

February 4, 2016

Interested in starting a community garden? Dig in at Feb. 15 info session

The City of Campbell River has park spaces for community gardens, and you can dig into the details during the *Starting a Community Garden* information session Feb. 15.

If you have an interest in starting a community garden, find out where land is available and how to apply to use community space Monday, Feb. 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in room 2 at the Campbell River Community Centre.

“Come in with questions and leave motivated! The session will start with an inspiring video and presentations from representatives of three local community gardens: Laughing Willow, Campbell River Community Garden and Campbellton Neighbourhood Community Garden,” says Linda Nagle, a City recreation program coordinator. *“Over the course of the evening, you’ll learn about City park spaces available for community gardens, the work involved in setting up a community garden (including making an application) and you’ll be able to view sample agreements between the City and Community Garden associations.”*

“There are multiple reasons that community gardens are important. One is to ensure a reliable food source if there is ever a disruption to food production. Investing \$10 in seeds can reduce grocery costs up to \$700, and gardens make us more resilient to food price increases like we are currently experiencing because of the Canadian dollar value,” says City Councillor Marlene Wright, who holds the community planning, recreation/parks and environment portfolio. *“Organically grown community gardens can safeguard habitat for bees and other pollinating species. They also reduce air pollution by removing carbon dioxide and contributing oxygen to the atmosphere.”*

Currently, Campbell River produces less than one per cent of food consumed locally, and the City’s agriculture plan aims for the community to have the capacity to produce 10 per cent of its own food by 2031.

The Starting a Community Garden Information session is free, but registration is required. Register in person at the Sportsplex or Campbell River Community Centre, or phone us at 250-923-7911 or 250-286-1161.

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