

OFPC

Ottawa Food
Policy Council

François Lapointe, Vice-President, Capital Planning and Environmental Mgmt.
Lori Thornton, Acting Chief, Planning and Transportation, Capital Planning and Environmental Mgmt.
Madeleine Demers, Principal Regional Planner, Capital Planning and Environmental Mgmt. Capital Urban Lands
National Capital Commission
40 Elgin Street
Ottawa ON K1P 1C7

May 21, 2013

Dear Master Plan - Phase 1 - Development Concept Submission Authors,

Re: A Community Garden Concept for the Capital Urban Lands Master Plan

While deciding on the direction of the Urban Lands Master Plan, the Ottawa Food Policy Council (OFPC) would like to encourage the Commission to make allowances for the participation of community gardening and permit Urban Lands to be used for community gardens.

In response to the Capital Urban Lands Master Plan - Phase 1 - Development Concept Community gardens provide:

- An answer to the Planning Challenge of contributing to the Capital City 'Live ability'
- A 'Concept of Nation Interest' – Green Living
- An 'Enhancement of Green Spaces' by making them productive as well as green
- A contribution to 'Sustainability and become a model'

In addition, Community Gardens provide:

- Healthier than average participants according to recent published studies
- Encourage social interaction and community building
- Local food that improves food security and confidence in its origin
- Reduction in carbon footprint
- Education and understanding of food and its environmental impacts
- Fresh food at a lower cost that is accessible to more families

Whichever Master Plan theme the Commission chooses, community gardens can contribute.

The OFPC understands that a longstanding partnership between the City of Ottawa and Just Food's Community Gardening Network works with community groups at each site to ensure successful administration and operations of every community garden. With no administration responsibilities, NCC can enjoy the community's praise for contributing to live ability and sustainability by permitting community gardens on urban lands.

We look forward to your response and the opportunity to work closely with the NCC in developing the broad framework to meet our mutual interests. Please include us in your communications as the Urban Lands Master Plan evolves.

Sincerely,



Christina Marchant, Chair
Ottawa Food Policy Council