



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Administration Office

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## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS – PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION DATE: 2021 June 23

FROM: DIRECTOR – PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES File: 57000-20

**SUBJECT: FLOWER BULB GIVEAWAY**

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At the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee meeting on 2021 April 13, Commission referred to a City of Richmond free flower and plant program, supplied from surplus horticultural garden materials and inquired about the potential for a similar program in Burnaby.

Currently there is not a bulb recycling plant bulb program in Burnaby due to the following reasons.

1. The used bulbs are not ideal for giveaways; Horticulture uses the bulbs for 3 to 5 years, and only removes bulbs when they no longer flower or are diseased with tulip blight;
2. Previous giveaway programs created problems with materials, and their perceived unfair distribution methods; and,
3. Extra time and resources required to remove, prepare bulbs, and create a distribution system for a program is beyond existing staff capacity.

In lieu of a free floral giveaway program, staff have looked into an alternative sustainable giveaway for public consumption; Sprout pencils. This pencil contains a capsule of edible herb seeds which, after the end of use of pencil, can be planted. The pencils can be branded and distributed at community events and celebrations, and volunteer activities

In addition to the existing Tree 4 Free program, another option for a plant giveaway could be the Sprout pencil. This program would provide a sustainable, branded purchased product that can be distributed at City of Burnaby community and outreach events and celebrations. This giveaway can be accommodated in the current operational budget.

This is for the information of Commission.

Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

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Our Vision: A world-class city committed to creating and sustaining the best quality of life for our entire community.

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