

Esquimalt support for community gardens

- *“the Township of Esquimalt will facilitate the creation of community gardens where available land exists, where neighbours have been consulted and are supportive, and where a community gardening group demonstrates an interest and commitment to operating the site.”*
- *please visit our website for more information:*
esquimaltcommunitygardens.blogspot.com

What type of a community garden will Esquimalt be using?

- *raised bed allotment style*
- *“the soil is better drained and warms up early in the spring. Temporary poly-tunnel cloches (to create warm, humid, microclimates) can easily be added using minimal materials. The beds also lend themselves well to no-dig mulch gardening, and seating can be made for physically challenged gardeners*

Definitions

- *allotment*
 - *a small plot of land that is raised from ground level, usually creating a grid-like looking garden*
- *shared community garden*
 - *planting of shrubs, bushes and herbs for public use*
 - *for example: mint, lavender, rosemary and culinary herbs*
- *orchard*
 - *“transitional area of flowering trees”*
 - *“it is designed as a demonstration area where people can learn about growing fruit trees in small urban spaces”¹*
- *native planting*
 - *offers opportunity for harvesting indigenous plant foods*
 - *for example: Oregon grape- for making jams and preserves*
 -
- *ecosystem restoration sites*
 - *work with ecosystem restoration groups for educational opportunities about ecosystem restoration*

Esquimalt Community Gardens



* all text is quoted from the community garden council policy drafted on October 6, 2008 unless otherwise specified

1 <http://www.cityofseattle.net/magnusongarden/Orchard/Orchard.htm>

The Community Gardens

Task Force

- in the fall of 2009, Esquimalt Council requested a Task Force be established to provide its citizens with a community garden
- currently the Task Force is made up of the following eclectic group of people:
 - **Marlene Lagoa** sustainability coordinator
 - **Mark Salter** environmental committee
 - **Blair Irwin** environmental committee
 - **Willie MacGillivray** Parks & Rec committee
 - **Natasha Mackinnon** Parks & Rec committee
 - **Sally Challenger** West Coast gardener
 - **Olga Liberchuk** local community activist

How is the community garden going to be managed?

- a committee will be formed from volunteers from the public with the help of the Task Force

Would you like to dig in?

You can get involved!

- "Esquimalt residents of all ages, backgrounds" and abilities
- there are plenty of opportunities to support these gardens!
- Please contact the Task Force for more information, at:
 - esquimaltcommunitygardens@gmail.com

What is a community garden?

- a "plot of public or private land where members of a community gardening group produce vegetables, fruits and flowers (native or ornamental)"
- individuals will be responsible for maintaining their plot of land

Why community gardening?

- to improve the "quality of life and... natural environment of Esquimalt residents"
- creates a safe and more affordable food resource
- provides a healthy venue for residents to engage in as neighbours
- provides recreational activity for those interested in small scale agricultural practices
- brings a community closer together

- for more up to date information, please visit our blog:
esquimaltcommunitygardens.blogspot.com
- or the official Township of Esquimalt website:
<http://tinyurl.com/esquimaltcommunitygardens>

How were the sites evaluated?

- accessibility (available parking, nearby bus routes, easy access into garden area, access for the physically impaired)
- water (availability of water on site)
- security (whether the area prone to vandalism, whether security structures will be required- i.e fencing)
- community support (whether this form of recreation is a good fit for this neighbourhood, whether there is resistance or support from the neighbourhood, whether there is a potential conflict of land use with neighbouring businesses- i.e local grocery stores)
- exposure (whether there is drive-by and walk-by volume and visibility of the site)
- ownership (whether there is resistance by the township)
- zoning (whether rezoning will be necessary for this land use)
- site conditions (whether soil analysis will be required, whether surface runoff and site drainage is an issue, whether sun exposure is sufficient)
- site development (whether excavation of tree services or other structures is required, whether a tool shed will need to be built)