

## **Hamilton Community Garden Network**

### **Report on participant input into potential locations**

During the HCGN launch event on March 25, a very large wall map with all the streets of Hamilton was displayed. Participants at the meeting were asked to put stickers on the map to indicate where they lived, where they knew of an existing community garden, and where they would like to see a community garden created. Map 1 shows the result of these questions.

#### **Participants**

Participants were drawn largely from the lower city within the City of Hamilton, but that is not surprising considering most of Hamilton's population is in this area and the meeting was held in the downtown area. But there was still a large geographical distribution of participants, from Ancaster to Stoney Creek and even one participant from Caledonia (not shown on map).

#### **Existing gardens**

The existing gardens identified by participants were mainly the same as the ones already on the HCGN directory. There were 7 gardens that were locations not yet identified by the HCGN. Two of these "extra" locations were very close to HCGN identified gardens, and an analysis of satellite imagery from the areas just showed residential areas with private backyards. So perhaps in these cases, participants just were a bit unclear in their "mental map" where exactly the community garden existed and put the sticker in the wrong place. For the other locations, satellite imagery was also used to determine what is the present use of the locations, and most seem to indicate backyards of people's homes. Again, perhaps people may not have indicated the proper location as they were just going from memory or perhaps they were indicating a very informal community garden between themselves and some friends and neighbours. None of the "extra" locations has yet to be determined to be a formal community garden. It would be useful to survey the participants from this meeting by email to ask them to name the existing community gardens (ie name the sponsoring agency or land used) they know about and that way it might be easier to determine if these gardens should be added to the HCGN directory.

#### **Potential locations for new gardens**

Map 2 shows more detail of the locations identified by participants as potential sites for new community gardens. The most popular location identified was Victoria Park. Parks were in fact the most popular type of location suggested (12 out of 31 potential locations). Schools were also identified by multiple participants (including a few suggestions for McMaster University). At least 3 participants suggested different churches across the city. Two participants suggested land next to apartment towers including Oriole Crescent a City-owned housing complex in the McQuesten neighbourhood next to the Red Hill Valley (which in fact started a garden this summer). There were many suggestions for various undeveloped lots of privately owned land, such as the large lot at Barton and Ferguson and the undeveloped land near Stone Church and Upper James behind some rows of houses. For three of the locations identified it was hard to determine what they were referring to – again an email survey of participants would be helpful.

An email survey could also serve the purpose of identifying among these potential locations which one have a few participants willing to take leadership and get the ball rolling to make initial steps to determine if the location would be suitable for a community garden and if there is a community of people in the area willing to get involved in the creation and maintenance of garden.

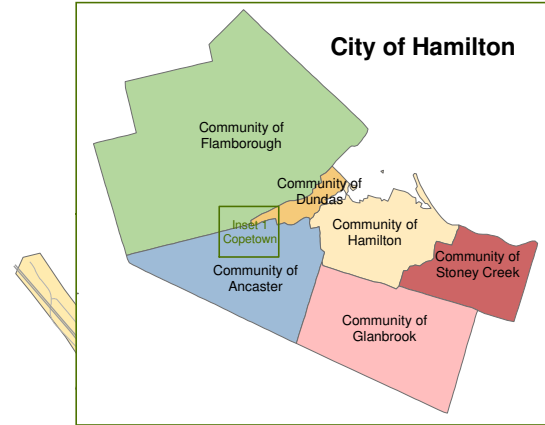
Map 1.

# Hamilton Community Garden Network (HCGN) Participant input into potential locations

## Legend

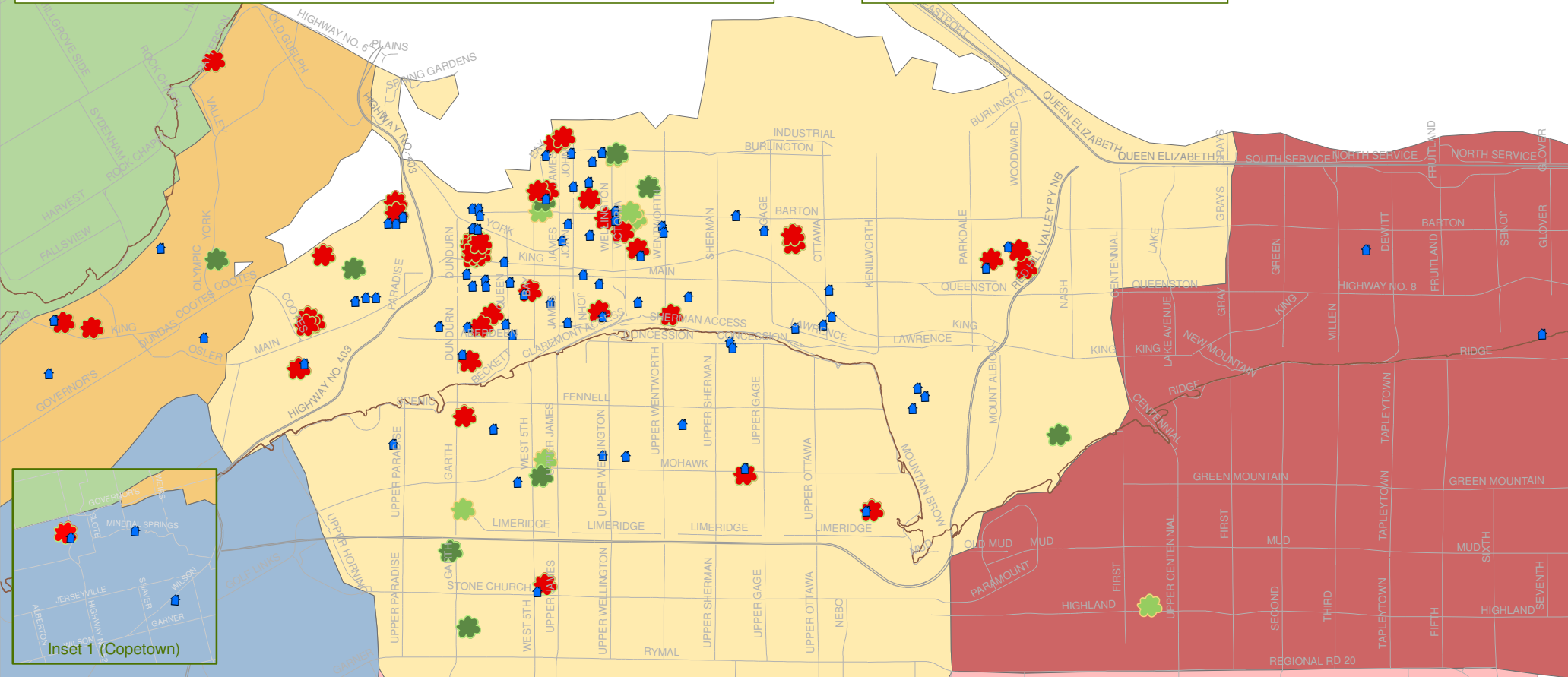
- Where participants live
- Potential garden locations identified by participants
- Existing community gardens identified by the HCGN
- Other existing community gardens identified by participants
- Escarpment
- Highways
- Major Roads

Data collected from participants at HCGN launch event on March 25, 2008



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For more information about  
the SPRC's Community Mapping Service,  
contact Sara Mayo:  
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or 905.522.1148 ext. 310



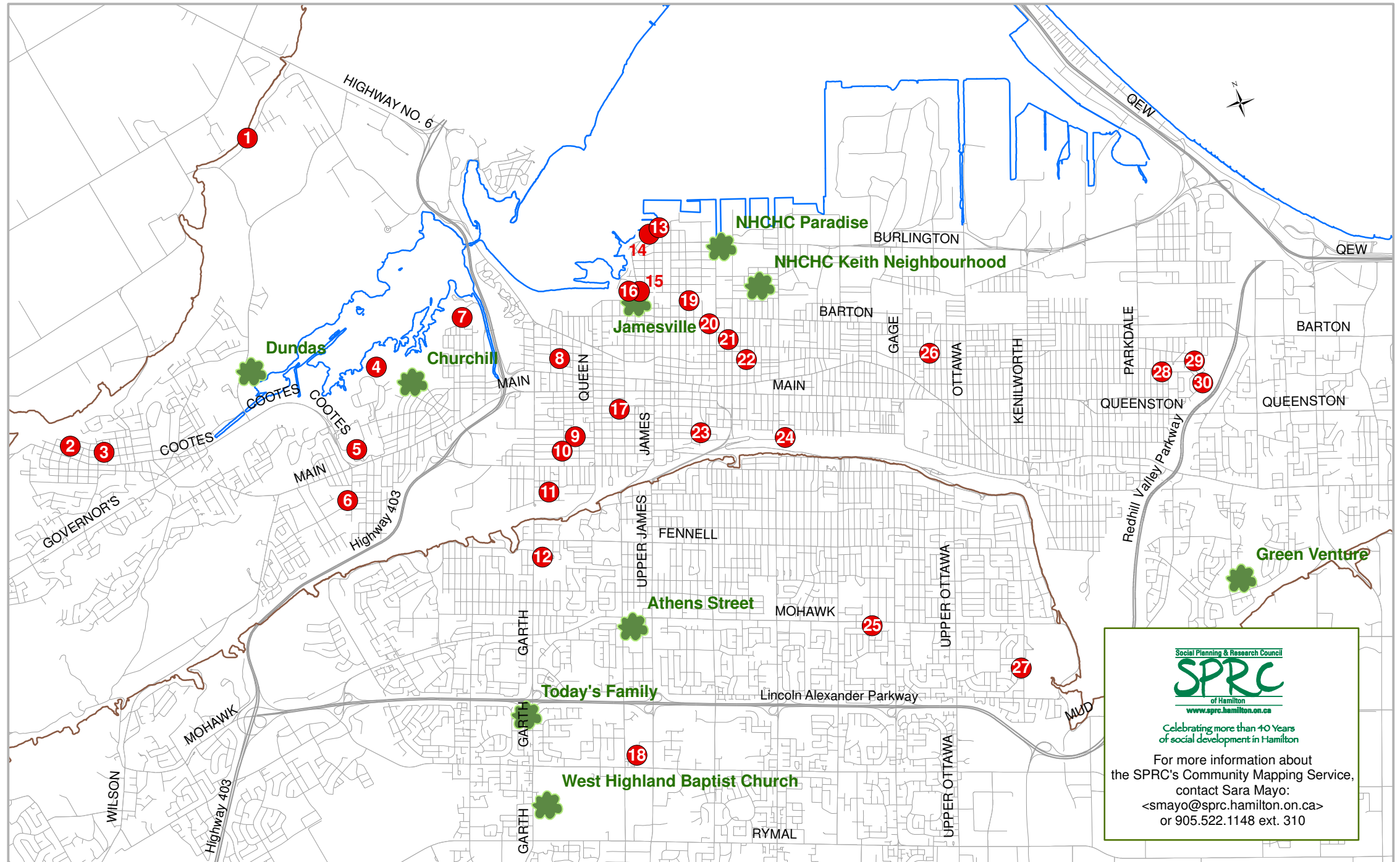
# Hamilton Community Garden Network (HCGN): Description of potential locations

● Potential locations identified by participants    
 ✿ Existing community gardens identified by the HCGN    
 — Escarpment    
 — Roads    
 — Shoreline

**Number Location Description**

- 1 Not clear - seems to be land surrounding farmhouse on Patterson Road
  - 2 Witherspoon Park
  - 3 Near St James Anglican Church and Valley Community Church
  - 4 Cootes Paradise - RBG lands
  - 5 McMaster University
  - 6 Near Saint-Mary's High School and Alexander Park
  - 7 Princess Point - RBG lands
  - 8 Victoria Park
  - 9 HAAA Park
  - 10 Stanley Avenue Baptist Church
  - 11 Beulah Park
  - 12 Hillfield Strathalan School
  - 13 Marina at Guise and Hughson
  - 14 Land beside apartment towers on south side of Guise, including Ken Soble Towers (Community Housing) at 500 McNab North
  - 15 Simcoe Tot Lot
  - 16 Bayfront Park
  - 17 Old St. Mark's Church lot at Bay and Hunter
  - 18 Open land behind houses on StonePine Crescent (Lots of open land between West 5th and Upper James, just north of Stone Church)
  - 19 Land behind Food Basics north and south of railway tracks (off of Mary St.)
  - 20 Large empty privately owned lot on Ferguson at Barton (in front of the Wesley Centre and Meridan Cooperative Homes) - currently has a for sale sign with suggested use as a mall
  - 21 West Avenue Christian Church
  - 22 Not clear - seems to be backyard of house on Emerald St. North, also near J.C. Beemer Park and Emerald Full Gospel Temple
  - 23 Corktown Park
  - 24 Grassy area off off Railtrail just east of Wentworth
  - 25 Not clear - seems to be
  - 26 Belview Park and Holy Name of Jesus School (including other side of railway tracks)
  - 27 Edge of Mohawk Sports Park
  - 28 Near Roxborough Park
  - 29 Oriole Crescent Community Housing
  - 30 Edge of Hillcrest park off of Armstrong near Oriole Crescent Community Housing
- Not shown on map

**Data collected from participants at HCGN launch event on March 25, 2008**



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