

## Goldenrod Community Garden Member Survey 2024

### Summary

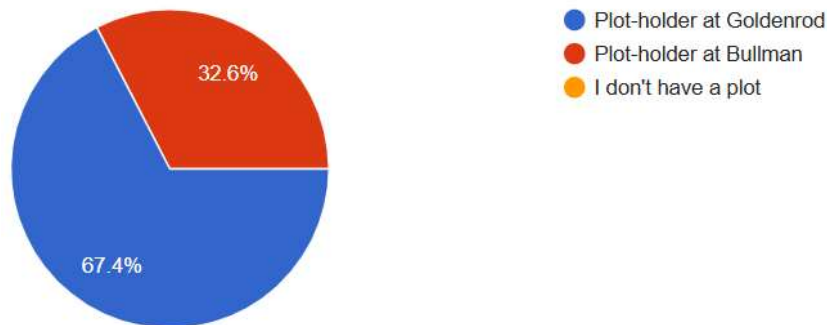
The survey was extended to both the Goldenrod garden as well as the new Parkdale-Bullman garden with a total of forty-six (46) respondents. Sixty-seven percent of the respondents garden at Goldenrod while the remaining 33% garden at Parkdale-Bullman. The majority are 26 to 45 years of age (52.2%), followed by the 46 to 65 category (30.4%). Only two individuals will not be renewing their plot in 2025 while two more are unsure.

### Key Takeaways

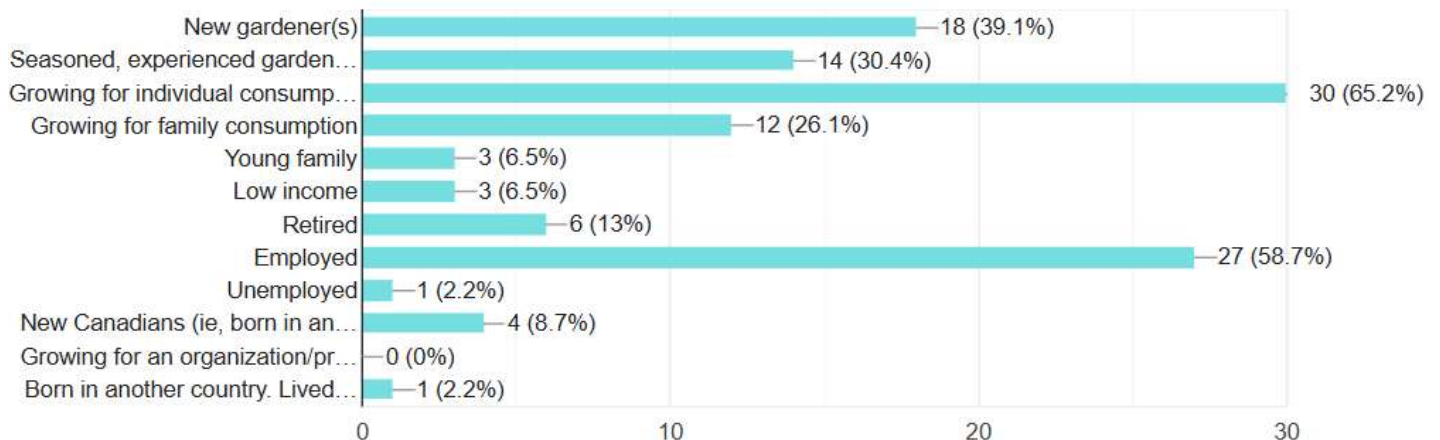
- A large percentage of respondents expressed interest in workshops on a variety of topics, such as composting, seed saving, pest management, and succession planting.
- More newsletters and more opportunities for socializing with fellow gardeners would be appreciated.
- 89% are satisfied with their harvest, a high amount considering that 39% were new gardeners.
- 87% share their harvest with friends, family, neighbours and/or the food bank.
- 72% report that growing food alleviates their grocery bills while 17.4% of that group say it substantially helps to keep their grocery bills down.
- 58% would welcome initiatives to protect against theft and damage from critters.
- Overall, respondents elect to garden because they enjoy a sense of community and the outdoors.

### SECTION 1 OF 6 – TELL US ABOUT YOU

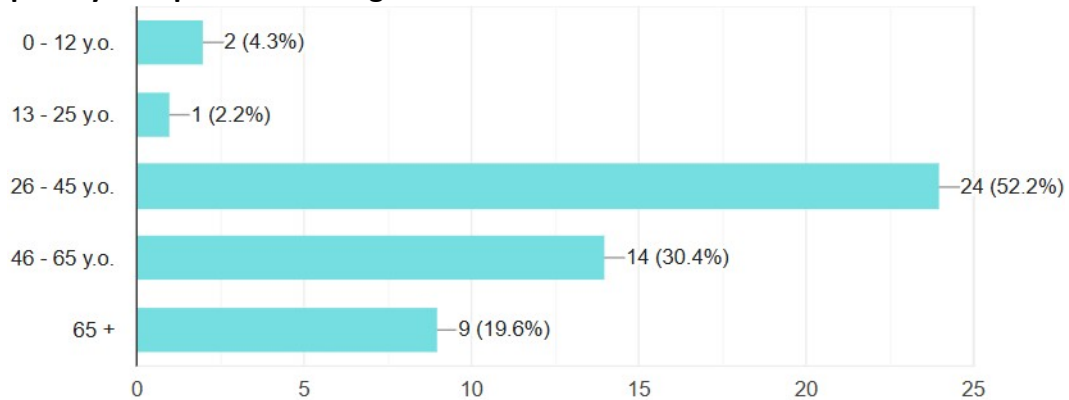
Please select where you have a garden plot:



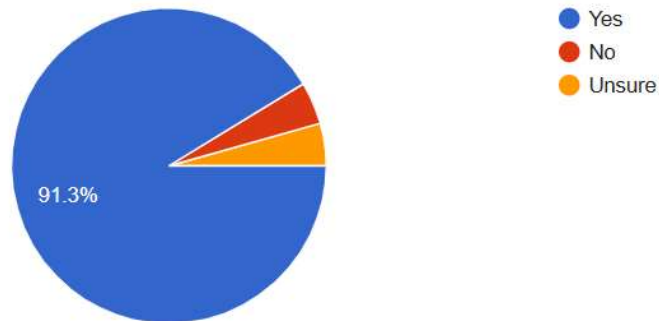
Please select any of the following that describe you:



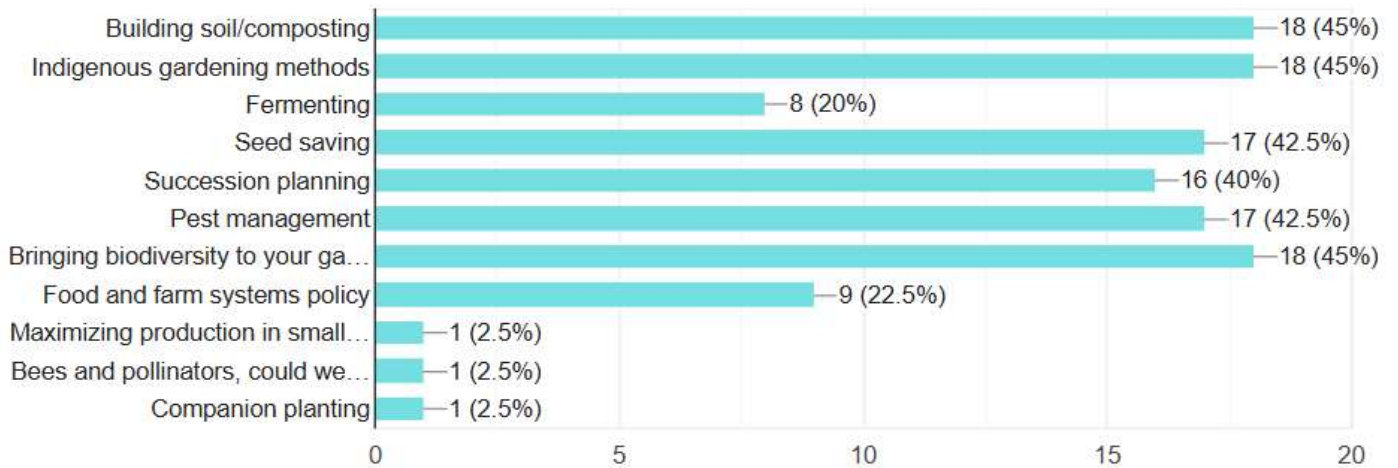
### What age groups do you represent at our garden?



### Are you planning to renew your plot next year? If you are not, please tell us why.



### Are there any gardening topics you are interested in learning about in the coming year?



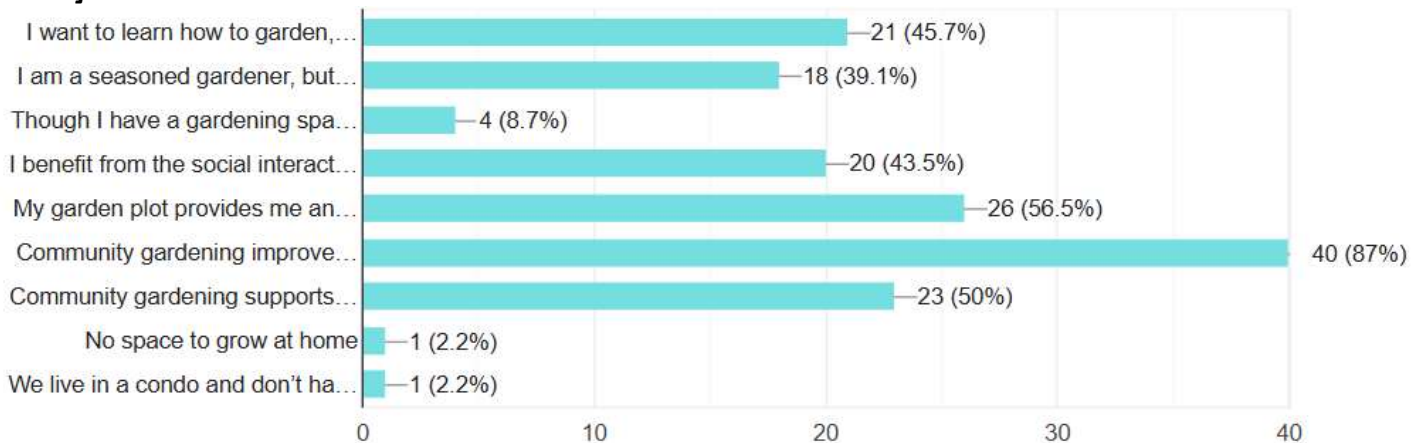
### What did you most enjoy about your garden membership this year?

- It was great to be able to grow so close to home, and other gardeners were friendly.
- The sense of community (and well-organized group) and curiosity (not sure what will survive in the garden, lol).
- Being outside gardening in my plot and meeting new neighbours.
- I really enjoyed the friendliness of other gardeners this year and sharing veggies.
- I grew my own food. I love farming and enjoyed just visiting my plot.
- The gorgeous, peaceful atmosphere and sitting areas.
- It's so peaceful tending to the garden. And so rewarding to see the harvest.
- The peace the garden brings and the joy of each yield.
- Planting and caring for plants, seeing and chatting to fellow gardeners.
- I was grateful for the compost and the straw. Full sun is so wonderful as well.
- Being outside, watching things grow, friendly faces at the garden!

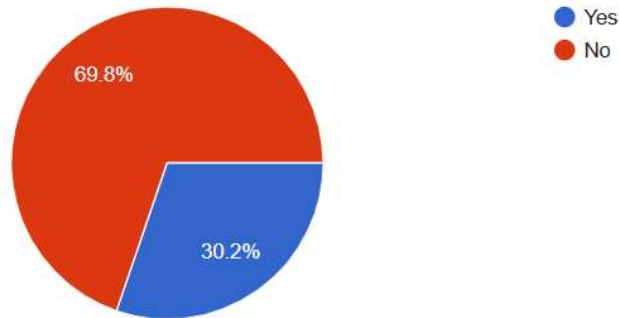
### What, if anything, could make your garden membership better?

- Water reliability: better management of water supply
- Protect plots from people who steal crops, help install fences around plots
- More seminars on gardening topics
- A more active Facebook group where you can connect with fellow gardeners/receive support
- More regular newsletter and/or social media news
- More opportunities for social connection with fellow gardeners
- Help planning my plot to maximize output
- Help identifying weeds
- No smoking
- Offering mini greenhouses over winter

### What are the reasons that you choose to access a community gardening plot? *(Select all that apply)* [CGN1]



**Other than tending to your garden plot, do you volunteer at your community garden to support its operations, the site, for events, or in any other capacity? [CGN15]**



**Do you participate in any food-related advocacy, such as in the realms of food policy, supporting community members' access to food, food growing initiatives, or any other activities? (Please answer yes or no. If you would like to, please briefly elaborate on the type of activities or projects you are involved in.) [CGN16]**

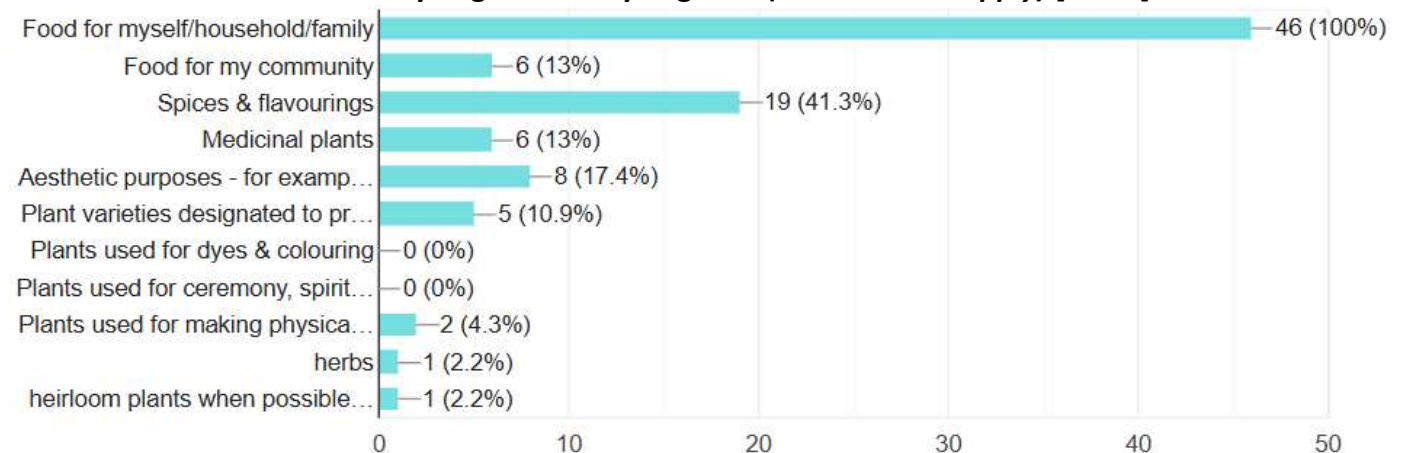
62% – No

38% – Yes... activities involved in:

- Donate to Parkdale Food Centre
- Supporting community organizations such as the Parkdale Food Centre and Highjinx Ottawa
- Neighbourhood leader with Hidden Harvest
- I work for a food company
- Ottawa Community Housing
- Volunteer at Parkdale Food Centre
- I volunteer at an organization that provides food to newcomers from Africa

## SECTION 2 OF 6 – TELL US ABOUT YOUR GARDEN

**What are some of the reasons you grow what you grow? (select all that apply) [CGN5]**

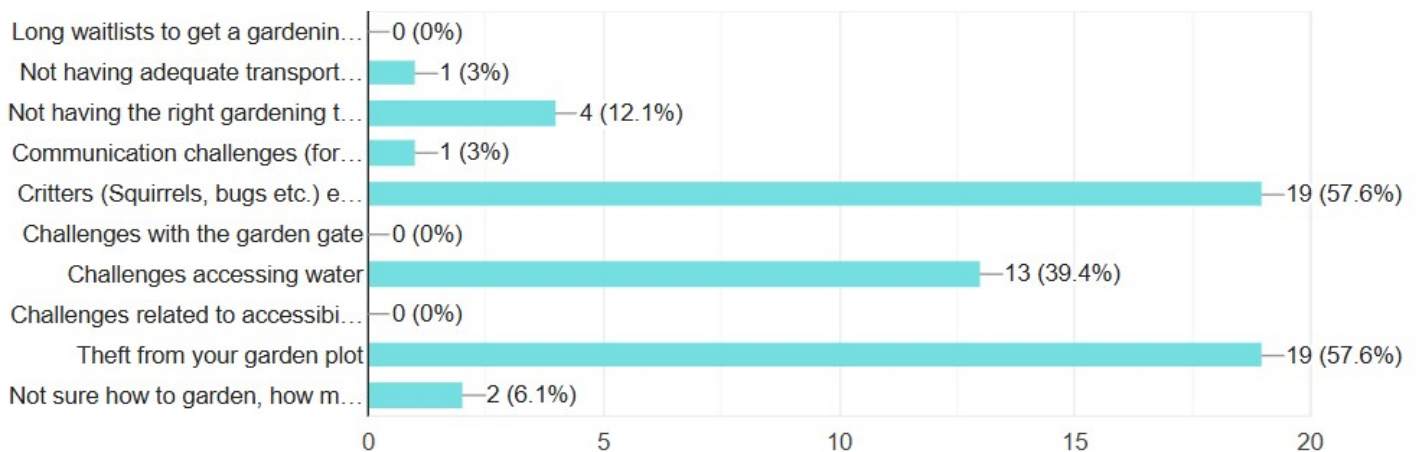


### Do you feel your gardening plot is large enough to satisfy your gardening ambitions? [CGN7]



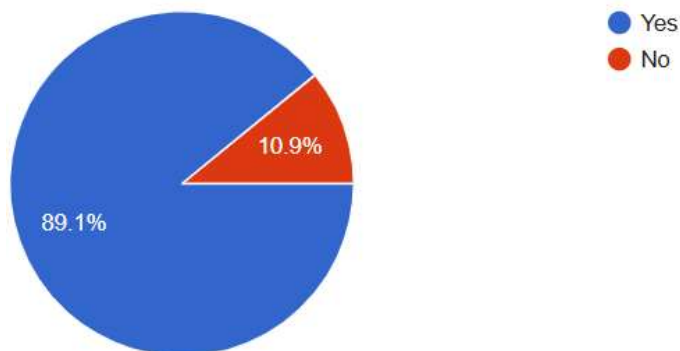
## SECTION 3 OF 6 – HOW CAN WE HELP IMPROVE YOUR GARDENING EXPERIENCE?

### Did you have any challenges registering for your plot, getting to your plot to garden or with the garden itself? *(Select all that apply)* [CGN3]



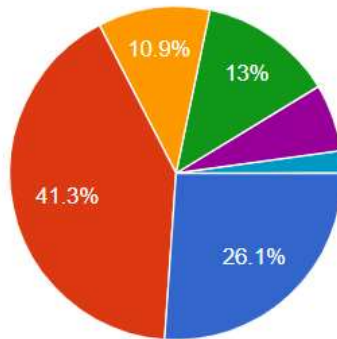
## SECTION 4 OF 6 – TELL US ABOUT YOUR HARVEST

### Are you generally satisfied with your harvests? [CGN8]



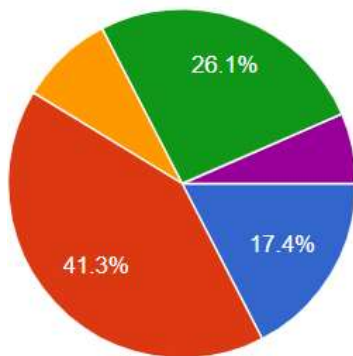


**During peak growing season, what percentage of the fruit and vegetables your family eats comes from your garden plot? [CGN9]**



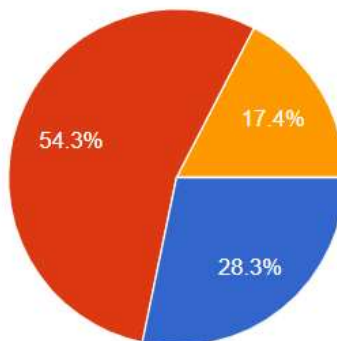
- 0-10% - Almost none.
- 25% - about 1/4.
- 30-40% - Just under half of the produce we eat comes from our garden plot.
- 50% - about half of the produce we eat comes from the garden.
- 60-80% - The majority of the fresh produce our family eats comes from th...
- 90-100% - Almost all of the fresh produce we eat comes from the garden.

**Do you consume more fresh fruits and vegetables during peak harvest periods from your garden plot? [CGN10]**



- No, our total fresh vegetable/fruit consumption does not change.
- Yes, we eat a little bit more, because of the food we harvest from our garden p...
- Yes, we eat more, but only because fresh produce is more widely available...
- Yes, we eat more, due to the additional food our garden plot provides during h...
- Yet, we eat significantly more fresh produce because of the abundance of...

**Do you notice a decrease in the average cost of your grocery bills because of the food you produce in your community gardening plot? [CGN11]**



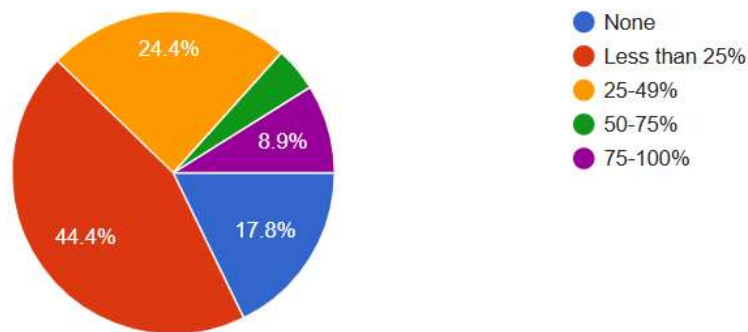
- My gardening plot does not help reduce my grocery bills at all.
- The food produced in my garden alleviates my grocery bills a little bit.
- Growing food in my garden plot substantially helps to keep my grocery bills down.

## SECTION 5 OF 6 – FOOD SHARING

**Do you share the food you grow in your garden plot with others? If yes, who do you share it with?  
Choose all that apply. [CGN12]**

- 41% – With friends, neighbours, colleagues
- 37% – With my immediate family members (spouse, children, parents, siblings)
- 13% – No, I eat the food I grow myself
- 9% – With a food bank / other gardeners at my community garden

**How much of the food you grow in your garden plot do you share with others? [CGN13]**



**Do you share food you grow at other locations than your community garden plot? Such as from your home garden, other community growing initiatives you are involved in, etc. Please briefly describe any other food sharing activities you participate in. [CGN14]**

- 87% – No
- 13% – Yes... activities engaged in:
  - I volunteer at a communal garden that grows strictly for the local food bank.
  - Yes, I donate probably a third of the food I grow at my plot outside the City with food banks. I also donate "rescued" fruit, both individually and through Hidden Harvest.
  - Yes, I help with my parents' garden.

## SECTION 6 OF 6 – ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

**Do you have any information, ideas or feedback you'd like to share? Please feel free to include any community gardening activities you would like to see in 2025 or any interest you may have in volunteering with the gardens.**

- Information about how to fence a plot at a reasonable cost to keep rabbits and groundhogs out.
- Information on how to discourage theft of produce. Information about staking techniques, especially for cherry tomatoes.
- I would prefer that we do not shut down the plots so early.
- Some people didn't tend to their gardens at all, that was hard to watch.
- Great initiative to start the Bullman location. The organizers are amazing and really appreciate all you do!
- Thank you very much for your volunteering
- thank you for the work you do to make goldenrod and bullman possible!
- I am grateful to the board and volunteers who created this opportunity for me to grow vegetables and herbs and try new varieties and crops every year. I like sharing my herbs at the beginning of the season and sharing the harvest. I am grateful that we are composting. I attended the potlucks and enjoyed meeting the other gardeners. Thank you!
- Thank you so much for everything you do and your hard work. This project is fantastic!

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