

To Mayor and Council,

The Community Garden has been a not-for-profit organization within the town for over 15 years. We have always had a strong but quiet presence in the community with a core group of growers that have helped the garden grow into what it has become today; a place where people gather to not only grow their own food, but a place to talk, to give advice, and to help each other out. We bought a BBQ a few years ago to host gatherings after the Covid lockdown so that members could enjoy some food and build a sense of community again.

Last year, some volunteers of the garden constructed a food fence to utilize space and to provide free peas and beans to any of the garden members – whether you planted them or not. This year, we are beautifying the gardens by replacing beds, continuing the food fence to include herbs and other produce, establishing a new water line and adding a new compost system. To help complete these tasks, the gardens will donate money to the MSS graduation class in return for a weekend of volunteerism. We are a thriving and busy not-for-profit organization in town.

In talking with the Senior centre, they plan on 2024 being the last year for the Seniors Garden at the Ernie Bodin centre. The Community Garden is willing and excited to take in those seniors who wish to continue to grow in 2025 and beyond. The issue at hand is that the Community Garden is at its maximum capacity, and we even have a wait list for available beds. In order to satisfy the growing needs of the community, the Community Garden would need to expand in its current location.

The Community Garden is asking Mayor and Council to approve the expansion of the gardens into the adjacent lot. The lot we are requesting is LOT 3 DISTRICT LOT 12463 CARIBOO DISTRICT PLAN 21790. This lot is 1.25 acres located off of Fraser BLVD. A map of the projected expansion is attached.

Mr. Kyle Tapper  
President  
Mackenzie Community Garden



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Print Generated: 3/21/2024

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