



June 14, 2015

Burlington City Council

Re: Staff Report Recommending Maple Park Community Garden

BurlingtonGreen is pleased to see and strongly supports the recommendation for the expansion of the city's Community Garden program to an additional location – Maple Park – in 2016.

BurlingtonGreen was the city's partner in starting its first Community Garden program in Central Park in 2012/13 and we are pleased to continue our connection through Michelle Bennett's excellent work as the city's Community Garden Coordinator.

From the survey results gathered by the city and the growing oversubscription for garden plots, this program is clearly but barely fulfilling a growing community need. We encourage you to consider accelerating the creation of additional Community Gardens and ensuring adequate capital and operating funding going forward.

Providing fresh locally grown produce and creating opportunities for connecting directly to nature is a winning proposition for Burlington's citizens. We believe this program, and access to public green spaces will only become increasingly valued as Burlington continues to meet its smart growth targets.

We ask that every Councillor and the Mayor approve the recommendation for the expansion of the Community Garden program to Maple Park in 2016 and consider directing an accelerated expansion of the program and related funding to additional city parks where demand is strong.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Haskins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Haskins,

President, BurlingtonGreen