

JBNA Gardening Committee

Terms of Reference

Revision/Approval - 12 March 2017

Overview

The City of Victoria recognizes community gardening as a valuable community activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, neighbourhood building, food production, environmental education, habitat development, and connection to nature.

The JBNA shares the City's view and supports the Official Community Plan's Goal that "Victorians have access to skills, knowledge and resources to produce and process their own food in urban areas" as well as the Official Community Plan (OCP) objective to "increase the number of allotment gardens, commons gardens, edible landscapes, food-bearing trees and other types of food production activities".

The JBNA Board has established a Gardening Committee to facilitate efforts by those living and working in James Bay to enhance food production gardening activity in our community. The Committee will support gardening on both public and private lands, including a diverse range of activities such as: allotment and commons gardens, fruit and nut trees, edible landscaping, pollinator gardens, and educational opportunities for all ages and backgrounds, as well as sharing of knowledge, plants, and resources.

JBNA recognizes that privately held greenspace within James Bay could provide garden opportunities for residents, particularly renter and condominium residents. Also small parcels of public property may be suitable for edible food production.

Membership

The JBNA Board of Directors has established the Gardening Committee. In addition to the minimum 2 members from the Board, various individuals from the community will be appointed based on their ability to contribute to the Committee's work and achievement of its goals. Appointment decisions will also consider the Committee's effective operation and members' experience and expertise as well as the Committee's long term renewal and succession planning. The Board will annually review the Committee's membership and make any appointment changes they determine appropriate.

The Gardening Committee membership consists of: two Directors from the JBNA Board, the JBNA Gardening Advocate funded through a City of Victoria Grant, other members drawn from garden groups within James Bay that wish to avail themselves of the support provided by JBNA through this committee, and other interested and engaged volunteers.

Goals

The JBNA Gardening Committee's Goals are to:

1. Increase the amount of gardening activity in James Bay on both private and public land
2. Identify gardening opportunities and priorities, then support the community's efforts to develop them
3. Facilitate communication and networking among gardeners in James Bay
4. Increase food produced and consumed in James Bay

Processes and Roles

Neither JBNA nor the Gardening Committee will play a role in the day-to-day operations of established community or allotment gardens affiliated with the JBNA nor of any garden in the community not affiliated with the JBNA. JBNA will provide active support with operations for new collaborative gardening projects during the start-up phase until the project has the capacity to function more independently. The JBNA Gardening Committee may facilitate cooperation and sharing among James Bay gardens, through such programs as bulk materials purchasing, coordination of allotment wait lists, and so on.

The Gardening Advocate reports to the JBNA Board but works through the JBNA Gardening Committee.