

To: Mayor and Council
From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Meeting Date: July 15, 2025
Meeting Type: Regular Council Meeting

Prepared by: Matt Vader, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture
Department: Parks, Recreation and Culture

Title: Demonstration Garden
Description: A demonstration garden that will showcase sustainable gardening practices

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community Engagement Grant request in the amount of \$8,000 from the Lake Country Garden Club for a demonstration garden be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To give back to the community, the Lake Country Garden Club is building a Demonstration Garden in collaboration with the District of Lake Country. In early 2025, Lake Country Garden Club and District of Lake Country agreed on a location for the future Demonstration Garden - a 1000 m² corner of Swalwell Park, formerly the baseball diamond.

The Demonstration Garden will be a vibrant living classroom designed to inspire and educate gardeners of all ages and skill levels. The garden will showcase sustainable, ecologically-friendly gardening practices and highlight plants that are native to the local environment, pollinator-friendly, water-wise, and edible. It will be open to the community year-round and the community is invited to explore, learn, and grow with the Garden Club. In addition, the Lake Country Garden Club looks forward to offering digital self-guided tours and scheduled programming including tours, hands-on workshops, and tailored programs to meet specific interests and needs.

The Garden Club's activities in 2025 have been focused on Fundraising and Design. The Garden Club has selected a Landscape Architect to design the garden with the project beginning with a Conceptual Design, paid for with funds previously raised by the Club. The Club is requesting a grant to turn the Concept Design into a Detailed Landscape and Irrigation Design. All Design work will be completed by September 2025.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This application embodies the concept for this grant when it was originally presented to Council and then subsequently supported. This grant was an opportunity for the community to come together with ideas along with funds or resources or support for their idea. While these involve differing levels of support from the District, the concept is the same, creating a better community.

Under section 8 of the Community Charter, Fundamental Powers, a municipality has the right to provide assistance except that Council must not provide a grant, benefit, advantage, or other form of assistance to a business including an exemption from a tax or fee (section 25). Business is defined as carrying on a commercial or industrial activity or undertaking of any kind and providing professional, personal, or other services for the purpose of gain or profit. Legislation does not define assistance to non-profit organizations although nearly all municipalities in BC set out policies restricting funding to only non-profit organizations registered under the BC Corporate Registry. A non-profit is considered an organization, not a business under the Community Charter therefore, there is no prohibition on a municipality from providing assistance to non-profits as legislation only applies to businesses.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

☐ None ☒ Budget Previously Approved ☐ Other (see below)

The 2025 Financial Plan identifies a budget of \$15,000 for the Community Engagement Grant. Approval of the request will leave \$7,000 of the annual budgeted amount within the Community Engagement Grant for allocation for 2025.

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. THAT the Community Engagement Grant request from the Lake Country Garden Club not be approved.

Respectfully Submitted.

Matt Vader, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Community Engagement Grant - Garden Club .docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 10, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Jul 4, 2025 - 3:00 PM

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Jul 10, 2025 - 7:31 AM

Makayla Ablitt, Legislative & FOI Coordinator - Jul 10, 2025 - 9:59 AM