

City set to open applications for 2020 community gardens funding

Feb. 4, 2020 – Looking to start up a new community garden or grow an existing one?

The City of St. Catharines is once again offering funding to help community gardens take root. Incorporated charities and not-for-profit groups looking to create or expand a community garden can apply for matching funds from the City to cover up to half of eligible start-up costs, including lumber, soil, seeds, rain barrels and other materials and equipment.

The City supports and encourages community gardens for the purposes of growing produce for personal consumption or donation. Community gardens help bring the community together, offer residents opportunities to grow garden-fresh produce and positive relationships. Community gardens also contribute to the biodiversity of species and support the growth of pollinators.

“This is a great opportunity to bring residents together to improve access to healthy food options and encourage sustainable urban food production, while also providing opportunities for community development and the ability to create deeper roots in the community,” said Ilyse Norton, development horticultural technician. “We are looking forward to partnering with community groups working to establish community gardens.”

Over the last three years, the City has partnered to support 17 gardens throughout the municipality, on both City and private property. By developing partnerships to expand the community gardens network across St. Catharines, the City continues its momentum in achieving social well-being and environmental stewardship goals outlined in its strategic plan.

Applications are due by Wednesday, March 11 at 4 p.m. Approved projects must be completed by Oct. 31. Learn more about the program and how to apply at www.stcatharines.ca/Gardening.

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