

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: April 27, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Jim Gordon, P.Eng., Director, Engineering & Municipal Operations

SUBJECT: Hogg Park – Proposed Community Garden

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council receive the Corporate Report dated April 27, 2026, from the Director of Engineering & Municipal Operations, titled “Hogg Park – Proposed Community Garden” and provide direction to staff to:

1. Continue the status quo of maintaining the Centennial Park Community Garden as the City’s only community garden; OR
 2. Proceed with development of a Hogg Park Community Garden subject to first determining a \$40K source of grant funding; OR
 3. Obtain quotes for development of a Hogg Park Community Garden based upon funding approval of \$40K from the 2026 capital contingency.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hogg Park is a small neighbourhood park north of Buena Vista Avenue and approximately ¼ kilometer east of City Hall. It is a passive green space designed for quiet recreation, featuring lawn areas, mature trees, pathways, and seating. It functions as an uptown pocket park, providing open space and respite within an established residential area.

In 2019 the former residential property at 15463 Buena Vista Avenue was added to Hogg Park (the “Park”), following City acquisition and Council direction to demolish the former residence and integrate the land into park space.

At the April 13, 2026, regular meeting, Council directed staff investigate the feasibility of constructing a community garden in the former residential space.

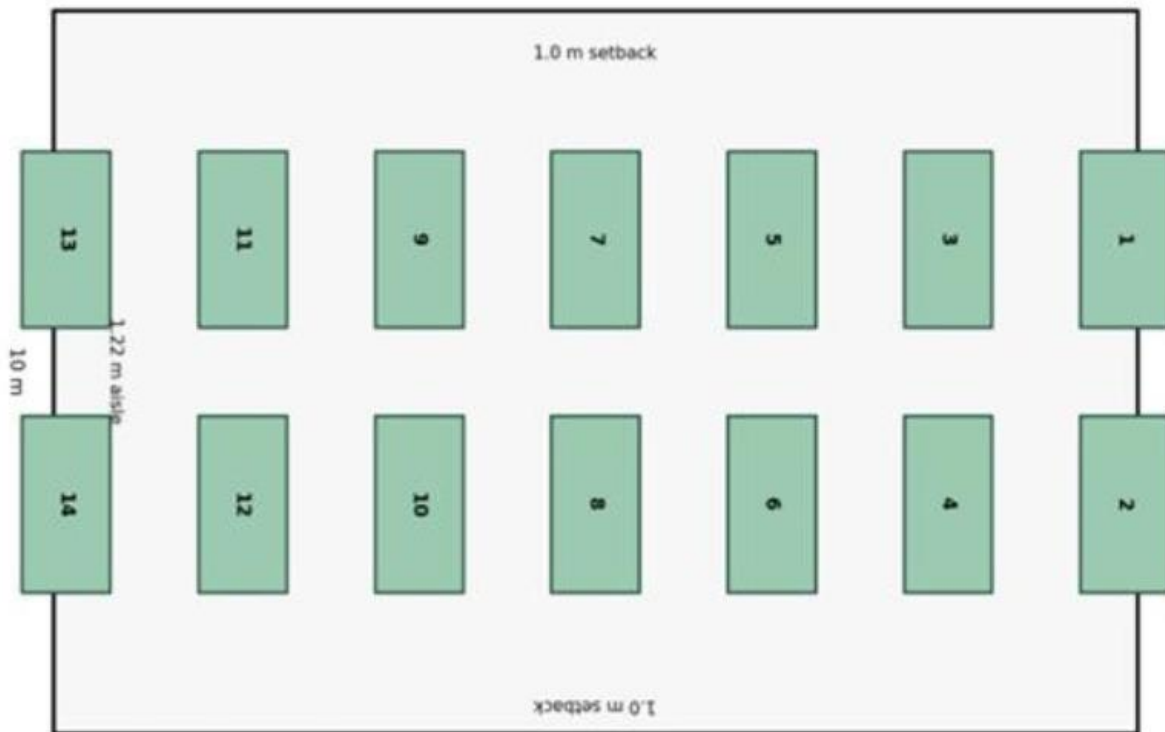
INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Staff investigated the costs and feasibility of constructing a community garden in the Park. Due to the location of large mature trees and varying slopes in most of the Park, the former residential site provides the best opportunity for a community garden.

1. Plots

Using standard 4ft × 8ft raised beds and allowing about four feet between boxes for access, approximately 14 plots could be constructed. That number of plots could decrease or increase

once accessibility, tree protection, water access, composting, and storage are factored in. A concept layout would be needed to confirm anything beyond that.



2. Garden Stewards / Volunteers

The community garden at Centennial Park operates under a volunteer-led stewardship model. There are two primary volunteers who handle most of the logistics but there are a few others that do special jobs. Each plot holder must do five hours per year of volunteer work in the community garden. It's unclear whether that same group would be willing or able to take on another site. Realistically, a separate volunteer coordinator group would likely be needed if a garden were established at the Park.

3. Existing Waiting List

The Centennial Park community garden currently has a relatively small waitlist, about four people from 2024. There are 89 plots with another seven planned for 2027 by splitting the last seven large plots.

4. Parking

Parking is limited within the Park; therefore, users would need to park along Buena Vista Avenue and walk approximately 40 metres up the sloping driveway on the west side of the Park. This may be challenging for some users carrying tools or supplies. On-street parking availability on Buena Vista Avenue appears adequate at most times.

5. Water Service

The previous water service from the residential property was decommissioned at the main on Buena Vista Avenue. A new service will need to be added and funding set aside. A temporary solution is to connect to the existing irrigation system on the east side of the Park with an overland pipe leading to a standpipe and tap.

6. Preparation of the Land

The site would likely need some minor grading, raised beds, and mulch or screenings between plots to deal with weeds, drainage, and mud. These are typical garden elements added to both

setup costs and ongoing maintenance. Tree protection zones would need to be established and maintained.

7. Garden Viability (Sun / Shade)

Although the area is relatively flat, it's heavily shaded, particularly on the east and south sides, due to mature trees. That significantly limits daily sun exposure and may affect productivity and overall gardener satisfaction. Even without a formal sun study, shade is likely to be a real constraint here. The existing community garden at Centennial Park has the same issue and staff are regularly getting comments and complaints about the lack of light.

8. Neighbour Concerns

Potential issues include increased activity, parking, and pest management. Especially rats if composting isn't well controlled. Rodent-resistant compost bins, clear rules, and ongoing oversight would be essential.

9. Ongoing Resources

Staff resources would be required on an ongoing basis to maintain and repair the plots and walkways. Additional time and resources would be needed for compost management, litter pickup, irrigation issues, neighbour concerns and vandalism management of hoses, taps and the general area. Security could potentially be needed if there is theft, vandalism, or damage to garden infrastructure and produce.

10. Total Cost (Order-of-Magnitude Only)

Very high-level numbers, including materials and labour.

Item	Est Cost (\$K)
Raised garden boxes (≈ 14)	13
Soil	6
Mulch	2
Basic water supply	6
Composting stations	4
Site Preparation	4
Contingency	5
Approximate totals	40

Very rough estimate of \$40K assuming feasibility of an overland connection to the irrigation system on the eastern side of the Park.

Existing staff resources are fully committed to the busy Spring season so establishment of the garden would be contracted out. Prices may vary, so three quotes would be sought.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of establishing the community garden are estimated to be \$40K with ongoing maintenance of approximately \$10K per year. These costs are not included in the Financial Plan; however, there may be funding opportunities from community service providers. Rotary has contributed to Hogg Park in the past. If approval is granted to establish the community garden at Hogg Park, any maintenance costs will need to be funded through the 2026 operating contingency.

Ongoing maintenance of approximately \$10K would also need to be added to the Financial Plan for future years, representing an additional 0.03% property tax increase for these outgoing years, based on 2026 property taxes.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Staff would work with Communications to reach out to the community both for garden users and for garden stewards.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

Engineering and Municipal Operations, the Financial Services Department and the Corporate Administration Department would work together in establishing the community garden.

IMPLICATIONS FOR TREE PRESERVATION AND TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT

Tree protection zones would need to be established and maintained, ensuring clearance from the roots of the large mature trees.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Although this project is not a specific strategic priority, it aligns with the priority area of **Community**: We foster a livable city with connected residents enjoying distinctive places and activities.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

One option is to continue focus on existing priorities with the community garden at Centennial Park. Alternatively, Council may, after consideration of potential challenges and costs, direct staff to proceed with establishment of a community garden at Hogg Park subject to availability of funding.

CONCLUSION

A community garden with 14 plots is a possibility in the western, former private property section of Hogg Park. There are challenges as outlined in this report, including determination of a source of funding for the estimated capital cost of \$40K and ongoing maintenance costs of \$10K.

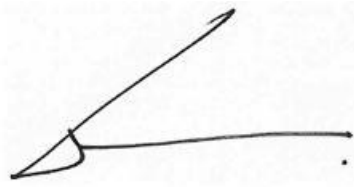
Respectfully submitted,



Jim Gordon, P.Eng.,
Director of Engineering & Municipal Operations

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

This corporate report is provided to Council for information and direction to staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'G' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small dot.

Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer