LAC LA BICHE COUNTY POLICY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TITLE: COMMUNITY GARDEN</th>
<th>POLICY NO: PI-63-001</th>
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<td>RESOLUTION: 15.378</td>
<td>EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 12, 2010</td>
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<td>LEAD ROLE: SENIOR MANAGER, FINANCE &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICES</td>
<td>NEXT REVIEW DATE: MAY 26, 2018</td>
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<td>SPECIAL NOTES/CROSS REFERENCE: PI-63-001 COMMUNITY GARDEN PROCEDURE</td>
<td>AMENDMENT DATE: MAY 26, 2015</td>
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POLICY STATEMENT:

Lac La Biche County recognizes community gardening as a valuable community recreational activity that contributes to the health and well-being, positive social interaction and community development for the betterment of all residents.

For the purposes of this policy, a “community garden” is defined as a plot of land where individuals, families, groups, associations, societies or other organizations from within the community participate in agricultural and horticultural activities that will result in the production of vegetables, edible berries, flowers, as well as ornamental and native plants.

“Original Signed” June 1, 2015
Chief Administrative Officer
Date

“Original Signed” June 2, 2015
Mayor
Date
PROCEDURE:

1. For the purposes of this procedure the primary Gardener and the individuals listed on the gardening agreement will be called “Gardeners”.

2. Gardeners who fail to comply with, or are in violation of the policies and procedures as stipulated in the gardening agreement will be subject to one or all of the following consequences:
   
   i. Forfeiture of plot and any crops growing there;
   ii. Referral of the matter to Protective Services.

3. Lac La Biche County will be responsible for:
   
   i. The development of a garden site plan and area layout with adequately sized plots that have suitable growing conditions for crop production;
   
   ii. The research, development and implementation of:
       
       a. the program policy and procedures;
       b. rules and regulations;
       c. yearly maintenance and activity schedule;
       d. fee structures and services;
       e. recording and reporting documents for assessing future needs;
       f. partnerships with individuals, groups or organizations that would enhance the program.

4. The community garden plots are allotted to the Gardeners for private use; however, the land remains the sole ownership of Lac La Biche County and subject to municipal by-laws as well as provincial and federal acts and regulations including the prohibited use of alcohol and tobacco. In accordance with public health regulations, animals will not be allowed at the garden.

5. To be eligible for a community garden plot the Gardener must be a resident of Lac La Biche County.

6. Garden plots will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Initial plot requests are limited to one per individual and will have a limited duration of ownership from the first day of confirmed
assignment to the date confirmation of clean up for that calendar year. A waiting list will be established in the event that:

i. a plot becomes available as a result of forfeiture of the agreement or enforcement of regulations;
ii. available plots remain after initial registration deadline and all plot assignments have been made;
iii. a Gardener requests permission to share-crop due to hardship or personal circumstances.

7. Registration will begin on April 1st of each year and gardeners will be given notice of deadline at least two weeks prior to the date which will be advertised in the local newspaper. All persons gardening or assisting with the care and maintenance of the plot must be listed on and sign the plot agreement and waiver form. Plot assignments will not be made until Gardeners sign the agreement and waiver form.

8. Fee structure will be determined on a yearly basis following assessment of the needs and demands of the Community Garden program.

9. Gardeners do not have the right to choose or reassign their plot. If a Gardener decides to participate in the community garden for consecutive years, they will be given preference of their previous years plot.

10. The Gardeners are responsible for ensuring a crop is planted by June 10 of each year. If the land remains open the plot is subject to be reassigned. However, in the instance of crop failure the gardener has an opportunity to re-seed.

11. Gardeners are responsible for keeping their plot and the paths surrounding their plot clean and free of weeds. No debris, garbage etc should be left at the site, containers are provided at the community garden site for disposal.

12. Gardeners must be considerate of their neighbors. Gardeners must maintain plants within the plot borders ensuring that sprawling plants are kept in check and tall plants are in areas where they will not block the available sunlight to other plots.

13. Plot corners will be clearly marked by stakes and will be used as permanent boundary markers. Individual fencing of plots is allowed but must be:

   i. within the plot border;
   ii. kept under 3 feet tall;
   iii. removed at the end of the season by the Gardeners.

14. Pesticide use is prohibited unless approved by the Agricultural Fieldman or his/her designate.

15. Lac La Biche County Agricultural Services staff will be inspecting the area on a weekly basis. Garden plots that have excessive overgrowth of weeds and garden plants that are considered out of control will be:

   i. Given notice to clean up with a 7 day allowance for compliance. If failure to comply;
ii. Notified of failure to comply and given an additional 24 hours to clean. If failure to comply;

iii. Plowed under and plot rights forfeited to the County.

16. Gardeners must notify the Lac La Biche County staff if they are no longer able to tend the plot or will be absent for long periods of time in order to ensure that the appropriate arrangements have been made in advance to care and maintain the plot.

17. Any conflicts arising from the Community Garden shall be managed by the gardeners by attempting to resolve the matter amongst themselves. If unable to resolve the matter, parties will discuss the matter with Agricultural Fieldman and the Senior Manager of Finance and Community Services or his/her designate whose decision is binding.

18. The Gardeners shall indemnify and save harmless Lac La Biche County, its employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, actions and costs, including legal costs (on a solicitor/client basis) as well as claims from the Gardeners and third parties for any loss arising out of any gardening agreement, excluding any loss resulting from the negligence of Lac La Biche County its employees or agents.

“Original Signed” ___________________________   June 1, 2015 ____________
Chief Administrative Officer   Date