

POLICIES THAT ENABLE COMMUNITY GARDENS IN SURREY

PROJECT PARTNER - CAN YOU DIG IT (CYDI):¹

- Launched in 2009
- Creates **inclusive** and **welcoming** gardens
- Supports individuals to learn, share, grow, and contribute to their communities
- The Public Health Association of BC sponsors and advocates for CYDI



GOAL OF THE PROJECT:

Explore the policies and supporting documents that enable community gardens in Surrey and create a summarizing document that will help CYDI establish more gardens

BARRIERS WITH CURRENT SURREY POLICY:

1

Lack of clarity regarding policies

2

Lack of document accessibility

WHY IT MATTERS:

Community gardens have the ability to:

- Address community wellbeing, stress reduction, cultural identity and food insecurity⁸
- Supply opportunities for socialization⁹

A summary of Surrey policies will **ease the transition** of the CYDI project into developing gardens - a way to help community food security and promote community cohesion

OUR APPROACH:

3172

Review Policies and Council Meeting Minutes

From Sept. 12th 2016 - Feb. 25th 2019

228

Extract documents and policies that refer to community gardens



Create a summary document

OUR FINDINGS:

STATISTICS

7

Regions in Surrey⁴

9

Well established and running community gardens⁴

47

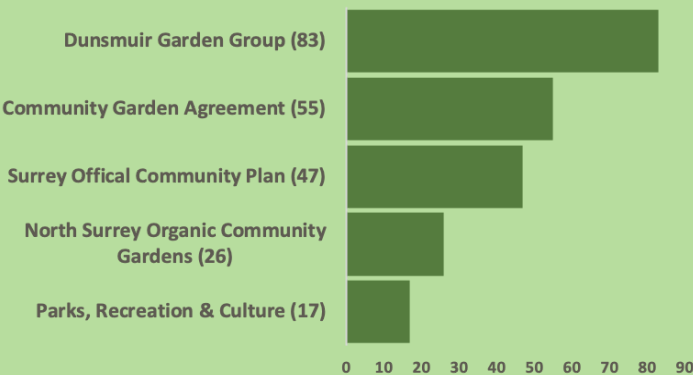
Policies in the Official Community Plan³

14

Council meeting minutes that addressed gardens⁶

2,3,4,5,7

NUMBER OF POLICIES AND BYLAWS FOUND



SURREY GARDEN REQUIREMENTS⁵

- 1) Need a **location** and **12 volunteers**
- 2) Apply by **September 30th** each year
- 3) Finalize the site plan and a **neighbourhood survey**
- 4) **Operating agreement**- legally documenting insurance and responsibility for the garden
- 5) Community members pay costs incurred with the garden, usually by a **membership fee**



CONCLUSION

We created a document which may help CYDI establish community gardens in Surrey which:



- Helps **community food security** within Surrey
- Encourages **stronger bonds** in the community
- Promotes **physical activity** and **stress reduction**

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- (3) City of Surrey (2013). Official Community Plan. Retrieved March 15th from http://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/City%20ofSurrey_OCP_2014.pdf
- (4) City of Surrey (2019). Community Garden Agreement. Retrieved March 15th, 2019 from <https://bit.ly/2Ogldo9>
- (5) City of Surrey (2019). Community Gardens. Retrieved March 15th, 2019 from <https://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/7108.aspx>
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- (8) Egli, V., Oliver, M., & Tautolo, E. 2016. The development of a model of community garden benefits to wellbeing. *Preventative Medicine Reports*, (3):348-352. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2016.04.005>
- (9) Miewald, C., & Ostry, A. (2014). A Warm Meal and a Bed: Intersections of Housing and Food Security in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. *Housing Studies*, 29(6), 709-729.