



Date: May 5, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Courtney Godfrey
RE: Keep Kingsville Beautiful – Volunteer Program

INFORMATION REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Town of Kingsville has many gardens throughout the municipality. The gardens are cared for by both Parks and Recreation staff as well as the Horticultural Society in which the Town has a long-standing collaborative partnership.

The Town of Kingsville believes in supporting and encouraging community building and beautification. **Keep Kingsville Beautiful** is a new program that lets residents sign up to weed garden beds in parks and trails across Town. It's a quick and low-commitment way to get involved, get some exercise, and make an immediate impact to help beautify public spaces enjoyed by the community.

DISCUSSION

Volunteerism plays a vital role in improving public services and community initiatives while reducing costs. Recently, residents of the Town have expressed their enthusiasm for landscaping and gardening, offering to support related projects in public spaces. The "Keep Kingsville Beautiful" program provides a formal structure for these residents to coordinate their efforts, thus fostering a collective commitment to the maintenance and beautification of Kingsville's parks.

How does it work?

Community members who are interested in volunteering are encouraged to visit the Town's website, complete the online form, and select a date and area in Kingsville that works best for them. Once submitted, we will match volunteers to a garden that needs maintenance.

After you fill out the form, you will receive a confirmation email containing essential details, instructions, a link to the Town's Ambassador Volunteer Program, and a

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. This FAQ will also include information on poisonous plants for safety. Following this, a Town employee will reach out to confirm your gardening location.

To support volunteer efforts, the volunteer has the option of selecting the Town to supply lawn bags for the weeds that are removed, and Town staff will collect these bags by the end of the next business day. While this is primarily an independent initiative, the Parks Supervisor will be available for check-ins to offer support to volunteers.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Recyclable lawn bags are being provided to ensure that weeds being pulled are disposed of properly.

CONSULTATIONS

Parks and Recreation Staff

PREPARED BY:



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REVIEWED BY:



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REVIEWED BY:



John Norton
CAO