

5.3. GARDEN COMPETITION

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DEPARTMENT: CEO Unit - *Connected Communities*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the proposal for the 'Let it Grow - Douglas Garden Awards'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the 2016 – 2017 Operational Plan initiative 2.1.2, officers were tasked to develop a Douglas Shire gardening competition. The competition will be launched in March; entries open from 1 July 2017 and judged in mid-September. Sponsorship will be sought from within the Douglas Shire business community.

BACKGROUND

Prior to amalgamation, Douglas Shire Council held a community garden competition which ran for a number of years. The reinstatement of the garden competition was identified by the Mayor during the planning stages for the 2016-2017 Operational Plan.

To assist with the development of the program, research was undertaken to identify the best practice in garden award programs. This information has then been modified to suit the diverse communities of Douglas.

The proposed program has been developed in consultation with officers from Council's Public and Natural Areas teams along with a presentation to Councillors at the workshop held on 15 November 2016.

The '*Let it Grow - Douglas Garden Awards*' will support and encourage all aspiring and established gardeners to participate in the competition, providing opportunity to showcase their gardening talents through their innovative gardens.

COMMENT

The "*Let it Grow – Douglas Garden Awards*" is a wonderful opportunity for members of our community to present their gardens and gain recognition for their passion and dedication to gardening and creating beautiful environments.

It is also hoped that the Awards will encourage a feeling of pride in our towns, improving the visual amenity and attractiveness of Douglas for those that may be considering a sea or tree change.

The competition will be launched in March 2017 to ensure communities have sufficient time to prepare their gardens. Announcements will be made to the public using Council's website and Facebook page, along with advertisements in the Gazette.

Applications will open from 1 July 2017 to 25 August 2017 with judging to take place approximately the 14 and 15 September 2017, depending on the weather. The number of entrants will determine the time required for judging.

Adding further appeal to the program, Council will gain the support of a guest judge.

The judging panel will evaluate each garden against the set criteria. Prize sponsorships will be sought from local businesses such as vouchers, products or cash donations. Garden categories, judging criteria, and terms and conditions are outlined in the attachment.

PROPOSAL

That Council adopts the proposal for the *'Let it Grow - Douglas Garden Awards'*.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Sponsorship for prizes will be sought from the local community.

Council will include an allocation of funding in the 2017 – 2018 budget for expenses associated with the competition including advertising and the expenses of the guest judge.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Clear terms and conditions will mitigate any issues that may arise.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: The garden competition would support local garden businesses. It will encourage pride of place within the communities and will showcase their creative gardening skills.

Environmental: The competition promotes planting of native species, removal of weeds and use of environmentally friendly practices.

Social: New recreational option for all the community to participate

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

1.1.4 - Support and encourage a healthy, active and capable region through sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities, and community wellbeing initiatives.

Operational Plan 2015-2016 Actions:

2.1.2 - Develop the framework and program for a Douglas Tropical Garden Competition.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Part-Funder Sharing the cost of a program or activity with other organisations.

CONSULTATION

Internal:

- Councillor workshop held on 15 November 2016.
- Team Leader Open Spaces and Nursery Technician for information relating to categories and judging
- CEO Unit
- Executive Officer,
- Chief Executive Officer

External: Tourism Port Douglas Daintree have expressed interest in supporting the program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Douglas Garden Awards - Community information **[5.3.1]**

LET IT GROW - DOUGLAS GARDEN AWARDS

2017

Entrant Information

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Garden Awards

The 'Let It Grow - Douglas Garden Awards' has been established to support and encourage all aspiring and established gardeners, both young and old, to showcase their green thumb talent through the innovation of their gardens. Council would like to recognise local gardening enthusiasts with a dedicated garden awards program.

Entering the awards

Entries will be available between 1 July – 25 August 2017. Entries can be submitted to Council via:

- Email: enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au
- Mossman Administration Building, 64-66 Front St, Mossman
- Port Douglas Community Hall, Cr Mowbray and Mudlo St, Port Douglas.

Judging

Judging will take place about 14-15 September 2017 depending on the weather and number of entrants.

The judging panel will consist of Mayor Julia Leu and two professional horticulturalists.

Categories

The following categories are to be maintained by home gardeners only.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	GARDENER TYPE
Residential Garden*	- regular home gardens	Home/recreational
Acreage Garden*	- large properties	Home/recreational
Edible Garden	- producing fresh, edible produce – herbs, fruit, vegetables	Home/recreational
Sustainable Garden	- innovative gardens incorporating sustainable environmental initiatives. Eg. water-wise, managing pests, use of recycled materials.	Home/recreational
Professional Gardener	- includes resorts, businesses and homes established and/or maintained by a professional gardener.	Professional
School or Child Care Centre	- includes schools, kindy, day care centres	Established and/or maintained by students/children

**Judges will determine whether the garden is residential or acreage.*

Judging Criteria

Each garden will be judged on the following items:

- ▮ **Design and general layout** - structure and layout of garden and plants
- ▮ **Environmental initiatives** - good gardening practices including water-wise, managing pests, use of recycled materials
- ▮ **Use of plants** - balance, colour, natives
- ▮ **Originality and creativity** - Uniqueness

Terms and Conditions

- ▮ Entries, including a photograph, must be received by 4.30pm 25 August 2017;
- ▮ Entrants must reside in the Douglas Shire Local Government area;
- ▮ Home garden entrants must not engaged professional gardeners to maintain their gardens;
- ▮ Commercial or school gardens can be constructed and/or maintained by a professional gardener;
- ▮ Entrants agree to allow their garden to be photographed by a nominated person of Douglas Shire Council – subject to weather. Photographs may be used for promotional material by Douglas Shire Council;
- ▮ Entrants will be notified in advance of judging day and time and must be present for judges to enter their property;
- ▮ Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into; and
- ▮ Douglas Shire Council will not be held liable for any damage or injury suffered by you or a third party while participating in the Garden Competition.

Sponsorship

If you are looking to 'grow' your community profile and would like to become a sponsor of the garden competition, please contact CEO Unit: ceounit@douglas.qld.gov.au or (07) 4099 9444.