

# Community Gardening on HRM Owned Land

Staff Presentation to Halifax Regional Council  
April 27, 2010



# Community Gardening

The purpose of this presentation is to share information with Regional Council and the community about the process for community gardens on HRM owned property.





# Community Gardening

- **2<sup>nd</sup> most popular physical activity in Canada**
- **former City of Dartmouth supported Community Gardens**
- **exist on church property, schools, universities, private and public lands**
- **fostered by existing community based gardening networks and resources**



# Community Gardening

- social interaction
- neighbourhood beautification
- educational
- environmental
- physical activity
- community building
- civic engagement



# Community Gardening

- **A need was identified for a clear process to deal with requests**
- **A number of existing policies and initiatives provided the support necessary to develop a clear process - Regional Plan, Sustainable Environmental Management Office, Good Neighbours Great Neighbourhoods , Community Engagement Strategy**



# Community Gardening

- **small scale**
- **vegetables, fruit, flowers, herbs**
- **common areas with shared upkeep**
- **individual garden plots**
- **community participation**
- **managed by volunteers**
- **complies with regulations and bylaws**

# Community Gardening



*Findlay Community Center*



# Community Gardening

- inter-departmental team
- application form
- operating procedures
- site evaluation check list
- operational agreement
- capacity building and training opportunities
- volunteer opportunities
- gardening advice



# Community Gardening

- **Some things we are working on:**
  - Placing information online at [www.myhrm.ca](http://www.myhrm.ca)
  - Providing application forms through Community Recreation Centers and online
  - Adding information about Community Gardening to the Good Neighbours Great Neighbourhoods Toolkit
  - Creating an inventory of existing Community Gardens on HRM owned land
  - Providing links with the many community resources which already exist