



AGENDA

Monday June 24th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers at the Tom Hornecker
Recreation Centre, 2nd Floor, 2122 – 18 Street

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER & ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

- 1.1 Call to order
- 1.2 Adoption of Agenda

2. DELEGATIONS:

- 2.1 Nanton School Enhancement Committee

3. PRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENTS:

- 3.1 Information Brief - Boulevard Gardens

Closed items:

- 3.2 RCMP Update FOIP Section 24 Advice from Officials
- 3.3 Regional Water Update FOIP Section 24 Advice from Officials

4. MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR INQUIRIES: None

5. NEXT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING:

- 5.1 Next Meeting July 15, 2024

6. ADJOURNMENT:



INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: June 24, 2024
Agenda Item: 3.1

Boulevard Gardens Request from Public

Introduction:

This brief addresses the council's consideration of allowing boulevard gardens in Nanton and proposes the development of a policy to govern their regulation. The request for this policy arose from public interest and is aligned with community-driven initiatives to enhance neighborhood aesthetics and environmental sustainability.

Background:

The proposal to permit boulevard gardens in Nanton originates from a request by the public, reflecting growing community interest in beautification projects and sustainable urban practices. Boulevard gardens are gardens cultivated in the strip of land between the sidewalk and the curb or road edge. They offer numerous benefits, including enhancing aesthetic appeal, promoting biodiversity, and contributing to environmental sustainability by reducing urban heat islands and improving air quality.

Key Considerations:

1. Aesthetic and Environmental Benefits:
 - Boulevard gardens can significantly enhance the visual appeal of neighborhoods, potentially increasing property values and fostering community pride.
 - These gardens provide habitat for pollinators and support local biodiversity, contributing to ecological health.
 - They also play a role in urban cooling and stormwater management, which are increasingly important in sustainable urban planning.
2. Challenges and Concerns:
 - Maintenance Responsibility: A clear policy is needed to define who will be responsible for the maintenance of boulevard gardens to prevent potential eyesores and ensure consistent upkeep.
 - Infrastructure Protection: There are concerns about the potential damage to sidewalks, curbs, and underground utilities caused by plant roots and structures.
 - Safety and Accessibility: Gardens must not obstruct pedestrian pathways or impair visibility for drivers, posing potential safety hazards.
3. Policy Framework:
 - Objective: To establish guidelines for the implementation and maintenance of boulevard gardens that balance their aesthetic and environmental benefits with the need to protect infrastructure and ensure public safety.
 - Guidelines:
 - Specify permissible plant species that are non-invasive and appropriate for boulevard conditions.
 - Define responsibilities for garden maintenance, including watering, weeding, and pruning.

- Prohibit the use of materials or structures that could damage infrastructure or hinder pedestrian and vehicular movement.
- Provide the municipality with authority to address poorly maintained gardens that detract from community standards.

Attachments:

Public Request Documentation: Attached is documentation reflecting the public's request for the consideration of boulevard gardens in Nanton, demonstrating community support and interest in this initiative.

Sample Policy Framework: Included is a draft policy framework outlining specific regulations and guidelines for the establishment and upkeep of boulevard gardens, aimed at ensuring their positive impact on the community.

Photos: Attached are photos illustrating potential aesthetics achievable through boulevard gardens, showcasing various plantings and design ideas. These visuals aim to assist the council in envisioning the benefits and possibilities of integrating boulevard gardens into Nanton's urban landscape.

Conclusion:

Council's decision on boulevard gardens should take into account community interest, potential benefits, and regulatory needs. A well-defined policy framework will facilitate the effective implementation and maintenance of boulevard gardens in Nanton, enhancing the town's livability and environmental stewardship.

Recommendation:

It is administrations recommended that if Council wishes to proceed with the development of a boulevard gardens that a policy based on the considerations outlined be implemented. A request for decision on this policy can be brought forward to Council at the next regular Council Meeting July 15, 2024.

Prepared By: Sara-Lynn Lyons

CAO Comments:

Similarly to the bee and chicken license discussions a few years ago, this topic is likely to have its strong proponents and detractors in equal measure. For every property owner who wants a boulevard garden, there is likely another who wants not only grass, but the traditional aesthetic of contiguous boulevard grass on their street. There is a strong argument for permitting xeriscaping approaches to reduce water use in summer, however. If the Town proceeds, there will almost certainly be complaints in neighbourhoods related to both aesthetic and species selection. The Town will be expected to referee and enforce disputes and non-compliant situations. It will be critical for property owners to understand that boulevards are not an extension of their private property regardless of the time and investment deployment. In this context, Administration is not particularly excited by the prospect of boulevard gardens, but the tools are certainly out there for policy for property owners to follow.



Date Signed: June 20th 2024

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June 7th, 2024

To Nanton Town Council,

On behalf of myself and the people listed at the end of this letter we would like to apply to the town to allow for Boulevard Gardening.

We are interested in developing low maintenance Boulevard Gardens which would create beautiful urban streetscapes.

Planting non-invasive plants with water retention characteristics is a key activity to manage the water resources of our town. Once established the need for watering is reduced or eliminated on the boulevards. Consistent use of mulching protects the plant roots, helps to retain water for the plant, and makes weeding efficient, simple and less frequent than regular lawn maintenance. Turf lawns are labor-intensive, require more water, and over time, harden the soil which encourages weed proliferation. Planting drought resistant flowers and grasses also eliminates the need for mowers and fertilizers which is a plus for neighbourhood safety and beneficial for the soil.

The gardens would add character and beautify our streets also allowing habitats for pollinators by increasing the number of nectar and pollen rich flowers native to our area, which allows for pollinator movement promoting genetic resilience and species diversity.

The City of Calgary published guidelines June 1 2018 supporting Boulevard Gardening.

Edmonton embraces "boulevardening", their program is in it's second year.

People in Nanton love to walk and look at something cheerful. When you look around Nanton there is a sense of pride in peoples yards which would also transfer to their boulevards.

A guideline of annuals and perennial plants no greater than 75cm is a common height for vehicular traffic sight lines, thus not interfering with a persons vision while pulling in and out of driveways.

I attach a few photos of examples of Boulevard Gardening.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to discussing this with Town Council.

Brenda Uithuisje
Diana Zinter
Jay Eltom
Becky Scott
Ollie Harrison
Deb Woelfle
El Morgan
Pam Woodall
Carolyn Roach
Laura Wickett



Guidelines for Non-Standard Boulevard Treatments

Property owners are encouraged to maintain the standard turf grass municipal boulevard in front of their property. Homeowners wishing to install alternatives to sod shall follow the non-standard boulevard landscape treatment guidelines.

1. The homeowner shall sign this policy below to attest they have read and will follow these guidelines and shall submit their signed policy to the City for registration prior to commencing a boulevard garden.
2. It is the responsibility of the property owner to locate all servicing, such as gas, phone, Hydro, cable etc. prior to commencing any works on the boulevard.
3. All boulevard gardens shall be limited to perennial or annual plant material up to 60cm* tall except within street intersection lots where plants shall not exceed 30cm tall. Shrubs up to 30cm in height are permitted. Decomposable mulches are permitted. Property owners are not permitted to plant trees. Noxious weeds and invasive plants are not permitted.
4. A 30 cm setback shall remain in place for all sidewalks, curbs and driveway edges.
5. The landscape treatment shall maintain positive surface drainage.
6. Property owners shall maintain their sidewalk free and clear of all debris in accordance with City of Barrie Municipal Code 88-260 Section 4.12.0.0.0 and Nuisance By-law 2004-142 Section 2.
7. The City of Barrie reserves the right to require with due notice that the boulevard be returned to turf grass at any time at the property owner's expense, failing which the City may remove all non-compliant material and restore the boulevard to the turf grass standard.
8. It is the responsibility of the property owner to locate their property line through their legal survey. In accordance with Zoning By-law Section 5.3.9.3 (Residential) retaining walls or fences shall be set back 0.3 metres from any lot line abutting a street. Hedges shall be set back 1.0 metres from the front lot line and in the case of a corner lot, hedges shall be also set back 1.0 metres from the side lot line abutting the street. Permanent installations such as in-ground irrigation systems, fencing, or hard mulches such as pea gravel or small rocks are not permitted on the boulevard.
9. In the event that-emergency works are required that will disturb an existing boulevard garden, no notification will be provided. In the event of scheduled boulevard works, City staff will notify the homeowner two weeks in advance, giving them the opportunity to salvage plant material. Following any boulevard

Boulevard Garden Policy

works, the boulevard will be restored to the sod standard unless the homeowner states their intent to reestablish the boulevard plantings within 30 days, weather permitting. Reestablished boulevard gardens should be in compliance with this policy. Following the 30 day period, if no homeowner plantings have taken place, the City will restore the boulevard to turf. The City of Barrie assumes no responsibility for the cost of repairs of any damages to the garden on the boulevard.

10. The property owner shall maintain clear and easy access to all above ground and underground services, including but not limited to fire hydrants and valves, Bell pedestals, and Hydro transformer boxes.

* 1"= 2.54 cm

I have read the above policy and agree to abide by its guidelines:

Signature

Date

Name (please print):

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please check box below if you agree:

Communities In Bloom may contact me regarding my garden.

Please drop off your signed policy copy at any City facility or mail to:

**Boulevard Garden Registration
R.A. Archer Building
165 Ferndale Drive North
Barrie, Ontario
L4M 4T5**





