
DEPARTMENT: COUNCIL & ALL DEPARTMENTS

TITLE: **Adopt – A – Garden Program**

Minutes reference date: 30 November 2009 25 June 2012

Policy

The Town of Amherst recognizes that an Adopt-A-Garden program in the community would be an opportunity for the community to become involved in the planning, development and maintenance of existing garden areas in Amherst's open spaces and community parks. This gardening program will be a valuable recreational activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, community development, environmental education and the enhancement and beautification of Town properties.

Purpose

The Adopt-A-Garden program is designed to bring together residents who want to volunteer a few hours of their time to help maintain a specific garden area in our community.

The Adopt a Garden program would include:

- Beacon Street
- Curry Park
- Along the Church Street Cemetery
- Two beds in front of the Air force Club
- YMCA
- Two beds on Lawrence Street
- Highlander Mural Garden at the corner of Havelock and Ratchford Streets
- Church Street Green Space

This beautification program will accept applications to participate from individuals, businesses, organizations and groups who are interested in adopting a garden in the Town of Amherst. Responsibilities for garden adoption include:

- Garden planning
- Planting and development
- Maintenance, general clean-up and beautification of existing gardens
- Weed control
- Annual and perennial planting
- Enhancement and landscaping of existing garden areas
- Ongoing monitoring of gardens

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Appointments and Responsibilities

- When vacancies occur, advertisements will be posted in December in local media and the web site requesting expressions of interest from groups and individuals as needed.
- Council will appoint any new participants who wish to be in the program in February of each year.
- Participants in the program may be rewarded with signage recognizing the volunteer commitment to maintain and or create a garden area.
- The Town of Amherst will be responsible to provide supplies including plants, soil, fertilizer, etc., for the gardens.
- All participants in the Adopt-A-Garden Program will be responsible to complete an annual planting plan, address planting activities, complete regular maintenance, address litter removal and prepare the garden for winter at the end of the season.