

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council,

15 November 2012

In Dec 2010 the Cityspaces consultants, on contract with Saanich, approached residents of the Royal Oak area to ask for input for a possible "naturescape park" across from Royal Oak shopping area. The Cityspaces consultants were invited to further community discussion in Jan 2011. Residents asked if the naturescape idea could be combined with an area suitable for a community allotment garden. We were glad to provide Cityspaces consultants these opportunities to talk with us.

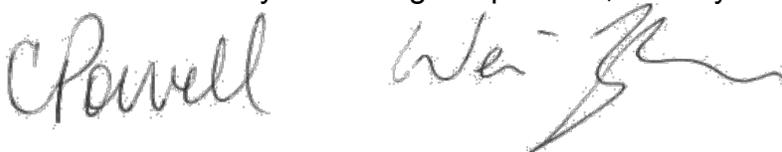
Throughout 2011 and into 2012, we held many community gatherings (potluck dinners, a site walkabout, larger gatherings at a heritage schoolhouse) to invite broader community input. We have also (since July 2010) considered other possible sites, in particular property west from Commonwealth Place, and we approach all of these possibilities in an open-minded way.

In the following pages we provide community response concerning a "Cordwood Heritage Park", a naturescape - allotment garden - heritage park across from Royal Oak shopping area. Please find:

- A. A sketch to indicate our possible ideas; and an artistic interpretation.
- B. Snapshots from community meetings, with letter to the Parks Manager
- C. Letters signed by 334 residents asking you to please consider this submission.
- D. Letters signed by 45 local area businesses asking you to please consider this submission.
- E. Resolution from the Royal Oak Community Association asking you to please consider this submission.
- F. Supporting letters from Saanich Community Church, Royal Oak Lions, Lifecycles Project, Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, and the Community and Social Planning Council.
- G. Letter from the Saanich Allotment Gardens Advocates, an incorporated society that can meet obligations under the Saanich Community Gardens Policy of 2003.

Community gardens grow more than vegetables, we believe they grow community. We hope that engaged citizens can help achieve goals you have set out in Saanich plans. We would request a meeting with Saanich decision-makers at your earliest convenience to further an open thoughtful process for considering this proposal.

On behalf of the many herein-signed persons, thank you.



Chris Powell, 622 Agnes Street, Saanich, BC V8Z 2E6

email: cpowellworld@aol.com, info@roag.ca

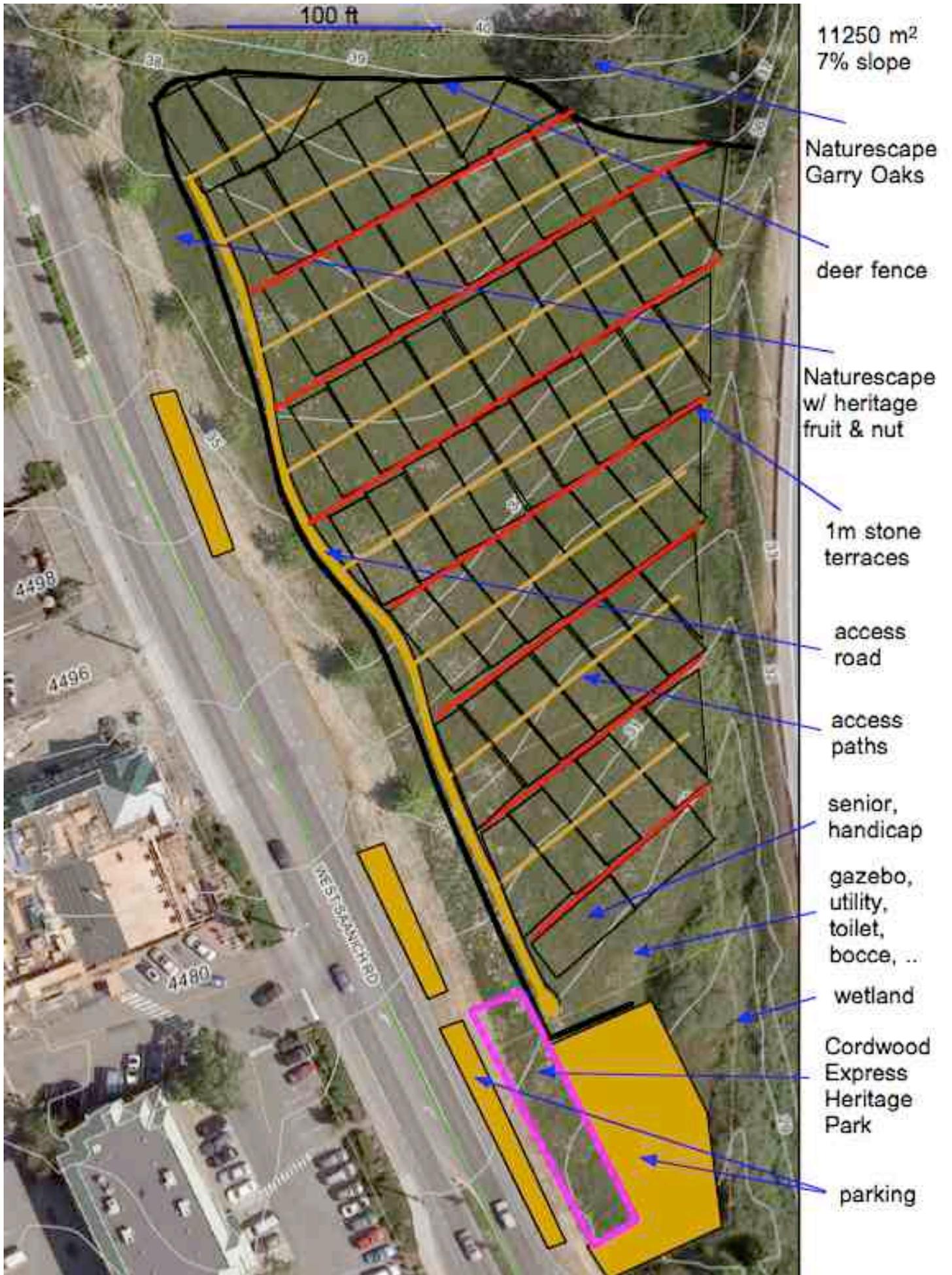
phone: 778 433 1047



The "Cordwood Ltd" (V & S Railroad, c. 1910) steams past future site of the "Cordwood Heritage Park"

Appendix A.

**A sketch to indicate our possible ideas;
and an artistic interpretation by Dennis Jaques.**





Appendix B.

Some snapshots from community meetings.









Mr. Rae Roer
Parks Manager
Saanich

20 October 2011

Dear Rae ,

Thanks for meeting with us about the process we should need to follow, to propose an allotment garden in Royal Oak and, more specifically, the possibility of an allotment garden at the site beside the Fireside Grill.

We are a growing group of Saanich residents convened for the purpose of developing an allotment garden, specifically at the site beside the Fireside Grill. At the moment we call ourselves AGRO or Allotment Garden Royal Oak but anticipate that that name could easily change as we grow.

We considered a number of sites (property to west of Commonwealth Place, municipal land at the north end of Viewmont, portions of Bernard and Layritz Parks) before focussing on the above-mentioned site for the following reasons:

- The size allows for sufficient individual gardens (somewhere between 60 and 100) to support such infrastructure as a shelter, washroom, storage shed and parking.
- The size supports imaginative and creative secondary purposes such as a teaching garden, heritage aspect, naturescape and gazebo, walking trail, community building activities (bocce, horseshoes), perhaps a kids play area.
- The location is right in the centre of the community, with high profile and suitable for developing community connections. We think high profile is important, as we want to lead, setting an example.
- There are a large number of multi-family units close to the site, apartments, town houses and condominiums. People in these units have no access to gardens.
- There are also a number of group homes in the area, where a connection might be therapeutic for clients and opportunity for the community to make new friends.
- Royal Oak Middle School is very close. The school is interested in sustainability, gardening, and community service.
- Saanich Commonwealth Place and Camosun College are close and again the connections are only limited by the imagination, contemplating youth and education programs for example.
- The Horticultural Centre could be a partner with advantages to both parties.
- We can foresee possible connections with the Garry Oak Society, the BC Fruit Trees Association, the Nut Tree Association, and the Capital City Bee Keepers.
- Saanich owns the site. Saanich has a commitment to developing allotment gardens in all neighbourhoods in Saanich. This mandate dates back to 2003 and seems to be on the cusp of moving forward. We are ready to work with the municipality in developing the first new neighbourhood allotment garden in the last 30 years..
- Our plan for the site is imaginative, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally desirable.

To date, we have had a number of meetings building interest and expertise in the community. We submit this letter to Saanich because we seek direction both general and specific. We need to know what resources and services Saanich offers us. Specifically, we need technical advice about the site and the roles we could expect Saanich to take and the role of the Association. We need specific direction as to the process for proceeding. AGRO is anticipating the development of a formal proposal, plan and request for approval of the aforementioned Allotment Garden Royal Oak. I have attached a very preliminary conceptual sketch of what the gardens might become.

Yours Sincerely,
Sandra Jaques for AGRO

Appendix C.

Letters signed by 334 residents asking if you may please consider this submission.

14 pages have been here removed for privacy considerations.

Appendix D.

Letters signed by 45 local area businesses asking if you may please consider this submission.

2 pages have been here removed for privacy considerations.

Appendix E. Resolution from the Royal Oak Community Association

At a general meeting on May 30 2012 the Royal Oak Community Association considered the following motion:

"Whereas the District of Saanich has made a commitment to stronger local food security, especially including a greater number of allotment gardens, and

Whereas allotment gardens serve not only to provide accessible healthy food but also to build connected resilient communities, and

Whereas Royal Oak area residents and businesses express interest to consider municipally owned property along West Saanich Road across from the Royal Oak shopping centre as a site for combined naturescape + allotment garden + heritage park,

Therefore, members of the Royal Oak Community Association ask Saanich Mayor and Council to ask Saanich staff to examine the potential Royal Oak site along West Saanich Road, and to prepare staff considerations."

The motion was passed by 17 votes in favour, 3 opposed and one abstention.

As well, 28 members of ROCA who could not attend the meeting on May 30 have signed letters included in Appendix C, for a total of 45 members in favour.

Appendix F.

Supporting letters from Saanich Community Church, Royal Oak Lions, Lifecycles Project, Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, and the Community and Social Planning Council.



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
research·insights·solutions

April 23, 2012

District of Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard and Council members

RE: Royal Oak Community Garden

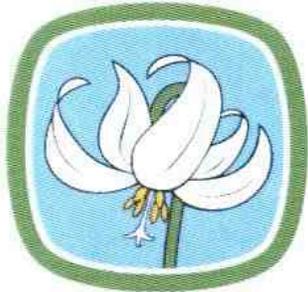
The Community Council supports the development of urban farming/gardening initiatives to create more food independence for individuals and the community as a whole. The proposed Royal Oak Community Garden offers a great opportunity to do that.

One of the four areas of work of the Community Council is to enhance the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Region, which includes the creation of a sustainable regional food and agriculture system that includes increasing urban farming/gardening initiatives.

We join LifeCycles and the Royal Oak Lions Club in supporting the Royal Oak Community Garden proposal. We look forward to documenting this experience, as we are actively promoting best practices for sustainability throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Rupert E. Downing
Executive Director



HCP

HORTICULTURE CENTRE
OF THE PACIFIC

**505 Quayle Rd.
Victoria, BC
V9E 2J7
250 479 6162
www.hcp.ca**

June 27, 2012

Kathleen Wilkins
Chairperson
SAGA
4745 Rosehill Rd.
Saanich, BC
V82 5N2

Dear Ms. Wilkins,

This is to confirm our support for the idea of more allotment gardens in Saanich as well as the broader CRD.

The Horticulture Centre of the Pacific already runs more than 35 different gardens, ranging from an Ethnobotany Trail to a Mediterranean Garden. Almost all of these gardens are maintained by some 200 volunteers.

The interest in vegetable gardens has been particularly noticeable, especially among younger people. Hence, we now have 4 distinct vegetable gardens to cater to this interest.

It therefore seems logical and appropriate to encourage and support the growth of allotment gardens in the region.

Yours truly,

Roger Charles
Executive Director



March 29, 2012

Re: Royal Oak Community Garden

Dear Mayor and Council, District of Saanich:

This is a letter of support on behalf of LifeCycles Project Society with regard to the community allotments gardens on municipal property along W Saanich Road across from the Royal Oak shopping centre.

LifeCycles is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating awareness and initiating action around food, health, and urban sustainability in the Greater Victoria community since 1994. We work proactively to promote and create personal, shared and community gardens, research, and educational activities and youth skills development programs. Through partnerships we strengthen individual, community and global health.

Throughout the past four months that I have been in communication with community members working together on the Royal Oak Community Garden I have been very impressed with their dedication, community-focused vision and organizational capacity. LifeCycles Project Society looks forward to partnering with this group to provide educational and practical support for the creation and long-term sustainability of this garden project.

Sincerely,

Jill Dalton

Urban Agriculture Coordinator
LifeCycles Project Society
www.lifecyclesproject.ca

Phone: 250-383-5800

Email: jill@lifecyclesproject.ca



We Serve

Royal Oak Lions Club

4530 Markham St. Victoria, BC
V8Z5N3

Meeting 1st & 3rd Wednesday
Lodge at Broadmead
Victoria, BC. Canada
Meeting at 7:00 pm

Chartered 1975

March 12, 2012

Re: Royal Oak Community Garden

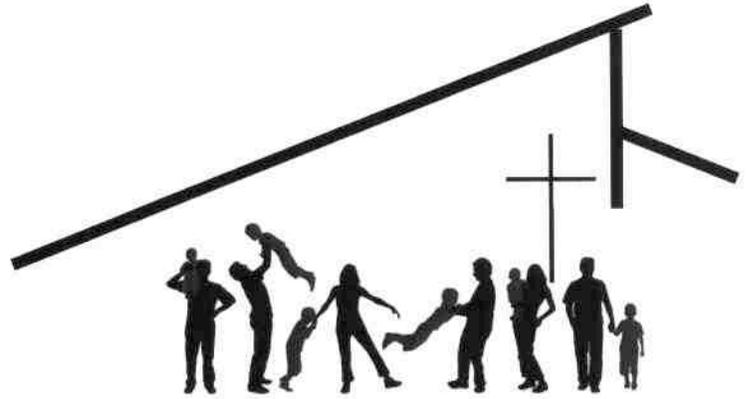
Dear Mr. Mayor and Council, Saanich

The Royal Oak Lions Club is in favour of a community allotments gardens with a naturescape walk and a small heritage park on municipal property along W Saanich Road across from the Royal Oak shopping centre. Our club agreed at April 6, 2011 to support this project, if it receives your approval, with a building project such as a lunch gazebo or secure tools shed.

We feel that a community allotments garden is not only a source of nutritious affordable food. It is also place for community engagement, for youth education, and for the healthy lifestyles which Lions seek to promote. Therefore we ask you to please grant consideration to this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Barry Slagboom, President



July 4, 2012

District of Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard and Council
Members,

Re: Royal Oak Community Garden

The Saanich Community Church has owned and operated a garden on our property since 2007. The purpose of the SCC Garden is to raise fresh produce for the Mustard Seed Church Food Bank. The attached brochure speaks to the means and ways of our project. Our own garden has taught us many things about the power of working together for a common good.

Our church recognizes the value of growing our own food as one expression of a much larger task of Creation Care. It is important that we attempt to enhance the food security of people living in this region. As is stated in the brochure, working together builds strong relationships wherein people come to know, appreciate and care for one another.

We lend our voice as a corporate community in support of the effort of those trying to establish a Royal Oak Community Garden. We have seen the preliminary plans for the native plantings, fencing, parking, pathways and allotment gardens. We like what we see.

Our congregation is evangelical-Anabaptist; a member church within the larger national and international family of the Mennonite Brethren. We network with a number of food security organizations including the Creation Care ministries of Mennonite Central Committee <http://creationcare.mcc.org/>, Fraser Valley Gleaners <http://www.fvgleaners.org/> and A Rocha Canada <http://www.arocha.ca/>. Thank you for hearing our collective voice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken M. Peters', written over a white background.

Rev. Ken M. Peters (D. Min)
Pastor

Saanich Community Church
4566 West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 3G4
250 479-0410 info@saanichcommunity.ca

Appendix G.

Letter from the Saanich Allotment Gardens Advocates, an incorporated society that can meet obligations under the Saanich Community Gardens Policy of 2003.



Saanich Allotment Gardens Advocates Association
4745 Rosehill Road
Victoria BC V8Z 5N2

Saanich Mayor and Council
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council

We are aware of community discussions and support for a potential garden site along West Saanich Road across from the Royal Oak Shopping Center. If in future Saanich Council approves this site for a community garden, SAGA will be willing to offer its support and expertise to develop the garden.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K. Wilkins'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kathleen Wilkins
Chair, SAGA