

## **Summerlea Community Garden Report**

### **Annual General Meeting, September 12, 2020**

This spring I was feeling stuck on how to proceed with developing the Community Garden committee and the project charter. So I joined the West Meadowlark Community Garden—I would try to pick up knowledge from this group by osmosis. I planted a small garden there this season, and I learned a lot about the cycle of operations. Overall, it was an extremely worthwhile experience, as well as a lot of fun.

Also this spring, we applied for the City of Edmonton's pop-up community garden program. This is a City initiative to help improve food security by creating temporary community gardens with minimal paperwork. Our application was accepted, perhaps on the basis that we are already in the strategic planning phase for our own garden and we have experienced gardeners in our group and our own tools.

There was a lot of interest the day the fabric planters and soil arrived. We received six round 42 inch planters. One of the planters was set aside for the community. A city truck arrived every few days when it wasn't raining to water the garden.

I personally looked after the community planter. Because I had planted radishes in there, I needed to harvest and give them away. I did this by approaching families in the playground in the evenings. As a side note, not one family I approached actually lives in the neighborhood.

Later in the season, I delivered zucchini and beets to the Food Bank, 5.6 kg to date.

The pop-up gardens will need to be totally harvested and cleared out before September 27 when the City trucks arrive to pick up the planters and soil.

Regarding the garden committee, we are still a small number. We welcome anybody who wants to help with the planning and development of the garden.

Our most recent effort was developing the terms of reference for how the committee will operate. Once this is submitted, the City will assign a planner to us and we can proceed with developing the charter.

Respectfully submitted

JoAnne Burek