

Strathcona Rail Community Garden 2017 Report

November 1, 2017

Highlights of 2017

1. Streamlined the sign-up process and reduced paper waste with a condensed contract.
2. Welcomed 5 new gardeners (for a total of 62 gardening families).
3. Continued community engagement with produce donations to Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS). (YESS did develop their own garden, but it's not permanent.)
4. With the assistance of our Community Recreation Coordinator, Paul Samboryk, we filled the planters on 99 Street with City-donated annual flowers.
5. We invested in several large totes that are filled with water using a nearby fire hydrant and meter rented from Epcor. These have replaced the mosquito-magnet barrels.
6. We provided a history of the garden and our governance model to a University of Calgary social work practicum student on a placement with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL). The EFCL was developing a set of guidelines for groups wanting to start community gardens.
7. Kelly Binnington will be stepping down from her role as Garden Director but will be available as a resource for the incoming director(s) in the new year.

Plans for 2018

1. Recognizing that more than 60% of our gardening families live in non-single-family homes, develop proposal and/or strategy around adding community garden needs to the league's response to high-rise development projects in Old Strathcona.
2. Engage newer gardeners and foster community with a seed swap/pub night or other informal meeting prior to the sign up.
3. Improve communication by test driving various methods and tools; implement gardener suggestions for blogs.
4. Continue the second year of the 2-year potato ban and communicate enforcement early and often.
5. Determine appropriate sub-committees and revisit the roles and expectations of each.
6. Engage with 99th street business owners to have a successful repeat of the 2017 planter season and add edible plants to the mix.