

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: October 22, 2019		
Subject: Boulevard Gardening		
Motion for Council to Consider: That Regional Council request a staff report on establishing guidelines for boulevard gardens		
Reason: HRM's Streets Bylaw tasks property owners with maintaining the space between the sidewalk and the curb. The Streets Bylaw requires grass in the Boulevard to be cut to a height of no more than 6 inches, but is silent on whether alternate treatment (gardens) are permitted or not. In other cities including Vancouver, Victoria, Saskatoon, Calgary, Winnipeg, Kitchener etc encourage gardening in these spaces because of the placemaking, beautification, environmental, and community benefits, and have adopted formal policies to establish how boulevard gardens should be structured so as to avoid conflicts with other residents and municipal services. Examples of requirements include limiting how deeply residents can dig, avoiding fire hydrants, not growing tall plants that could obstruct sightlines, ensuring there are breaks in the bed to allow pedestrians to pass back and forth from street to sidewalk, minimizing harm to street trees, etc. While there hasn't been many conflicts over boulevard gardening in HRM, residents and staff would benefit from the clarity of having clear expectations as to how non-traditional treatments of this space should be handled.. Also, I have been in discussion with the Dartmouth Horticultural Society about potentially launching a gardening incentive program in Dartmouth Centre and the establishment of clear guidelines is necessary prerequisite for the program.		
Outcome Sought: Staff report		
<i>Councillor</i> Sam Austin	<i>District</i> 05	