

2022 Year of the Garden in Parksville

Passion for gardening has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many stayed close to home turning yards into practical and beautiful garden sanctuaries, a trend which is likely to continue. At a recent Council meeting, Councillor Patterson introduced a motion to declare 2022 as “Year of the Garden in Parksville.” Approved by Council, the motion also endorsed the concept of minimal mowing in May for residential yards in the City. To recognize the Canadian initiative, Parksville Mayor Ed Mayne proclaimed 2022 as “Year of the Garden in the City of Parksville” (*proclamation included with this release.*)

The Canadian Garden Council proclaimed 2022 as “Year of the Garden in Canada” to recognize the centennial of Canada’s ornamental horticulture sector on the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. This year is an opportunity for new and seasoned gardeners to go out into their own gardens, visit a public garden, an urban park or garden centre, or participate in a garden activity or festival to enhance their passion for gardens and gardening. Information and how to get involved may be found at livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca.

The Canadian Garden Council is committed to celebrating the contribution of gardens and gardening to the development of our country, cities and to the health, quality of life, reconciliation, and environmental challenges. Through this initiative, Canadians are invited to commemorate our country’s garden heritage, celebrate its vibrant garden culture, and create legacies for a sustainable future.

To celebrate the “Year of the Garden 2022” in Parksville and our region, Milner Gardens and Woodland invites residents to *live the garden life* and to help sustain our interest in gardens throughout the year, Milner created a local resources [guide](#) with information, activities and events.

In 2021, the Arrowsmith Naturalists conducted an informal project to raise awareness of the decline in our insect and bee populations, and encouraged the planting of pollinator-friendly, pesticide and herbicide free flowers and shrubs which support insects and bees throughout the year. This year, the Arrowsmith Naturalists are supporting the concept of “No Mow May,” intended to assist the declining insect population and enhance biodiversity.

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Proclamation 2022 Year of the Garden City of Parksville

WHEREAS, Communities in Bloom and “Fleurons du Québec” in collaboration with the Canadian Garden Council, invite all municipalities to celebrate the *Year of the Garden 2022*.

WHEREAS, the *Year of the Garden 2022* celebrates the Centennial of Canada’s horticulture sector.

WHEREAS, gardens and gardening contribute to the quality of life of our municipality, our climate action goals and create safe and healthy places where people can come together in the spirit of inclusivity and reconciliation.

WHEREAS, the *Year of the Garden 2022* will highlight and celebrate the important contribution of gardeners, our local gardening organizations, horticultural professionals and local horticultural businesses which contribute to garden culture and experience of our municipality.

WHEREAS, gardens and gardening have helped us face the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

The City of Parksville proclaims 2022 as the *Year of the Garden* in celebration of the contribution of gardens and gardening to the development of our country, our municipality and the lives of our citizens in terms of health, quality of life and environmental challenges. The City of Parksville is committed to be a garden friendly city supporting the development of its garden culture and is proud to have:

THAT all municipalities across Canada be invited to proclaim 2022 to be the *Year of the Garden* in their respective municipalities, and that a copy of this resolution be provided to the FCM.

Mayor Ed Mayne

March 30, 2022

Here are a few of our initiatives to be a garden-friendly City:

- Work with the Parksville Community Garden Society to support ever increasing demand.
- Reduce frequency of mowing in areas of some parks and convert some turf areas to wildflower meadows.
- Continue with our practice to ensure City irrigation systems operate at maximum efficiency, standardizing the use of matched precipitation rate nozzles with new development for landscape beds and many turf areas to provide water savings up to 30%.
- Work towards the successful adoption of the Parksville urban forest strategy and operational guidelines.
- Continue with our goal of planting 3,000 tree seedlings per year in our urban forest.
- Work with the Arrowsmith Naturalists and a member of the Qualicum First Nations to produce native plant educational signage for the Parksville Wetlands.
- Publish a City tree of the month program to highlight native and introduced tree species in the City.
- Promote \$50 rebate for tree planted on private property.