

RETHINKING COMMUNITY GARDENS

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Community Gardens are in a precarious state as they often occupy marginal lands or are constantly competing for limited land within cities. Gardeners must negotiate land use, zoning by-laws, planning restrictions and community attitudes. However, the benefits that community gardens have on local neighbourhoods and the citizens involved in the gardens are endless. The positive spillovers substantially out way any negatives and challenges that community gardens bring.

This paper will re-evaluate and rethink community garden framework and typology through analyzing secondary research data, innovative garden design case studies and innovative policy case studies. Through these three areas of research major themes are identified and recommendations are presented.

Three main recommendations are made, each including sub-tasks and areas of focus. The recommendations include:

1. Conduct Future Community Garden Research
2. Explore Community Garden Typology
3. Consider Innovative Policies

As the community garden movement continues to expand throughout our urban cities and the demand continues to increase, local governments and community garden networks will have to think outside the box, and work together to create innovative solutions for issues that our cities face. Local governments are strategically placed to become key partners in enabling community gardens future and building successful community spaces around gardening. It is time that local governments see the benefit community gardens have within their municipality, and work together with community garden networks to strengthen the gardens longevity.



Source: Our Canadian Project, 2014