" by Voicu and Been published 2008 in the journal Real Estate Economics concludes:</p> <p><i>'We find that community gardens have, on average, positive effects on surrounding property values.'</i></p> <p>As noted, parks are permitted in the residential designation of the Official Plan and permitted in the residential zone.</p>
<p>Potential to attract loitering and vandalism.</p>	<p>Comment: With respect to Stobbe Park being a public park, it is available for the public to use for recreation, or passive use. As with any public property, vandalism is subject to the City's by-laws and the <i>Provincial Offences Act</i>.</p>
<p>The proposed community garden will increase traffic.</p>	<p>Comment: The City's Public Works & Engineering Department comments that the anticipated increase in traffic would be equivalent to the addition of four detached homes in the neighbourhood, equating to 24 new trips per day during the gardening season. This level of additional traffic would not trigger a traffic study through a site plan application review for a developer and is considered well within the capacity of the existing road network.</p>
<p>Adjacent properties will lose the enjoyment of their</p>	<p>Comment: The raised garden beds proposed as part of a community garden on the lot would be required to be 2.0m from the rear and side lot lines. For context, a single-detached dwelling erected on the lot would be required to meet the site and building regulations of the R1 zone. A house with an attached garage could be located 0.9m from the interior lot line, as well as a deck and patio. A play structure located on the lot is not required to be</p>

<p>private outdoor spaces.</p> <p>A community garden will attract pests.</p>	<p>setback from any lot lines in accordance with the Zoning By-law.</p> <p>A community garden is not anticipated to result in noise or disruptions to the enjoyment of adjacent private outdoor spaces disproportionate to other permitted uses. Gardening with hand tools in a raised garden bed can reasonably be expected to produce fewer and less severe disruptive impacts than the current park maintenance activities carried out by the City at Stobbe Park that include mowing, line trimming, and tree maintenance.</p> <p>If Committee is concerned, the agreement could limit the maximum number of gardeners at any one time.</p> <p>Comment: The proposed community garden plans to construct raised beds, which are generally deterrents for mammals until food plants begin to bear fruit. During the ripening stage, nets may be used to cover the produce until it is harvested for community gardeners and direct a portion of the harvest to OSHaRE as per their terms of reference. Common wildlife populations including rabbits, squirrels and raccoons exist in the immediate neighbourhood, as is the presence of private vegetable gardens. The establishment of a community garden is not anticipated to exacerbate nuisance activities that result from the presence of common wildlife. These concerns will be monitored by the City and mitigation measures may be implemented where an increase in nuisance wildlife activity is observed.</p> <p>It is important to note that no chemical pesticides can be used as directed by <u>Ontario Regulation 63/09 Pesticides Act</u>. For the purpose of the Act, a community garden does not meet the definition of Agriculture due to its small scale.</p>
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<p>A compost area will be unsightly and lead to foul odours.</p>	<p>Comment: Generally, a properly maintained compost does not emit strong odours. Where odours from compost are emitted, they are generally caused by the inclusion of animal protein in the materials added to the compost, and the compost not reaching a sufficient internal temperature to break down animal protein. A community garden will not produce the materials that lead to strong odours.</p>
<p>Will there be a portable washroom on site?</p>	<p>Comment: There is not a portable washroom proposed at the outset. The City will monitor community garden use and ensure property standards for a neighbourhood park are upheld.</p>
<p>Residential properties in the immediate neighbourhood have sufficient yard space to have a garden.</p>	<p>Comment: Benefits of a community garden include opportunities for social interaction, opportunities for education on the topic of local food production, and an opportunity to provide fresh produce to community organizations who support people experiencing barriers to their access to healthy food options. Table 1 details how the proposed community garden at Stobbe Park aligns with the goals of the City’s Community Garden Policy.</p>
<p>The garden will fall into disrepair and become an eyesore.</p>	<p>Comment: The City will continue to maintain the park including grass cutting and tree maintenance and will regularly inspect the condition of the community garden. If the garden is abandoned or does not meet the City’s standards, the City would have the ability to remove the gardens. This would include monitoring and limitation of compost.</p>
<p>The community garden will attract persons who are not affiliated with the project to take advantage of the produce, or who wish to cause vandalism</p>	<p>Comment: Access to Stobbe Park is unchanged by the establishment of a community garden. Through the lens of crime prevention through environmental design, activating a space generally supports prevention in those areas and is a deterrent to destructive activities.</p>

at the park or in the neighbourhood.	
Is a community garden safe during COVID-19?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the pandemic, via Ontario regulation 364/20, community gardens have continued to be permitted and encouraged as an avenue for outdoor recreation, and safe social interaction for areas in stage 3. The province provides a calculation of total square meters divided by 8 for the purpose of physical distancing when using an outdoor amenity. The proposed layout has a total area of 144m², which would permit 18 gardeners to use the amenity simultaneously while provincial CODIC-19 restrictions are in place. • Pending approval, the City would support the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective in the development of a safety plan, to be reviewed by local public health officials. It is important to note that other community gardens in Owen Sound have continued to operate safely during the pandemic.

Summary and Conclusions

Policy

It is the opinion of City Planning Staff that locating a community garden in Stobbe Park contributes to a healthy community and fosters social interaction. Planning Staff further opine that a community garden in this location is consistent with the direction provided by the Provincial Policy Statement and conforms to the City's Official Plan. A community garden in Stobbe Park meets the intent and location criteria of the City's Community Garden Policy and can comply with the requirements of the Zoning By-law, provided all setbacks are met.

Support for community gardens is demonstrated through the City's Recreation, Parks & Facilities Master Plan background study.

Relevant policies and land use framework support community gardens in Owen Sound including at Stobbe Park.

Feedback

Public feedback provided insight into the concerns and support for the proposal prevalent within the community. Many residents expressed concerns. Table 1 summarizes those concerns broken down by theme and provides comment on the mitigating measures that can be considered and seek to minimize the real or perceived negative impacts brought forward through the public feedback process. The City and the proponent recognize and understand there is apprehension by property owners in the immediate neighbourhood to support a community garden. The proponent and the City are committed to mitigating those concerns in consultation with stakeholders.

Financial

The proposal includes the request for a financial contribution by the City to support start up costs that has not been identified or contemplated through the City's 2021 capital or operating budget processes.

Pending approval, staff would bring a report on the success of a community garden at Stobbe Park after year 1 to the Community Services Committee and recommend amendments to the agreement for 2022 and 2023 should any concerns arise that require additional mitigation.

Options for Consideration

4 options are offered for consideration. Staff are recommending Option 1.

Option 1:

Approve a community garden at Stobbe Park, and support the request for the installation of a dedicated water line and yard hydrant valued at \$5,500 in-kind by the City.

This option would:

- Authorize staff to prepare a license agreement for a community garden at Stobbe Park;
- Decline the request for \$12,673 in additional funding for materials. The applicant could look for sponsorship or grant funding to support the requested capital;
- Authorize staff to support the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective with grant applications by acting as a sponsor;

- Permit the establishment of a ground planted community garden including in kind support by the City to strip sod and turn soil to prepare the ground for planting;
- Pending the ratification of a license agreement by bylaw, this option permits the City's water distribution division to install a water line and yard hydrant for the purpose of a community garden at a cost of \$5,500. The water consumed would be in kind;
- Commit staff to reviewing the success of the community garden after the first planting season;
- Staff would monitor and track input and concerns over the course of the season and address them prior to year 2.
- This also reduces the initial investment. Raised beds could be added in year 2.

Financial Impact: \$5,500.00 including \$3,450 for labour and equipment and \$2,050 for materials to install a dedicated water line and yard hydrant for the purpose of watering a community garden.

Option 2:

Approve a community garden at Stobbe Park including \$5,500 for the installation of a water line and yard hydrant, and fund the request for \$12,673.00 for materials and start up costs detailed in the report.

This option would:

- Authorize staff to prepare a license agreement for a community garden at Stobbe Park;
- Approve the request for \$12,673 in additional funding for materials, and advise that the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective seek sponsorship or alternative funding after year 1 for further development of the amenity;
- Authorize staff to support the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective with grant applications by acting as a sponsor;
- Pending the ratification of a license agreement by bylaw, this option permits the City's water distribution division to install a water line and yard hydrant for the purpose of a community garden. The water consumed would also be in kind;
- Permit the construction of raised beds for the purpose of a community garden as detailed in the report;

- Review the success of the community garden after the first planting season.

Financial impact: \$18,173. \$12,673 to support the cost of materials for the construction of raised garden beds and a tool storage shed.

\$5,500.00 including \$3,450 for labour and equipment and \$2,050 for materials to install a dedicated water line and yard hydrant for the purpose of watering a community garden.

Option 3:

Approve a community garden at Stobbe Park, and not support the financial requests for lumber and construction materials or in-kind support for the installation of a water line and yard hydrant for this use.

This option would:

- Authorize staff to prepare a license agreement for a community garden at Stobbe Park;
- Authorize staff to support the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective with grant applications by acting as a sponsor;
- Commit staff to delivering bulk loads of water each week during the planting season and transferring the water to 1200 litre totes on site for the purpose of watering a community garden;
- Review the success of the community garden after the first planting season.

Financial Impact: \$1,000 of in-kind services for wages and equipment to deliver bulk water once a week during the gardening season.

Option 4:

Denies the request by the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective and not proceed with implementation of a Community Garden at Stobbe Park.

This option would:

- Halt the process and no community garden would be established at Stobbe Park with respect to the request before committee and Council;
- The Community Gardens Policy could be updated to remove Stobbe Park as a suggested suitable location.

Financial Impact: There is no cost associated with Option 4.

Financial Implications:

The Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective has identified \$12,673.00 in anticipated start up costs and requests that the City fund start up costs financially and in-kind:

Financial

- Lumber, landscape cloth, hardware, and soil for the construction of raised garden boxes, \$7,280.00.
- A 1,200-litre tote and materials for constructing and placing the water filled tote on a concrete pad, \$1,113.00.
- Lumber, hardware, patio stones, paint, and padlocks for the construction of a shed, including a decorative mural, \$4,280.00.
- Installation of a water line to the garden by the City, \$5,500.00.

In-Kind

- Sub-excavation and installation of wood mulch over the proposed community garden footprint, \$1,000.00.

Staff recommend option 1 detailed in the report. The financial implications are \$5,500.00 for the installation of a water line provided in-kind by the City for the purpose of a community garden at Stobbe Park.

Communication Strategy:

February 19, 2020 Report CS-20-020 Stobbe Park Request - Process for Evaluating and Neighbourhood Consultation

October 21, 2020 Report CS-20-120 Stobbe Park Community Garden Request and Transition of Use

January 25, 2021 Direct Mail Out to 95 residences within 150m of Stobbe Park

January 29, 2021 Media Advisory – Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Site Plan Public Input Information Video and Survey Available

January 27, 2021 – February 12, 2021 Video Presentation and Public Input Survey

March 17, 2021 – This report for consideration by Community Services Committee and Council.

Consultation:

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

Kristan Shrider, Senior Manager of Property and Parks

Amy Cann, Manager of Planning & Heritage

City's Public Works & Engineering Department

Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective

Neighbourhood and public consultation via the public input survey and direct correspondence

Attachments:

1. Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Start-Up Cost Breakdown
2. Locating Community Gardens
3. Stobbe Park Community Garden Public Input Survey Results and Combined Comments to March 4, 2021- Redacted
4. Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective Terms of Reference
5. Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Layout

Recommended by:

Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space

Reviewed by:

Kristan Shrider, Senior Manager of Property and Parks

Supported by:

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Adam Parsons at aparsons@owensound.ca or 519-376-1440 ext. 1221.

Stobbe Park Community Garden Startup Costs

Planter Boxes:

Materials	Required Amount	Cost per Unit	Total
2" X 6" X 16' white cedar or hemlock	100 pieces	\$40.00	\$4000.00
4' X 16' landscape cloth	9 pieces	\$40.00	\$360.00
cubic yard of triple mix	50 yards	\$50.00	\$2500.00
	two deliveries	\$50.00	\$100.00
3" X 3" X 24" angle iron	36 pieces	\$8.00	\$288.00
3/8" X 2" lag bolts	32 pieces	\$1.00	\$32.00
Total			\$7280.00

Water Storage:

Materials / Items	Required Amount	Cost per Unit	Total
1200 litre container	one piece	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
4" X 4" X 12' pt	one piece	\$50.00	\$50.00
2" X 6" X 16' pt	one piece	\$45.00	\$45.00
ready-mix concrete	three bags	\$6.00	\$18.00
Total			\$1113.00

Shed:

Materials	Required Amount	Cost per Unit	Total
2" X 4" X 16' spruce	40 pieces	\$20.00	\$800.00
2" X 4" X 18' spruce	3 pieces	\$25.00	\$75.00
2" X 6" X 12' spruce	2 pieces	\$25.00	\$50.00
2" X 6" X 18' spruce	6 pieces	\$40.00	\$240.00
2" X 4" X 12' pt	3 pieces	\$20.00	\$60.00
4' X 8' X ½" ply	16 sheets	\$55.00	\$880.00
1" X 4" X 12'	10 pieces	\$7.00	\$70.00
1" X 12" x 16' barn pine	15 pieces	\$25.00	\$375.00
62" X 30" roofing steel	14 pieces	\$20.00	\$280.00
10' steel roofing cap	2 pieces	\$50.00	\$100.00
18" X 18" patio stones	60 pieces	\$7.00	\$420.00
sand	2 cubic yards	\$50.00	\$100.00
	one delivery	\$50.00	\$50.00
hinges	10 pairs	\$20.00	\$200.00
hasps	10 pieces	\$11.00	\$110.00
padlocks	10 pieces	\$10.00	\$100.00
paint	1 gallon primer	\$65.00	\$65.00
	2 gallons: background	\$65.00	\$130.00
	7 quarts: colours for mural	\$25.00	\$175.00

Total

\$4280.00

Attachment 2. Locating Community Gardens

Clause	Analysis of Policy Alignment
<p>2.1 Community gardens may be located on City-owned lands indicated on Schedule 'A' of the Community Gardens Policy</p>	<p>Stobbe Park is indicated on Schedule 'A' as a site where a community garden may be located.</p>
<p>2.2 Notwithstanding Clause 2.1, if a person/group wishes to locate a community garden on City-owned lands not specified in Schedule 'A', the proponent may submit a written request to the Community Services Department for consideration by the Community Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Alternate sites were reviewed with the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective. The proposal under consideration is for Stobbe Park.</p>
<p>2.3 Private landowners, including schools, churches, and other community groups are encouraged to initiate community garden projects.</p>	<p>The some Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective participants are private land owners. By way of the Community Garden Policy, private land owners are encouraged to initiate community garden projects.</p>
<p>2.4 Private lands may be used for community gardens, subject to the land owner's explicit authorization and cooperation with the community garden executive.</p>	<p>The proposal is for a community garden at Stobbe Park which is a City owned property.</p>
<p>2.5 No community garden shall be placed on lands zoned 'Hazard' (ZH) in the City's Zoning By-law;</p>	<p>Stobbe Park is not within lands designated 'Hazard' (ZH) by the City's zoning bylaw.</p>

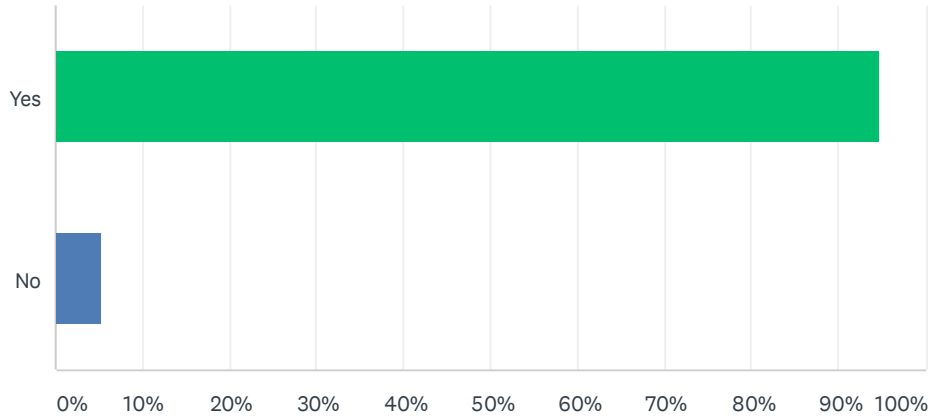
<p>otherwise, zoning shall not limit the placement of a community garden.</p>	
<p>2.6 No community garden shall be placed on any site that is known or suspected to have contaminated soils.</p> <p>2.6.1 In accordance with O. Reg. 153/04 of the Environmental Protection Act, only lands where the current or last know use was residential, parkland, or agricultural will be considered for a community garden site on City-owned or managed lands.</p>	<p>The property has been vacant since created through subdivision and has no known soil condition. The last known use is as parkland. The site will remain parkland within the context of the proposal.</p>
<p>2.7 Where possible, community gardens should be located on lands in close proximity to the City's trails or public transit systems for increased pedestrian access.</p>	<p>Stobbe Park is 355m from the Bruce Trail access at the corner of 7th Street West and 7th Avenue West.</p> <p>The nearest bus stop at the intersection of 6th Avenue West and 7th Street West is 208m from Stobbe Park.</p>
<p>2.8 All community gardens shall be considered for integration into new and existing City Walking Tours.</p>	<p>Staff will consider the relevance of including community gardens on walking tours as they are developed.</p>
<p>2.9 All community gardens shall be located such that easy access by pedestrians, cyclists, and persons with disabilities is facilitated.</p>	<p>Stobbe Park is bounded on the west and south sides by mountable curb, and is a level site with firm ground. The existing site permits access for pedestrians, cyclists and persons of all abilities.</p>

2.10 Where possible, community gardens should be located with priority on lands within walking distance (400-800 metres) to areas with higher proportions of affordable and social housing units.

The subject lands are located within 600 m of the River District Planning Area and surrounding neighbourhoods. This area of the City contains a range and mix of housing types and densities and contains a considerable amount of the City's converted housing stock. A converted dwelling is one that was constructed (usually) as a single detached dwelling and has been 'converted' to contain two or more dwelling units.

Q1 Have you watched the short video presentation with respect to the proposal?

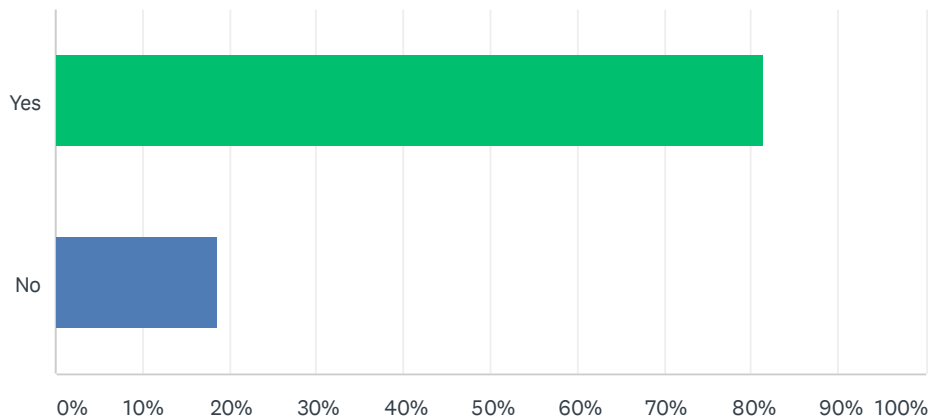
Answered: 135 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.81%	128
No	5.19%	7
TOTAL		135

Q2 Do you live in Owen Sound?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 0



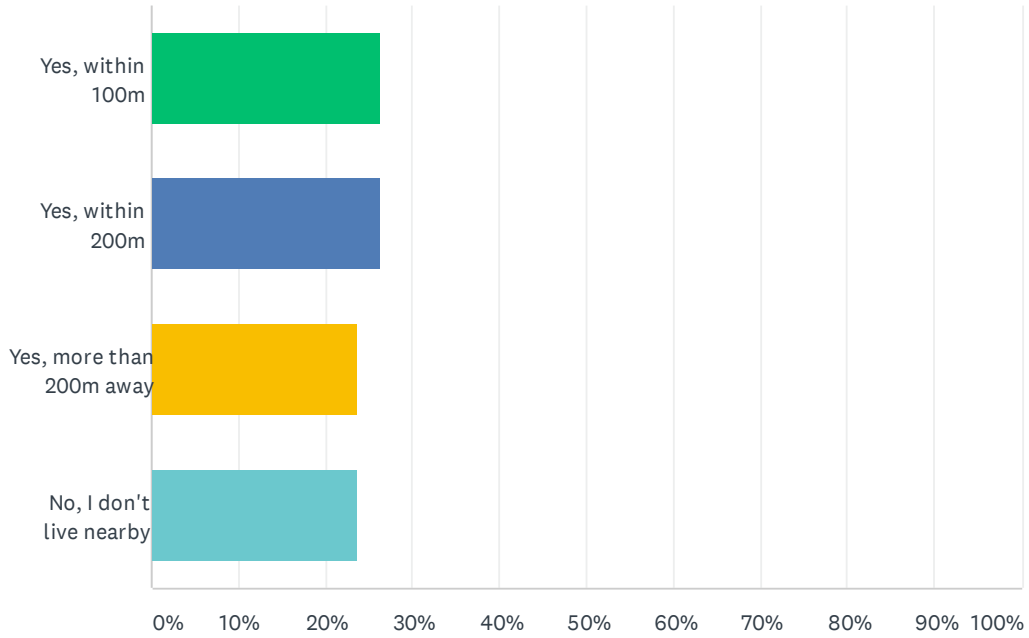
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	81.48%	110
No	18.52%	25
TOTAL		135

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

#	IF NO, PLEASE SPECIFY WHERE YOU LIVE:	DATE
1	Stratford	2/10/2021 10:23 PM
2	Meaford	2/5/2021 3:08 PM
3	Holland Centre, ON	2/4/2021 4:21 PM
4	Saugeen shores	2/3/2021 1:39 PM
5	i live in Georgian bluffs but i own 2 properties in Owen Sound my son owns the property looking directly at the proposed area	2/3/2021 7:24 AM
6	Sauble Beach	2/3/2021 12:10 AM
7	Desboro	2/2/2021 8:28 PM
8	Tara	2/2/2021 1:14 PM
9	Bognor	2/2/2021 12:49 PM
10	outside of Owen Sound	2/2/2021 10:27 AM
11	Sharbot Lake ON	2/2/2021 9:57 AM
12	Inverhuron	2/2/2021 9:47 AM
13	Kincardine	2/2/2021 9:02 AM
14	Chatsworth Township	2/2/2021 8:51 AM
15	Grimsby	2/1/2021 2:43 PM
16	Shelburne, my Son, wife Grand Children live on proposed st	2/1/2021 9:11 AM
17	Meaford	2/1/2021 8:34 AM
18	Guelph	2/1/2021 7:13 AM
19	Grey Highlands	2/1/2021 6:09 AM
20	Holland Centre	1/31/2021 8:18 PM
21	near Stobbe Park	1/31/2021 2:55 PM
22	Cambridge ontario	1/31/2021 1:02 PM
23	Georgian Bluffs	1/29/2021 3:14 PM
24	Georgian Bluffs	1/28/2021 11:23 AM

Q3 Do you live in the Stobbe Park neighbourhood where the community garden is proposed?

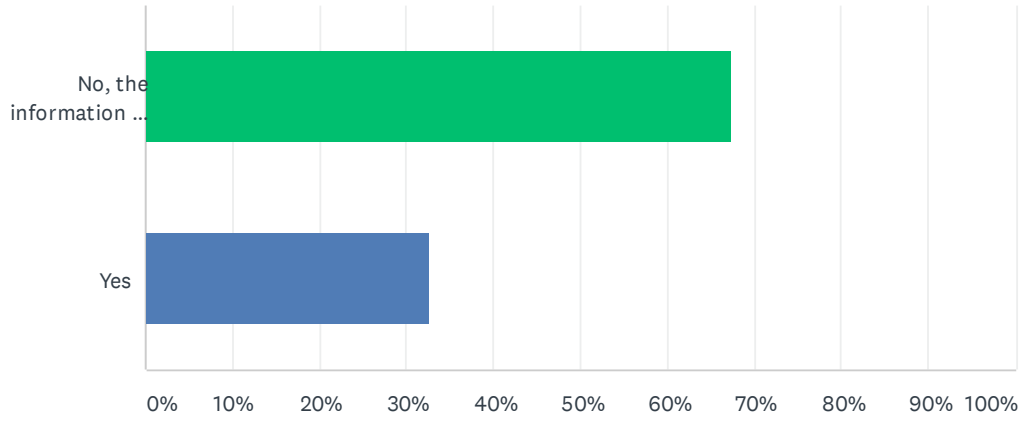
Answered: 110 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, within 100m	26.36%	29
Yes, within 200m	26.36%	29
Yes, more than 200m away	23.64%	26
No, I don't live nearby	23.64%	26
TOTAL		110

Q4 Is there any information missing from the website and video presentation that may help inform your consideration and input?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No, the information is all there	67.41%	91
Yes	32.59%	44
TOTAL		135

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

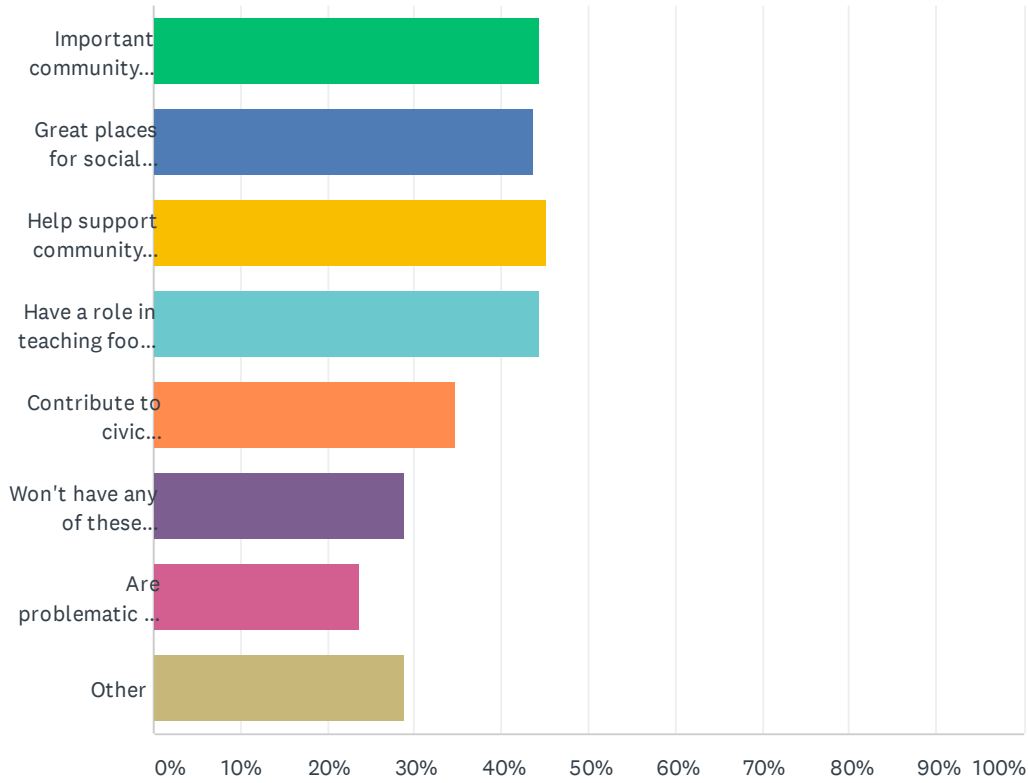
#	IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY:	DATE
1	usage survey	2/11/2021 10:21 PM
2	Please refer to the enclosed list of concerns and questions	2/11/2021 11:48 AM
3	No information about water or washroom facilities	2/10/2021 10:24 PM
4	1. No mention of how high the compost box would be and how high the contents would be allowed to get. 2. Where would residents direct any complaints regarding a compost situation ? 3. No mention made of how pests would be controlled ie: rats, mice, skunks, raccoons etc. foraging for food among the rotting and decaying vegetables and plants. 4. How would the very unpleasant smell from the compost be addressed - especially for the residents living only feet from it? 5. No mention made in the video that for the proposed location of the garden to proceed and be successful, the residents in the neighbourhood must see it as beneficial to them as opposed to very real concerns regarding the devaluation of their property and an erosion of their well being. Some of the literature that we have read on line frequently states this as a requisite for a successful creation and sustaining garden project.	2/10/2021 6:11 PM
5	No mention of water supply for the garden?	2/10/2021 4:26 PM
6	Issues on parking (corner property)	2/10/2021 12:35 PM
7	The memorial trees will not likely survive. No consideration has been made for extra parking the community garden would require.	2/9/2021 3:20 PM
8	The park is not big enough for gardens and kids playing ball and soccer.	2/8/2021 11:37 AM
9	porta-potty? water supply, parking?	2/6/2021 3:45 PM
10	Organizing team, interested residence responsibilities, assignments ect.	2/5/2021 5:37 PM
11	cannot locate video	2/5/2021 3:08 PM
12	Who looks after the gardens?	2/5/2021 1:05 PM
13	What about parking - either auto or bicycle	2/4/2021 4:25 PM
14	little if any information on increased traffic is shown	2/3/2021 12:13 PM
15	Will there be a source of water? How will garden space be allocated? Eg. Lottery? Is there a fee? Can the same plot be used year after year to grow perennialslike asparagus, garlic?	2/2/2021 9:11 PM
16	I have watched the video and read the information and nothing states who governs the participants. Who makes sure this doesn't become run down, not maintained, not cleaned up. If the composter is not maintained properly animals will become a problem and because it is too close to neighbours who have pets this will be very problematic	2/2/2021 8:12 PM
17	Who will clean it up if it is left in a bad state. With numerous people using it no one will be accountable to keep it well kept	2/2/2021 7:55 PM
18	Doesn't give size of gardens. Price who pays for them.	2/2/2021 3:54 PM
19	Who can garden? Is a new hire required by the city to oversee these gardens? Where does the food go? Are tax dollars used to pay for this?	2/2/2021 3:19 PM
20	Pictures of existing community parks for information regarding upkeep, traffic increase, noise, etc.	2/2/2021 2:30 PM
21	Who is going to maintain the site? It could become an eye sore and devalue the properties around it. I understand that the property was donated as a park by Mr. Stone.	2/2/2021 12:28 PM
22	All of the elderly around wanting to use it as a garden	2/2/2021 8:54 AM
23	Didn't get survey re park usage... this survey does not deal with park usage or alternative use.	2/1/2021 3:31 PM
24	I'd like to know what volunteer organization is going to run this. Do they have experience with this?	2/1/2021 2:48 PM
25	Immediate neighbours' opposition	2/1/2021 11:55 AM
26	Any restrictions on time of use for community garden	2/1/2021 11:40 AM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

27	The need to access water for the garden does not seem to be addressed.	2/1/2021 9:33 AM
28	Park setting children playground	2/1/2021 9:12 AM
29	How to get water and compost	2/1/2021 7:13 AM
30	How much is the City willing to do to help establish the gardens?	2/1/2021 5:29 AM
31	Who is taking care of these gardens Is this profit or non profit	1/31/2021 4:01 PM
32	I could not tell if there is any info missing as I can't hear or see video	1/31/2021 3:01 PM
33	Accessibility, community safety	1/31/2021 1:04 PM
34	Will there be access to city water?	1/30/2021 9:05 PM
35	Other options for park use and design	1/30/2021 9:08 AM
36	How does the neighborhood use the park currently or do they? For instance do children often play there etc	1/29/2021 5:26 PM
37	I am interested in the source for water? Will there be a rain capture initiative?	1/28/2021 9:56 PM
38	The neighbours in this area fought to have Stobbe Park remain a park. We were promised at a city council meeting it would remain a park and we would not have to fight for it again.	1/28/2021 2:31 PM
39	who pays to upkeep and what are the estimated annual costs?	1/28/2021 11:13 AM
40	When the subdivision was developed, the builder had to designate a certain percentage of land as parkland. The cost of this parkland was passed on to the buyer. The parkland for our project was sold and now contains a large house. Did we get a rebate on this transaction - NO! Then Black's Park was allowed to become overgrown and unsafe after someone found a rare plant growing there. One more close by park land was gone. Now two houses are located on conservation property adjacent to this. These are now spaces where our children played as they grew up. We moved to this area because of the abundance of parks. On FOUR occasions, I made presentations to City Council to stop the sale of Stobbe Park. On the last time, I was assured that this property would remain a park FOREVER! Past records will bear this out. I am infuriated that the June 2 2011 meeting was publicised so poorly. I would have been there to remind the council of a previous commitment to local residents. The neighbours worked hard in the past to keep this as a PARK. We even worked on a rink project there with city assistance. One or two citizens should not dictate the future of this parkland. I attended one neighborhood meeting and was disgusted by the lack of consideration of the Stobbe Park neighbours. It was my last meeting. Such a project should not be rammed down our throats. It should be a peaceful community decision. I know that the couple whose land abuts the park are furious and have contacted lawyers. This is NOT the way to have a harmonious project. My point is that there has been POOR COMMUNICATION in this process. It is a source of conflict for the neighbourhood and this is not the desired outcome for a community garden.	1/27/2021 4:51 PM
41	how will it get watered and who looks after it?	1/27/2021 4:34 PM

Q5 Generally, I agree that community gardens are (select all that apply):

Answered: 135 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Important community resources for local, sustainable food production	44.44%	60
Great places for social interaction	43.70%	59
Help support community mental health	45.19%	61
Have a role in teaching food production and agriculture skills	44.44%	60
Contribute to civic engagement and beautification	34.81%	47
Won't have any of these benefits in my neighbourhood	28.89%	39
Are problematic and should not generally be permitted on public lands	23.70%	32
Other	28.89%	39
Total Respondents: 135		

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

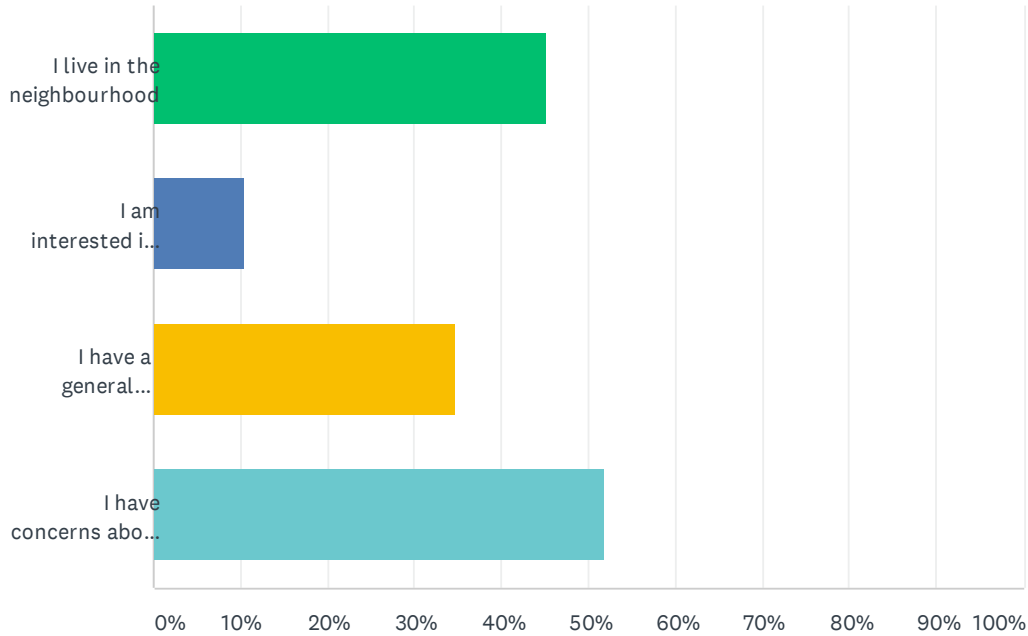
#	IF YOU SELECTED OTHER, PLEASE SPECIFY:	DATE
1	Can help to feed the less fortunate and is good for wildlife	2/11/2021 3:14 PM
2	As we understand it the concept of a community garden is: 1. To keep it local to the people who will use it. 2. To give opportunities for people in crowded housing developments to come together and garden in their own communities with the assumption that they would experience all the benefits associated these community gardens. 3. To locate these gardens within walking distance 400 - 800 metres which equals 0.8 km. Or 1/2 mile. This criteria doesn't fit with using Stobbe Park for community gardens because: . Residents in this area have good sized lots on which to develop a garden if they wish. 2. The residents in the neighbourhood have established strong social networks and live together as a strong knit community. 3. The park itself is a small, well kept, uncluttered green space used, enjoyed and valued by the neighbourhood residents and the neighbouring community at large	2/10/2021 8:47 PM
3	We moved here because it appeared to be a quiet neighborhood for seniors. I do not like the idea of more traffic in this area. Even	2/10/2021 1:24 PM
4	Not in quiet areas like this	2/10/2021 12:35 PM
5	Consider local schools; preparation and clean up (spring/fall)	2/10/2021 12:03 PM
6	May not have these benefits in my neighbourhood; may be problematic and should not generally be permitted in small community parks. Stobbe is already perfect as it is.	2/9/2021 3:22 PM
7	They distract from the natural beauty of the neighbourhood	2/9/2021 3:15 PM
8	Yes, I agree with the premise of the gardens but sites should not be in single family home subdivisions. This area was promised to remain as parkland over 30 years ago and should remain as such.	2/8/2021 11:32 AM
9	Causing stress!!	2/8/2021 11:19 AM
10	No!	2/8/2021 11:18 AM
11	lovely, quiet older residential neighborhood may not like the disruption. Already a lovely green space for everyone to enjoy as is. Most residents already have their own gardens.	2/6/2021 3:50 PM
12	Uncertain	2/5/2021 5:38 PM
13	I think that Stobbe park is a poor choice for a community garden, I think there are lots of great choices in Owen Sound with lots of space for community gardens. Stobbe park has many houses that look directly at the park, Owen Sound as mentioned in 4.4 and 4.5 of the proposal has completely removed its responsibility to look after or maintain them other than cutting the grass. this has the potential for all of these houses to have to look out their front window every day at a mess. There is no parking at all in this area for the people that come to work on the gardens, there are lots of great places with more space, no houses looking at the park and parking available. This is a community of elderly people and these gardens will bring an increase in traffic which brings increased risk with elderly people walking on the street, which has no sidewalk. I completely support the idea of community gardens, this very small park in a neighbourhood full of elderly people, with no parking, and no sidewalks is a very poor option for location.	2/3/2021 11:52 AM
14	Should be located on land that doesn't require property owners to have to visually watch an on going public operation out their front window. Have to put up with increased transient activity and increased traffic on a quiet mainly senior neighbourhood	2/3/2021 7:30 AM
15	Community Gardens are only important to those directly involved, taking any social area away from families at the moment(especially in a pandemic is) seems to defeat the purpose of a park. Secondly to have gardens close to the property boundary boarding a residential property does not make sense, you would be creating noise pollution for the family living there, both during planting and especially when people gather to view the gardens	2/3/2021 6:21 AM
16	I believe Owen Sound already has sufficient community garden space.	2/2/2021 6:28 PM
17	People can make their own garden boxes and plant their own vegetables because large ones are an eye sore and park area spaces are for kids to give them more room to play! There are enough in the city.	2/2/2021 5:10 PM
18	To grow a garden here you have to get rid of squirrels and rabbits	2/2/2021 3:54 PM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

19	I feel sorry for people on that street having to look at that	2/2/2021 3:51 PM
20	Many of these "community garden" areas become eyesores and are mainly un-kept after a very short time. NO!	2/2/2021 10:31 AM
21	Should not be taking out public use parks to be brought in	2/2/2021 9:57 AM
22	Taking away a park that is used by children in the neighborhood all seasons that's absurd. Kids have no where to go as it is to burn energy, spend quality family time. You do more harm taking away a park where children thrive then adding a community garden. Use a piece of land that isn't already creating a positive environment for local children	2/2/2021 9:52 AM
23	These are always beautiful in the beginning but then no one tends to them. More use if left as a park for kids to have somewhere to play off the streets.	2/2/2021 8:37 AM
24	Some concerns in primarily quiet residential neighbourhood	2/1/2021 11:42 AM
25	a viable symbol of municipal commitment to sustainable food production	2/1/2021 6:12 AM
26	This park will provide young people to contribute to our community, volunteer time, connect people of all ages especially some seniors that may take time to help in this garden(a wealth of knowledge) and to gain practical experience a	1/31/2021 8:58 PM
27	Want it left as a park! My 3 grandchildren use the park	1/31/2021 8:20 PM
28	I am not sure. Good for teaching if that's what is going to happen with this space	1/31/2021 4:02 PM
29	As I understand most people in collective will be outside immediate area, increased auto traffic would lessen any benefits to community	1/31/2021 3:06 PM
30	I don't have any direct experience with a community garden so would not be able to comment on whether the theory of them being a positive thing actually is positive for residents who live near them.	1/30/2021 2:27 PM
31	Other park design and uses	1/30/2021 9:09 AM
32	Not appropriate for this location. Too close to residents homes & insufficient parking.	1/29/2021 3:17 PM
33	A productive use of otherwise rarely-used passive space	1/29/2021 3:15 PM
34	This park was used by our children and neighbours' children for all kinds of games. Grandchildren play there when they come for a visit.	1/28/2021 2:31 PM
35	A wonderful and engaging way to teach children about where their food comes from and how it grows.	1/28/2021 2:24 PM
36	Family lives here and I know it will be an incredible resource for the community	1/28/2021 11:24 AM
37	Involving children in outdoor activities.	1/27/2021 9:34 PM
38	The gardens will take away from our usage of the park. We have 3 children that use this park all year long. As a family we play baseball here, soccer, bocce ball, catch, etc. This winter we blew a large chunk of the snow creating a snow hill for their flying saucers to ensure social distancing. They love it and we hope to be able to create this annually. In the area that we blew out the kids take over their road hockey nets and play. It keeps them off the road.	1/27/2021 7:03 PM
39	Source of conflict as I previously stated in my comments.	1/27/2021 4:53 PM

Q6 What is your interest in the proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden? (select all that apply)

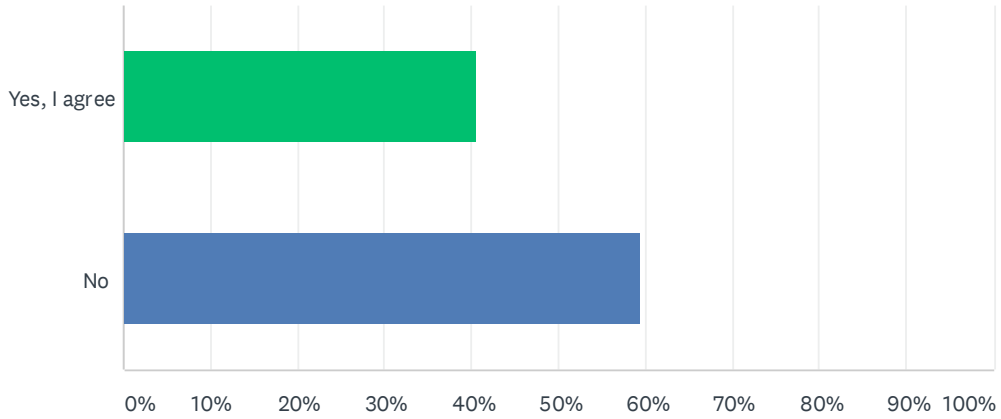
Answered: 135 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in the neighbourhood	45.19%	61
I am interested in participating with the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective	10.37%	14
I have a general interest in community gardens	34.81%	47
I have concerns about a community garden in this location	51.85%	70
Total Respondents: 135		

Q7 In terms of the site plan, I think that all of the necessary provisions for a successful community garden are shown.

Answered: 133 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes, I agree		40.60%	54
No		59.40%	79
TOTAL			133

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

#	IF NO, PLEASE SPECIFY WHAT ITEMS WOULD ADDRESS YOUR CONCERNS:	DATE
1	Washrooms and a source for water	2/16/2021 7:59 AM
2	increased traffic , parking . appearance .	2/12/2021 2:56 PM
3	Community input	2/11/2021 10:24 PM
4	Where would the water supply come from need to be able to water the plants	2/11/2021 3:16 PM
5	A list of concerns and questions was enclosed	2/11/2021 11:48 AM
6	Water source and washroom facilities missing. Compost appears too close to nearest house. Will there be fencing or other measures to deter pests?	2/10/2021 10:34 PM
7	The placement of the garden boxes and the compost area are very close to the dwellings of the neighbours whose properties abut the park. 2. The use of our hedge as a visual buffer but not perhaps recognizing that it would not buffer the noise level. 3. There seems to be not enough information about the long range vision of this plan and its many characteristics re infrastructure, access to water, maintenance schedule, the organization and the decision-making structure, how it will effect community users of the park	2/10/2021 9:16 PM
8	We moved here even tho we felt taxes are on the high side, because it is a nice quiet seniors area, even with a school nearby. A community garden will only enhance traffic and comings and goings which are unnecessary at present. It is great hearing the laughter of children when they are playing in the park!	2/10/2021 1:33 PM
9	Jake Bates is a noisy disrespectful person doesn't consider others. Water access	2/10/2021 12:39 PM
10	Consider some water source (City water/tap); encourage other city groups to help	2/10/2021 12:03 PM
11	Unfortunately those of use who actually live near and around Stobbe were not consulted by Jake Bates. I was not invited to the meeting at 495 6th Street West on Wednesday, January 15, 2020.	2/9/2021 3:23 PM
12	I didn't see plans for a water source. A garden can't be successful without water.	2/8/2021 9:37 PM
13	No washrooms, no water	2/8/2021 11:37 AM
14	Who is responsible for the garden clean up.	2/8/2021 11:33 AM
15	It will attract animals, more traffic, no place to park, strangers in the neighbourhood, it will be an eyesore	2/8/2021 11:21 AM
16	No account for children at play	2/8/2021 11:18 AM
17	I believe the setback should be more than 2m. Maybe 4m or 5m to allow easy access with a garden wagon to get around other people.	2/6/2021 4:49 PM
18	Disrupting an older, established neighborhood where many of the neighbors are happy with their quiet, scenic, passive parkland, and don't want added noise and disruption.	2/6/2021 3:53 PM
19	Water supply ?	2/5/2021 5:39 PM
20	Is parking available for access to the gardens?	2/4/2021 4:27 PM
21	Too much extra traffic, in an area that houses mostly Senior residences. No sidewalks here and a lot of people walk here and also walk their dogs. If someone wants a garden they should grow it on their own property. We are strongly opposed to this project.	2/3/2021 2:34 PM
22	cancellation	2/3/2021 12:16 PM
23	This site has, no parking, no sidewalks, elderly people that walk the streets outside their home, many houses looking directly at the proposed location, it is a very small park already which will be made smaller if this happens. There are a lot of great locations for community gardens in Owen Sound, Stobbe park is not one of them.	2/3/2021 11:55 AM
24	I believe it is a poor location for a community garden as 6 to 8 homes have to look at the operation and activity directly in front of their residences these projects should only be approved for none visually invasive areas	2/3/2021 7:34 AM
25	Situated to close to property boundary, Creating unwanted noise for the family living at the	2/3/2021 6:23 AM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

	property next purposed garden layout	
26	Citizens using the park for recreation	2/3/2021 12:13 AM
27	Cost to install winterised water access (ability to shut the water off in winter months).	2/2/2021 9:56 PM
28	Who monitors good maintenance of plots? Consequences if neglected?	2/2/2021 9:12 PM
29	We'll bring for the neighborhood and increased traffic	2/2/2021 8:30 PM
30	Neighbours who have applied for this permit have sufficient garden space on their own property. One of which has become an overgrown mess. So who governs over this property to make sure this doesn't reduce our property values	2/2/2021 8:16 PM
31	How will water be provide? Will the cooperative be responsible for water cost, hoses etc.	2/2/2021 8:01 PM
32	.	2/2/2021 6:37 PM
33	Take into account the other community garden space in Owen Sound	2/2/2021 6:29 PM
34	It's in a relatively private area. I wouldn't want all the strangers around and also the potential for vandalism. Keep it a park!!!!	2/2/2021 5:13 PM
35	Don't need stinky compost at fence of backyard or toilet. We don't need skunk, racoon, rabbits, etc.	2/2/2021 3:55 PM
36	People in area of St. George's complain about weeds	2/2/2021 3:51 PM
37	I would object to fencing - ugly and generally ill kept	2/2/2021 2:31 PM
38	Better off as a park for kids play in, especially in the winter	2/2/2021 1:15 PM
39	Don't think park land should be sacrificed	2/2/2021 12:55 PM
40	Site cleaning, garbage pick-up, noise suppression and surrounding property devaluation.	2/2/2021 12:34 PM
41	It doesnt show the detrimental affect it would have on the kids to take the park out	2/2/2021 9:57 AM
42	A place where children thrive should not be removed....brainless people that make these decisions. Pick a useful piece of property that doesnt rob a community but benifits it.	2/2/2021 9:55 AM
43	Neglect, loitering, damage, increased traffic	2/2/2021 9:28 AM
44	Based on the video, there seems to not be a water source. How would this be solvwed?	2/2/2021 9:19 AM
45	My close friends live in the area. This would increase traffic, bring in strangers and this is a favour spot for their children to play. By putting in a garden their children would loose this safe play area.	2/2/2021 9:13 AM
46	This garden plan has upset and divided the community	2/1/2021 11:57 AM
47	Access to water source	2/1/2021 11:43 AM
48	Water access should be provided by the city	2/1/2021 9:34 AM
49	green space/play area disturbed	2/1/2021 9:13 AM
50	No management responsibility identified	2/1/2021 8:40 AM
51	Should there be a fence between the garden and the neighbour's hedge?	2/1/2021 7:14 AM
52	There is no source of water.	2/1/2021 5:30 AM
53	I want it left as a park. My 3 grandchildren use the park	1/31/2021 8:21 PM
54	The garden area is right alongside a residents property and takes away their privacy with increased people traffic right on there property line. This would cause noise and constant people around and interfere with the peace and quiet within the neighborhood. This neighborhood has properties that provide amply room for individual gardens on your own property. This neighborhood is an old established quiet area of single dwelling houses and it would be different if the location area was primarily townhouses and apartments. If input is needed for improvements in the park, leave it as a peaceful green space and put in some benches and pathways with more trees. The tenure in this this area is 20 plus years in some of	1/31/2021 5:49 PM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

these residents and i think this should be considered in the decision and listen to your constituents . This is a good idea but not in this location.

55	Where is water coming from to take care of these beds and who is paying for that	1/31/2021 4:03 PM
56	I couldnt see specifics	1/31/2021 3:07 PM
57	Facilities, accessibility, community safety	1/31/2021 1:07 PM
58	Source of water?	1/30/2021 9:07 PM
59	I think some more specific guidelines would need to be set forth for the peace of mind of the residents that this directly affects. Will there be hours it is allowed to be accessed? Will anyone be able to access it or only those who live in the neighborhood? Who will keep up standards for the actual site? Who will give oversight? How do community gardens affect local property values, etc.	1/30/2021 2:29 PM
60	Garbage cans and lighting	1/30/2021 9:10 AM
61	You have not mentioned water for the garden	1/29/2021 6:44 PM
62	Source of water or water storage / capture.	1/28/2021 9:57 PM
63	The neighbours whose homes look on the park are very unhappy that this park will be untidy and will spoil the beauty and serenity of the park. It may bring increased traffic to the area. Several people already have gardens on their own property in this neighbourhood.	1/28/2021 2:31 PM
64	I was raised in this neighbourhood and my parents lived there for 60 years. All the homes here are single family dwellings with large lots with plenty of space for private gardens. My concern would be that non-area residents will have to travel to the area causing more traffic and stranger traffic to a quiet, mostly elderly population. The other concern is the visual aspect and the cleanup not to mention the lack of a water supply	1/28/2021 12:59 PM
65	didn't notice where the water would come from.	1/28/2021 11:14 AM
66	Unless I missed it in the video but you talked about everything on the lot. Even the hydro vault. Would the city supply a water supply?	1/27/2021 9:36 PM
67	Is there going to be a port-a-potty? If so, where? That's definitely a concern of the neighbours I have spoke to.	1/27/2021 7:04 PM
68	Proper notification was lacking and promises by previous councils were broken	1/27/2021 4:56 PM

Q8 Please share any other comments you have below:

Answered: 87 Skipped: 48

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not sure a police state where the law is used to stop petitions is somewhere where I want to live. If this is a proposal only then why has the collective already staked out where the plant boxes are to be located?	2/16/2021 8:01 AM
2	While I do support the community garden concept, I also enjoy then openness and quietness of our neighborhood and like the openness of Stobbe Park	2/12/2021 2:59 PM
3	I do not want this community garden at Stobbe Park. Every home in the neighborhood has a large enough backyard to have their own garden if they want to garden so desperately. I would much rather see a swing set and slides for kids seeing as how a number of new families with young children have moved into the neighborhood. Other than the school playground (not city owned), the nearest play equipment is too far for the kids in the neighborhood to play and socialize at. This proposal for a community garden at Stobbe park is a waste of city resources and property. A play set for kids would be of much more benefit to the neighborhood and quite frankly, something the city really lacks and needs to invest in. There are very few places for kids to get together and play outdoors in the neighborhood. It would be a shame to see a convenient and prime piece of property go to waste. A community garden would benefit only a couple of families in the neighborhood, but a kids play area would benefit multiple times more families- mine included.	2/11/2021 10:37 PM
4	Ideal location park has been a green space without any use.	2/11/2021 3:25 PM
5	This looks like a great plan and would really boost community spirit especially in these trying times. I have seen them be successful in other locales only concern is an easy water supply	2/11/2021 3:17 PM
6	Please refer to the enclosed list of concerns and questions.	2/11/2021 11:51 AM
7	The surrounding area is residential, and consists of single family homes with backyards allowing people who wish to have a garden the option to plant one in their own yard. A community garden therefore seems to be unnecessary.	2/10/2021 10:36 PM
8	Over the past year many conversations have taken place between and among the neighbourhood residents and the vast majority have expressed an objection to developing a community garden in Stobbbe Park. Adam, you have listened patiently to our concerns. For that we thank you. This decision is very important to us as we are one of the home owners whose property abuts the park.	2/10/2021 9:28 PM
9	I am in favour of this proposed community garden for a number of reasons. I feel that we should be doing whatever we can to encourage local food production. If the pandemic has shown us one thing, it is that we as Canadians need to be more self-sufficient. Although I have not personally taken part in a community garden, my son did when he lived in St. Catherines, and could not say enough good things about the whole process. When food is grown locally, you have greater control over the fertilizers and other products used in the growing process. I enjoy walking through neighbourhoods where there is a community garden, and seeing people "working the land". I think it is good for people's mental health to be partaking in activities such as this. Some of the food grown could be donated to local food banks or other worthy causes such as OSHARE. I have two raised gardens in my backyard, and get much enjoyment from planting, tending, and harvesting the delicious vegetables. Hopefully Owen Sound council will agree that the benefits much outweigh the cons for this project. As Larry the Cable Guy would say, "Let's Git 'Er Done"!	2/10/2021 4:52 PM
10	I think this is an excellent idea for this park, growing food is so important and if some of this food could be donated to Food Banks or OH Share, wow this would benefit so many people. One can grow an amazing amount of food in a single raised bed and the proposed plan of 7, this is great. The city should be doing everything in their power to facilitate the paper work so this project can proceed in the early spring. There must be an easy way to make water available for the gardeners to use. I find it unbelievable that this committee has been working on this project since Jan 2020, why has it taken the city so long to approve?? This is a no brainer, if the committee has met all the criteria then it should have been passed last spring. I commend this committee for sticking with this project after all this time. Shame on the city for dragging their heels on this. As a tax payer of Owen Sound I fully support this worth well project.	2/10/2021 4:37 PM
11	I feel that if you go ahead with this you should compensate the people who will be impacted. Please do a drive past this lovely street. My grandchildren grew up on this street and many many houses playing on that green space.	2/10/2021 12:40 PM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

12	Neighbourhoods/residents must realize that all parks and conservation areas are for all the public. There will always be some negative persons but overall we care about local public properties. Good ideas! Consider one or two for the harbour and Harrison Park.	2/10/2021 12:15 PM
13	I feel that every house in the area has room on their own property to put gardens if they want one. We need nice green area left in our neighbourhoods.	2/9/2021 3:16 PM
14	I think the proposal looks great. Owen Sound is a wonderful caring community and needs more spaces like this.	2/8/2021 9:37 PM
15	Why is there some lady going door to door with a clipboard wanting people to sign a petition against the garden. Handing the clipboard to everyone in their house. Will she become the "super spreader" of our city. Maybe does not understand "social distancing" What is the matter with her? She pretty much insisted I sign.	2/8/2021 9:21 PM
16	Right now it is a beautiful, quiet neighbourhood. I grew up there. My mother lived right across the street from the proposed site until less than 2 years ago. I know she would be concerned about the potential unsightliness of these raised gardens, the increase in traffic and more strangers in the area. Not to mention increased traffic. It is not needed in this neighbourhood of private homes with large lots. The neighbourhood has had to fight over this land for years. I have sent clippings to Adam.	2/8/2021 11:35 AM
17	There will be litter and smell. It will cause trouble, raids on the garden, it will upset this beautiful area. We work hard for our retirement home, we should not have to deal with this.	2/8/2021 11:22 AM
18	Who is going to maintain this and at what cost.	2/8/2021 11:18 AM
19	This is a great opportunity to make use of some passive park space with many positive outcomes for the community.	2/7/2021 3:53 PM
20	Thanks. We are in the 200 block of 4th Ave W.	2/6/2021 4:50 PM
21	Am generally in favor of community gardens, and do have a plot. However, in this case, there are many older residents in the neighborhood would like things to stay just as they are. Please take that into consideration. Thank you.	2/6/2021 3:58 PM
22	I am concerned with some of these organizations are not user friendly. I feel this is in the right direction with the health department overseing community gardens. Looking at some of these garden sites, There needs to be proper spacing between plots and a lot of clean up of debris and health hazards. I see a lot of potential for reusing and recycling some of the clutter from other community garden sites.	2/5/2021 11:18 PM
23	Wonderful addition to the neighbourhood	2/5/2021 10:39 PM
24	Where will ppl park	2/5/2021 6:15 PM
25	Who to contact for more information. Most residential properties in the neighbourhood have enough property for own garden in their backyard. ? Needed ?	2/5/2021 5:41 PM
26	Wonderful idea!! Let's do it	2/5/2021 3:19 PM
27	This is not a good location for a community garden. It is in the middle of a residential neighbourhood. The Hillcrest School property might be a more suitable location.	2/5/2021 3:12 PM
28	This property has long been underutilized public space with associated maintenance costs so as to avoid negative impact on the neighbourhood. The community garden initiative would be a very positive value addition to the area.	2/5/2021 10:57 AM
29	Procedures to have a plot? Water resources? Materials? Great idea! Make parks available for all. Encourage neighbourhood residents to work together!	2/5/2021 9:05 AM
30	The little park is nice for what few kids we have around here to play, off the street. People walking their dogs often use the park; so I don't think that we need a community garden here.	2/3/2021 2:39 PM
31	A garden in this area could create issues with higher traffic volumes, limited parking etc. It could also interfere with a play area for the local kids which it has been over the years.	2/3/2021 1:44 PM
32	families have used and enjoyed this park for generations. it should remain a park for all. not a garden for the few	2/3/2021 12:18 PM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

33	I feel that Stobbe park is a poor location choice for a community garden. Owen Sound just plowed a whole field to get rid of a place for homeless people to live, this would be a fantastic area with lots of space for community gardens. There are lots of other option for spaces to put community gardens without all of the downfalls and potential risks that Stobbe park has for this proposal.	2/3/2021 11:58 AM
34	i have been working at my sons residence for the last 14 months and observed that the local streets are highly used by the local residents which are predominately seniors to walk daily and feel that the extra traffic and transient pedestrian created by the gardens poses a potential risk to these seniors. I feel that the local residences should not be subjected to visually intrusive appearance of composite piles, water barrels with a potential kaleidoscope colours and any other intrusive materials (ie. chicken wire etc)	2/3/2021 7:53 AM
35	With young family's using the park as a recreational area, why do you want to interrupt the true use of a park	2/3/2021 6:24 AM
36	I do not think that this park is a good location for a garden when individuals have land in their back yard that they can use for gardens. Also with Covid-19 being active in the community this garden is the wrong year for this. What about the cost for water (and ability to shut off water for winter months). Will this cause extra cost to insure this for the City of Owen Sound and if so then ultimately we the tax payers will be footing the bill.	2/2/2021 9:59 PM
37	Good general plan. Needs more detail in how it would be allocated and monitored.	2/2/2021 9:14 PM
38	Owen Sound has enough gardens.	2/2/2021 8:31 PM
39	My biggest concern is for the immediate neighbours on the north and east side. Knowing how hard it is to maintain an community garden the compost pile WILL become a big smelly draw for animals that know one will want to maintain	2/2/2021 8:20 PM
40	My big concern is who will be responsible for the care and upkeep of the area. If people that participate happen to lose interest after a while, it will start to look run down.	2/2/2021 8:03 PM
41	Community gardens would be best fitted in areas that don't take green space. The old tennis courts at St. George's are a great example of this. Getting rid of a park where children play and toboggan and we go to play frisbee is not the answer and will provide more hurt then benefits to the neighborhood.	2/2/2021 6:39 PM
42	Alot of people on this area already have their own space for their own small garden. I would be considered about increased traffic from out of the area.	2/2/2021 6:31 PM
43	My comments and thoughts have been addressed.	2/2/2021 5:14 PM
44	Our park is excellent the way it is. Kids play there. People walk dogs. Neighbours visit there. It is not the people right around the park who want gardens.	2/2/2021 3:58 PM
45	I have a small raised garden in my backyard which I wouldn't want my neighbours looking at out their front windows. Bad idea for people who live there. Look out your front window and see if you would like to look at vegetable gardens.	2/2/2021 3:52 PM
46	This is a positive move in our neighbourhood! We have many children and this sets a pattern for lifelong behaviours, community spirit.	2/2/2021 3:08 PM
47	I walk past this quiet park twice daily - uncluttered green space is rapidly disappearing in Owen Sound - we need to retain these peaceful areas	2/2/2021 2:32 PM
48	Let the kids play in the park and not on the streets likely better location for flower gardens	2/2/2021 1:27 PM
49	Find a larger park that can split off some of the land for a community garden, rather than trying to fit on Stobbe park, which will limit how the park can be used for play.	2/2/2021 12:57 PM
50	I do not live in this area but my mother has moved to an apartment near this area. It may be something she is interested in.	2/2/2021 12:52 PM
51	Most of the residents have lived there since their children were little and enjoyed the park. That is what it was designated for and should remain as such.	2/2/2021 12:38 PM
52	The park should remain a park. If u want a community garden- that's great just put it somewhere that doesn't actually rob a community of a well used park but that benefits and beautifies an area that actually helps.	2/2/2021 9:58 AM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

53	I am totally indifferent as I don't live in the neighborhood. I think the only opinions that should be considered are those of people who live in the neighborhood.	2/2/2021 9:49 AM
54	Don't take away a park that is loved and used as it is. Try something like Tower Gardens.	2/2/2021 9:29 AM
55	Green spaces like gardens provide so many benefits to a community. It is difficult for me to think of negatives. It is a great feeling to eat something fresh from the earth, that you yourself cultivated. Bravo for the initiative!	2/2/2021 9:22 AM
56	I like the idea of the garden but maybe there is another spot in which it could be placed that isn't right on a residential area. They tend to look a little run down as I have one in my area.	2/2/2021 9:15 AM
57	i dont quite understand why people would be against something like this,	2/2/2021 9:08 AM
58	This is a quiet neighborhood and this could increase traffic flow. Causing more congestion on the street do to additional parked cars and causing safety concerns to local children who live in that subdivision.	2/2/2021 8:54 AM
59	Don't want it in our neighborhood	2/1/2021 8:55 PM
60	Wonderful idea!	2/1/2021 4:51 PM
61	I've only ever seen 2 such gardens, one at St. George's which (admittedly from a distance) looks like a mess. I believe the other one is a community-type garden, at United Way, which is also quite messy. If this one won't be an eyesore, I'm okay with it in my neighbourhood.	2/1/2021 2:50 PM
62	The park property is not very large and the proposed garden area is highly visible to immediate neighbours.	2/1/2021 12:00 PM
63	None	2/1/2021 11:43 AM
64	I understand there are concerns that the neighbourhood might be invaded by the great unwashed, by those who are not resident to the immediate area. I can't see that happening. There appears to be enough interest in the neighbourhood to generate complete use of all proposed garden boxes.	2/1/2021 9:37 AM
65	My 'Grand children use this site as a play area, summer somewhere to play ball, soccer, winter playing in snow, beautiful green space, quiet neighborhood safe for children, do not need additional traffic , my concern area would not be maintained to keep area beautiful and functional for children. Better plan would be to maintain park land and all neighbors would enjoy beauty and possibly install a playground,	2/1/2021 9:18 AM
66	It would be a good idea to standardize the process so other parks, currently earmarked by the city for gardens, can be easily be set up.	2/1/2021 5:32 AM
67	As the city continues to grow and green space is used by local developers to build high density housing estates ie homes in the blacks park area it is essential that these limited green areas are kept and used in ways that facilitate and encourage green activities such as gardening. Seeing this space being used to give back to the community is a benefit to the neighbourhood and organizations such as OShare that provide services to those that are less fortunate. The fact that the city has taken so long to make a simple decision on a program that has many benefits for the local neighbourhood and the community at large is unreal. There is clearly a need for this as demonstrated by the success of other community garden in Owen Sound.	1/31/2021 9:07 PM
68	I do not agree to have this park made into a community garden. We want it left as a park only	1/31/2021 8:23 PM
69	I could not speak knowledgeably about video because I could not see or hear video. Mr. Bates has NOT directly approached me. My knowledge has been gained from other neighbours. I would suggest that any permanent decision be delayed until covid situation has been resolved and we can have a public meeting. There is no reason to rush the decision which will commit us to three years at the least. I also object to collective members not needing to be adults or at least supervised by adults. During covid there has been increased foot traffic. This usage has been compatible but increased auto traffic in an area with no sidewalks or parking spots would be difficult. I find that finding out officially about a process that began a year ago disconcerting at the very least. Most of my immediate neighbours either have their own gardens or for one reason or another have elected not to have a garden. I am against the garden because it is not truly a "community garden but so far only for the minimum two	1/31/2021 3:46 PM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

members and would not benefit everyone in our community, Please put a hold on things until a public meeting can be held.

70	Is social distancing being considered?	1/30/2021 9:09 PM
71	I think this plan seems good in theory but I'm not sure I would be in favour of Stobbe Park becoming a community garden without more information as to upkeep, how community gardens affect property values, who will have access, etc.	1/30/2021 2:31 PM
72	I would like to see the park land used as a space for people to walk the perimeter on a crushed gravel path. The space would benefit from a garbage can for waste and low wattage lighting. A bench would be helpful for those looking to rest their feet in the outdoors	1/30/2021 9:13 AM
73	Owen Sound has a deep agricultural history and growing food within the city is such a great idea. Surprised there are not more. Not sure why the church garden is considered a community garden.	1/29/2021 6:49 PM
74	I am especially interested in the composting component of the garden plan.	1/29/2021 6:20 PM
75	I grew up in this neighbourhood and that little park is the only easily available park for the children of this neighbour and the grandchildren of the many seniors who live there. Also I believe it is really the work of one man who won't garden in his own back yard,	1/29/2021 3:21 PM
76	I think it will be sad if two people in a neighbourhood are allowed to have a garden there, when the rest of the neighbourhood are against it. These two already have vegetable gardens on their own property. When you see the park without gardens it is beautiful. The neighbours in the home next to the proposed garden plots will be very, very upset at the proximity of these plots, sheds, etc.	1/28/2021 2:32 PM
77	Overall, any community garden is a valuable asset to any neighborhood in teaching children, social neighborhood interaction, maintaining green space and supporting the people in that neighborhood.	1/28/2021 2:26 PM
78	Monitoring compliance, general maintenance, garbage and general neatness? Complaints process?	1/28/2021 12:23 PM
79	It is so impressive Owen sound is doing this. Such an incredible modern idea to use an unused space into a resource for the community. I'm truly envious of this.	1/28/2021 11:26 AM
80	Now that I have seen the proposed map of the layout of raised beds, compost bin and shed, I am relieved to see that the gardens will not occupy the entire park. The compactness of the design may allow hope that it will not be an entire eyesore, specifically in the fall when the harvest is done and enthusiasm for the job of tidying up has waned. If it IS an eyesore, is there a proper channel for complaint?	1/28/2021 9:17 AM
81	I would like to know how the garden will function. Is there a committee? Who decides who uses it? How is maintenance determined? How are costs covered?	1/28/2021 8:02 AM
82	Think this is a amazing idea, for a growing Community. Food for the Community. Great for kids to learn growing food. Fantastic for seniors. It's a win win for all. Great location .	1/27/2021 10:25 PM
83	I think this is great!	1/27/2021 9:36 PM
84	That park and the low traffic road is one of the main reasons I purchased this home in 2015. I hate the thought of more traffic, more people in this area that don't live here. My children's safety is paramount. Their freedom to use the city owned property was and is the reason I love this area. I fear this decreasing our property value, as I've been to the St George's park and it isn't something I was across the road from my house. If my vote counts for anything, my vote is NO. Please leave this park as is...(there were even a couple occasions last summer that we cut the grass so we could use it more frequently).	1/27/2021 7:09 PM
85	I think this is a wonderful idea. There are many elderly single residents in this neighbourhood who might benefit from the social interaction this community garden would afford.	1/27/2021 5:50 PM
86	I am hopeful that decisions will not be made until local residents heard in full.	1/27/2021 4:59 PM
87	who will be using (group) this facility? will the city put in a water tap? who does this feed?	1/27/2021 4:48 PM

Q9 If you would like more information as the process proceeds, please provide us with your email address:

Answered: 42 Skipped: 93

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	[REDACTED]	2/16/2021 8:01 AM
2	[REDACTED]	2/11/2021 3:26 PM
3	[REDACTED]	2/11/2021 11:51 AM
4	[REDACTED]	2/10/2021 9:29 PM
5	[REDACTED]	2/10/2021 4:38 PM
6	[REDACTED]	2/8/2021 11:38 AM
7	[REDACTED]	2/8/2021 11:23 AM
8	[REDACTED]	2/7/2021 3:54 PM
9	[REDACTED]	2/5/2021 11:20 PM
10	[REDACTED]	2/5/2021 5:42 PM
11	[REDACTED]	2/5/2021 3:20 PM
12	[REDACTED]	2/5/2021 1:06 PM
13	[REDACTED]	2/5/2021 9:06 AM
14	[REDACTED]	2/4/2021 4:27 PM
15	[REDACTED]	2/3/2021 2:40 PM
16	[REDACTED]	2/3/2021 1:10 PM
17	[REDACTED]	2/3/2021 12:19 PM
18	[REDACTED]	2/3/2021 7:54 AM
19	[REDACTED]	2/2/2021 9:59 PM
20	[REDACTED]	2/2/2021 9:14 PM
21	[REDACTED]	2/2/2021 8:32 PM
22	[REDACTED]	2/2/2021 12:39 PM
23	[REDACTED]	2/1/2021 5:27 PM
24	[REDACTED]	2/1/2021 2:50 PM
25	[REDACTED]	2/1/2021 12:01 PM
26	[REDACTED]	2/1/2021 9:18 AM
27	[REDACTED]	2/1/2021 6:14 AM
28	[REDACTED]	1/31/2021 5:50 PM
29	[REDACTED]	1/31/2021 4:04 PM
30	[REDACTED]	1/31/2021 3:47 PM
31	[REDACTED]	1/31/2021 1:08 PM
32	[REDACTED]	1/30/2021 9:09 PM
33	[REDACTED]	1/29/2021 6:20 PM
34	[REDACTED]	1/28/2021 2:32 PM
35	[REDACTED]	1/28/2021 2:27 PM
36	[REDACTED]	1/28/2021 12:24 PM
37	[REDACTED]	1/28/2021 8:02 AM

Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Survey

38	[REDACTED]	1/27/2021 10:25 PM
39	[REDACTED]	1/27/2021 7:10 PM
40	[REDACTED]	1/27/2021 5:50 PM
41	[REDACTED]	1/27/2021 5:00 PM
42	[REDACTED]	1/27/2021 4:50 PM

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Adam Parsons](#)
Subject: RE: 5th Ave. A West garden project
Date: January 29, 2021 8:26:23 AM

Dear Mr. Parsons

I recently received a call from one of the residents that live on 5th Street A West.

From our brief conversation it appears you'd like to create a community garden on the corner of that bend on the street.

A large amount of residences on that street are elderly, some living a few feet from this proposed garden for over 40 years. It's extremely quiet without any incidents. They are a tight knit group who pay their taxes on time, visit and help each other daily. They ask nothing of anyone but none would hesitate to help anyone that travels that area or street. They have the best community attitude in our city. There are a few concerns that they are expressing about that garden.

All of the homes on that street have beautiful yards, both front and back.

Why would a garden benefit any of them? They already have gardens, regular get togethers with each other and like this area just the way it is.

Would you want a port-a-pottie located feet from your property? They feel that this garden would attract many from outside their paradise. We know from past experience it would attract people from outside this west end street with cars, people, noise, litter and smell. This park was originally placed there for it's existing use.

A community garden is normally placed in denser areas with high rise apartments and the like, where people have no space to grow their own garden. There are no apartments within miles of that property.

I personally live one block over from that area and walk this street daily. I confess I haven't read your letter sent to these residents yet but plan to do so over the next several days.

I will close for now with my concerns and a few comments. Why would you propose a garden to boost community spirit when it is a "model community" that others can only dream about? There is no place to park other than in front of their homes, port-a-potties, litter, night raids on the gardens from those outside the community and general upset of a beautiful area. Surely you are also aware there are no sidewalks on these streets or others surrounding it.

As this has just been brought to my attention I haven't met with all concerned but will do so shortly and offer my assistance. AS a retired Investigator I hope this proposal has been thought out thoroughly as some speak of media support already.

To say the least ... they're not happy about this and they're losing sleep believing their property value will also decline. Lets not let

this situation fester as it only causes built up anxiety by these people both day and night. You probably work 8-4 and go home, while these quiet senior citizens live a proposed nightmare daily.

Best regards
Wayne Taylor



Wightman

Re: **Stobbe PARK!**

Subject RE: 5th Ave. A West garden project
From waynetaylor [redacted]
To <aparsons@owensound.ca>
Date 29 Jan 2021 08:26

Dear Mr. Parsons

I recently received a call from one of the residents that live on 5th Street A West. From our brief conversation it appears you'd like to create a community garden on the corner of that bend on the street.

A large amount of residences on that street are elderly, some living a few feet from this proposed garden for over 40 years. It's extremely quiet without any incidents. They are a tight knit group who pay their taxes on time, visit and help each other daily. They ask nothing of anyone but none would hesitate to help anyone that travels that area or street. They have the best community attitude in our city. There are a few concerns that they are expressing about that garden.

All of the homes on that street have beautiful yards, both front and back. Why would a garden benefit any of them? They already have gardens, regular get togethers with each other and like this area just the way it is. Would you want a port-a-pottie located feet from your property? They feel that this garden would attract many from outside their paradise. We know from past experience it would attract people from outside this west end street with cars, people, noise, litter and smell. This park was originally placed there for it's existing use.

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To say the least ... they're not happy about this and they're losing sleep believing their property value will also decline. Lets not let this situation fester as it only causes built up anxiety by these people both day and night. You probably work 8-4 and go home, while these quiet senior citizens live a proposed nightmare daily.

Best regards
Wayne Taylor

MR. Mayor - More & more young families are moving into this area with small children. They play in this park daily. These are long time residents who are long time voters. I'd would be pleased to meet with you at this location and you can hear their concerns. Thanks in Advance Wayne Taylor

John and Linda Zwicker

██████████
Owen Sound, ON ██████████

February 2, 2021

Community Services Department
Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Ave East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Deliver by Hand

RE Community Garden – Stobbe Park Request

Dear Mr. Parsons,

We are responding to the to the recent letter you sent that describes what was previously an 8 step process that included transparency, community meetings and engagement is now a 4-step process that excludes public meetings and discussing alternatives. The new 4-step process includes public input via an online survey form, however, it is our opinion the survey is biased, and unfair and will provide inaccurate survey results.

- The online survey does not gather whom is completing the form therefore the form can be completed by the same person multiple times to sway survey results. The community survey should be fair and capture the community member or non member's name, address and contact info. Please advise what can be done to ensure fairness and quality of survey results.
- The paper survey mailed to us also does not qualify the resident completing the survey is within 150 metres of the park as it does not request name, address or contact info. The paper survey can be copied and completed multiple times by the same person or by persons residing outside the area. Please advise what can be done to ensure fairness and quality of the paper survey results.
- We met with you in person in January of 2020 to express our concerns regarding the proposed community garden. Our concerns have not yet been addressed. The information that has been provided thus far is unclear as to the 'non-profit community organization(s)' and/or 'partners' the 'garden collective' is partnering with to ensure;
 - Funding and assistance with garden infrastructure and administration of garden plots,
 - Peaceful participation within the community garden and park space (who do we contact for dispute resolution?),

- Beautiful and enriched park landscape is maintained,
- community garden project goals are met (what are the community garden goals for this location?).
- Upon review of the community Gardens Policy on the City of Owen Sound Parks and Recreation website, we also request responses to the following concerns;
 - Community Safety --> Community members regularly walk 5th Ave A West. With no sidewalks or parking spaces at the Stobbe Park location, gardeners would use the street for access and parking. The location is on a curved street and provides a blind spot that would put members of the community (pedestrians and gardeners) at risk of being injured by vehicle due to the increase in traffic and blind spots due to additional road parking on 5th Avenue A West and no sidewalks.
 - Area Neighbourhood --> The neighbourhood is filled with home owners who can accommodate own gardens in own yards. Stobbe Park is not within walking distance from areas with higher proportions of social housing units. Thus community members would need to bus or drive from other areas which brings community safety back to mind as there are no washroom or handwashing facilities at Stobbe Park. This could lead to community spread of viruses with public transit use. There are no local establishments within walking distance of Stobbe park with public washrooms. Where will community members go should they require the use of washrooms?
 - The License Agreement;
 - It is not clear who is responsible within the license agreement to restore Stobbe Park should the license agreement not renew after the 3-year term. Upon review of other community gardens in Owen Sound, it is apparent some are not maintained and are an eyesore. Ownership of fencing and removal of plots within the community garden should be a consideration within the agreement to ensure the beauty of the park is maintained.
 - Gardens require a source of water. It is not clear how water will be provided to the community garden while ensuring there is no standing water for mosquitos to breed and spread disease.
 - Composting takes a long time to break down. What measures will be in place to properly compost and ensure rodents, snakes, bugs and odours from composter are kept to a minimum and do not nuisance neighbours? The proposed composter is rather large at 10 feet by 10 feet and we feel this will also pose a fire hazard with brush and leaves. What will be available within the community garden to reduce chances of a compost fire?
 - What are the available times for gardening and use of power tools

to ensure neighbours are not disturbed?

We look forward to your response.
With kind regards,

John and Linda Zwicker

Cc: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services - Hand delivery
Kristan Shrider, Senior Manager of Property and Parks - Hand delivery
Amy Cann, Community Planner - Hand delivery
Alex Ruff, Grey Bruce MP via email
Ian Boddy, Mayor - Hand delivery
Brian O'Leary, Deputy Mayor - Hand delivery
Travis Dodd, Councillor - Hand delivery
Scott Greig, Councillor - Hand delivery
Brock Hamley, Councillor - Hand delivery
Marion Koepke, Councillor - Hand delivery
Carol Merton, Councillor - Hand delivery
John A Tamming, Councillor - Hand delivery
Richard Thomas, Councillor - Hand delivery

Stobbe Park

Feb 2 2021

Our names are John & Linda Zwicker
We live at [REDACTED] right
across the road from Beautiful Stobbe
Park. We are now retired and moved
to Owen Sound for everything it has to
offer. We love it here.

But a Community Garden was not in
our view. Our living room window looks
at the park. Which is beautiful the way
it is. We love watching the children play
and people walking their dogs. If this
garden goes in it will not be beautiful
anymore. A Community Garden should
not be in a Residential St.

Thank You Please NO
Community Garden

John & Linda Zwicker
Linda Zwicker

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@owensound.ca <noreply@owensound.ca> On Behalf Of Helen M. Hunter
Sent: February 3, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Pam Coulter <pcoulter@owensound.ca>
Subject: Stobbe Park

Stobbe Park, our little patch of green is directly across from my home. My family has lived here for over 40 years and have enjoyed the view.

It should be left as is.

Community gardens should be and usually are located in densely populated areas for people that do not have access to property for a garden.

We have large, well kept yards, pay high taxes and do not desire an invasion of cars, noise, people, smells, rodents and possible various problems.

Our park is well used by all ages in it's current state. Leave us to our friendly, peaceful neighbourhood with our patch of green.

Five trees, plus a Memorial tree were planted a few years ago - beautiful.

Thank you

Helen M. Hunter
[REDACTED]

Origin:

<https://www.owensound.ca/Modules/contact/search.aspx?s=IX5gXDTyLH1cm6hWbDEAUgeQuAleQuAl>

This email was sent to you by Helen M. Hunter <[REDACTED]> through
<https://www.owensound.ca>.

Douglas A. Grace Professional Corporation

Barrister, Solicitor & Notary

Douglas A. Grace, LL.B., P. Eng

Anya Shahabi, J.D., H.B.Sc.

TEL.: (519) 371-9370

FAX: (519) 371-5747

dougrace@bmts.com

anya.dougrace@bmts.com

949 Second Avenue West

P. O. Box 952

Owen Sound, Ontario

N4K 6H6

February 4, 2021

via e-mail (aparsons@owensound.ca)

Mr. Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks & Open Space

Dear Mr. Parsons:

RE: Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden

I represent a number of individuals and families living in the area of Stobbe Park. My clients are strongly opposed to the establishment of a community garden in Stobbe Park.

My clients have expressed concerns about the proposal including, in no particular order, the following.

As you know, the proposed community garden is to be located within Stobbe Park.

The Park is located in a quiet residential area and has been used for generations as a park. There are no sidewalks in the area. The Park is used, as a park, in all seasons including baseball, soccer, bocce ball, etc. The garden will draw increased traffic.

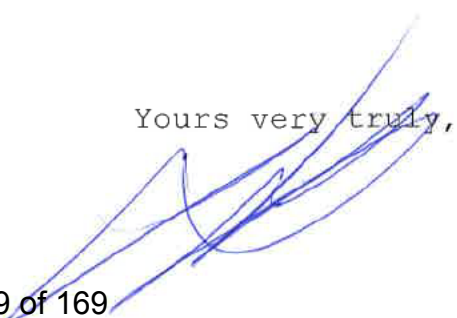
Especially during the pandemic, bringing more people into a stable community will hinder social distancing.

Other issues include sanitation facilities and supervision issues.

My clients would very much like to be involved in any Hearings or public meetings regarding this issue.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



DAG:imd

c.c. The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
Att'n: Ian C. Boddy, Mayor
John A. Tamming, Councillor

Ms. Ellen Hull

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@owensound.ca <noreply@owensound.ca> On Behalf Of ROSEMARY FENWICK

Sent: February 4, 2021 1:18 PM

To: Website Feedback <feedback@owensound.ca>

Subject: Stobbe Park

To: Mayor Ian Boddy
City of Owen Sound, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I write in connection with the Stobbe Park situation. It has been brought to my attention by one of the neighbours in the area.

This is a sweet wee parkette in the middle of a nice homely neighbourhood. I can see children playing there with neighbourhood supervision, even just from neighbourhood windows. It seems to me that this use of the property is more important than a garden of vegetables or greens. While they are useful, it would be for fewer families, for shorter times of year. A neighbourhood park is in use for the whole year and by many families as needed. Owen Sound is a city of parks, we obviously love our parklands.

Please consider the year round use a green space would provide. Once these little parks disappear they never seem to be available afterwards.

Yours truly,
Rosemary Fenwick,
[REDACTED]
Owen Sound, Ontario

Origin: <https://www.owensound.ca/en/city-hall/mayor-and-council.aspx?mid=9184>

This email was sent to you by ROSEMARY FENWICK <[REDACTED]>
through <https://www.owensound.ca>.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT
STOBBE PARK 5TH AVE A WEST

FEB 4 2021

We moved in this neighborhood 2 years ago across the road from stobbe park. We love living here most of our neighbors are retired and have lived here along time.

We don't want a community garden in the park it's for children to play people to socialize.

This will attract animals, people, noise, litter, smells and nowhere for cars to park and no sidewalks.

You wouldn't want your parents and grandparents to be disturbed by this. Please don't let this happen to our beautiful neighborhood.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Leo McCarthy
Bella McCarthy

Leo & Bella McCarthy

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Adam Parsons](#)
Subject: Stone Park community garden
Date: February 5, 2021 1:25:29 PM
Attachments: [IMG_1517.JPG](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)
[IMG_1516.JPG](#)
[ATT00002.txt](#)

Hello Adam,

I have attached some photos of newspaper articles that were saved by my father Bill Mercer, in regards to the usage of Stobbe park. He and my mother lived across the street from the park since 1957. The issue of that park space had been ongoing for a while, first as a property to sell and then as a property for a children's playground complete with equipment.

My father, Bill Mercer, was instrumental in "going to bat for that park" and you will note that the park has been designated as "Parkland forever and ever." by the Owen Sound city council.

While I believe that community gardens are a valuable resource in some areas of the city where the neighbourhood has no place to garden, this is really not the case in Hillcrest Heights. People have large properties in order to have their own gardens. I feel that these raised boxes, compost and shed will not be an added benefit to the neighbourhood. In fact, they may become an eye sore and I pity the 2 property owners who live adjacent to the proposed site.

Hopefully the committee and the council will reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Paula Mercer (former resident)

People concerned about city land

It was a case where the ends didn't justify the means.

The objective to sell some city land to get money for harbor development is a worthy one.

But we've got to be careful what land the city proposes to sell.

Council certainly found this out when it had to deal with a recommendation to sell Stobbe Park.

Angry residents from the area put up a stiff fight — and won.

To council's credit, it rejected the selling scheme and will designate the area parkland forever and forever.

We admit to being pro-park, but who isn't?

Once a park, or psuedo-park, is removed from the scene, it is gone forever.

There's something nice — and secure — about small green areas in the middle of

residential developments, regardless of how close an "official" play area may be.

It's a credit to council, and to residents in the area, that the open space will be preserved.

We can understand council's desire to try to raise some money for important harbor improvement and development by selling other city property.

But as we've said previously, before any such sales are approved, ratepayers should be advised of the plans and given a chance to express an opinion.

This park incident should prove to council that people feel they have a vested interest in city property, and want to know what is going on.

That's why discussions about property shouldn't automatically be discussed by council in private.

JAN 25/88

Stobbe Park saved by neighbors

By SUSAN HALDANE
Sun Times Staff

Neighbors of Stobbe Park can have their park for keeps. For many who use the park at 5th Ave. and 5th Ave. "A" W. north of 6th St., Monday night was the third time they've had to fight for their park.

About 30 people attended a public meeting to oppose city council's plan of selling the small open space and using the money for harbor development.

Planner Steve Hyndman said the lot, zoned for single-family houses, is about 985 square metres, not quite large enough for two residential lots.

The lot had been pinpointed as surplus parkland. Recreation director Jan Devantier said residents can use nearby Black's Park and the playground at Hillcrest School.

But after more than an hour Monday night, council voted to keep Stobbe as parkland, and change the residential zoning so the question won't come up again.

Bill Mercer was one of the original owners of Stobbe Park when it was designated parkland 30 years ago. He told council "I'm getting tired of coming here and defending our right to that park," and added that council had a

"moral obligation" to respect the wishes of the people living near the park.

Another neighbor, Dave Edwards, said on his own street, 6th St. W. there are 11 children under age 12 who use the park for running, jumping, kite-flying and soccer games. He argued Black's park was too far away for little children, while Hillcrest playground was monopolized mainly by organized games.

And when Aldermen Moe Wright suggested Stobbe Park was too small to be used by anyone but pre-schoolers, he met a chorus of objections from the crowd. Council wrangled over proce-

dures, debating whether it could pass a motion at a public meeting, and whether the motion not to sell Stobbe Park should include plans to build play structures.

Finally, the motion to keep Stobbe Park and zone it parkland passed with Wright and Alderman Barry Hemphill opposed.

After the meeting, Wright said he felt a duty as chairman of the parks committee to carry its wishes to council, and the committee had strongly favored selling Stobbe.

But he added Monday night's change of plans was evidence that "people can fight city hall."

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Adam Parsons](#)
Subject: Memorial trees Stobbe Park
Date: February 5, 2021 1:38:05 PM

Hello Adam,

I am writing to ask if you may be able to provide me with the name(s) of the person(s) who has had memorial trees planted at Stobbe Park? I had one planted in my father's name several years ago and I was planning on having another planted in my mother's name. However with the community garden plans, I was wondering how they would impact these memorial trees and future plantings. There is at least one other tree planted and I wonder if they have been informed of the proposed community garden because they probably should be allowed to provide input.

Sincerely,
Paula Mercer

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: noreply@owensound.ca <noreply@owensound.ca> On Behalf Of Kris Hunter
Sent: February 8, 2021 12:50 PM
To: osmayor <osmayor@owensound.ca>
Subject: Stobbe Park - Proposed Community Garden

Hi,

I am very disappointed to hear there is a Community Garden proposed for Stobbe Park which is directly across from my mother's house.

Growing up we played in the park and still do when our families visit her. In its current state, it is large and beautiful, a great view from her living room window as well front porch.

Being a Realtor, I know that adding a Community Garden would take away from the current pleasant view, reduce the value of the home as well could be a deterrent to prospective buyers. These belong in densely populated areas where the users of them live, not in neighbourhoods that already have their own large yards.

I know my Mom, her neighbours are against this plan and as well as other members of our family.

This is a terrible idea.

Sincerely,
Kris Hunter
Daughter of Helen Hunter
[REDACTED]

Origin:
<https://www.owensound.ca/Modules/contact/search.aspx?s=IX5gXDTyLH1cm6hWbDEAUgeQuAleQuAl>

This email was sent to you by Kris Hunter <[REDACTED]> through
<https://www.owensound.ca>.

Feb 8, 2021

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound ON
[REDACTED]

Dear Krista Skriver

Thank you for the survey about the community garden plan. Last year when we heard rumours of such a plan Linda Zwicker, Helen Hunter and I had planned to start going door-to-door in April but in March Covid came upon us!

Please help us now.

Ellen A Hall

Ellen Hull
[REDACTED]
Owen Sound, Ontario
[REDACTED] Canada

Feb 8 2021

OverSound ON

Dear Adam Parsons,

Thank you for the letter you sent me after Linda Zwicker and I met you at City Hall Jan 29 and Jan 30, 2020.

A very belated thank you!

As you have heard a great many of us are against having a community garden in Stobbe Park.

Please help us to defeat the plan-

Ellen A. Hull

Feb 8, 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Owen Sound ON.
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Pam Coulter
Director of Community Services
Owen Sound, Ontario

Dear Pam Coulter,

Thank you for sending out that survey about the proposed community garden in Stobbe Park.

I do believe most of us who live right around the park are against such a garden.

Please reconsider, or at least give us more time because of this Covid problem. Thank you

Ellen A. Hull

RECEIVED
FEB 08 2021

February 8 2021

[REDACTED] 11 West [REDACTED]
Owersound ON [REDACTED]

Dear Ian Boddy,

Thank you for the proposed
Stobbe Park Community Garden
Survey.

I'm against the garden
simply because the plans
were made by Jake Bates
and his supporters ^{it seems almost secretly} and we have
not really been able to canvass
properly because of Covid.

Please reconsider!

Ellen A Hull

From: Linda Jay [REDACTED]
Date: February 9, 2021 at 6:02:12 PM EST
To: Mayor & Council <Council@owensound.ca>
Subject: Stobbe Park

I am writing in regards to the proposal for a community garden at Stobbe Park and I do realize this is a matter for Adam Parsons, but I am quite concerned as to how this is being handled. I will bring you up to date by saying the people in my neighbourhood received survey in regards to have a community garden at this site and to respond to this by email or writing by Feb 15. Needless to say this has caused quite a stir in that most of the residents have been here long term (up to 50 years) and some bought in this area because of the green space and some have sentimental trees planted for loss spouses etc in the park. They do not feel this a favourable use as the lots are very generous in this area and anyone wishing a garden has more than enough yard to put in their own garden as opposed to areas that are mostly apartments and condos and feel if the city wants to develop the park, walkways and benches and more plants etc be added would be their preference. The date to reply was given as Feb 15, but on Feb 5, (and in a snow storm) a city worker came out to stake out the proposed garden. From this activity, we can only assume that the decision has already been made. This doesn't seem to be a very democratic movement, made for only a few rather than the majority. Is this how all decisions are made in Owen Sound? Thank you for your time and consideration from a lot of residents in the Stobbe Park area.

Origin:
<https://www.owensound.ca/Modules/contact/search.aspx?s=IX5gXDTyLH1cm6hWbDEAUgeQuAleQuAl>

This email was sent to you by Linda Jay [REDACTED] through <https://www.owensound.ca>.

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS,
TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE

- A. ALLOCATION OF BOXES
 - i) Who decides, to whom the first boxes are allocated ?
 - ii) What criteria will be used ?
- B. BATHROOM FACILITIES
 - i) Will a portable toilet be allowed at the Stobbe Park location ?
 - ii) If so, who determines its location ?
- C. RESOLUTION OF CONCERNS
 - i) To whom, are residents living near the Stobbe Park, expected to take any concerns that may arise, if the community garden is permitted to go ahead ?
- D. DOGS
 - i) Will dog owners be expected to keep their dogs on leashes ?
 - ii) If so, who will be responsible for ensuring that an on leash policy is adhered to ?
- E. FENCING
 - i) Will fencing be erected to separate the plant boxes from the parkland / playground area ?
- F. INSURANCE
 - i) Does the City already provide insurance coverage for people using Stobbe Park ?
 - ii) Will additional coverage be required if a community garden is allowed ?
- G. PARKING
 - i) Will there be well marked, designated parking areas ?
- H. PROTECTION AGAINST PEST DAMAGE
 - i) How are the growing plants going to be protected from hungry, destructive creatures like raccoons and squirrels ?
- I. IMPACT ON PROPERTY VALUES
 - i) Have factors such as increased traffic, parking, and noise and their probable negative effects on property values been considered ?
- J. WATER
 - i) During dry spells, are the box users expected to bring water ?
- K. SECURITY
 - i) How is the mysterious disappearance of produce, about the time it is ready to be harvested, going to be deterred and hopefully prevented ?

FORWARD

At the outset, we want to express our sincere thanks to Adam Parsons and all of City's staff who played a role in preparing and distributing the Proposed Stobbe Park Community Park Survey.

THE PROCESS, THE SURVEY AND THEIR TIMING

- A. According to the documents we have read, the City's Community Gardens Policy established in 2011, identifies Stobbe Park as a Candidate location for a community garden. We are not convinced that the addition / inclusion of the Stobbe Park location, was clearly communicated to all residents living in close proximity to Stobbe Park, at the time when that decision was made.
- B. In the early stages of the process, unsigned invitations to an upcoming information meeting, were delivered to a few selected residences close to Stobbe Park. Those people who were not invited were left feeling unsure as to why they were seemingly being deliberately excluded from having the opportunity to contribute their ideas and / or opinions at that stage of the process.
- C. Using a survey to keep the process moving forward during this period of lockdown, is certainly better than having people feel that their ideas and opinions are unwanted or of little value. The use of a survey is, however, a poor substitute for face-to-face exchanges of ideas. There are a number of unanswered questions regarding the need for and the timing of the survey during this time of restricted personal contact and interaction. We are left wondering :
 - i) Who was / were responsible for wanting to ensure that the process continued forward during the COVID-19 lockdown?
 - ii) What was the perceived urgency that prompted the need for a survey at this time?
 - iii) Should consideration not have been given to delaying the process until the lockdown restrictions, can be safely lifted?

AVAILABLE VIDEO and QUESTIONS PROMPTED

We found the video to be of limited help. It did, however, give rise to a number of comments and questions. Those that we consider to be most important follow below.

1) THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS AT STOBBE PARK, OR LACK THEREOF.

Almost all of the lots in the Stobbe Park neighbourhood have ample room for flower beds and garden plots if desired. The closest apartment building is more than 1 kilometre away.

Has a definite need for a community garden at this location, been investigated and subsequently determined / established?

2) IMPACT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD

Two properties share boundaries with edges of the park. Eight additional properties face onto the park. Many people chose to locate close to Stobbe Park because of features like low traffic volume, the quiet neighbourhood and the open space of Stobbe Park.

When the weather is pleasant and temperatures are warm, many residents of the area around the park like to be outdoors visiting (if permitted) and gazing out at the tranquil open space that is Stobbe Park. This too, can be beneficial to mental health.

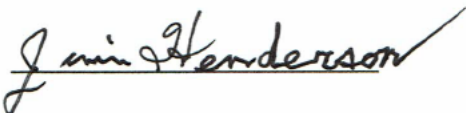
Our additional comments and questions will be submitted as part of our completed survey.

CONCLUSION

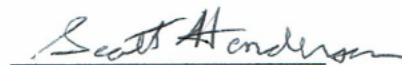
Based on the information that has been provided, the number of unanswered questions that exist and the shared comments and concerns of our neighbours living in close proximity to Stobbe Park, we herewith express our opposition to the granting of approval for a license for a community garden on the Stobbe Park site.

Thanks to our Mayor, each City Councillor and the City Clerk, for taking the time to read this email, and for considering its contents. May you be able as a City Council to come to a decision that unequivocally reflects the expressed desires / opinions of the majority of the people who are most likely to be directly and negatively affected by the granting of a license to permit a Community Garden in Stobbe Park.

Cheers,



Jim Henderson
Resident



Scott Henderson
Resident



From: Mary Prout [mailto:]
Sent: February 11, 2021 8:42 PM
To: 'A.Parsons@OwenSound.ca';
Subject: PROPOSAL FOR STOBBE PARK

Regarding The Proposal for Stobbe Park

As I have read/followed with interest the information regarding the Proposal for Stobbe Park to become a Community Garden, I would like to input my thoughts.

What puzzles me is the fact that there are at least five other areas in the City that could be used for a Community Garden

So why is the proposal in a residential area of homes that have their own established gardens !

This location at Stobbe Park is certainly not suitable for a Community Garden.

It is an area of older, well maintained homes with little or no traffic on the Streets.

Now with this plan there will be more people and more vehicles invading a quiet neighbourhood.

Also the proposed Composter area will bring rodents/animals/crows Perhaps even Vandals !

Plus having a portable toilet is unacceptable and certainly unsightly !

Community Gardens are great (if properly maintained), BUT in the right area and certainly NOT a quiet settled neighbourhood.

I trust that the Owen Sound City Council will not give permission for this proposal to establish the Community Garden at Stobbe Park.

I am a concerned Owen Sound Resident.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Mary Prout

From: Kristen Russell <[REDACTED]>

Sent: February 12, 2021 11:14 AM

To: Website Feedback <feedback@owensound.ca>; Mayor & Council <Council@owensound.ca>; Pam Coulter <pcoulter@owensound.ca>; Boddy, Ian - Internet <[REDACTED]>; Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>; Brian O'Leary <boleary@owensound.ca>; Travis Dodd <tdodd@owensound.ca>; Scott Greig <sgreig@owensound.ca>; Brock Hamley <bhamley@owensound.ca>; Marion Koepke <mkoepke@owensound.ca>; Carol Merton <cmerton@owensound.ca>; John A. Tamming <jtamming@owensound.ca>; Richard J Thomas <rjthomas@owensound.ca>

Subject: Opposition to Stobbe Park Proposal

Owen Sound City Council

We are writing you on behalf of our family to ensure you are aware of our opposition to the Proposed Community Gardens that are being discussed in Stobbe Park on 5th Ave A West.

We reside on 5th Ave A west and our home faces the proposed garden area directly. We would like to take a few moments of your time to let you know why our family would appreciate if you relocated the gardens to another location.

One of the things that drew us to buy on our street was the park. We have 3 young children and it is the perfect spot for them to play...

Marshall (12), Patrick (10), and Charlee (7) all enjoy activities in the park. Soccer, baseball, and bocce ball are a few fun activities our family enjoys throughout the summer. This winter a snow hill was made for the kids to play and toboggan on, also we have cleared a section for them to play hockey which allows them to have fun without them being on the roadway. The kids thoroughly enjoy these activities year-round.

Our concerns with the gardens are the following:

- Increased Traffic - this is a quiet street, typically only traveled on by the people who live here. With our children at play the extra vehicles driving and parking along the street pose a greater risk to their safety. Although they are watched closely, accidents happen and taking steps to mitigate any hazards should be taken. We do everything in our power to minimize potential for accidents and increasing the flow of traffic will only increase the possibility for an accident.
- Parking - where will the gardeners park?
- Porta-Potty - everyone is dreading to have to look at a Porta-Potty (or the direct neighbors now having that smell in their back yard). The St. Georges location has a porta-potty and is a complete eyesore. This can be seen from the roadways and has made a beautiful part of our town look like a construction zone. We do not want this for our community.
- Compost Area – We fear the smell that will blow into our back yards. We have already been informed that some residents in neighbouring blocks plan to use this compost as their residential compost location in lieu of driving across town to the City run site. The compost will also attract wild animals, what is your plan control or prevent the increase in scavenging animals like skunks, racoons, and mice. All of which are known to be destructive and carry

disease. These are many of the same reasons that the City run compost site is located on the outskirts of town.

- Decreased Property Value - according to section 4.4 of the Community Garden Policy, “the city shall not be responsible for maintenance of community gardens beyond the initial tilling of the soil in year one of the projects operation”. This does not sit well with us, as there will be no insurance that these gardens or compost site will be well maintained. The tax payers in this neighborhood have huge pride in ownership and take great care to keep our neighbourhood clean and beautiful.
- “Mental and Physical Health Promotion” is a quote we took out of your Community Gardens Policy. We understand that a garden may assist with good mental and physical health however the manner that this specific proposal has been carried out has impacted our mental and physical health in a negative manner. The garden proposal has caused us and our elderly neighborhood sleepless nights, sickness, stress, and anxiety that is absolutely unnecessary. We feel as though this a proposal was done behind closed doors, as we as a community only found out about the proposal a few weeks ago. According to section 3.2 “The *Community Garden Executive shall operate transparently and cooperatively with the community garden collective, other groups, and members of the community as a whole.*” A walk around the block to canvass the affected neighbors would have indicated quickly that the neighboring homes are not in favour of the gardens. The proposed gardens and the manner in which the process has been carried out, has effectively created an unhealthy mental and physical situation for many of us in this community. Further many of us have lost confidence in our counsel members and the decision-making process. We feel that counsel has forced a decision without taking the proper steps to ensure that this decision is in the community’s best interest.
- With regards to the article posted in the Owen Sound Sun Times on February 1, 2021 the description of “existing passive park” was used. There’s no doubt in my mind that this was an accurate description of this park in years gone by, but just as every neighborhood experiences, people move on and younger generations move in. As mentioned above, it is no longer passive (we cut the grass in this park a couple times last summer, to ensure we were able to use it when the city’s maintenance was lacking).

Maybe a better solution is to locate these gardens closer to those without backyards and who are in want/need of this luxury. We currently have 2 garden boxes in our back yard and I know many of my neighbors do the same.

A rumour has been spreading around the neighborhood that this proposal has already been approved. I hope for the sake of the mental health of those in my neighborhood and the confidence in our current counsel that this is only a rumour. We look forward to your response, please contact us if you have any further questions.

Thanks you for your time,
Kristen Russell, Kevin Andrew, Marshall, Patrick and Charlee

████████████████████
Owen Sound ON ██████████

From: noreply@owensound.ca <noreply@owensound.ca> On Behalf Of Michele Cartier
Sent: February 12, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Website Feedback <feedback@owensound.ca>
Subject: the proposed community garden for STOBBE PARK

I wanted to offer my opinion on the proposed community garden for STOBBE PARK. I believe the park as a quiet green space with little to no excess traffic is already being enjoyed as is. That street is a quiet place that I often walk my dog. I can't imagine that it would be any benefit to the home owners living around the park. If anything, I would think it would be a nuisance to the present owners as well as a deterrent to potential buyers.

In the words of John Lennon, "Let It Be"

Thank you.

Origin: <https://www.owensound.ca/en/city-hall/mayor-and-council.aspx>

This email was sent to you by Michele Cartier <[REDACTED]> through <https://www.owensound.ca>.

Subject: **Re: Stobbe Park Community Garden Request**
From: John & Joanne Dowdall
To: Adam Parsons - >aparson@owensound.ca<
Mayor Ian Boddy
Councillors: Brian O'Leary, Travis Dodd, Scott Greig, Brock Hamley
Marion Koepke, Carol Merton, John A.Tamming. Richard Thomas
Pam Coulter ->pcoulter@owensound.ca<
Date: February 15, 2021

Dear Adam, Pam, Members of Council,

Regarding Stobbe Park Community Garden Request

We are writing to **strongly object** to the proposed plan to develop a Community Garden in Stobbe Park. The objection is based on several important factors for you to consider.

We would like to express that we are not opposed to the Community Garden concept in principle, but feel that placing a Community Garden in Stobbe Park is not a suitable location{Community Garden Policy - 2.10}. This is a close knit, well established community with large properties on which to plant a garden if so desired. A community garden in Stobbe Park does not fit the needs or culture of our community.

Firstly, the proposal lacks significant information regarding a full description of the Garden Collective and a detailed plan setting out how and when the land would be developed and used. Secondly, from discussions with our neighbours most impacted by this proposal, the majority of residents have indicated that they are not in favour of this development and are satisfied with the park in its present form.

Over the years this park has provided, and continues to provide, a space for the residents in the neighbourhood to interact with each other and engage in recreational activities. It has been used for family gatherings, soccer, baseball, football, volleyball, frisbee, tag, hide and seek, golf practice with practice balls, winter fun and various other activities.

Our objection to this proposal is based on the above and following concerns:

1. loss of commitment by participants through losing interest in the garden – a huge commitment is required to construct and maintain these gardens and surrounding area
2. concern that this site may in the future include a portable toilet [featured at the {St. George's Park site] - extremely unacceptable in a well-established and well-maintained residential neighbourhood for sanitary reasons ie: smell, flies, improper usage, inadequate maintenance and general downgrading of aesthetics
3. no water service to the park - therefore water receptacles would be scattered about the area creating a cluttered look and a habitat for the reproduction of mosquitoes and disease
4. increase in wild life ie: skunks, raccoons, rabbits, mice, rats, flies - foraging for food among the debris of a compost pile searching for discarded rotten and decaying vegetables and weeds;

- a. There have been a few incidents in recent years of police having to dispatch wild animals that wander off the approximate escarpment. This will only increase with the available abundance of new food sources.
- 5. erection of fences to keep out wild life, sheds to house garden paraphernalia, such as garbage cans to hold refuse, rain barrels - contributing to the degradation of the park and neighbouring properties
- 6. increased vehicular traffic throughout the day - contributing to noise pollution and potential crowded parking and safety issues
- 7. collapse of entire project at a future date - structures and grounds left to deteriorate
- 8. unlikely to be used by homeowners in the neighbourhood - individual properties are more than large enough for individual gardens if so desired - difficult to maintain neighbourhood security from vandals and theft
- 9. possible chronic lack of maintenance to an individual's prescribed garden area, especially as the users will most likely not be residents of the area and be less inclined to be interested in overall cleanliness and esthetics of the garden
- 10. significant loss of privacy and a feeling of wellness for homeowners whose outdoor living space would be just steps away from the constant noise and activity associated with these gardens;
 - a. Councillors familiar with the area will undoubtedly be aware of the wonderful lack of fences in our neighbourhood
- 11. placement of garden boxes much too close and intrusive to homeowner's houses abutting the park
- 12. placement of a 10ft.x10ft compost within steps of homeowner's houses abutting the park, creating a very unpleasant and unhealthy situation ie: flies, odours, and rodents
- 13. no impartial dispute-mechanism in place to resolve a contentious issue should it arise

Summary

Through networking with our neighbours via direct in-person conversations{when safe}, telephone calls, and use of email exchanging opinions and concerns, the majority of residents in this neighbourhood strongly reject the proposal to put a Community Garden in Stobbe Park. While using a video and a survey to move the process forward they have their limitations and wouldn't garner as much important information as a public meeting scheduled to consult with residents and stakeholders {taken from the Community Gardens Policy Guidelines}.

Stobbe Park is a relatively small green area and in its present state is seen as an asset to those who have lived here and to those moving into the area.

We ask that consideration be given to the rejection of this proposal and leaving Stobbe Park in its present state.

Sincerely,

John & Joanne Dowdall
Residents:

████████████████████

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound, ON [REDACTED]

February 11, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for your continuing up keep of Stobbe Park. I have enjoyed it through my twenty plus years of living in the neighbourhood.

This was why I was disturbed when I heard of plans to make it into a community garden without much discussion with other neighbours. While the idea of a community garden is good. Here is not a good location. Everyone in this area may have a garden on their own property if they so choose. Some already have their own gardens.

The garden would bring very little benefit to only a few. Yet, there would be unexpected consequences for those of us close to the garden. More animals would be attracted from the ravine that runs behind some of our houses to the composter. There are no sidewalks in that area so that if any of the collective associates brought their cars, they need to park on the street. There are no readily available water sources for the plots. Washrooms too are not available.

Many people either walk or walk their dogs in the area. This is a good use , but one which would become more risky if increased car traffic from the gardens would be common. Allowing adolescents (age 14) without adult supervision is also something that makes me uncomfortable.

In conclusion, for the above reasons I am against the gardens. I am trusting that you and the rest of the council will listen carefully to the objections raised by myself and others in the immediate area before you make a decision.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Gates

From: Sheila Featherston <[REDACTED]>
Date: February 19, 2021 at 10:46:17 AM EST
To: Website Feedback <feedback@owensound.ca>
Subject: Gardens

As a taxpayer in Owen Sound, I am in favour of the proposed garden project on 5th Ave West. I am currently a user of the community garden behind St. Georges Church and have seen nothing but good things happening there. I think this project should receive the approval of the City

Origin: <https://www.owensound.ca/en/city-hall/contact-us.aspx>

This email was sent to you by Sheila Featherston <[REDACTED]> through <https://www.owensound.ca>.

[REDACTED]
ound, Ontario
[REDACTED]

February 19, 2021

His Worship, Ian Boddy, Mayor of Owen Sound
% Owen Sound City Hall,
808 Second Avenue East,
Owen Sound, Ontario
N4K 2H4

Dear Mr. Mayor:

It has been suggested to me that I write to you, in order to clear up some misconceptions currently swirling around our application to establish a Community Garden at Stobbe Park. The concerns raised are misleading at best, and I am beginning to suspect that they are meant to distract us from an elitist agenda. For it appears to me that the biggest concern of a small minority is that others from outside their neighbourhood will be coming in; it's as if they would like to have a gated community ... without the gate. As a member of this neighbourhood, it is a viewpoint I reject.

Some of these 'concerns' include: an increase of birds and bugs to the neighbourhood; the presence of a portable toilet (present at Saint George's Gardens; not at Charlie Kelly — and *not* in the plan for Stobbe Park); a compost bin (which will be used by people beyond the park to drop off their compost, or as a magnet for vermin — despite it being but one of many in the neighbourhood); a reduction in property values (unfounded, and contradicting studies to the contrary); that those involved in the garden lack pride in their surroundings, and will let the condition of the park deteriorate; and an increase in traffic (despite the fact there are only eight beds, and that all the current interested gardeners are within walking distance). But the most damaging falsehood (and petition) circulating is that it is necessary to 'Save The Park'. Save it from whom? and for whom?

The City has done a good job presenting the plan. I was especially pleased to see the garden area staked out; it is now clear to anyone who takes the time to drive past the park, just how insignificant the impact will be: less than 30% of the park is slated to be gardens, leaving more than 70% for other activities — the children will still have room to play. We were disappointed that only those who lived within a 150m radius of the park were targeted, instead of the City's own definition of a neighbourhood park: 500m. This inflates the importance of those who live immediately next to the park, while decreasing the voice of those who live further ... but still within the 'neighbourhood'.

We have been very open and transparent from beginning (contrary to the accusations that this has been some backroom deal). We have never tried to hide our intentions; the plan to put gardens in Stobbe Park has been general knowledge in the neighbourhood for over a year. When we started out (in January, 2020), we personally sought out people we thought might want to be involved in establishing the gardens. We did not think to ask people whom we thought did not have much of an interest: why would we? And while the entire neighbourhood was not canvased, we did tell those we approached that, if they knew anyone interested *in gardening*, to invite them along. Our purpose was to follow the City's lead. And we assumed (and still do) that it supports its policies.

My main interest in this project has always been about building community. Because of this, as we began the process of establishing the Community Garden Collective, I have always spoken of the need for the space to be shared. While I am personally interested in gardening, I have never wanted the entire park to be garden. I do not believe a park should be entirely anything. Rather, a neighbourhood park should reflect the entire neighbourhood, and try to meet as many needs and interests as possible. I feel the current plan is a good compromise amongst all stakeholders — including the gardeners.

I have access to my own gardens; I would like to give others this opportunity. I also understand that often our most meaningful social connections occur around working towards a common goal in the company of others. Gardening in one's backyard can be fulfilling; sharing the experience with others: so much more so. It is this vision of creating a positive social space, where as wide a cross-section of the population feels it can gather, has kept up my resolve as we've worked through this very long process.

I also believe that it is important to give back to one's community. To this end, it is our plan that we set aside one planting box to grow food for OSHaRE. The purpose is not only to feed bodies, but also feed the minds of those who, living in the relative comfort of our neighbourhood, might not be aware of the needs of others in our City. I say 'plan' because, as an organization based on democratic principles, it will be necessary for the Collective to affirm this at our Annual General Meeting in May; knowing those currently involved, I am sure this will be the case.

Another way we are exploring giving back to our community is by involving the local Public School: Hillcrest. While this is still in the planning stages, it's our intention to partner with a Junior Class. My hope here is to foster an attitude of 'paying things forward'. Plots will be planted in the spring by one class, harvested by the next year's — who, in turn, will plant for those who will come after them. A perfect lesson: we all have a responsibility to build now for future generations.

From my perspective, the real issue here is not about some gardens in a quiet neighbourhood in a small city. Rather, it is about public space, and who gets to control it. Opposition to these Community Gardens is centred around a belief that certain people in a neighbourhood have the right to demand they, and they alone, get to decide what how (or how not) our City's common spaces are used. From its initial meeting with Adam Parsons on December 13, 2019, the Community Garden Collective has consistently done all that was asked from the City. Every citizen of Owen Sound is entitled to use their neighbourhood parks in the manner approved of by the City through its policies. A dangerous precedence will be set if a small minority of people living within 150m of a park can dictate whether or not policies apply.

Yours truly,

Jake Bates,
Chair, Stobbe Park Community Gardens Collective



Owen Sound

Mayor Boddy

In a recent conversation with my friend Ellen Hull, I learned about the so called "Community Garden" project. Ellen is opposed to it and so am I. Parks are for everyone to enjoy. A Park should remain a park, nothing else! There are lots of other places for a "community garden".

Please leave the parks alone.

Yours truly,
Woris A. Arnold



Owen Sound Hunger and Relief Effort
946 3rd Ave E.
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 2K9
info@oshare.ca
www.oshare.ca
519-376-3899

Feb 22, 2021

Attention: Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective

Thank you so much for contacting us regarding your community garden plans. It would be wonderful if you could partner with us to provide some local produce for us to share with our community. Your donation of vegetables will help us to make fresh nutritious meals for our guests. Typically OSHaRE serves over 20, 000 meals a year, however in 2020 we served over 72, 000. In 2021 we have continued to see large numbers of individuals and families needing assistance so any produce you could grow for us would be wonderful.

Thank you so much for partnering with us to help us share with the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Colleen Trask Seaman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Colleen Trask Seaman
Executive Director
OSHARE



March 3, 2021

To: Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks & Open Space
City of Owen Sound

Dear Adam,

Re: Stobbe Park Community Garden

We are so fortunate to live in Owen Sound - a city full of green space and opportunities for individuals to make a difference at the community level. We are especially pleased to see the City has an established process for community volunteers to participate in this type of project.

Owen Sound Waste Watchers (OSWW) is happy to support the Stobbe Park Community Garden project as it is closely aligned with our mission of encouraging local people to help reduce household waste by:

- Eating local produce (thereby reducing excessive shipping footprint)
- Going package-free (to avoid unnecessary packaging, often non-compostable plastic)
- Composting rather than throwing out organic waste (thereby reducing garbage and methane gas from landfills and improving the quality of soil).

After discussions with the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective, OSWW has agreed to provide assistance with the design, construction and implementation of the composting site.

Over the past two years, our organization has learned much about composting, including facts and myths surrounding the process. We've spent the time learning by doing with input from composting enthusiasts in our area and around the world. Some of the issues associated with composting can be very easily managed by appropriate design of the unit and by following simple maintenance protocols. The benefits of composting are worth the small amount of effort needed to maintain the site. OSWW will happily share what we have learned with the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective by helping to establish composting procedures and training group participants.

We look forward to working with the City and the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective in the days ahead on this exciting project.

If you would like to meet to discuss details, please email us or call Laura at [REDACTED].

Thank you,

Laura Wood & Lori-Ann Caswell
On behalf of the OSWW Planning Committee
Email: oswastewatchers@gmail.com

c.c. Jake Bates, Kristen Shrider

A local group of concerned citizens, Owen Sound Waste Watchers is committed to helping everyone make a difference by adjusting how we consume and dispose of products in day-to-day life. A guiding philosophy is that individuals can drive change towards a cleaner, less toxic future by making small changes, one person at a time.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Adam Parsons](#)
Subject: Stobbe Park Community Garden
Date: March 4, 2021 1:06:53 PM

Hi Adam,

I just wanted to send a quick note to express that I hope that the City allows the Stobbe Park Community Garden project to proceed. I know the City has a plan that allows for Community Gardens, so I think actually having one created on City property will not only be good for the community and the environment, but also for the City itself.

Thank you,

Jack Goad

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound

Email: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

R. Scott Caple & Suza Sarnecki

██████████, Owen Sound, Ontario ██████████

Phone: ██████████ 0

Emails: ██████████ ██████████

March 4, 2021

To: Adam Parson, Manager of Parks and Open Space,
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Ave E
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Re: Stobbe Park Community Garden

Hello,

As a concerned citizen, I applaud the idea of a community garden (and more community gardens) in Owen Sound. Not only will this area grow vegetables for members of the community and be a use for household compost, but also provide more food and habitat for the wildlife in Owen Sound, especially birds, bugs, bees and butterflies.

In our own yard we are beginning to provide better habitat than mono culture grass.

Kudos to the Stobbe Park Community Garden Project.

Yours truly,

Suza Sarnecki

c.c. by email – Laura Wood and Lori-Ann Caswell, OSWW
c.c. by email – Kristen Shrider

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kristan Shrider](#); [Adam Parsons](#)
Cc: [Owen Sound Waste Watchers](#)
Subject: Stobbe Park Community Garden
Date: March 5, 2021 8:33:00 AM

Dear Adam and Kristan,

I live in the neighbourhood near Stobbe Park and have been impressed to see the development of garden beds in that space, that have been used to successfully grow a variety of vegetables.

I've also worked with the OSWW, and I know that when Laura Wood and Lori Caswell set their minds on a project, great things happen.

I would like to add my voice to those who support the development of Stobbe Park as a Community garden.

It's a worthwhile endeavour that will help many people in our community, not just for the food value, but also for the saving of waste packing materials in our landfill, and a way to bring the community together in a shared project.

Thanks for everything you do.

Louise Jarvis

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound

Terms of Reference

for

Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective

Adopted: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Definitions:

Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective shall be known as Collective.

The City of Owen Sound shall be known as City.

Preamble:

The purpose of the Collective will be to create and maintain a community garden in Stobbe Park in Owen Sound, Ontario.

This Collective will adhere to the conditions laid out by the City. It accepts that these conditions may change from time to time.

Membership:

Membership is open to anyone fourteen years or older.

Members in good standing are required to adhere to the bylaws of the collective.

Meetings:

An Annual General Meeting (hereafter known as the AGM) shall be called for the first Saturday of May. At that time, a membership list shall be drawn up for the growing year. Members may express their interest to continue in, or to join the Collective, either in person, or by a written statement presented by a proxy member, on or before the AGM.

The AGM shall be planned for, and chaired, by the out-going Chair.

Minutes of the AGM will be made available to the membership upon request, to be prepared no later than one month after the meeting.

An agenda for the AGM shall be prepared and distributed to the membership (based on the previous year's membership list) at least four weeks prior to the meeting.

During the meeting, any member may bring forth items for the consideration of the Collective, at a time deemed appropriate by the Chair. These may include items up to, and including: changes to these Terms of Reference; the charging of fees and/or fines; or the creation of bylaws. A majority vote shall be deemed necessary to enact any item.

Proxy voting may be done, providing the member has given their written permission to a voting member.

For the purpose of passing any motion (including the spending of funds), quorum shall be deemed to be set at all those attending the AGM, as well as proxy votes.

Should the need arise, any member may call a Special Meeting. Three weeks' notice must be given to rest of the membership: this notice must include the reason for the Special Meeting. Quorum shall be the same as with the AGM.

Executive:

At the AGM, the membership shall elect an Executive to act in its interests for the growing year. The Executive must include a Chair and a Treasurer. Other positions may be added, as approved by the membership, at the AGM.

If a vacancy in the Executive arises mid-term, the position shall be filled by a majority vote of the membership within three weeks of the vacancy.

The Chair shall act as a liaison between the City and the Collective. The Chair shall inform the membership of any changes in policy from the City, as it pertains to the running of the Collective.

The Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement, to be presented at the AGM.

Allocation of Plots:

For organizational purposes, the Collective shall establish individual plots placed throughout the park.

An overall plan shall be approved at the AGM; subsequent changes to the plan made be made, to be approved by the Membership at an AGM. Plots shall be placed in such a manner as to ensure easy access to the Park and the plots. The plan will strive to ensure the Park is as visually pleasing to the neighbourhood as possible.

Plots shall be numbered, and a record of those tending them maintained by the Executive.

Past Members shall have first right-of-refusal for any plot used by the aforementioned Member the previous year.

Vacant plots not allocated to past Members shall be allocated (in a fair manner) to any new Members.

Any remaining vacant plots may be used by Members (new or existing), in addition to their own plot: these shall be assigned in a fair manner. In the case where a Member is using more than one plot, the Member must declare only one plot their 'primary plot': this shall be their first right-of-refusal plot for the next year.

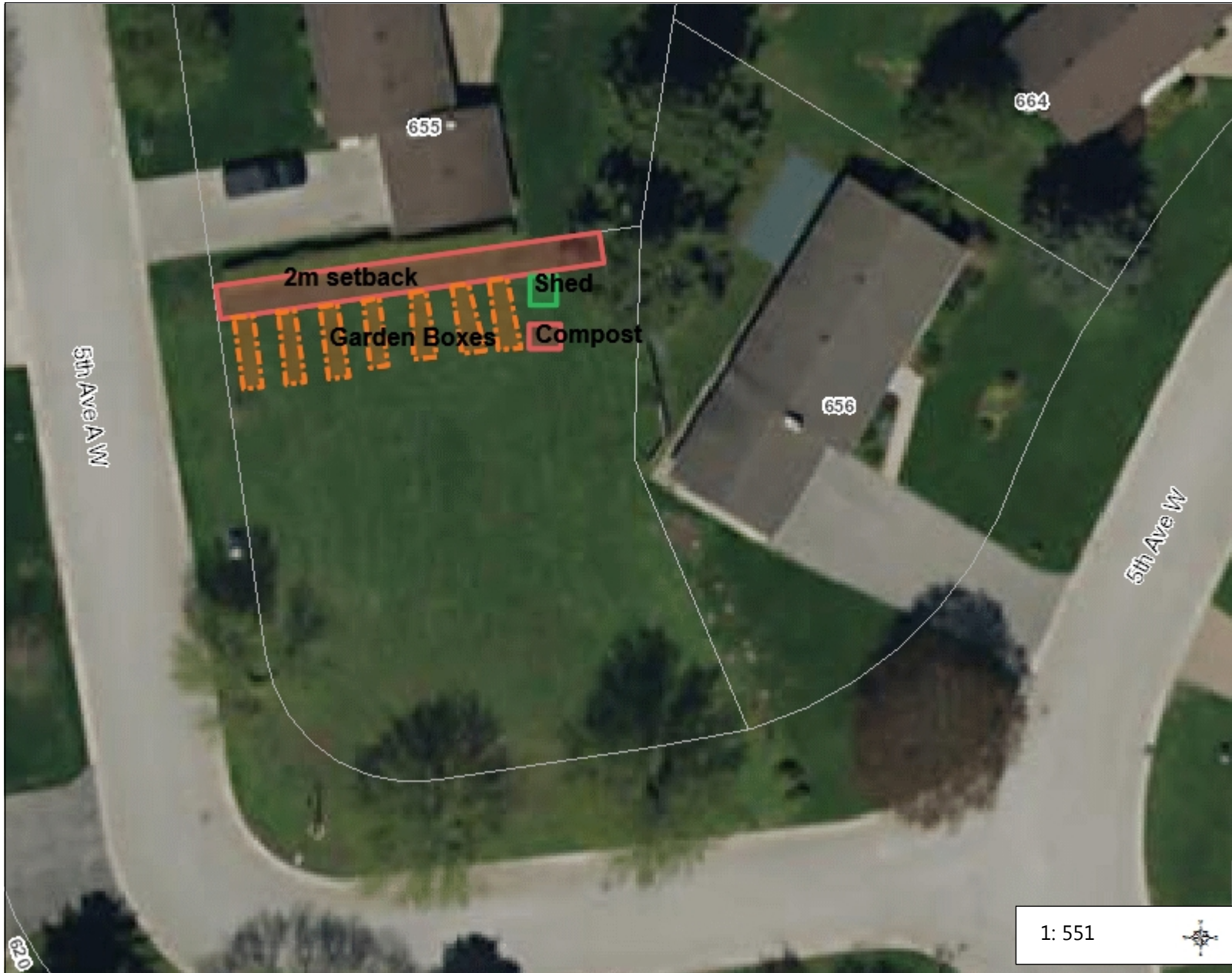
Members are expected to keep their plots in good order, ensuring the Collective maintains an appropriate visual appeal to the neighbourhood.

Other Uses for the Park

As a public park, the Collective acknowledges that other activities are permitted at Stobbe Park, provided they do not negatively impact the gardens.

Legend

Assessment Parcels



Notes

28.0 0 13.99 28.0 Meters

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere