

Community and Allotment Garden Pilot Projects

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Recommendations

1. That the report titled Community and Allotment Garden Pilot Projects and dated April 9, 2013 be received;
2. And that the Community and Allotment Garden Guiding Principles and draft Community and Allotment Garden Manual be endorsed to pilot in 2013;
3. And that staff in the Sustainability Office be authorized to pilot the draft Community and Allotment Garden Manual with the residents of the Fairtree and Cornell communities;

Recommendations

4. And that staff in the Sustainability Office be authorized to seek partners and sponsors for the Community and Allotment Garden pilot projects;
5. And that \$25,000 will be funded from Project #9345 Greenprint Community Sustainability Plan (account#230-101-5399-9345) to support the development and implementation of new community and allotment gardens subject to the approvals outlined in the draft Community and Allotment Garden Manual.

Recommendations

6. And that \$250,000 will be funded from Project#9350 Kirkham Drive Park – Two Soccer Fields (account#81-5350-9350-005) for the first phase basic community garden including walkways, parking and water and servicing subject to the approvals outlined in the draft Community and Allotment Garden Manual.
7. That staff in the Sustainability Office report back at the end of 2013 with a finalized Community and Allotment Garden Manual and a strategy for city-wide implementation;
8. And further that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Background

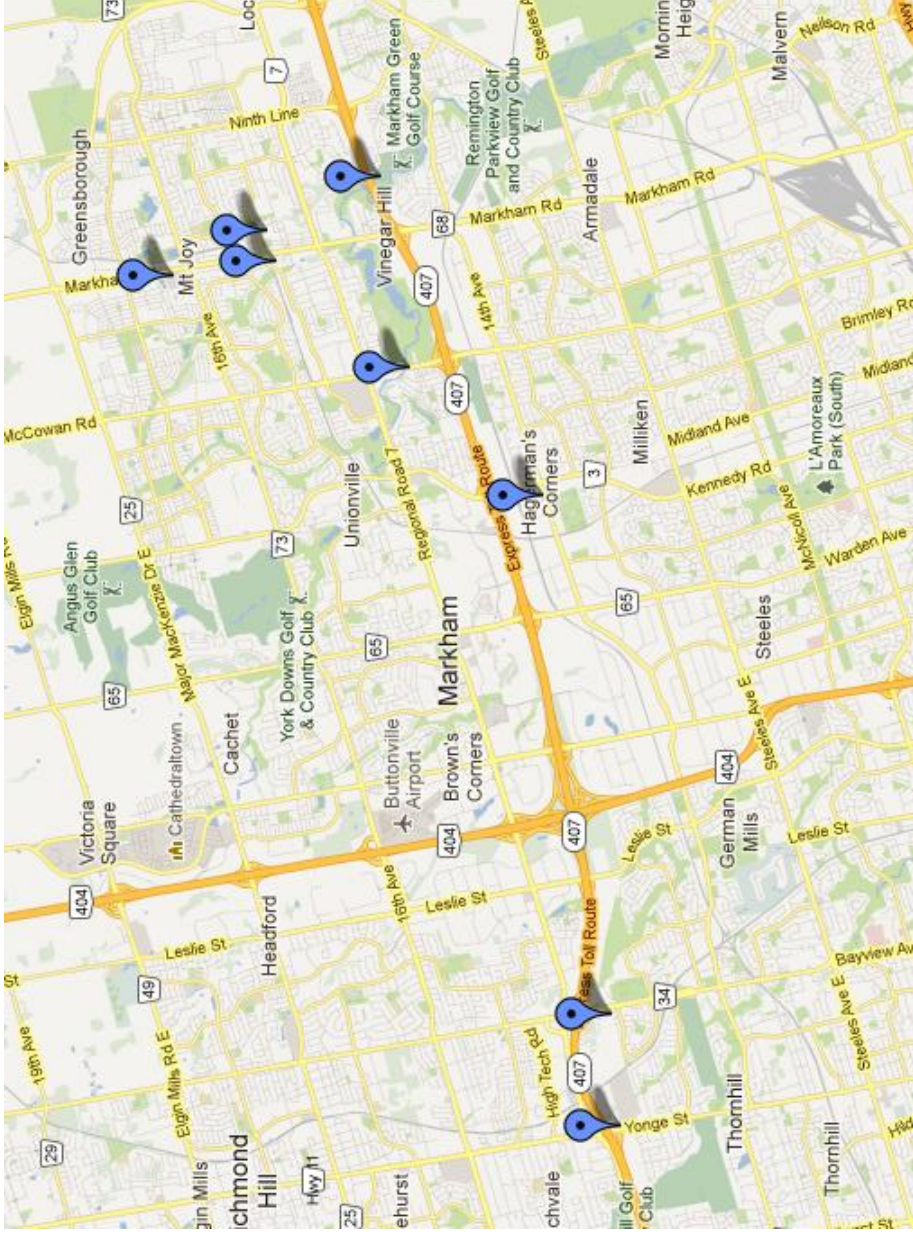
Definitions:

- **Community Garden:** an area of land managed and gardened collectively by a group of people
- **Allotment Garden:** an area of land where garden plots are available for a rental fee

Policy Background:

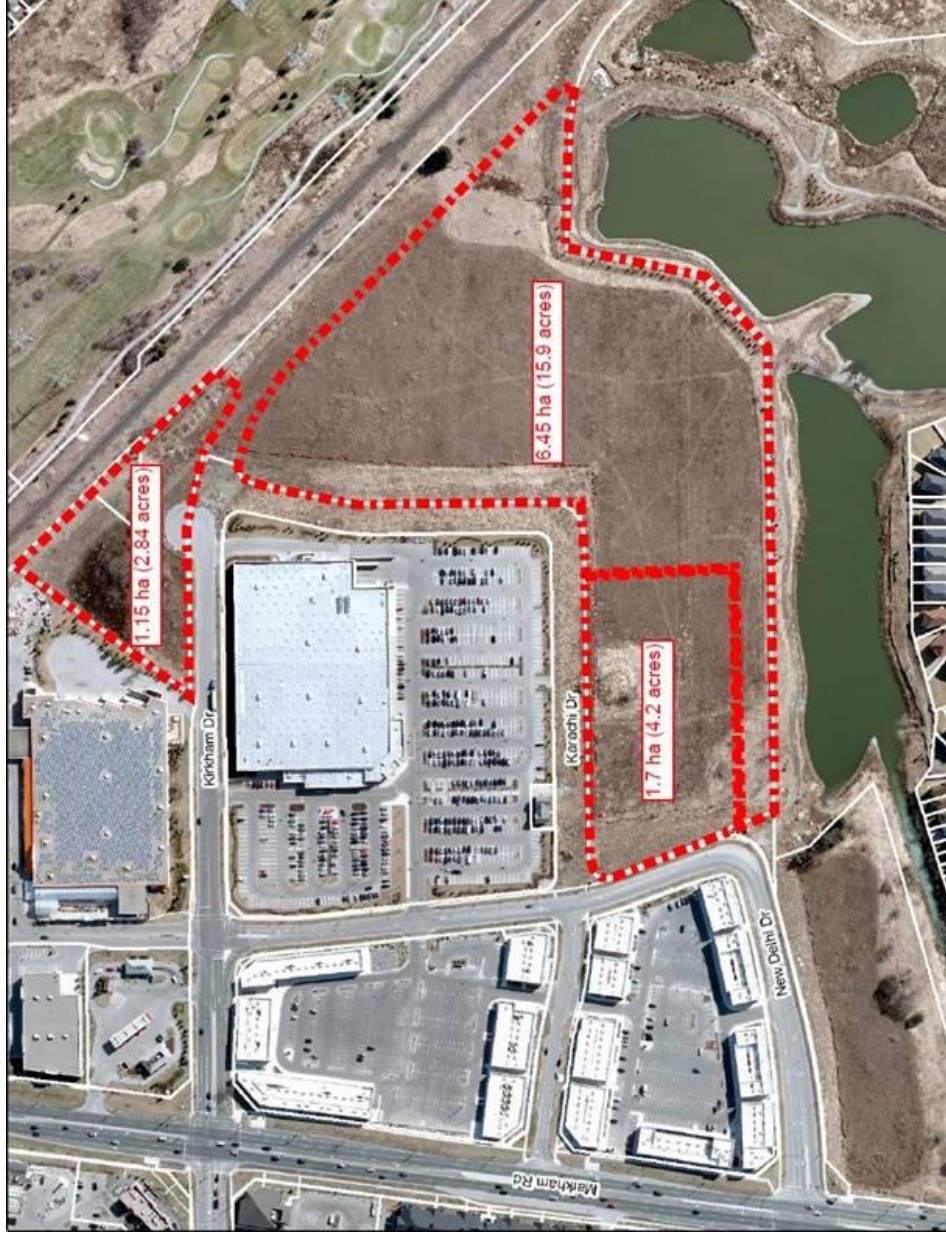
- **Greenprint, Markham's Community Sustainability Plan**
- **Building Markham's Future Together**
- **Agricultural Assessment Study**
- **Draft Official Plan**

Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture



* 2 gardens at Pathways group homes not included on the map for privacy reasons.

Kirkham Drive Site



Cornell Community Group

- Community-driven garden initiative by a neighbourhood group
- Looking at a City-owned site
- Small food garden in neighbourhood park, education and programming
- Willing to pilot the draft Community Garden Manual to identify a site and build a garden

Community and Allotment Garden Guiding Principles

1. **Community Engagement:** Community or allotment gardens require the interest, support and commitment from potential gardeners and other stakeholders.
2. **Clear Processes:** Municipalities are best able to manage the development and maintenance of community and allotment gardens when a clear framework is in place.

Community and Allotment Garden Guiding Principles

- 3. Site Selection:** The development of Site Selection Criteria minimizes the costs and issues that may arise in developing new gardens and an inventory of suitable sites increases approval times.
- 4. Design Standards:** The development of a standardized and modular design can ensure beautiful and functional gardens, equitable standards of services, and create efficiencies for purchases and maintenance.

Community and Allotment Garden Guiding Principles

- 5. Municipal Support:** In-kind or financial assistance is provided for the first year of startup and operation of a new garden, with more limited support on an ongoing basis.
- 6. Self-Governed Models:** The day-to-day management of the garden is provided by the gardeners through the formation of a Garden Group, which will increase community stewardship of the garden and reduce the staff resources required.

Community and Allotment Garden Guiding Principles

7. **Volunteer Requirements:** Ensuring volunteers commit to a code of conduct, sign liability waivers, and provide a minimum number of volunteer hours will create a safe, comfortable and beautiful environment for all.
8. **Community and Allotment Garden Advisory Committee:** An umbrella committee facilitates representation, resource sharing, and leveraging the experience and expertise of individual gardens.

Community and Allotment Garden Guiding Principles

- 9. Public Access:** Municipally supported gardens will be required to have volunteer opportunities open to the public, on a first come, first served basis, and to open their gardens to host public events annually.
- 10. Pilot Approach:** Start small, be successful, and build up a garden over time.

Policy Implementation

- 2013 Pilot Projects
- Partnerships and Sponsorships
- Finalizations of Community and Allotment Garden Manual
- Strategy for Implementation