

London Community Gardens Program

Advisory Group Terms of Reference



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1.0. Overview of the London Community Gardens Program

London is home to 16 neighbourhood gardens located on municipally owned land, encompassing over 450 plots where gardeners grow vegetables, fruit and other plants. These neighbourhood gardens are spread across the city and are located in parks or open space. One garden is located both on public and private land. The majority of gardens are at full plot capacity and some have waiting lists due to the growing popularity of community gardening. This number does not include many more community gardens spread across the community on non-City property, including roof tops, schools and universities, churches, and other private properties.

The London Community Gardens Program Strategic Plan 2015-2019 provides the overall vision and direction for community gardens across London. Setting up an advisory group was one of the many ideas/opportunities identified within the plan, for gardeners to inform and participate in implementing the Strategic Plan.

2.0. Definitions

- 2.1. “**City**” is the Corporation of the City of London, or its representatives (i.e. City staff)

3.0. Purpose

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to support the London Community Gardens Program (LCGP) to increase communication between gardeners and the City and assist with the implementation of the LCGP Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Engagement Committee will:

- 3.1. Increase communications between the 16 gardens across the city and provide opportunity for collaboration and lessons learned;
- 3.2. Provide feedback and information to City of London staff regarding the program as a whole and also garden specific information;
- 3.3. Assist with implementation of the LCGP Strategic Plan by helping to determine priorities and participate in or lead various projects and/or activities;
- 3.4. Review the Community Gardens Guidelines document as needed;

4.0. Advisory Group Membership

The membership of the Advisory Group has been defined to align with the purpose of the Advisory Group: to support the London Community Gardens Program and Strategic Plan implementation through increased communication between gardeners across the city and with City staff. To achieve this purpose, the Advisory Group will be composed of representatives that meet the following criteria:

- 4.1. Currently participate in the LCGP and garden within one of the 16 gardens on municipal land, or;
- 4.2. Have participated in the program in the past and have a continued interest in the direction of the program, and;
- 4.3. Represent diverse groups from the geographic area.

5.0. Selection of Engagement Committee Members

- 5.1. City Staff will extend an invitation to all community gardeners across the 16 gardens on municipally-owned land. All interested gardeners will have an opportunity to be involved.

6.0. Time Commitment

- 6.1. The Advisory Group will meet at minimum 4 times a year.

7.0. Advisory Group Conduct

- 7.1. Members of the Advisory Group will work to ensure equal consideration is given to all London Community Gardens and work to accommodate all Community Gardens while recognizing each garden will have its own unique strengths and characteristics/features.