

May 9, 2011

To: Parks and Environment Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: Soil Assessment Guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens

The Board of Health on May 9, 2011, forwarded the report (April 21, 2011) from the Medical Officer of Health on the "Soil Assessment guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens" to the Parks and Environment Committee for information.

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Board of Health:

1. Adopted in principle the soil assessment guide for new City allotment and community gardens outlined in Attachment 1 to the report (April 21, 2011) from the Medical Officer of Health.
2. Requested the Medical Officer of Health and the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PF&R), in consultation with the City Solicitor, to develop policies and procedures, including a manual, for the implementation of the guide for new community and allotment gardens in City parkland.
3. Requested the Medical Officer of Health and the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the City Solicitor and the Director of the Toronto Environment Office, to consult with appropriate stakeholders and explore the feasibility of implementing the guide for new community and allotment gardens in other publicly-owned lands, and to report back to the Board.
4. Requested the Medical Officer of Health to consult with appropriate stakeholders and to explore the use of the guide for new urban gardens on private land to meet the needs of diverse communities in Toronto, especially people who are food insecure, and to report back to the Board.
5. Forwarded the report (April 21, 2011) from the Medical Officer of Health to the Parks and Environment Committee for information.

6. Forwarded the report (April 21, 2011) from the Medical Officer of Health to the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic School Board, Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud, Build Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, Waterfront Secretariat, Toronto Regional Conservation Authority, Ontario Minister of Health and Long Term Care, Ontario Minister of Health Promotion and Sport, Ontario Minister of the Environment, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Background:

The Board of Health on May 9, 2011, considered a report (April 21, 2011) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled "Soil Assessment Guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens."

**Background Information**

(April 21, 2011) Report from the Medical Officer of Health on Soil Assessment Guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-37685.pdf>

(April 21, 2011) Attachment 1 - Soil Assessment Guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens - Summary

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-37686.pdf>

Secretary,  
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/jd  
Item HL4.4

Attachment

c. Medical Officer of Health