

# President's Annual Report for Hayfield Horizon Gardening Association

By Jesse Kessler

## Greetings!:

Progress for developing Hayfield Horizon Community Garden has been slow, but I'm excited to give an update on where we have been and where we are going; especially as we approach spring and start to see the first buds of the season opening.

Thanks to everyone especially for being so patient, and to everyone who has stepped in to help or volunteer in small ways so far.

## Up to Now / History of HHGA:

In 2020 when I was unable to find an available plot at a local community garden, I started to check into what waitlists looked like around the valley. Finally, I decided to look into starting a new community garden where there seemed to be a lack of local opportunity, especially as more new developments are put in at the north end of Glenmore.

I connected with the Central Okanagan Community Gardens Society who manages most or all of the other community gardens around Kelowna, but they were not interested in taking any new gardens under their management, and have stated that they are at capacity. I connected with interested locals, the City of Kelowna, and on November 5, 2020, we officially became incorporated as the Hayfield Horizon Gardening Association.

For funding we turned toward the "Partners in Parks" program with the City of Kelowna, and have been pursuing both the appropriate permissions and funding with the city to use their park as our garden site.

We have a nice little website at [HayfieldHorizon.com](http://HayfieldHorizon.com), 28 patient members who have already hopefully registered for plots, and a lovely little site we are planning to use at the south end of the city park property "Glenmore Road North Greenspace."

## From Now / Next Steps:

Unfortunately, because of our projected financial need of about \$70 000, which includes bringing water to, and distributing water at the site, building garden plots and a small shed, and purchasing compost and mulch for the plots and pathways, we were turned down for the “Partners in Parks” program.

However, we have been placed in the proposed City of Kelowna budget as a capital request for 2023. If approved, this will cover all of our start up expenses, and we will be building and planting in the spring of 2023. While things have moved slowly, our relationship with the city has been very positive. We are waiting and hoping for:

1. In August 2022 the senior city manager to approve and include the approximately \$70 000 expense in the budget that is submitted to city council.
2. In December 2022 for the Kelowna city council to approve the expense.

If these two conditions are satisfied, we will have the following business to complete:

1. Open a bank account
2. Set our annual dues
3. Coordinate work parties
4. Enjoy our new gardens!

If, on the other hand, the expense is not approved, we will meet again in 2023 and decide if we would like to dissolve our society, or to continue in hope of finding an alternative solution.

## Farewell:

I’m sorry things have been moving so slowly, but thank you so much for your interest! Your proof of interest has made what progress we have made possible.

Submitted for your update and information,  
Jesse Kessler