

Calvin Park Branch Community Garden

Community Survey Report

In August 2021, we engaged with the community about a [proposed greenspace enhancement](#) at our Calvin Park Branch. During that initial survey, several members of the community indicated an interest in adding a community garden to the branch property.

A second survey in November 2021 sought feedback on the style of garden that best suits the library grounds and community needs, and called for volunteers willing to take an active role in the development of the garden. The feedback we received, along with next steps, is summarized in this report.

Any future project engagement opportunities and summary reports will be posted on our [Engage KFPL site](#).

Response Statistics

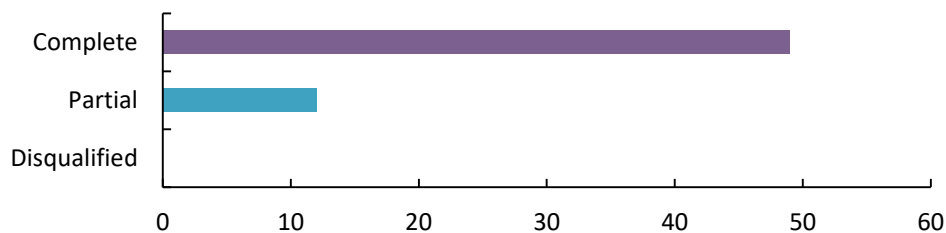


Figure 1: Survey response rate

| | Count | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Complete | 49 | 80.3 |
| Partial | 12 | 19.7 |
| Disqualified | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 61 | |

1. The Library has an opportunity to work with Loving Spoonful on their Community Harvest Kingston project. As part of this initiative, our garden would be coordinated and supported by a Loving Spoonful staff member to engage community members in collective gardening.

The produce would be shared amongst garden volunteers and donated via Loving Spoonful to Fresh Food Access programs (free and/or affordable access programs for community members experiencing food insecurity). The garden site could also include allotment and/or communal gardens.

The project would provide education and training about food production to interested community members, while providing affordable and/or free local, nutritious food to those who need it.

Do you agree that this is a good model for a community garden at the Library?

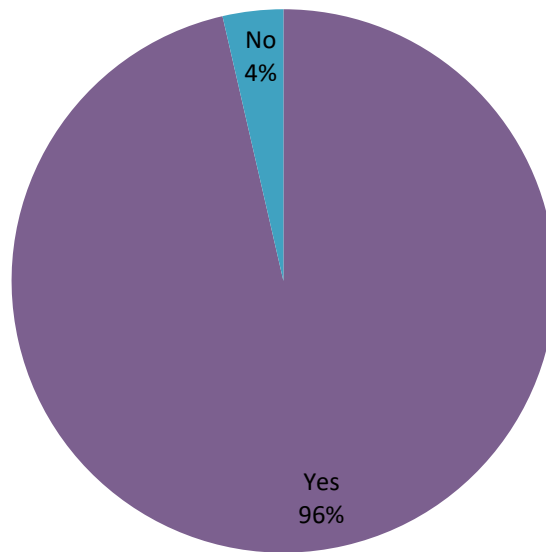


Figure 2: Support for Loving Spoonful partnership

| Value | Percent | Count |
|-------|---------|-------|
| Yes | 96.4% | 53 |
| No | 3.6% | 2 |
| | Totals | 55 |

Please explain your answer.



Figure 3: Response word cloud

- Food insecurity is an ongoing problem in Kingston. Loving Spoonful is a leader is creating solutions to that problem, and this is an innovative solution. Participants would get food, exercise, and contribute to their community all at the same time.
- Loving Spoonful is fabulous! They would give experienced help and guidance as we begin this project, and the library member volunteers who help would get a bit of food, too.
- I believe it's a good idea to have some coordinated leadership with the garden, not solely allotment or communal gardens to ensure ambitions aren't greater than energy and resources. Some people are very keen and originally committed, but don't fully appreciate all the work. Having a garden that doesn't overwhelm participants while providing an opportunity to learn and have a socially connected gardening experience is far more likely to succeed.
- Many gardeners I know end up with a glut of extra food at times. All the lettuce or carrots are ready at once, and often times there is more than one person/family can eat. This model allows people who like to garden a chance to, and it gives a place for the "extra" food to go.
- Apt dwellers who have no garden space and seniors who have down sized or who live alone help and socialize
- I am interested in learning more about gardening and the help of the Loving Spoonful person. I have time to help as well and would enjoy sharing, meeting others and learning.
- While working in the LDSB system, I've become aware of the need for the service Loving Spoonful provides.

- Working people, who are struggling to pay for food, do not have access to Loving Spoonful services which are available during working hours. An allotment garden would be the best way to go.
- Good sharing is a great thing as some people would not have fresh fruit and vegetables otherwise.
- The 7th Day Adventist Church next door to the library also has community garden plots that people can rent each year to grow their own vegetables. So if there is one at the library I think it would be a good idea not to replicate what is already next door, but instead provide food for those in need.
- I like this model because in my view, a community garden serves a social purpose while offering those who participate access to some of the produce. In my experience, access to water is one of the more difficult elements to secure for a successful garden. I would love if an allotment garden would be available as well, and would be willing to pay a small fee each year to have access to an allotment.
- My son and his fiancée were volunteers at a communal garden near Almonte this summer called the Blakeney Project where a farmer donated an unused field and all the food produced by volunteer labour was donated to the local Food Bank.
- It's important for people to learn about growing food and have the space to do it.
- Help people who need help.
- Collective gardening - never been involved up to now, but like the idea of produce being donated to those in need.
- I think the partnership with Loving Spoonful is great. They have experience and can provide leadership to this aspect of the project. I love that the food could be donated to their projects.
- It is a very good idea. The reasons are to engage the community and help those in need.
- Food security, education about planning, growing, harvesting, maybe preparing garden goodies and SHARING of food with others! Perfect! And perfect for a library!
- It's helpful to have knowledgeable and dedicated people supporting the project. I hope there would be indigenous guidance as well.
- I would love to see that greenspace being used. The idea of getting people out, together, to be physically active while helping others is wonderful. I fully

support the Loving Spoonful model, or something combined with other elements.

- Community effort to benefit the community is better than individual effort for few.
- It will be a learning experience for volunteers and will provide a direct reward for their efforts while surplus produce will go to those in need in an organized manner.
- I think a sunny area would be ideal due growing vegetables. Working with Loving Spoonful is a great way for the library and the city to involve local people in growing fresh produce for the food insecure among us. It may bring new people to the table.
- As a member of a community allotment garden at the Cooke-Portsmouth Church in Calvin Park for years now, I have observed that many people are very keen in the spring, but their enthusiasm wanes over the season and many allotments are left unharvested by fall. I think this model would help ensure a better use of the land.
- As a long-time member of the Calvin Park Community Garden I know this will provide important social, educational and healthy lifestyle opportunities for volunteers and gardeners.
- The library supports the Kingston community, especially the most vulnerable, in many ways already, so adding a community garden partnered with local organizations who help those with food insecurity just makes sense.
- Loving Spoonful is experienced in this line of work, the food would go where needed, and the area, which is very public, would be most likely to remain in a well-cultivated and visually appealing state.
- Too many allotment gardens are not properly cared for/harvested. This way there are professionals to help, and a common goal which everyone could benefit from.
- Good use of land re improving soil and biodiversity - good way to build community engagement, cooperation and sharing.
- Love this! Can you do programs where you get students or schools nearby to help with planting or pushing dirt? I'm sure you're already all over that :)
- This provides opportunities for meaningful engagement for those who may not have family to create a garden as well the education component is great for learning and growing as individuals and community.
- It educates all demographics about food and food insecurity. People need help these days and this is a simple way to do that.

- A library is a community space that exists to serve many diverse people, so giving back to the community seems like a good use of the garden.
- Prefer communal garden.
- This will help with food security issues in the community. Hopefully, produce will be provided equitably.
- Loving Spoonful is a great organization that serves to educate about healthy nutrition as well as providing healthy food to those who may not have access to it. Any effort that helps them achieve their goals is a good one.
- Excellent use of underused land next to the library to grow food supported by a highly respected organization.
- I like the idea of working with Loving Spoonful and communal gardens.
- This would be an amazing opportunity for both gardeners as well as those who benefit from food rescue programs - this is a win-win!
- I think this is a win-win-win proposal.
- The Community Harvest Garden model would benefit the volunteers and Loving Spoonful.
- There's plenty of space for all three types of garden, which would give everyone a chance to learn about gardening & help each other.
- Not many people are getting their fresh veggies. I get mine from cans because of cost so this would be helpful

2. The selected site is large, so if we join the Community Harvest Garden project we can combine it with a communal or allotment garden.

Thinking about the gardens described below, please choose the one option that you would prefer to see at the Library.

- **Allotment Garden**

Individuals or families are assigned a private plot to grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers.

- **Communal Garden**

Individuals work together to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers to share.

- **Community Harvest Garden**

With support from Loving Spoonful urban agriculture staff, volunteers grow vegetables and herbs to supply Loving Spoonful Fresh Food Access programs and shared amongst garden volunteers.

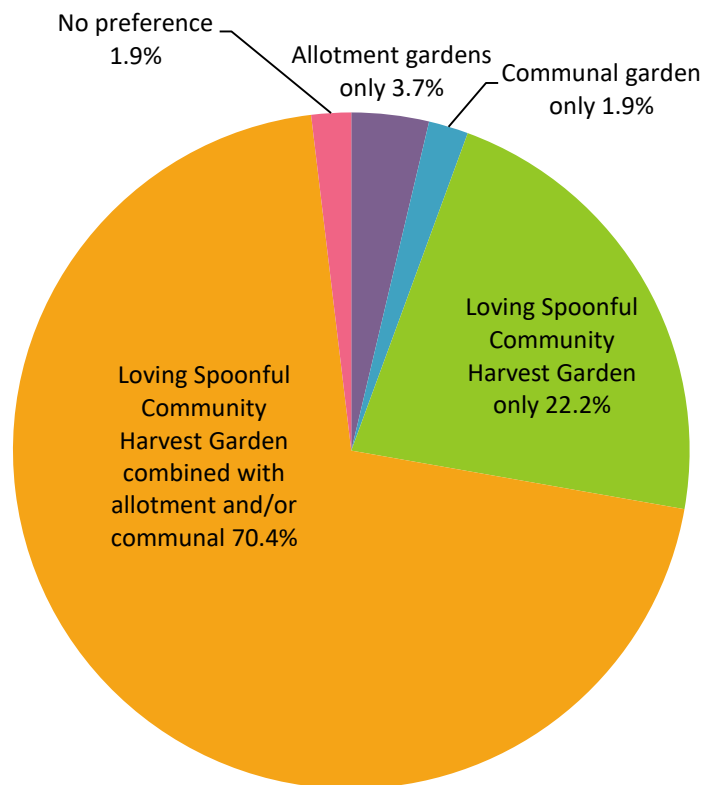


Figure 4: Preference for garden style

| Value | Percent | Count |
|---|---------|-------|
| Allotment gardens only | 3.7% | 2 |
| Communal garden only | 1.9% | 1 |
| Loving Spoonful Community Harvest Garden only | 22.2% | 12 |
| Loving Spoonful Community Harvest Garden combined with allotment and/or communal garden | 70.4% | 38 |
| No preference | 1.9% | 1 |
| | Totals | 54 |

3. Please tell us how you would like to be involved in the garden. Check all that apply.

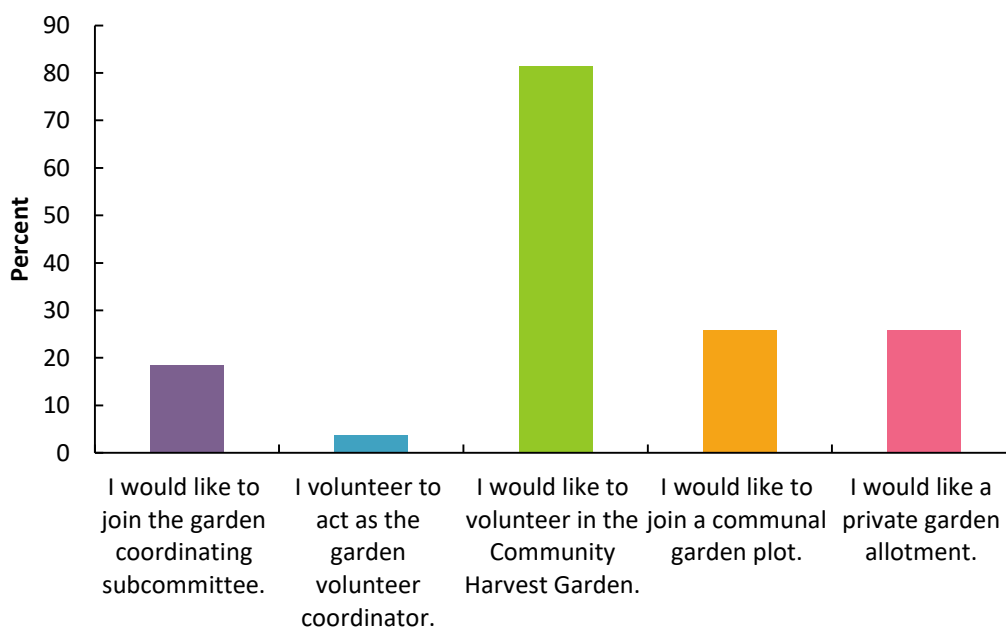


Figure 5: Interest in participation

| Value | Percent | Count |
|--|---------|-------|
| I would like to join the garden coordinating subcommittee. | 18.5% | 5 |
| I volunteer to act as the garden volunteer coordinator. | 3.7% | 1 |
| I would like to volunteer in the Community Harvest Garden. | 81.5% | 22 |
| I would like to join a communal garden plot. | 25.9% | 7 |
| I would like a private garden allotment. | 25.9% | 7 |

Outcome:

Due to strong community support for the proposal, the Library will be moving forward with a partnership with Loving Spoonful.

Survey respondents who volunteered to participate in the garden project will be contacted by Ayla Fenton, Loving Spoonful’s Urban Agriculture Coordinator, and an initial meeting of new Garden Committee will be held as soon as possible.

The Committee will develop a formal application and proposed site plan for submission to the City of Kingston.

We hope to begin garden construction in early spring 2022.