

From: Jimbo Kennedy [REDACTED]
Date: May 9, 2020 at 8:28:17 PM PDT
To: Council <Council@whistler.ca>
Subject: community garden

Hi

I am writing at this time to hopefully facilitate the opening of the community garden, considered an essential service on the BC Gov't website, at Cheakamus. The gardeners at Cheakamus are responsible adults who, although they may have been tempted, did not do anything during this closure. Meanwhile people were hoping the fence all day long at the soccer field. We are all aware of the requirements during this crisis. Gardening has several purposes. The obvious one is being able to go outside and do something. Perhaps more importantly, it is also mentally rewarding and relaxing. During this time of stress and uncertainty an escape would be very beneficial.

If you're worried about every box owner rushing over to 'garden', which is highly unlikely from what I've observed over a couple of years, the boxes are numbered and it would be easy to say even one day, odd the next. Using grocery store as an example you could limit the number of people. Everybody lives close enough that if they come down to the garden and the garden is 'full', they could wait or come back later. It's not as if they are going to be there the whole day. From the central entrance you can see the whole garden and how many people are 'gardening'. Word would get around and we would police ourselves. Simple solutions are available it only a matter of implementing.

Quotes from a recent Macleans article "Gardening is a natural self-distancing activity" & "Growing a garden will make you feel good and make you feel in control, and that's worth a lot"

Thank you
Jim Kennedy