

City of Red Deer



Gardening Initiatives

2009...



City garden plot locations

- Parkside Gardens
- Barrett Park Gardens
- Red Deer College Gardens
- Cruikshank Farm Gardens

Plots = 160

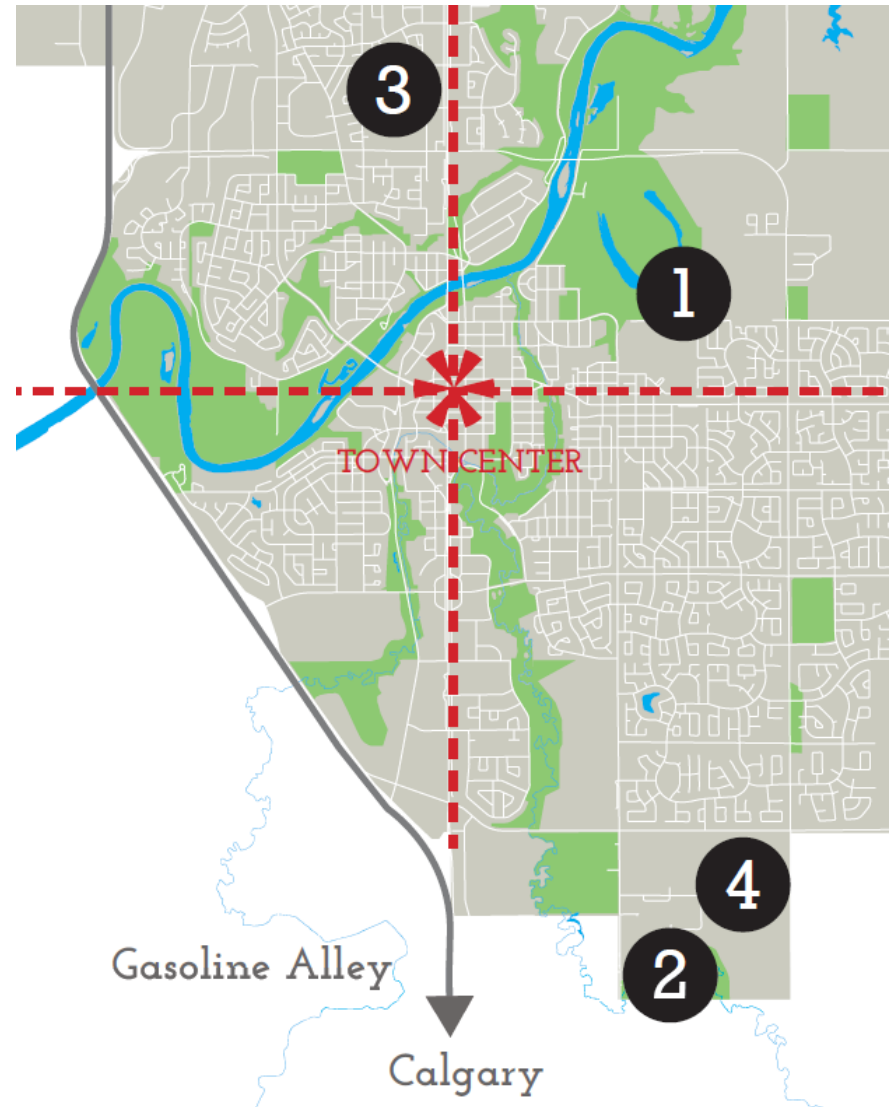
2026...

Currently 4 locations:

- Michener Gardens
- Piper Creek Gardens
- Parkside Gardens
- Twin Spruce Gardens

Plots = 342

Area = 2.14 ha



Plots

- Large – 120m², Medium – 60m², Small – 30m²
- Cost: L - \$63, M - \$45, S - \$31
- Advertising
- Registration agreement/participant expectations
- City manages:
 - registration, spring tilling, surveying, fall disking, weed management, soil enhancement, trouble shooting,...



2025 GARDEN PLOT PROGRAM REGISTRATION AGREEMENT

Date: _____ Garden Site: _____ Plot ID: _____

Name: _____

PARTICIPANT (PRINT NAME)

EMAIL ADDRESS (PRINT CLEARLY)

ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN

POSTAL CODE

PHONE

A.) HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WILL BE INVOLVED IN WORKING THIS GARDEN? _____

B.) HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PRODUCE GROWN? _____

AGREEMENT TERMS

- The City gives the tenant permission to use the designated portion of land as indicated above, for the sole purposes of gardening. The plantings must be confined within the staked area of the assigned plot. PLOT SIZES ARE APPROXIMATE.
- The term of the agreement shall be for the period of **May 16 to October 13, 2025**, unless terminated by one or both parties.
- The tenant will pay a non-refundable fee when this agreement is signed. All garden locations, dates and prices etc. are listed under "Gardening Opportunities" on the City's website www.reddeer.ca
- The tenant agrees to accept the garden plot as it stands, and agrees that there are no promises, representations, or undertakings by the City with respect to the condition of the garden plot. The tenant can cultivate the garden plot in proper agricultural manner, taking care not to cause the land to deteriorate in any way.
- The tenant agrees to use the garden plot at their risk. The City is not liable in any way for any loss, injury or damage caused to any person while such person(s) is in or about the garden plots. The City is not liable, for any claims whatsoever, arising out of damage to, loss of, or theft of the tenant's property kept or stored on the garden plot, including the crops grown in the garden plot.
- Weed It or Lose It – Starts the week of JULY 2.** The tenant agrees to use their best efforts and approved horticultural methods to prevent the growth of all weeds on the garden plot and walkways. If the tenant fails to do so, The City will cultivate, mow, or cover the plot to prevent the spread of weed seeds with NO notice to the tenant. In such an event, The City will not be liable to the tenant for any damage to crops. **The tenant should notify the office if they are unable to maintain or change their mind about gardening.**
- The tenant agrees to care for and harvest the crop and leave any plant material on the surface of the soil within the Tenant's assigned garden plot at end of season. During growing season please use the onsite compost bins for disposal of plant material. **Diseased plant material must be removed from site and discarded with regular garbage.**
- The tenant agrees to dispose of all garbage from the garden plot, other than plant material, in a proper manner.
- The tenant will ensure that family or invitees cause no nuisance or disturbance to other tenants or adjacent neighbours.
- Pets are not permitted within the garden plot boundaries.** The tenant agrees to refrain from the trapping, poisoning, or killing of any bird or animal on land protected by the Parks and Public Facilities Bylaw 3255/2000.
- The City provides water sources at each garden site. This water provision is intended to be **ONLY** supplemental. Gardeners may need to provide their own water and watering containers. Water sources will be filled at set intervals; once it is gone, it is gone until the next set fill.
- The tenant acknowledges that farmlands adjacent to the garden plots may be cultivated or developed, possibly including spraying with herbicides and other pesticides. While all reasonable caution will be used, damage to the crops of the tenant from drifting spray is possible. The tenant agrees that he shall not have any claim against The City or the person farming or developing the lands adjacent to the garden plots in respect of such spraying or any damage or injury caused by it.
- If the tenant breaches or fails to perform any of the above points, then The City may declare the tenant in default, declare the agreement null and void and repossess the land without any refund of rent.

X _____
GARDEN PLOT REGISTRANT

X _____
PARKS SECTION REPRESENTATIVE



2025 GARDEN PLOT REGISTRATION AGREEMENT

Garden Plot Program Expectations

The City of Red Deer Garden Plot Program provides great opportunities for Red Deerians to get outside, grow healthy food, meet people, and enjoy our community through the growing season. The expectation is that participants will ensure the program remains successful and enjoyable for all. Gardeners are to be stewards of the entire garden area, reporting misuse, picking up litter, being responsible for the surrounding environment and keeping noise levels down. The following checklist of rules guides users through the appropriate activities for participating in this program.

- You are responsible for maintaining your garden plot and any access or walkway to your garden plot. This includes weed and litter removal. If you are not able to tend your plot, notify the garden representative. Neglected plots will be reassigned or tilled.
- Individual garden plot boundaries will be staked and marked; boundary markers should not be removed. Verify the numbers on the boundaries before planting. **Ensure planting occurs in the correct location.**
- The City of Red Deer has provided a SUPPLEMENTAL watering source at all garden plot locations. Water tanks will be filled on a scheduled basis, not as required when empty. Gardeners are encouraged to provide their own water from home. Water containers and garden tools are not provided.
- To protect sensitive natural areas and aquatic ecosystems the use of conventional pesticides (which includes but is not limited to herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides) within garden plots and on public lands is prohibited; certain ecologically sensitive pest control products may be considered at the discretion of Parks staff. As an added measure of environmental protection, you are encouraged to use organic fertilizers in place of synthetic.
- Composting is permitted and encouraged within your plot boundaries.
- Diseased plant material must be bagged and disposed of with regular garbage; do not place in compost bins.
- Be considerate of your neighbors; do not plant sprawling crops or tall ones that might interfere with the garden next to yours.
- Do not water, weed or prune another plot unless requested to by the gardener responsible for that plot.
- Do not enter any private lands adjacent to the garden sites.
- If vandalism or theft occurs, notify the representative. For immediate assistance call RCMP/Bylaw Complaint Line – 403.406.2200. The City of Red Deer is not liable for any loss of crops due to theft.
- If you will be away during the growing season, ensure that someone will tend to your plot.
- At the end of the gardening season all plant materials, including weeds, should be pulled from the ground, and left on the surface of the soil.
- Previous year gardeners have priority for plot assignments or switching to another site or plot.
- Plots are assigned according to the waitlist maintained by the garden representative.
- Failure to comply with the above rules may result in the loss of gardening privileges.

Ensure all required information is filled out as indicated by the blue highlighted fields on this form. Read the full agreement and sign Page 1. above "Garden Plot Registrant".

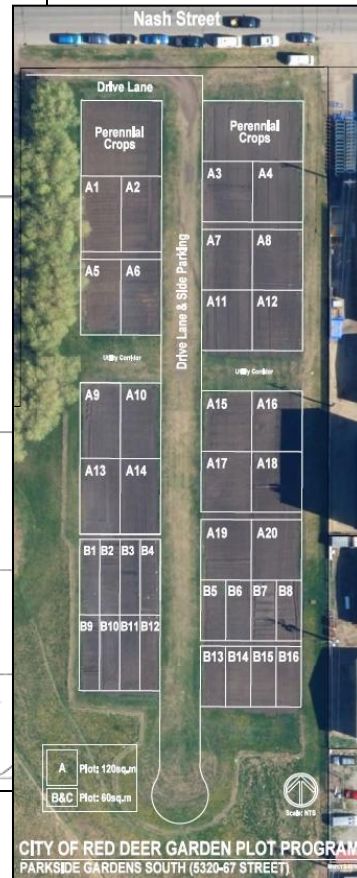
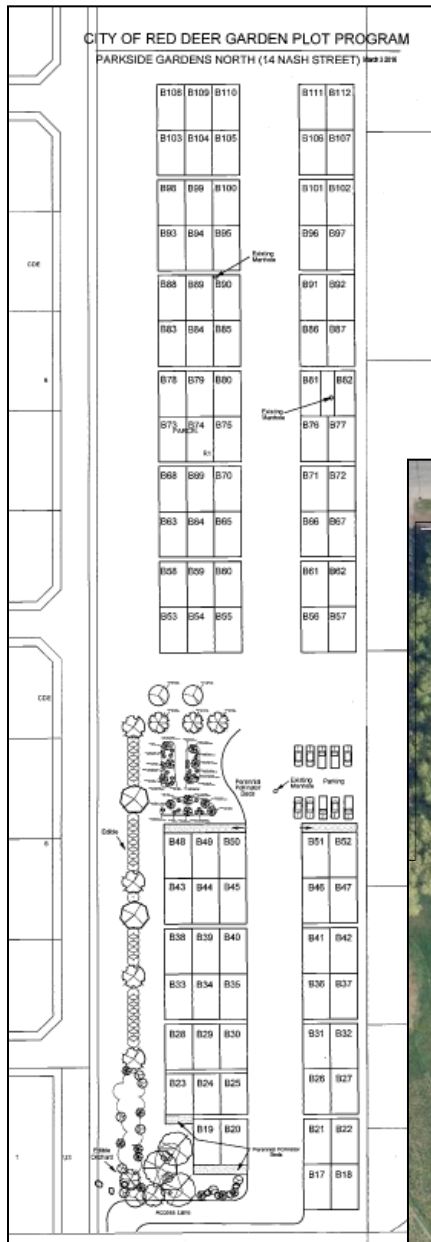
Save the file to your computer, then e-mail the completed form to cemeteryservices@reddeer.ca OR you may print the form, fill it in by hand and bring it to the Alto Reste Cemetery office during business hours, Mon-Fri, 7:30 am-4:00 pm (closed from 12:00 pm-12:30 pm)

The personal information contained on this contract is collected under the authority of The Municipal Government Act s. 3 and will be used for the purpose(s) of administration of the agreement. If you have any question about this collection, please contact the Manager of Recreation, Parks and Culture or call Cemetery Services 403.243.8202.



2026 Garden Schedule

April 18	New Gardener Registration Day at the Don Moore Recreation Centre. Applicants are only allowed to register for one garden plot. Please do not line up before 9 a.m.
May 15	Plots Open (weather dependent) - if gardens open sooner, you will be notified by email.
June 29	'Weed It or Lose It' - notifications will be sent to applicants whose garden is not adequately maintained. Please notify us if you cannot maintain the garden.
October 12	Last day to harvest produce and remove all fencing, stakes, water containers, tools, etc.
October 13	Plots are cleared and tilled by The City's Parks department - any items remaining will be discarded. <i>No exceptions.</i>



Parkside Gardens

- Initiated 2009
- Underused turf area
- Plots - 20 large / 112 medium
- Future expansion

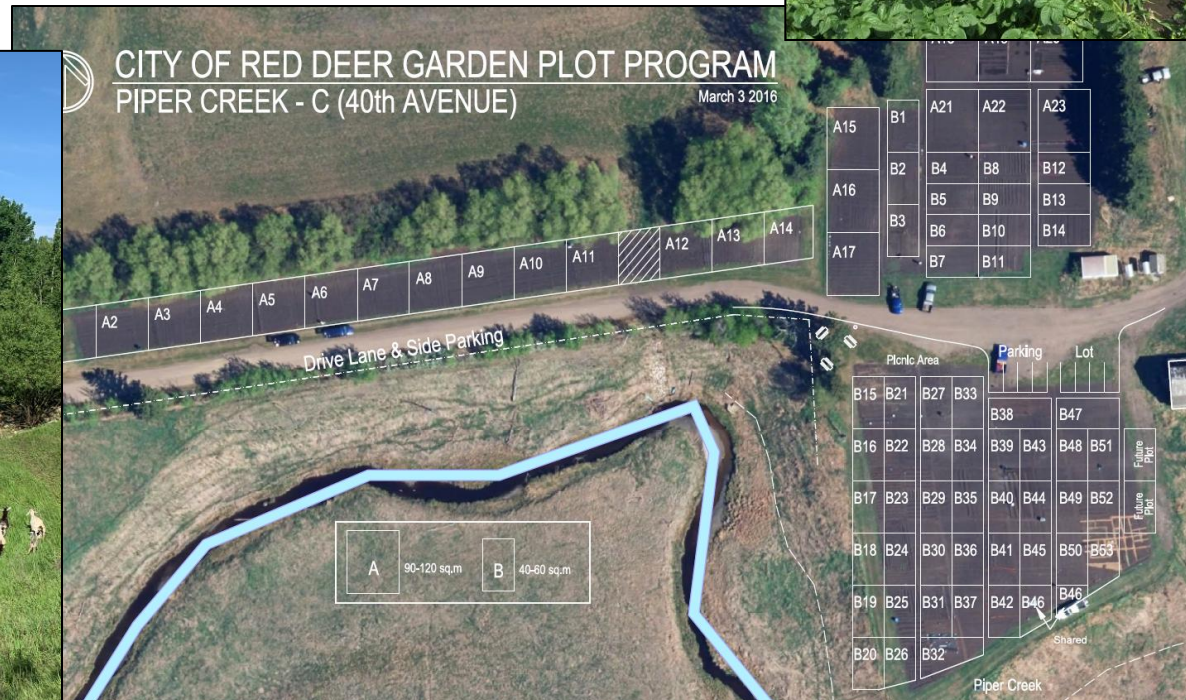


Piper Creek Gardens



Piper Creek Gardens

- Initiated in 2009
- Old farmstead - site development
- Plots – 20 large / 57 medium



Michener Gardens



CITY OF RED DEER GARDEN PLOT PROGRAM

MICHENER GARDENS

March 3 2016



Scale 1:400



Michener Gardens

- Initiated in 2015
- Weed management
- Soil haul
- Cover crops
- Amenities
- Plots:
 - 49 medium
 - 23 small



Twin Spruce Gardens



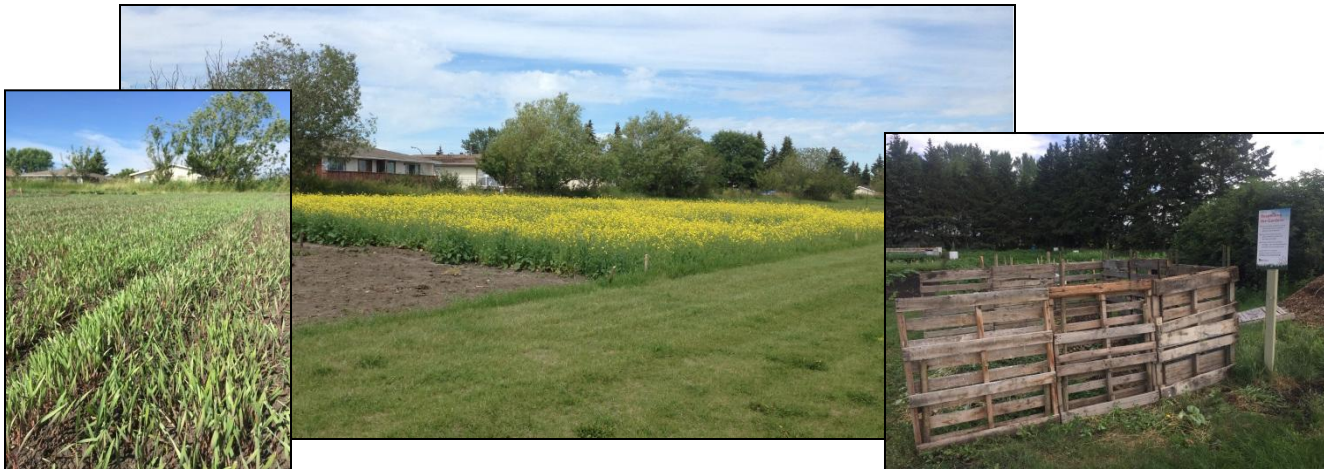
- Garden plots and orchard
- Site development
- Soil and compost haul
- Plots:
 - 34 medium
 - 27 small
- Lots of room to grow...





Soil Amendments and Composting

- Elimination of turf/excavation
- Cover crops
- In fall of 2016 all sites were amended with compost (5 year amendment)
- Pallet bins have been added to each site for excess material



Respecting the Gardens

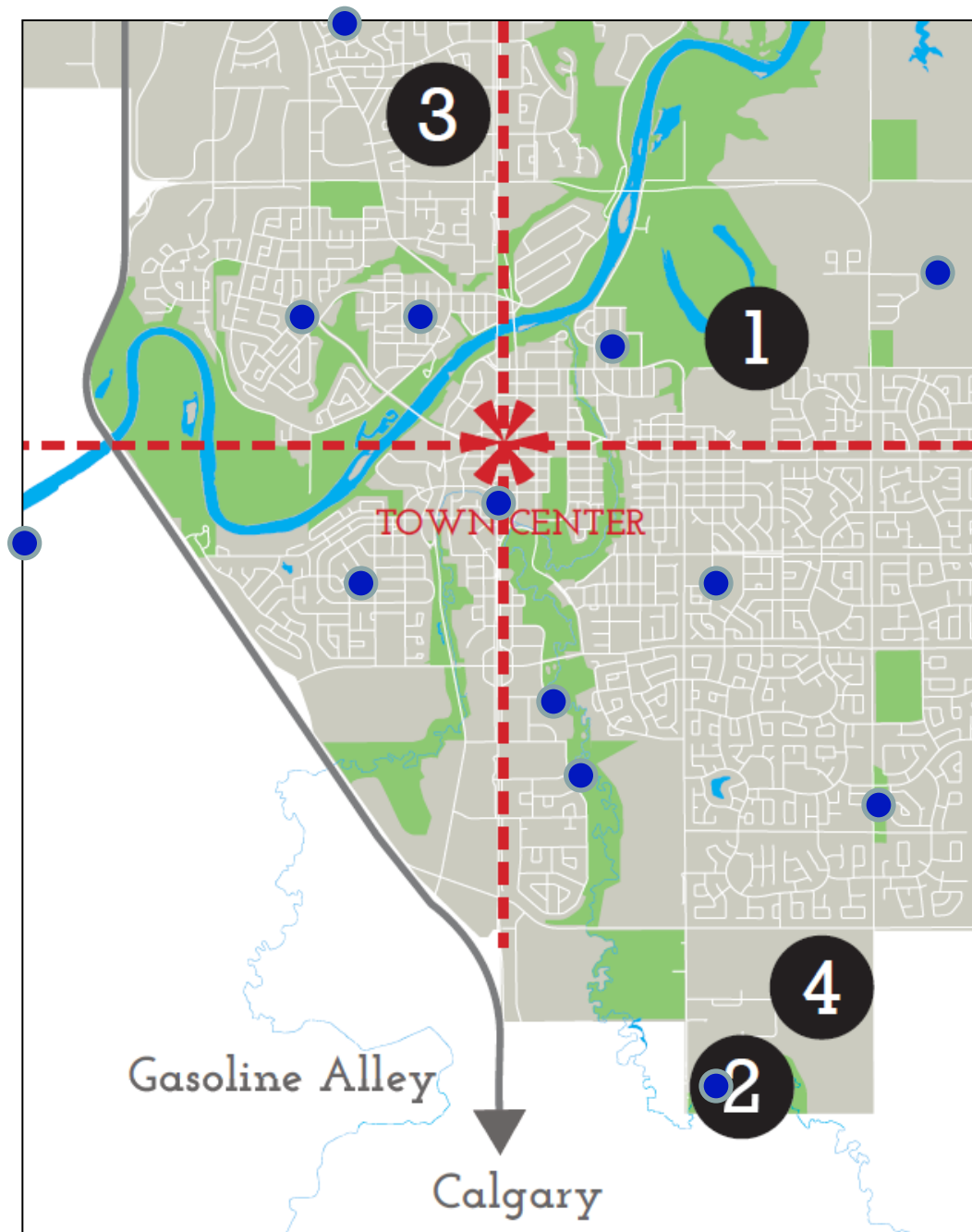
- ▶ Excess plant material is best left on top of your garden plot to enrich the soil.
- ▶ If you choose to remove excess plant material instead, please use the bins provided.
- ▶ Please respect the surrounding ecology – do not discard excess material outside your garden plot.

Learn how to compost garden waste at home: visit reddeer.ca/composting



2026...

- City Garden Plot Program
- Neighbourhood Community Gardens



Neighbourhood Community Gardens

- Raised beds
 - City supports
 - Community manages
- 2025: 13 garden projects





Here are a few steps that need to be taken should a community group be interested in starting up a community garden or community orchard project ...

1. The interested community group should submit a completed **Community Garden Project Application** to The City of Red Deer Parks Section (City Parks).

Project deadlines are as follows:

March 1st - annual application deadline for new projects for the current garden season

May 1st - deadline by which successful applicants will be notified

May-June - garden/orchard installation

February 1st - on-going annual project reports due

Planning in public open spaces is complex as The City must ensure access for a wide variety of user groups. The City may not be able to accommodate every project due to limited funding or site limitations.

2. Once the proposal is conditionally accepted by City Parks the community group may need to apply for a Development Permit. Raised bed garden projects require this step while orchard projects may not. The community group will submit their Community Garden Project Application along with an **Application for Development Permit** to the City's Inspections & Licensing Department.
 - The City Parks Section will cover all permit related costs
 - The approval process associated with each permit can take up to 8 weeks, as the proposed plans will be circulated to various City departments as well as to the public if so required. Following this review period the project will be subject to the Development Authority for land use approval.
3. Once the permit is approved a clearly outlined **agreement** will be developed between City Parks and the community group; this will clarify respective responsibilities and the agreement timeframe.
4. Should the project be located on public lands then the community group will be required to add The City of Red Deer as 'additionally insured' on their insurance coverage.
5. Should City Parks be providing materials then they will have them delivered to the garden site at the appropriate time. City Parks will also carry out all pruning of orchard trees and shrubs.
6. The community group will be required to provide the Parks Section with an **annual report** highlighting program successes, challenges, and recommendations. All reports must be submitted by February 1st.

Site Criteria

- Even dispersal across city
- Convenience for gardening
- Room for expansion
- Topography
- Soil structure
- Sunlight quality
- Obstructions
- Site safety and security
- Vehicle access
- Serenity
- Alternative land uses
- Adjacent land uses



Partnership Gardens

- Victory Gardens (Oriole Park – Victory Church)
- Lancaster Green Gardens
- West Park Gardens
- Downtown Community Gardens
- Waskasoo Gardens
- Morrisroe West Gardens
- Ft Normandeau Gardens
- Sunnybrook Farm Gardens
- Riverside Meadows Community Garden
- Bower Community Gardens
- Piper Creek Community Gardens
- Timberlands Community Gardens
- Johnstone Community Gardens







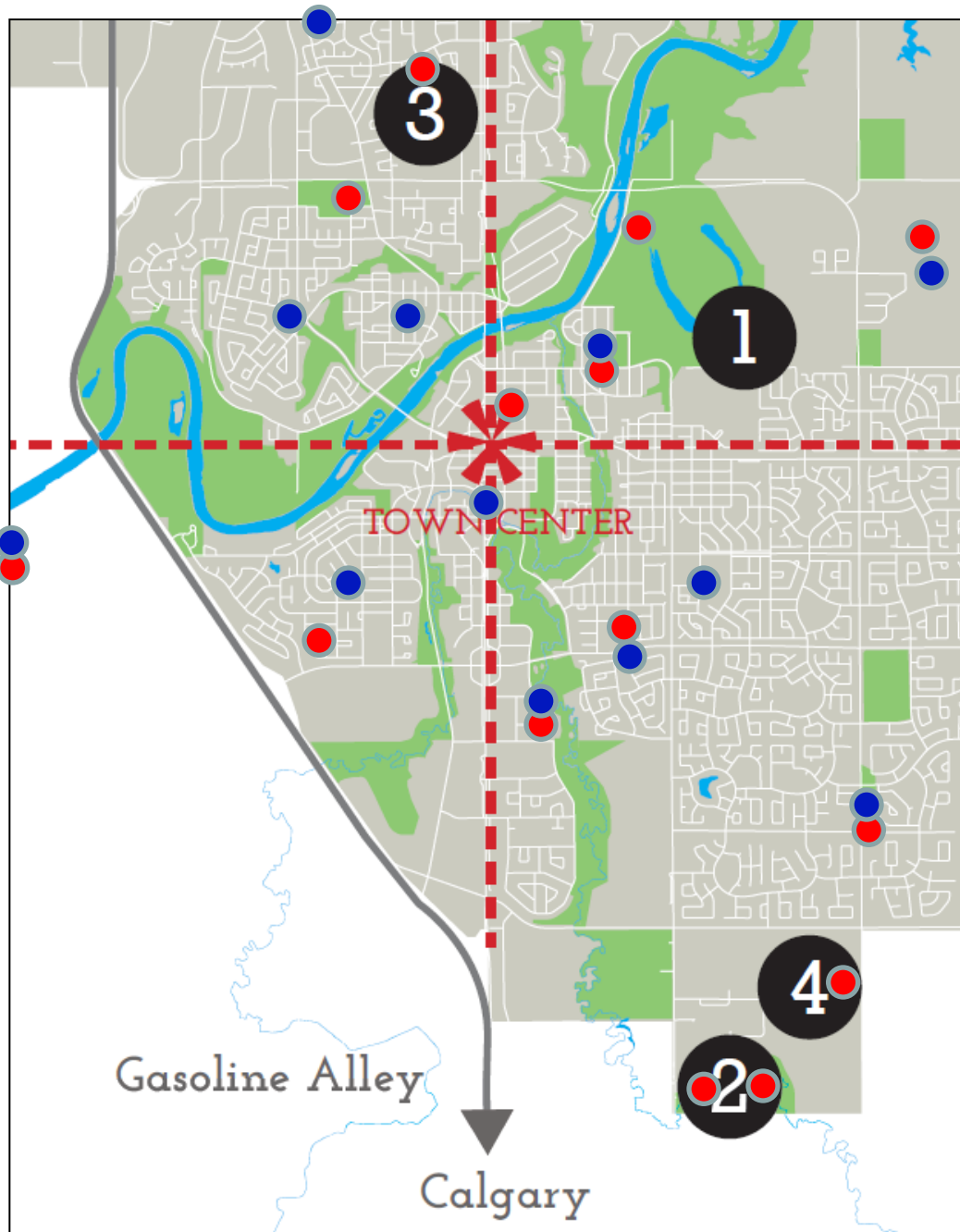








2026...



- City Garden Plot Program
- Neighbourhood Community Gardens
- Community Food Forests & Orchards

- Parkside Community Food Forest
- Mountview Sunnybrook Community Orchard
- Waskasoo Community Orchard
- Lancaster Green Community Orchard
- Central Community Food Forest
- Fort Normandeau Community Orchard
- Sunnybrook Farms Community Orchard
- Twin Spruce Community Food Forest
- Oriole Food Forest
- KWNC Forage Garden
- Timberlands Community Orchard
- Canada 150 Food Forest

Parkside Community Food Forest

- Initiated in 2013
- Tree Canada:
Edible Trees
grant funding
- City staff,
Rethink Red
volunteers and
general public



Parkside Gardens & Community Food Forest

Remember there are
two areas here:

**1. Private garden plots
in the middle:**

- ▶ only pick it if you
planted it

2. Community food forest:
fruit trees and berry
bushes on the edges

- ▶ free for public to pick



CITY OF RED DEER COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROGRAM

PARKSIDE GARDENS NORTH (14 NASH STREET)

October 3 2013



Scale: NTS

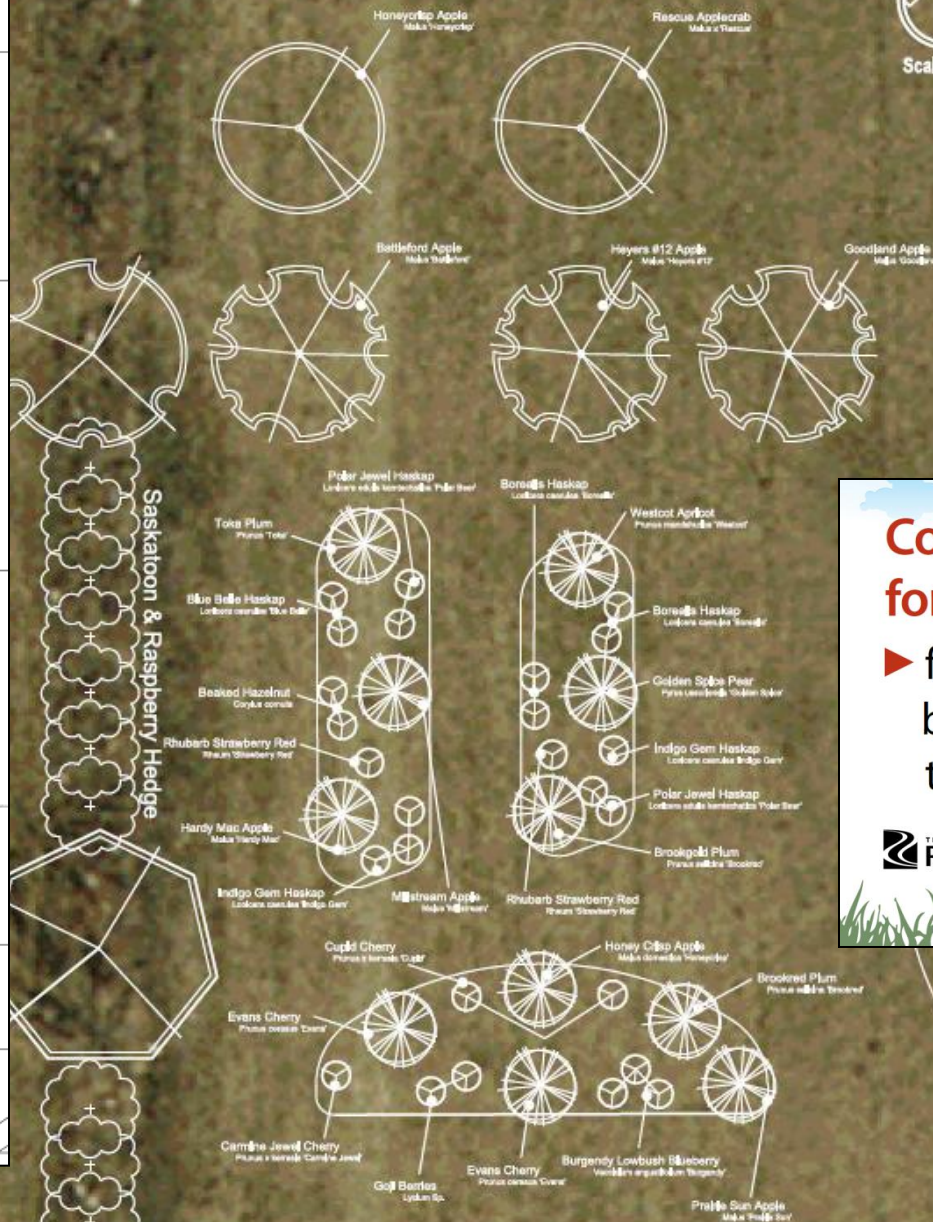
CITY OF RED DEER GARDEN PLOT PROGRAM

PARKSIDE GARDENS NORTH (14 NASH STREET)

B108	B109	B110
B103	B104	B105
B98	B99	B100
B93	B94	B95
B88	B89	B90
B83	B84	B85
B78	B79	B80
B73	B74	B75
B68	B69	B70
B63	B64	B65
B58	B59	B60
B53	B54	B55

B111	B112
G106	B107
B101	B102
B96	B97
B91	B92
B86	B87
B81	B82
B76	B77
B71	B72
B66	B67
B61	B62
B56	B57

B48	B49	B50
B43	B44	B45
B38	B39	B40
B33	B34	B35
B28	B29	B30
B23	B24	B25
B19	B20	
B17	B18	



Community food forest

- ▶ fruit trees and berry bushes free for public to pick







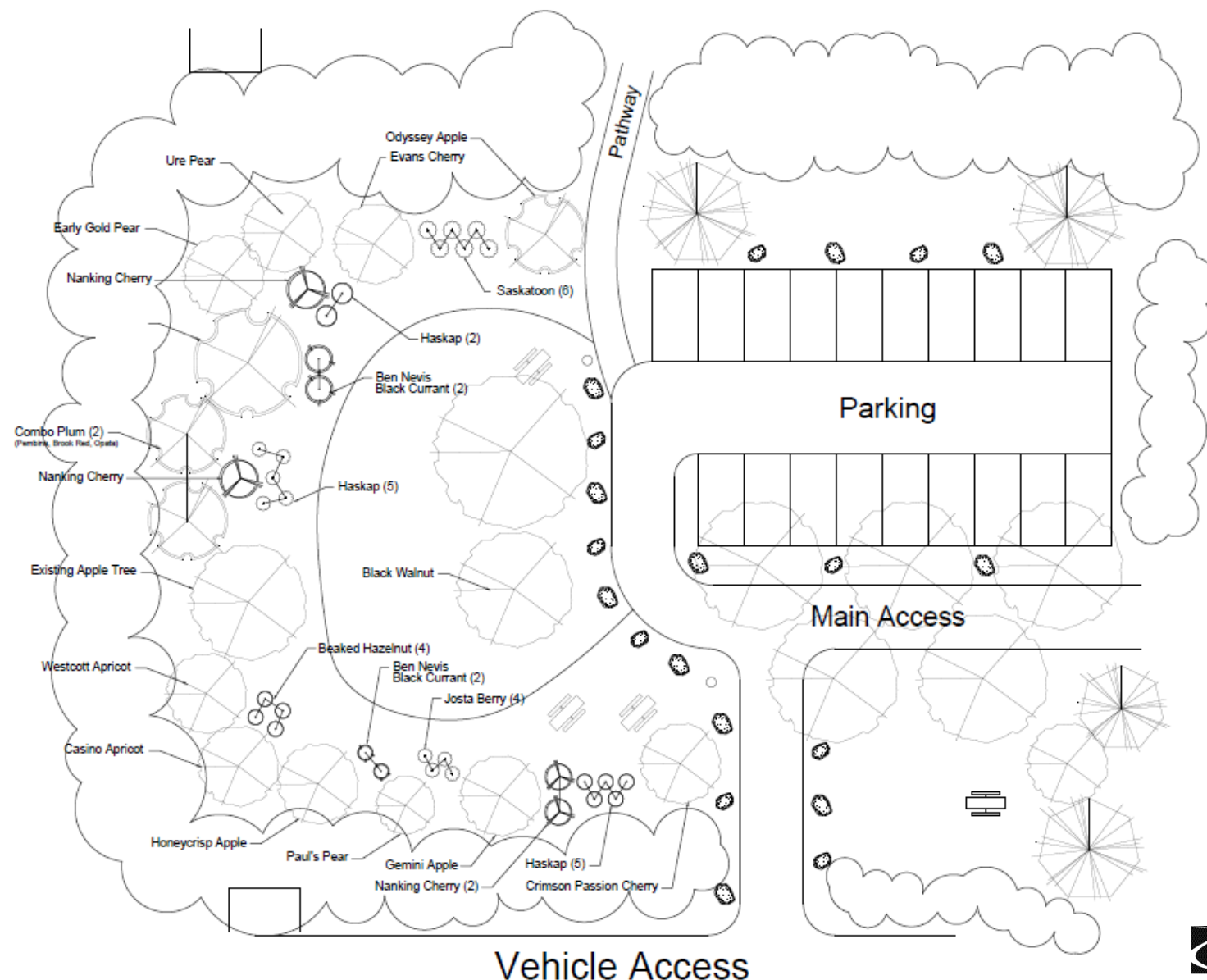




CITY OF RED DEER COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROGRAM

TWIN SPRUCE ORCHARD

February 5 2019



Moving Forward

- Plot expansion
- Ecologically sustainable practices
 - Pesticide-free gardening
- Composting
- Water supply
- Pollinator plantings
- Permaculture
- Landscaping with food
- Addressing Challenges: garden theft, illegal cutting, etc



I envision a day when every city and town has front and back yards, community gardens and growing spaces, nurtured into life by neighbors who are no longer strangers, but friends who delight in the edible rewards offered from a garden they discovered together. Imagine small strips of land between apartment buildings that have been turned into vegetable gardens, and urban orchards planted at schools and churches to grow food for our communities. The seeds of the urban farming movement already are growing within our reality.

- Greg Peterson -

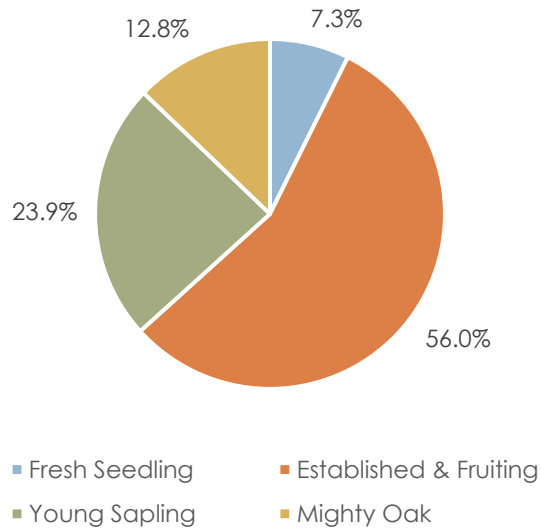




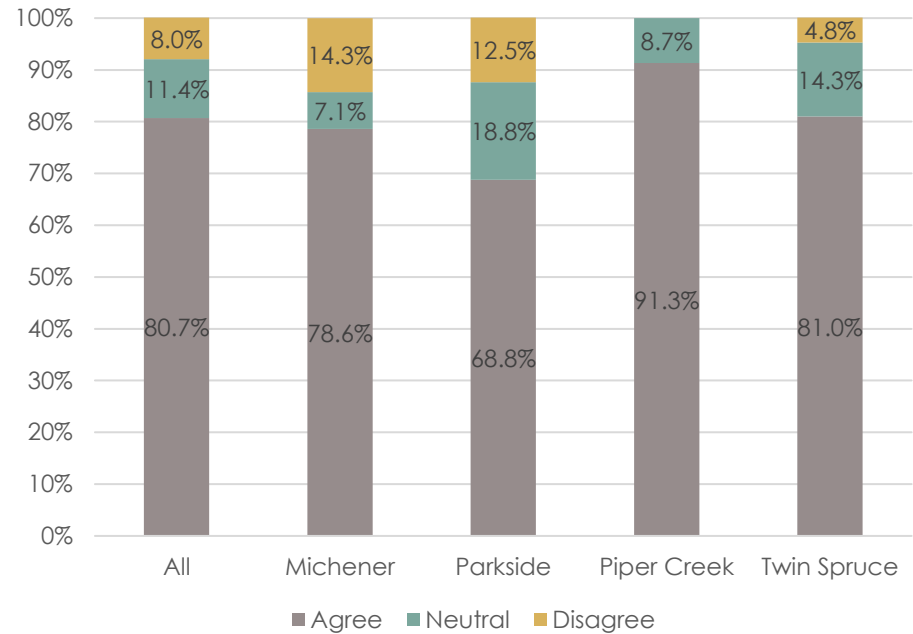
A top-down photograph of a person's hands, wearing a grey knit sweater, planting rows of lettuce seedlings in a garden bed. The soil is dark and rich. The lettuce plants are in various stages of growth, with some showing reddish-purple leaves and others being bright green. The person is carefully placing a seedling into the soil.

2025 Gardener Survey Results

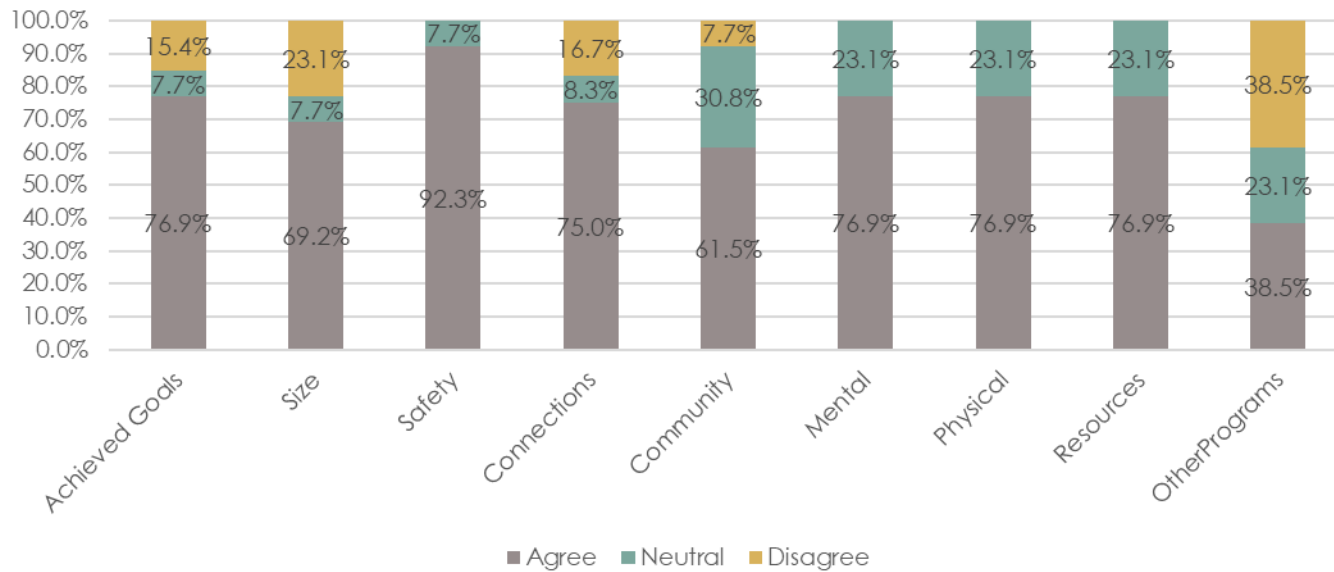
Gardening Experience



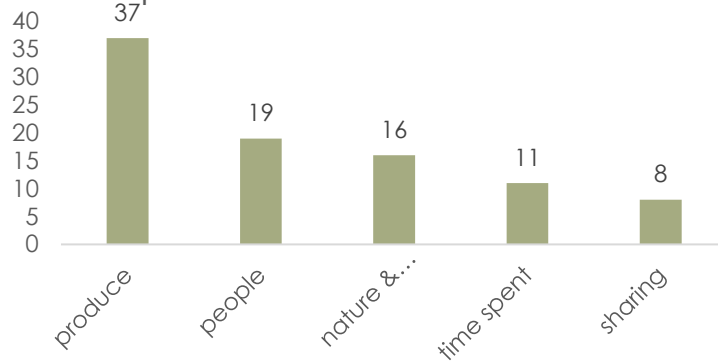
Sense of Safety



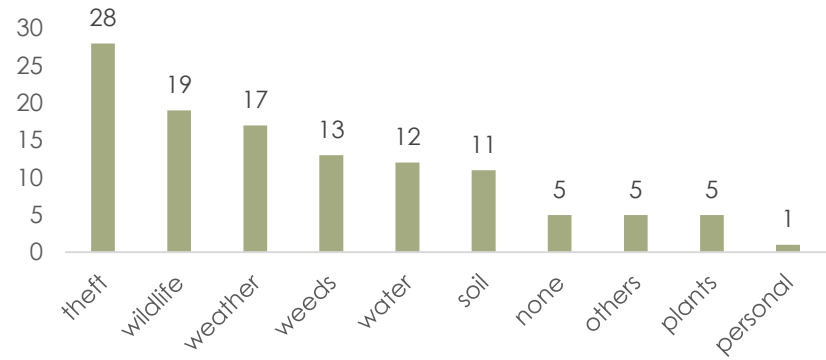
NGCP Gardener Experience



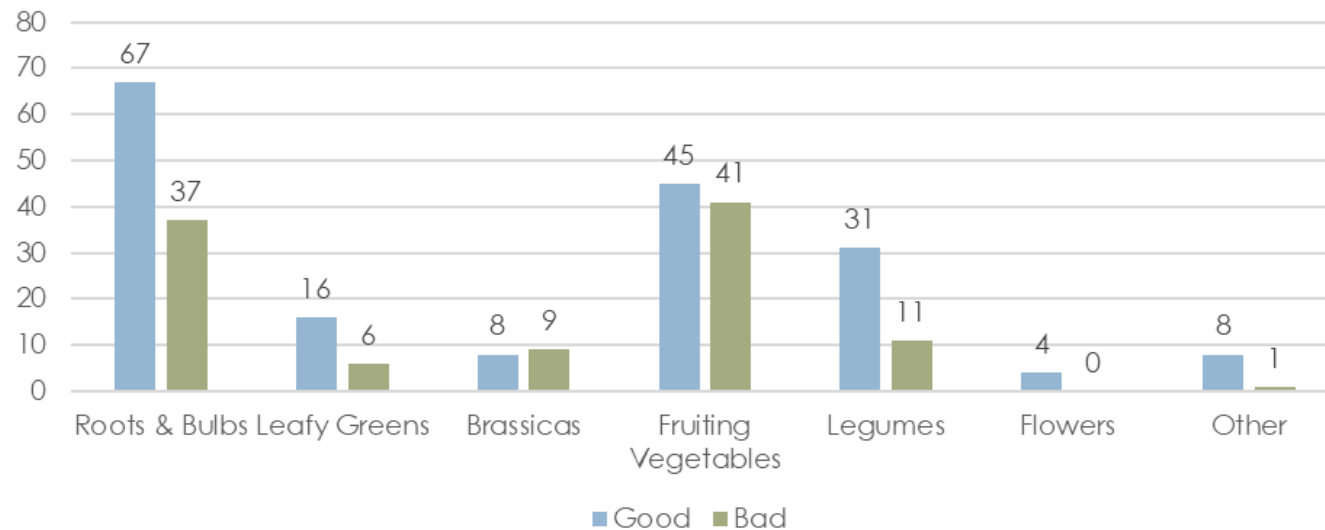
Top Moments of 2025



2025 Challenges



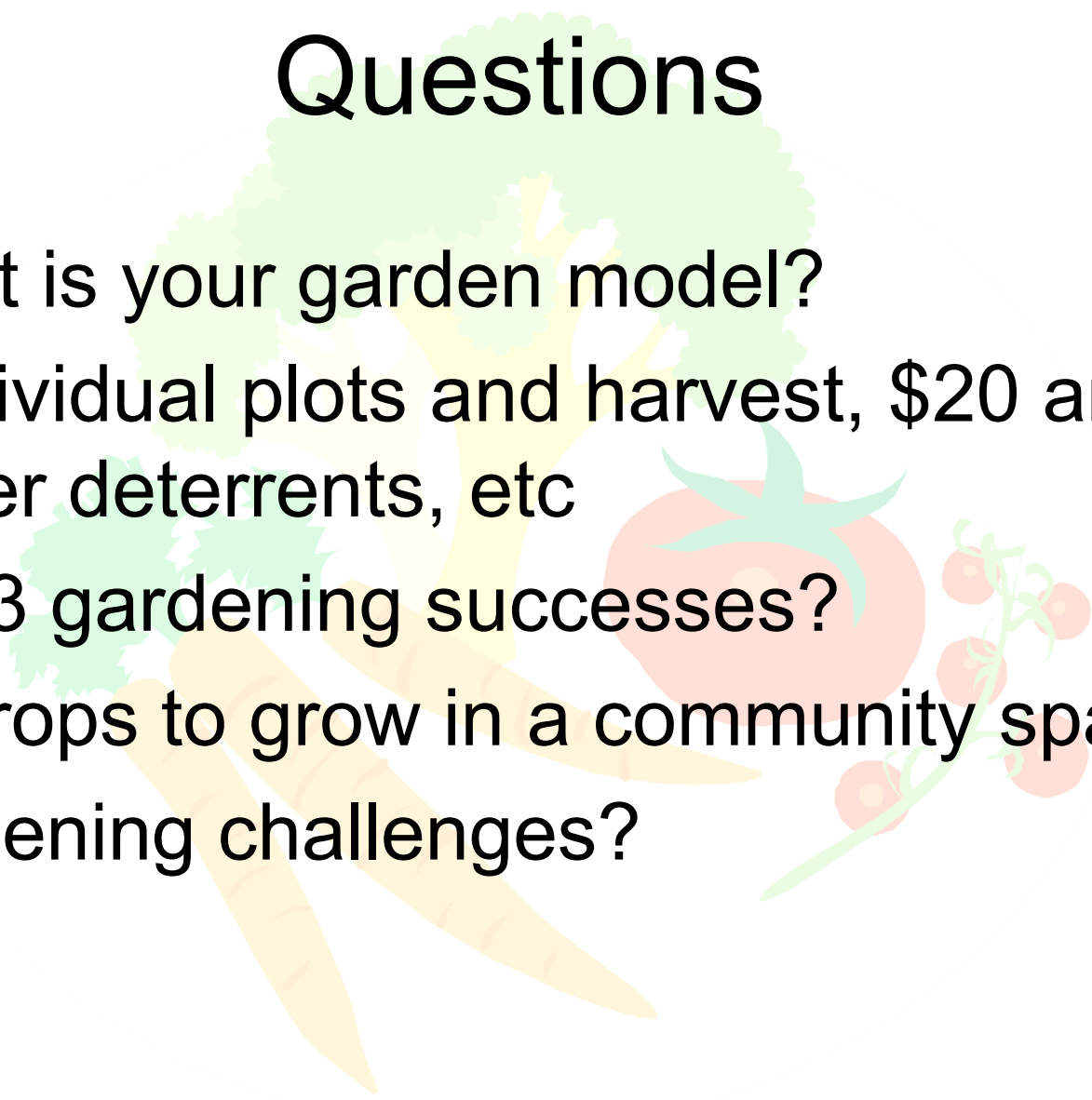
Best & Worst Produce of 2025



What We Heard

Garden	Model	Successes	Challenges
Victory Gardens (Oriole Park)	\$20/plot No harmful products Communication via OPCA FB, email and sign in front of garden	Potluck AGM harvest Community pantry Bike tour Hoop house	Close proximity to parking lot (snow, gravel) Water access (catchment on building but hard to contact those responsible) Deer browse Plot vacancy Limited leadership capacity Compost needed to refresh beds
Downtown Community Gardens	No cost – planted by volunteers for the public	Beautification Community involvement & empowerment Partnership with City/WEES/Adopt-a-Park	Needles and safety
West Park Community Gardens	\$20/plot \$10 deposit for fall clean-up Advertise through WPCA's website, FB and site sign Annual gardener survey	Strong community support Work bees making boxes together Emails for gardeners – reach out to them for community events 3 community boxes planted by gardeners for the community Water caught in totes (2) off church and use church tap when needed West Park Gardens Park Project Food Forest Green Deer /seed exchange Little Free Library and public flower bed	Lack of rain Some vegetable theft
Lancaster Green Gardens	All plots private \$30/plot refundable \$25/yr cleaning fee (returned if cleaned)	Fenced off to keep out deer and theft (unique – contracted landscape care, aesthetic acceptable, City utility agreement w/totes and fence) Water caught off lift station in totes (2)	Vandalism/theft Deer browse Water scarcity (no rain to fill tanks) Water theft
Waskasoo Community Gardens	\$10/plot Annual gardener survey	Strong community support Perennial beds Compost from Blue Grass (Big Yellow Bag) Rainwater capture off gazebo Gazebo is excellent gathering space BBQ, pie event, Green Deer, concerts City water to trees and to fill tote when it works	Deer browse Vegetable theft Lack of rain
Fort Normandeau Gardens	No cost; worked into Fort programming	Lots of produce Produce used in workshops Programs included edible plant walks and harvest science walks Community and volunteer engagement Wildlife proof lids on boxes Garden arches/trellises Pollinator planting initiative	Deer and hare browse Weeds Controlling runaway plants (horse radish, mint)
Timberlands Community Gardens	No CA; two residents made use of beds and Barrie Wilson Elementary School used one bed	School indigenous growing project Outdoor classroom Water provided by The City	Area not kept very tidy
Bower Community Gardens	\$25/plot 2 bags of fertilizer for each gardener	Full subscription of plots Compost from Blue Grass (Big Yellow Bag) Water tote provided by Enviro Containers & Recycling Water supplemented by The City	Deer browse Theft Dry and hot
Piper Creek Community Gardens (Rethink)	No cost	Perennial growing Community engagement Water supplemented by The City	Wildlife browse

Questions



1) What is your garden model?

e.g. individual plots and harvest, \$20 annual fee, deer deterrents, etc

2) Top 3 gardening successes?

*Best crops to grow in a community space

3) Gardening challenges?

Other Gardening/Green Initiatives...

- Local Food Movement (Red Deer Food Map)
- Community partnerships
- Common Ground Garden Project
- Tree planting initiatives
- Pollinator Parks/projects
- Backyard Chickens
- Seed Library

Participation Guidelines

1. Show respect for others. Everyone has wisdom.
2. Speak inclusively.
3. The things we say or how we say things may have an impact on others, despite our intent. Be accountable for the impact of your actions and words.
4. No fixing or shoulding on others - just be alongside one another.
5. Start with what is strong and not what is wrong. Offer ideas that you're excited to act on.
6. There are no wrong answers or questions.
7. Each person will hear others and be heard.



Thank you

www.reddeer.ca/gardeningopportunities