

Deputation: Fort Frances Community Garden

Partnership with the Town of Fort Frances to explore options for a water source at the Fort Frances Community Garden (FFCG) on Lillie Ave.



The **Fort Frances Community Garden and Kids Garden Club** provides a communal gathering and growing space for people of all ages and abilities to come together, share, learn, and grow healthy foods.

Since the **inception of the community garden in 2012**, local volunteers and partners have worked tirelessly to meet increasing needs for fenced/enclosed garden spaces within Town limits. Volunteers and committee members currently maintain **three enclosed garden spaces** which now include **100+ garden plots for local residents**. We have 53 raised beds, 45 ground plots and 20 kids' garden plots. We also implement a weekly Kids Garden Club program for 25+ children and their families. We have 80+ gardeners from ages 3-73. People from all walks of life and income levels are involved at the garden. Each plot can be rented for \$20 per season. All plots are full and we currently have a waiting list.



The Barrier:

We do not have a water source at the garden. We have exceeded our ability to supply enough water for further garden expansion due to limited access/availability to water at the garden. Water is supplied by two very dedicated volunteers who run at least 250+ feet of garden hose from their homes to fill all water tanks for garden use. **Our volunteers currently fill 11, 250 gallon water tanks, from their homes, every week**, to maintain an adequate water supply for all gardeners. It takes approximately 60 minutes to fill each tank. Depending on rain fall and summer heat, we are struggling to keep up with the current demand for water. This barrier and limited access to water will impede any further garden expansion.

Solutions and Actions:

We would like to work with the Town of Fort Frances to explore options for a temporary or permanent water source on site at the garden. The FFCG is prepared to seek out grants, sponsorships and in-kind contributions to support this project. We have brainstormed the following for consideration by the Town:

1. **Installation of a temporary lockable valve assembly on the closest hydrant** (*located approximately 300' from the garden*). The garden would secure 300 feet of fire hose to fill existing tanks on site. Hoses would be removed and stored after use and with lock assembly in place during the garden season.
2. **Installation of a large water storage tank (>5000 gallons) in a central location on site at the garden.** The tank could be filled with support from the Town (Fire Dept.) and/or filled from the hydrant by designated garden volunteers. The hoses would be attached and removed as required. Water would then be pumped to existing tanks using pump/generator.
3. **Trench underground from garden to the nearest hydrant and install 1½" plastic pipe.** A 12" vertical pipe would surface at the garden and approximately 50' away from the hydrant.

Safety measures recommended by the Town will be put in place and maintained by FFCG. The use of hydrant/locking cabinet and hoses will only be completed by volunteers who have received proper training/instruction from authorized Town employees.

We look forward to working in partnership with Town and staff to take this much needed step to continue to grow and improve the Fort Frances Community Garden. Thank you for your support and consideration.

