

Garden Hill Comprehensive Community Planning Project



Process Report, December 2011

THANK YOU

MEEGWECH

We would like to thank Chief and Council for their time and ongoing support with the Garden Hill First Nation Community Planning project.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Elders who have taken the time to meet with us to discuss their community and share their experiences and ideas.

We would also like to thank Cathy Monias and her students at Garden Hill High School for their time and input during the engagement process.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank project leads Gerry Hastings, Mallick Loonfoot, Abraham Harper and Morris Knott for their time, input and perspectives related to this project. Without their efforts, this project would not be where it is today.

This experience of working with Garden Hill has truly shown us the importance and essence of community. We are humbled and thankful to the community of Garden Hill for welcoming us.

Thank you for this opportunity

Jill Collinson, Jonathan Hildebrand, & Laura Rempel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the spring of 2011, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the University of Manitoba's City Planning Department began discussions on developing a First Nations knowledge exchange in planning and development. This was intended to build on growing interest among Manitoba First Nations in Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP). As a result, the U of M's City Planning Department partnered with four Manitoba First Nations, in the form of students working with community members on planning and development issues. In Garden Hill, the project became focused on working towards a Comprehensive Community Plan for the First Nation. Comprehensive Community Planning is based on participatory, community-driven processes that outline the local values, vision, and priorities of the community. A CCP outlines the community's goals and strategic actions necessary to reach those goals.

This report contains a summary of the Garden Hill CCP Project up to this point, including the project background, timeline, an overview of what CCP is, and summaries of project meetings and engagements with community members. The report is intended to summarize our discussions of what some community members identified as important community priorities. Based on community input, the report also identifies land use and economic development as key components of community planning for Garden Hill. Based on community discussions, land use themes were identified (these could also possibly form the key areas of a CCP in the future). They include:

- Community Services
- Housing Development
- Commercial Activity: Manufacturing and Production
- Natural and Traditional Preservation Areas
- Recreation
- Water and Waste Management
- Transportation
- Culture

Finally, the report provides a tentative outline for the coming months (January to March), when Community Planning Coordinator (Morris Knott) and Student Planning Assistant (Jonathan Hildebrand) will continue working on the community planning process. There is a passion for community in Garden Hill, and a strong desire to plan for the present as well as for future generations. It will be exciting to see how this process continues.

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All photos taken by U of M students unless otherwise noted.

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This is the second year in which the University of Manitoba's Indigenous Planning studio course has partnered with a First Nations community. In 2010, the studio partnered with Fisher River Cree Nation and undertook a series of projects, including watershed planning, cemetery design, event land use planning, sustainability projects, and street naming/house numbering implementation. Work with Fisher River has continued throughout the past year and with the 2011 Indigenous Planning studio. Other communities engaged in the 2011 Indigenous Planning studio include Saptaweyak Cree Nation, Swan Lake First Nation, and Garden Hill First Nation

Earlier this year the University of Manitoba's Department of City Planning (UofM) and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) began a knowledge exchange in comprehensive community planning and development. This focus on comprehensive community planning was one of five focus areas established through workshops between AMC and Manitoba First Nations during 2010. Fisher River Cree Nation, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, Swan Lake First Nation, and Garden Hill First Nation are all participating in this planning focused knowledge exchange.

Further information on the AMC knowledge exchange can be found at: www.firstnationshousinginitiative.ca/

Images: Project partners: University of Manitoba, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Garden Hill First Nation logos.



2.0 GARDEN HILL COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT

In September 2011, student Jonathan Hildebrand and Professor Ian Skelton visited Garden Hill and met with Chief and Council, as well as a few representatives from the community. From this meeting, project focus areas for Garden Hill were identified. These included waste management, recycling, substance abuse, and land use. For this initial project, land use and comprehensive community planning were two focus areas determined to have immediate positive affects – including developing spin-off projects, and providing necessary documented information to move forward on economic development and housing projects.

This land use and comprehensive community planning project began in September 2011 and will continue into late 2012.

Image: Sun setting over Island Lake.



2.1 Timeframes

There are three timeframes linked to the planning project in Garden Hill. The numbers to the left indicate the approximate number of days associated with each timeframe.

September to December 2011

For this project (Garden Hill Community Planning Project) there was an initial three-month window to begin work. During these three months, U of M students Jill, Jonathan, and Laura worked on collecting information for a land use inventory and established the beginnings of a framework for the pre-planning stage of the comprehensive community plan process. In October a Community Planning Coordinator (Morris Knott) was hired in Garden Hill to aid the students with logistics, organization and planning initiatives in the community.

December 2011 to September 2012

From December until April one student (Jonathan Hildebrand) will act as a project contact and liaison for Garden Hill's community planning coordinator. From December onwards the majority of planning related work will be carried out by community residents and by the planning coordinator (Morris Knott).

From April until September (2012) Professor Ian Skelton will be the main contact for any community planning initiatives occurring in Garden Hill.

September to December 2012

There is potential for Garden Hill First Nation to take part in the 2012 U of M studio with a new group of students. This would run from September to December 2012.

3 Months

10 Months

3 Months

2.2 Project Objectives

From talking to Garden Hill residents, it became apparent that capacity building was important to the community. This is why comprehensive community planning became a joint focus (with land use) for upcoming work.

Objectives for the Garden Hill Community Planning Project include:

- Familiarize residents with community planning
- Begin an inventory of land use
- Discuss future land use
- Laying groundwork for establishing a community vision

The end goal for U of M's involvement with Garden Hill is to jointly establish a process that the community can follow and adapt to meet their needs, visions and desires, and priorities.

***"You have
to plan the
future, if you
don't have a
vision you are
going to be lost
somewhere"***

Garden Hill
Community Member

2.3 Project Limitations

Garden Hill is a fly-in community for the majority of the year. During the winter months it is accessible via winter roads. Due to the remoteness, difficulty of access, and cost of travel, visits to the community were limited.

While the Community Planning Project is a step towards ongoing planning initiatives in Garden Hill, the initial three month timeframe presents a challenge to project outcomes. Having recognized this, the project seeks to help fulfill the pre-planning stage of the four-step comprehensive community planning framework (See Section 4.0, page 15).

The other thing to note is that we (U of M students) are not community members or residents – we have not experienced day-to-day life in Garden Hill. Community members have shared information with us and we have done our best to represent this in the report with little interpretation. Planners use discussions and activities to provide other ways to view and think about communities and facilitate the process for the community to draw their own conclusions. The information in this report will need to be validated by the larger community.



Image: Star blanket in the education offices.

3.0 COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS & ENGAGEMENTS

Garden Hill is considered to be a remote community, thus there are certain logistical challenges when it comes to visiting the community and engaging with residents. As cost and fly-in only access would limit visits to Garden Hill, weekly update phone calls were made, as well as follow-up emails and faxes. During the period of freeze-up (end of November/early December), winter roads provide around ninety days (typically January to March) of vehicular access to the community.

From September to December (2011) there were six face-to-face interactions between U of M students and Garden Hill residents. Each meeting provided time for information gathering, sharing of stories, and project guidance. In the following pages the meetings share the date, event, location, details, number of participants and a brief summary of the face-to-face interactions. A summary of notes from each encounter is available Appendix A.



Above Images: Aircraft at Perimeter Airlines yard; Operations & Maintenance (O&M) storage facility.

3.1 Initial Meet & Greet

Date: September 3, 2011

Event: Student visit to Garden Hill

Location: Garden Hill

Details: Around the community, Chief & Council Chambers

Involved: 15-20 participants

Notes: Appendix A

During the first week of September Professor Ian Skelton and student Jonathan Hildebrand visited Garden Hill. They were given a tour of the community which helped to provide a greater context for the upcoming studio project.

During this visit a preliminary meeting with Chief and Council was held. This meeting provided background on the partnership between the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the University of Manitoba in relation to the knowledge exchange. Details on previous years' studio work were discussed, as well as a brief background on comprehensive community planning.

This initial meet and greet provided direction for the studio project, as well as helped to establish the beginnings of an ongoing working relationship.

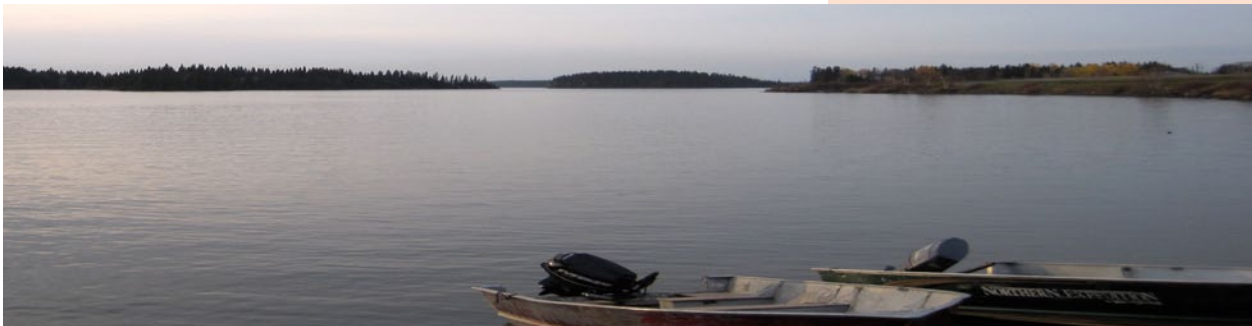


Image: Boats docked near airport.

3.2 Project Meeting at AMC

Date: October 3, 2011

Event: Meeting of U of M, AMC, and Garden Hill

Location: Winnipeg

Details: Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Board Room

Involved: 11 participants

Notes: Appendix A



Image: AMC offices, Winnipeg.

In early October a few stakeholders from Garden Hill were in Winnipeg – this provided an opportunity for an impromptu meeting at the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs offices.

AMC representatives Brian Saulnier and Darcy Wood spoke about the knowledge exchange project, the website project, and U of M's project in Garden Hill. There was time for input and suggestions linked to website development as AMC's web designer was on hand.

This meeting gave the U of M students (Jill, Laura and Jonathan) a chance to develop their working relationship with community representatives, as well as receive guidance for preparations for an upcoming visit to Garden Hill. Prior to this project meeting at AMC, the students had put together a photovoice activity (see below) for high school aged youth to engage in. The photovoice project was discussed and supplies were passed along to Garden Hill residents for distribution at High School.

What is photovoice?

Photovoice is an information gathering method which combines photography and community knowledge. Participants are given a series of questions and asked to photograph their answers. A complete list of photovoice questions can be found in Appendix B.

3.3 Second Community Visit

Date: October 11, 2011

Event: Tour/Land Use Inventory & Mapping Exercise

Location: Garden Hill

Details: Around the Community

Involved: 4 - 6 participants

Notes: Appendix A

During the October 11th visit to Garden Hill, three separate activities were planned: photovoice with the high school youth, a community tour, and mapping work with the community representatives. Due to a death in the community, the High School was closed and we were unable to engage and discuss the photovoice activity with the youth.

During the morning Gerry Hastings gave the U of M students an extensive tour of Garden Hill. This allowed the three of us to become more familiar with land use in the community, particularly in the realm of connectivity, infrastructure and commercial activity.

The tour included visits to the fish plant, hydro substation, tank farm, band office, schools, waste disposal sites, saws mill, store, cemetery, churches, and multiple homes.

After the tour of Garden Hill, three Garden Hill representatives met with the U of M students at the Garden Hill Education Offices. The purpose of the afternoon engagement was to conduct a land use inventory, discuss land use, and engage in a mapping exercise. A large aerial map was allowed for identification of key places and facilities in the community. This allowed for the beginnings of an asset inventory to be quantified.

Time was also spent discussing Garden Hill, the strength of the community and upcoming projects. The participants provided the students with guidance for their project.



Above images: Manitoba Hydro substation; new tanks for fuel farm (currently under development).

3.4 First Comprehensive Community Planning Conference

Date: October 25 & 26, 2011

Event: Comprehensive Community Planning

Location: Winnipeg

Details: Marlborough Hotel

Involved: 8 participants (approximately 50 total in attendance)

Notes: Appendix A

A two day comprehensive community planning conference was held in late October. This conference was facilitated by AMC. Communities involved in the knowledge exchange project were invited to participate – this included Fisher River, Garden Hill, Sapotaweyak and Swan Lake.

The first day of the conference was filled with introductions and presentations. Opening remarks were given by AMC Grand Chief Nepinak with Elder Garry Robson from the U of M offering the morning prayer. On behalf of AMC, Darcy Wood and Brian Sauliner provided a background to the conference. Professor Ian Skelton spoke about U of M's role and development in Indigenous Planning. A representative from Peguis First Nation summarized their work creating a CCP document. U of M students introduced Comprehensive Community Planning and provided an overview of studio projects. The afternoon included guest speakers from the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources(CIER), consultants Hilderman Thomas Frank & Cram Landscape Architecture and Planning, as well as the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Some presentation slides will be available on AMC's website www.firstnationshousinginitiative.ca/.

The second day of the conference allowed for working time between the Garden Hill representatives and the U of M students. During this time, the mapping exercise, which had begun during the visit on October 11, was built upon. A collection of the existing land use inventory had begun during the last visit, Garden Hill representatives categorized the inventory into groups to help guide upcoming conversations linked to future land use. Possible categories of land use categories were discussed with future land use guiding conversations.

Time was also spent talking about the Community Planning Coordinator's role with U of M, with Chief & Council, and with the community. Plans were also made for an upcoming student visit to Garden Hill. A one page overview of this event was shared by the planning committee with Chief & Council (see Appendix C).



Image: Garden Hill working group at CCP Conference in Winnipeg.

3.5 Third Community Visit

Date: November 3, 2011

Event: Youth Session, Meeting with Chief & Council,
TV Presentation, Community Meeting

Location: Garden Hill

Details: High School, Chief & Council Chambers,
TV Station, Police Boardroom

Involved: 15, 6, 2, 8 = 31 participants

Notes: Appendix A

During the November 3rd visit to Garden Hill, four main activities occurred: working session with a group of high school youth, meeting with Chief & Council, a televised project summary presentation and a general community meeting.

Youth Engagement Session

Principal Cathy Monias gathered together a group of fifteen high school youth for a working session with the three U of M students. During this hour and a half long session the students were asked a few questions to jumpstart the conversation about Garden Hill.

A large aerial photo/map was provided to the youth to identify where they lived, where they hung out, where activities happened and to further along the dialogue.



Image: Garden Hill High School.

Questions for students' included:

What do you like about Garden Hill?

What don't you like about Garden Hill?

What do we need to know about Garden Hill?

What would you want Garden Hill to be or have in the future?

Chief & Council

With exception of the initial meet and greet in early September, up to this point there has been minimal reporting and formal meeting between the U of M students and Chief & Council. Typically, one of the community representatives provided Chief & Council with updates as they inquired. Councilor Ivan Harper has been assigned as the councilor who will be involved with the Garden Hill community planning project.

During the morning of this visit to Garden Hill the three U of M students were offered the chance to speak with Chief & Council. The community planning coordinator, Morris Knott, acted as a liaison as he summarized activities and possible project plans to Chief & Council. This meeting also provided the U of M students a chance to answer any questions that arose, as well as broaden their Garden Hill knowledge base. Chief & Council offered their concerns for the community, as well as emphasized the need for a long-term community plan for Garden Hill.

***“We did not
mismanage our
community”***

Garden Hill
Community Member



Image: Television presentation.

TV Presentation

Garden Hill has their own local television station that broadcasts to neighbouring communities. As many community residents go home to eat during their lunch break, the U of M students offered a ½ hour televised presentation on the Garden Hill community planning project. Morris Knott, Garden Hill's community planning coordinator, provided a brief overview to community planning in the Garden Hill context. The U of M presentation summarized what had been done up until that point (early November), what comprehensive community planning was, and possible directions the project could go. In Oji-Cree, Councilor Ivan Harper spoke to his involvement with the project, and Morris Knott offered a summary of the project and how it can benefit the community in the long run.

Afternoon Community Meeting

Immediately following the televised presentation, an afternoon community engagement session was held in the police station boardroom. Two main activities occupied this time: general information mapping, and a cognitive personal mapping exercise.

A large overview map of the community and surrounding area was placed on the table. An opportunity for introductions followed – those who felt comfortable giving a little more background on themselves, their community and why they wanted to be involved were encouraged to do so.

On the overview map, preferred locations for future housing, economic development and environmental concerns were identified. The map led to conversations about the history of Garden Hill – where its been, where its going, and how it will get there. Community participants emphasized that they felt this planning project could help Garden Hill clarify their collective vision and move towards goals.

After talking and working with the large overview map, participants were asked to draw individual cognitive maps of Garden Hill as they know it. These maps told a visual story of Garden Hill (See page 28 for more information).



Image: Mapping discussion.

3.6 Second Comprehensive Community Planning Conference

Date: December 6, 2011

Event: Pilot Project Wrap-up Conference

Location: Winnipeg

Details: University of Manitoba - Education Building

Involved: 2 Garden Hill participants (50 people in attendance)

A second comprehensive community planning conference was held in early December. Similar to the CCP conference in October (highlighted on page 9), U of M Elder Gary Robson offered the morning prayer with Professor Ian Skelton and AMC representative Brian Saulnier providing opening comments. Ralph Stern, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture gave a brief presentation related to U of M's support and development of Indigenous Planning initiatives.

The second half of the morning session allowed for discussion between the four participating First Nation communities (Garden Hill, Swan Lake, Fisher River, Sapotewyeak). This sharing circle allowed for a brief summary of projects, experiences, and mutual learning occurring between students, representatives and communities.

The morning session wrapped up with Garden Hill representatives (Morris Knott and Gerry Hastings) reviewed a draft document, suggested modifications and discussed future activities for the coming months.

The afternoon session opened with Rylan Reid, from Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). His presentation focused on programs and funding opportunities offered by CMHC related to housing programs and development initiatives. Following this was a presentation by Derrell Fiel, a representative from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

This CCP conference closed with presentations by each of the communities. The Community Planning Coordinator and Student Planning Coordinator summarized the activities and work that has occurred since September 2011. They also offered glimpses of what may occur in the coming months.

The session closed with a group picture of all in attendance. Future plans are in the works for a third comprehensive community planning conference in February 2012.



Image: Conference participants.



Image Morris and Jonathan making a presentation.

Who should be involved in community planning?

Council
youth
families
teenagers
parents
grandparents
managers
kids
Elders
EVERYONE
Chiefs

4.0 COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING

CCP=

**comprehensive
community
planning**

Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) is an approach to planning in which the process is undertaken by the whole community. It can allow communities to shape their own future and destiny, and implement projects to help realize that future.

4.1 What is CCP?

A tool for shaping the future: Comprehensive Community Planning can assist in keeping economic benefits, human resources, and development capacity within the community. In Garden Hill, the future holds different challenges and opportunities. For example, with an all-weather road on the horizon, a strong CCP could make sure that any changes and developments resulting from an all-weather road would unfold according to community desires and vision.

A way to increase self-reliance: For First Nations, CCP can help avoid the imposition of outside-implemented plans and development schemes. Too often, these have been inappropriate and unresponsive to First Nations settings and culture. Historically, professional planning has often been something imposed on First Nations. First Nation-led community planning recognizes that First Nations have always planned their communities in various ways (long before colonialism). It seeks to build on that traditional cultural knowledge in planning for the future. CCP can also incorporate a blend of traditional and contemporary approaches in ways that are culturally appropriate.

A holistic approach to community development:

CCP addresses all community elements such as environmental stewardship, economic development, culture, housing, infrastructure, land use, among others. In Garden Hill, for example, there are many initiatives and programs currently underway. A CCP could put these under one overarching plan and work with making connections between them.

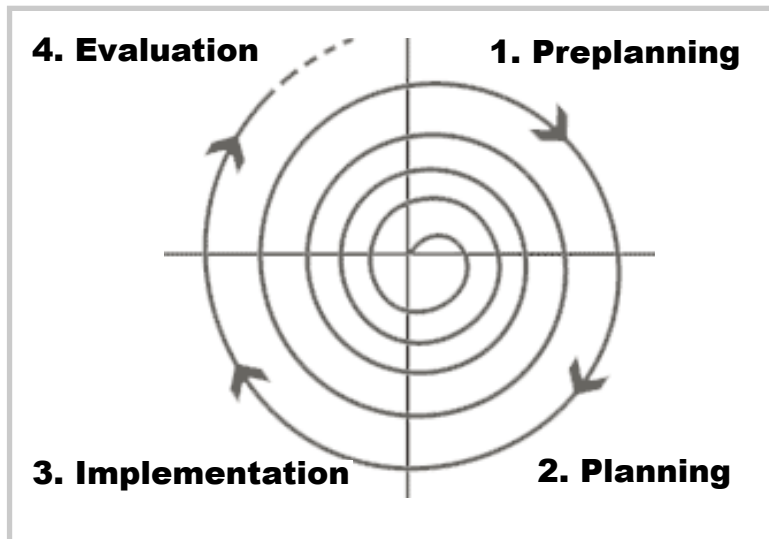
A process that includes everyone: With CCP, the community itself becomes involved in the planning process, from youth to elders, men, women, people with different abilities, skills and experiences. Band members living off reserve may also provide valuable input into the process. Having this broad input into the plan can help it really become 'the community's plan.'



<http://ciers.ca/information-and-resources/publications-and-products.aspx?id=848>

Image: Summary of holistic CCP approach.

4.2 How is CCP done?



INAC (2006). *CCP Handbook: Comprehensive Community Planning for First Nations in British Columbia*

Image: Four stages of CCP.

4.2.1 Pre-planning

Assessing community readiness: Are the necessary people, capacity, and resources available? Is there political support for a CCP? Having leadership endorse the process is often crucial, and it is often a good idea to sit down with leadership, councils, managers, and staff to discuss what would need to be done to begin the CCP process. Some of this process has already begun through our work with Garden Hill community members and Managers, and meetings with Chief & Council.

Identifying a planning team and/or coordinator: Are there community members who are passionate about community planning with a vision for the future? Who has relevant community knowledge and who has the time to participate? These are some of the things to consider when identifying a team that can help guide the CCP process. A planning team can help with things such as organizing community members, collecting and sharing community information, and providing advice on the CCP process. Morris Knott has been hired to coordinate the planning team.

Promoting awareness: Since community is the most important part of the CCP process it is important to promote awareness within the community of what exactly the CCP process will involve, and what its value will be to the community. This can help people feel invested, so it truly becomes the community's plan. A pamphlet describing the project has been made to place in residents mailboxes (see Appendix D).

Identifying possible funding sources: Some community planning initiatives can actually be done with very little limited financial resources. However, the pre-planning stage is a good time to determine how much the process might cost, and which funding sources could be accessed. The costs can depend on a variety of things: the priorities of the CCP, the level of community engagement, the level of training needed, the amount of research to be done, to name a few. For more information on funding sources, see Appendix E.

Considering a starting point: Often a specific initiative in one area (such as housing or infrastructure) can serve as a good entry into the planning process, and further projects can branch out from the first one. Beginning a CCP can be more manageable by choosing one community area with which to begin.

4.2.2 Planning



Image: Discussing community priorities.

Gathering information/community inventory: This often consists of gathering information from existing administrative and policy documents such as community housing plans, maps, land use plans, or any other reports or studies that can provide community information. Environmental, social, cultural, and economic information is important to gather. Crucial information can also be gathered from community members with traditional and historical knowledge of the community, such as Elders. Consulting with a wide variety of different community members is important in order to get an accurate representation of the community's priorities and values.

Creating a vision statement: A vision statement helps define and clarify the values and traditions of a community, and what kind of place the community is or wants to be. Having a clear vision of community values can help define how planning and development can take shape in the future. Getting community members to think about what kind of future they would like for their children, what they appreciate and value about the community, what they wish could be changed, are all ways to arrive at an overall vision statement. In some cases, a vision statement might already exist. If so, is it still applicable and relevant to the community? Should it be revisited, or does it still function well as a guiding document?

Developing a plan framework: The framework is the nuts and bolts, the actual structure and timeframe of the CCP and how it will be carried out. It includes identifying the goals and objectives for each key area of the plan. This can also involve bringing previously existing plans focused on key areas into the broader community plan framework. The plan framework can respond to the realities of limited financial resources, emphasizing the key areas where strong initiative can be taken by the community.

4.2.3 Implementation

The implementation stage is where ideas morph into action. It can be useful to organize all identified planning projects within the CCP, and prioritize them in terms of their potential benefits to the community, as well as their feasibility. It can be helpful to select initiatives that can be easily achievable with positive results in a short period of time. This can demonstrate to the wider community the effectiveness and positive impacts of the CCP. This can also help build confidence within the community to continue working on bigger projects in the future. Once projects have been identified for implementation, and workplans and timeframes have been set, the planning team can be in charge of overseeing the implementation, and smaller project teams could be formed for each specific project area being implemented. The public should also be continually notified and educated about projects, so that their skills and input can remain a crucial part of the CCP process.



Image: Example of an implementation timeline, drawn by Garden Hill community member.

4.2.4 Monitoring & Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation stage is very important but sometimes overlooked once projects are on the go. It is necessary though, to make sure that the projects are making a positive impact. Not only is it beneficial to evaluate individual projects within the CCP, the CCP itself can be re-evaluated and updated every several years. This can help ensure that the plan and its projects are still in line with the community's vision statement, and in setting further goals and priorities once certain projects are completed. Keeping the community aware of how projects are going helps with maintaining transparency, and gives the plan credibility in the community. Sometimes, a system of monitoring and evaluating the plan can be developed jointly between Chief & Council, managers and staff.

5.0 WHAT WE HEARD FROM GARDEN HILL

Below Images: Health centre, police station, elementary school.



This section is a summary of the conversations we had with community members in Garden Hill about their history, where it is now and where it could go in the future. We spoke with Garden Hill residents including Elders, youth from the high school, Council, and managers to learn about Garden Hill. The summary is based on seven categories identified in the land use activity (see Appendix A). In addition, a category for ‘culture’ was created to highlight some of the themes heard.

The themes could be a starting point for the components of a community plan, but need broader community input and discussion. We would like to thank community members we spoke to for being open to sharing their stories, experiences and opinions.

5.1 Community Services

Community services describe both physical and social services that benefit the whole community. Service providers are often confronted with community challenges such as violence, prescription drug use and gang issues. In Garden Hill service providers includes the health centre, nursing station, community police, volunteer fire fighters, band office and television station among others. Other examples include Elders being picked up from their homes by community members to go to use social services, or participate in social activities in the central area. A Youth Council was recently created to learn about the leadership processes from Chief & Council.

Future community services in progress include the new band office (which will include a community gathering space). Other services being discussed include a laundromat, and a regional hospital located between Garden Hill and Wasagamack. There is also some interest in partnering with the University of the North and Robertson College to bring post secondary program in town. A skills-based learning facility like Winnipeg-based Urban Circle Training Centre was suggested to be useful in Garden Hill.

5.2 Housing Development

The majority of homes in Garden Hill are single-family dwellings but overcrowding is common. More housing options are needed including multi-family units (e.g. apartments), townhouses (like those for employees of the schools and health facilities), trailers, and small one-bedroom bungalows for seniors to live near family where support is available.

There is not enough quality housing. Local building knowledge and methods often consider the natural environment, (in terms of foundations on bedrock, and heating in a northern climate). This local knowledge may be more appropriate than a standard Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation house. It would be useful to test different foundation options on different ground types before they invest in more housing.

For example, there are homes in Garden Hill that are well built and have lasted 30 years – what could be learned from these examples? CMHC houses do not often last more than 10 years due to shifting foundations and have large hydro bills. Community members identified the need to do an environmental assessment before housing is built. Environmental assessments look at the slope of land for drainage, the land to determine the type of foundation needed, and the location of the structure among other factors.

Some housing is quite spread out along shorelines and not close to community resources. Other housing in the central area of town, where there are water and waste services, can feel crowded for some residents. There was interest expressed in having future housing close to existing family members rather than moving to another area. Future development locations should consider connections to family, water and community services to determine how spread out or clustered homes should be.

One method to increase community control over housing is to establish a Housing Authority. It could develop standards in the form of bylaws, regulations and training community members how to maintain their homes.

Considerations:

- What are different housing types and designs that address a range of community needs?
- What is appropriate housing?
- Where should new housing be located, and in what pattern?

Images: Different housing types located in Garden Hill.



5.3 Commercial Activity

Images: Saw mill, fish plant dock, convenience store.



Economic development was highlighted as a priority to create community prosperity. Garden Hill residents may want to identify how they want their natural resources to be used by the community as well as in possible partnerships from outside the community. Outside organizations have not always been respectful to community needs in a mutually beneficial way. For example, concerns about future mining activities impact on fish populations and the environment need to be considered. Natural resources existing in the area include wildlife (fish, beaver, moose, and others), trees, minerals (bedrock, gold), and a beautiful natural environment (which could have tourism possibilities if approached in an appropriate way).

In the past there used to be a lot of soapstone carving, and large gardens for root crops production. Current manufacturing and production activities include hunting; trapping and processing of hides; resource extraction (for example the rock quarries located around past development areas such as the hydro substation); timber harvesting and processing (the portable sawmill can be moved to future development sites to harvest, process, and be used in construction); and rock crushing for road development. Some products created in the community from these activities include: milled lumber, fish, crushed rock, art, photography, snowshoes, mukluks, moccasins, gloves, and baby carriers (tickanageng). There is potential to partner with Island Lake Tribal Council on regional issues and opportunities for Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, Wasagamack and St. Theresa Point.

Suggestions for future business included a community store, expanding the fish plant, and establishing an economic development corporation. Planning for tourism activities that may result from an all weather road could be beneficial in the future. There were also suggestions of cottage development for non-residents that could be rented out, as well as a traditional village area that could link traditional knowledge and tourism. Hunting and fishing are highly desirable activities for non-residents, and must be managed by community to ensure that trap-lines and traditional areas are not negatively affected. It was suggested that Garden Hill could again own an airstrip and planes as they did in the past. Community members mentioned that a construction company was needed.

5.4 Natural & Traditional Preservation Areas

Community members highlighted the need to preserve traditional areas by designating conservation areas. These areas would contain minimal development to preserve the cultural or environmental importance of the land. This could protect traditional hunting and trapping grounds and avoid destruction of vegetation (for example, blasting for a road in the past destroyed blueberry plants). One example where this occurred was when community petitions were signed to support a trap line/fishing preservation area where a new reserve was proposed. There is a monument near Benson Lake honouring people who have died.

Areas where potentially hazardous activities occur (such as the land fill and tank farm) need to have a plan to stop environmental contamination and remediate existing polluted sites. In the past soil and water sources have been polluted. The lakes that makes up the region's name may be too polluted, so people don't swim in it. There is a desire to avoid this in the future and clean up lake and shore pollution if possible. Environmental assessments and monitoring of lake-related projects could reduce potential problems. A record of environmental climate changes, (in the form of winter freeze-up and spring break up records) is written down at Rick's Lodge on Wass Island. These types of records could inform how human behaviours are changing their environments. See Appendix F for freeze thaw information.

Considerations:

- Understanding existing community skills & knowledge
- Identifying how the community wants to use its natural resources & products
- Identifying potential partnerships for business opportunities

Images: Map showing registered traplines in Island Lake, Garden Hill's natural environment.



5.5 Recreation

looking back...

Other Nations in the Island Lake area would arrive in Garden Hill by floatplane to play hockey or baseball.

Hockey rinks used to be made around lake shores before there was an arena in town.

When one participant was a young person there was no electricity, and spare time was limited because of chores such as taking care of the dog team. Back then they would play baseball or soccer, as opposed to young people today who seem less physically active and often watch television or play video games. This has changed people's relationships with each other.

After speaking with some youth they felt there were not many activities for them to enjoy in Garden Hill. There didn't appear to be a physical spot where they could safely hang-out. Some were unaware of what activities the youth centre had to offer and didn't feel welcome to go there (due to it being damaged by an interior fire). They often just go home after school.

Adults mentioned there is a youth camping area by a lake but the youth we spoke to didn't seem to know anything about it. Some youth don't plan to stay in the community after they graduate high school. There are lots of talented hockey players but they don't get out of the community. Students felt that they needed to leave the community for more job or education options, and many wanted more city-like amenities in Garden Hill (for example libraries, movie theatres, stores, restaurants).

Existing recreation in town includes an outdoor hockey rink, outdoor basketball hoop, and a stage area. Bingo and cards are played (9up, 6up and triangle) over the local TV channel. On the south side of town a beach, a golf course, and a toboggan slide were created but have not been maintained.

Future recreation suggestions for Garden Hill included indoor activities such as art programs, a dance studio, roller skating rink, bowling alley, a pool, and a drop in centre specifically for teens. Park space was discussed and could incorporate a gathering ground for the annual healing gathering event and traditional activities (and camping grounds) with trees. A playground, sports field (for frisbee, football, or baseball), areas for safe on-shore fishing, and opportunities to grow food and have animals was also mentioned.



Images: Arena building, outdoor recreation/camping area.

5.6 Water and Waste Management

In 2010, Andrew Smith, a former Garden Hill teacher, started a conversation about waste management and recycling through a project called Garden Hill Trash Talk. What we heard from community members was that often people don't use the garbage dump due to badly maintained roads. Instead, garbage is placed throughout the community and littering occurs. There are no programs to recycle. In the past, hazardous waste materials (such as PCBs from the old school's fluorescent lighting) have been disposed of in three or four unmarked sites in Garden Hill. They were bundled and buried according to Provincial standards but risk future contamination.

The north side of town does not have running water, and it was mentioned that a few wells were recently drilled. The central area has water infrastructure but it may not be appropriate due to the bedrock in the area. An above ground system with insulated pipes (such as Flin Flon's sewer boxes mentioned by a community member) might be more suitable for a northern climate. Homes without running water have to bag and bury their human waste in the yard. Vegetable gardens are often not planted due to the soil contamination.



Images: Operations & Maintenance (O&M) storage building, water services, map showing hand-drawn locations of water flow, intake, and discharge.



5.7 Transportation

Garden Hill is a fly in or winter road access community. The flight is approximately an hour and fifteen minutes. In good weather, winter roads take twelve hours to travel to Winnipeg, four hours to Norway House and another two-and-a-half hours from Norway House to Thompson. The winter road provides about a ninety day window (January to March) to have semi trailers transport all of the supplies the community needs for the rest of the year or pay higher costs for air freight. The potential of an all weather road has been discussed for many years and action on its development is uncertain.

During ice freeze up or break up, when small boats or water taxis aren't useful, a hovercraft or helicopter is available for hire on Stevenson Island. Cars are the main mode of transportation in town on bumpy and often muddy roads and could benefit from regular maintenance. Snowmobiles may be used in the winter.

Images: The lake is a prominent means of transportation in all seasons.



5.8 Culture

Images: Treaty grounds monument and cemetery.



Community members identified the importance of talking about the history of the residential school system, how it has influenced Garden Hill and the need to decolonize rather than ignore it. It was often said that you need to know where you have been to know where you are going. Sharing cultural knowledge is expressed through Traditional Week activities. Also, the high school has an Oji-Cree language class.

Restorative community justice was suggested to work with community members instead of current incarceration methods (one community member remarked that currently two out of ten people in Garden Hill have been in prison at some point). A circle of peers sentencing could be Band-run, working with current Aboriginal policing methods in Garden Hill.



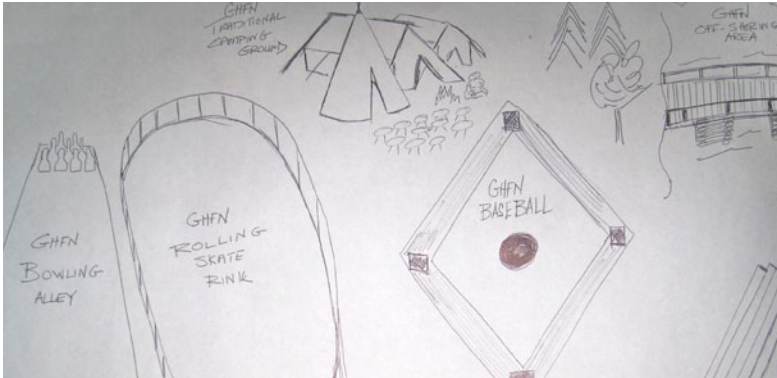
What makes you proud of Garden Hill?

environment Beautiful isolated
location community
natural skill-building
family

6.2 Personal Mapping

Asking community members to map local knowledge can begin to reclaim mapping as a community tool rather than a colonial one.

Individuals drew a map of key places in Garden Hill that have meaning for them or are commonly used. A few examples of these maps are below.

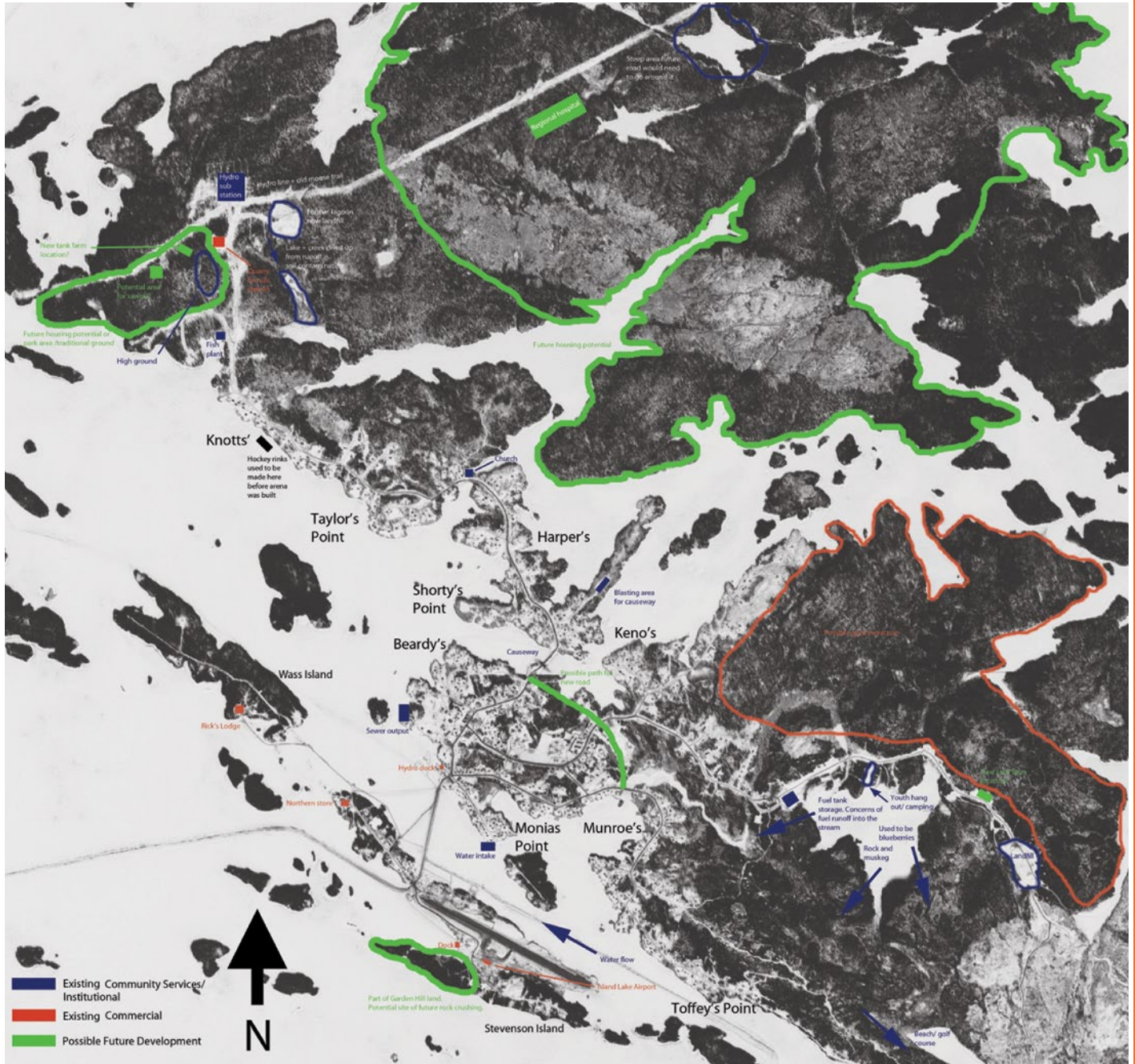


Images: Reclaiming mapping as a community tool. Individuals drew maps of key places in Garden Hill that have meaning for them or are commonly used.



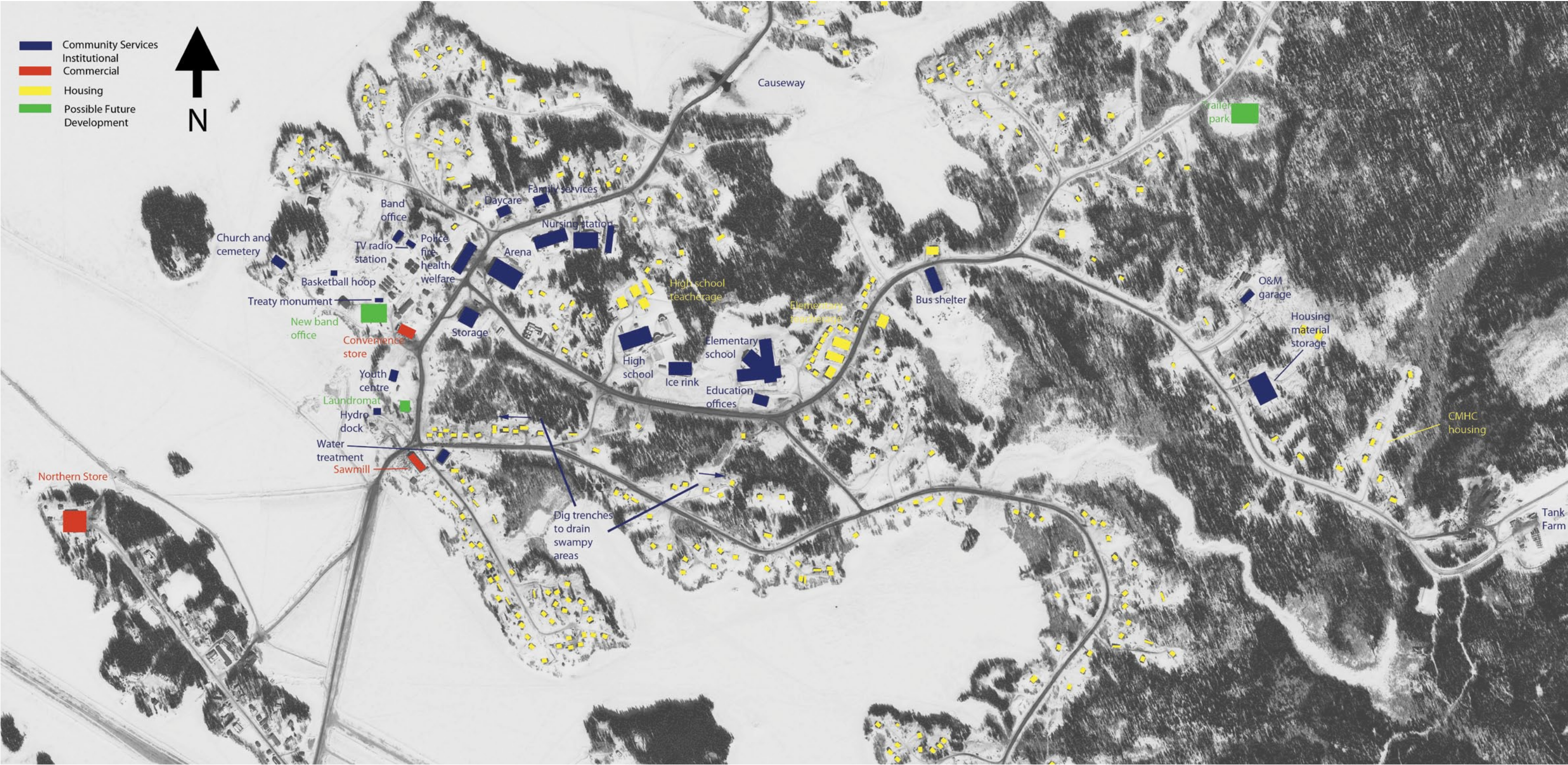
AREA MAP

The area map does not cover all of Garden Hill First Nation treaty land but shows the areas most settled by community members. The base map is from Google Earth and does not show the most updated development. Community members will need to verify the accuracy of the map labels that describe what community members told us through the various meetings. The photographs were taken in the winter so winter roads are visible.



CENTRAL MAP

The central map covers the main part of Garden Hill First Nation where the majority of services are located. The base map is from Google Earth and does not show the most updated development. Community members will also need to verify the map labels that describe what community members told us through the various meetings.



7.0 NEXT STEPS: A TENTATIVE TIMELINE

This is a tentative timeline that offers an idea of what is to come in the following months. For the next four months (January to April) Garden Hill's Community Planning Coordinator (Morris Knott) and the Student Planning Coordinator (Jonathan Hildebrand) will adjust and adapt the schedule based upon the needs and responses of the community.

The following pages provide some tasks and options and suggestions as to activities that can occur in Garden Hill.



The above image is taken from the Tsawout First Nation's 'Our Vision for Tomorrow' summary of their CCP process. It shows a very general timeline for CCP steps (from background research to the final plan). It also gives general dates for when community engagements will be held to gather community information or mark the completion of a certain stage.



January 2012

Project report to Chief & Council, presenting the report, the work that has been done, and any future plans.

Outline the roles and responsibilities for Planning Coordinator, Student Assistant, and Planning Team.

Have a formal meeting with the Community Planning Coordinator, the Planning Committee, and the Student Planning Assistant.

Monthly newsletter

February

Planning meeting with the Planning Coordinator, Student Assistant, and Planning Committee (to go over approaches to community engagement, the step-by-step CCP process, and CCP precedents from other First Nations).

Promote community awareness (television announcements)

Monthly newsletter

March

Planning meeting with the Planning Coordinator, Student Assistant, and Planning Committee (to go over approaches to community engagement, the step-by-step CCP process, and CCP precedents from other First Nations).

Promote community awareness (TV announcements)

Monthly newsletter

April

First community meeting to describe the project and process, and to get possible important areas to include in the plan.

May-August

If there is interest and momentum, the process of arriving at a vision statement can possibly start, through community meetings and engagements.

September 2012

Possible continued involvement with University of Manitoba students in the 2012 studio.

8.0 REFLECTIONS

As students who were new to the community at the beginning of this project, we recognize that planning is not necessarily new for Garden Hill First Nation. We also recognize that there are good processes and initiatives already underway in the community. It is not our intent to replace these, but rather to help build on them collaboratively with community members, to assist in strengthening the community and its plans and desires for the future.

In reflecting on the project so far, in terms of the work being done together by Garden Hill and the U of M students, it seems that the community planning process is collaborative. This collaboration obviously worked best when students and community members could physically be together to interact with one another. These personal interactions and relationships are in many ways the bedrock of good community planning – the sharing of stories and humour helps to build familiarity and trust with each other. The relationship-building and community planning discussions that have already taken place will be an important foundation for future work in the community and with the university.

In the coming months, it will be important to get people talking within the community, and get them excited about community planning. This has already begun, with a TV presentation in November by Morris Knott, Ivan Harper, and the U of M students. It will continue with a newsletter pamphlet being distributed, and with student Jonathan Hildebrand and Community Planning Coordinator Morris Knott continuing to work together to grow the community planning process in Garden Hill. The continued involvement of those community members who have been a part of the process so far will also be very important. In the future, community meetings will also be held to inform the wider community about what is going on, what community planning is, how they can become involved, and what their thoughts and priorities are for their community.

Image: Group photo of participants from the four First Nations, AMC and U of M December 6, 2011 in Winnipeg.



APPENDICES

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- APPENDIX E:** Funding Sources for Comprehensive Community Planning
- APPENDIX F:** Island Lake Freeze Thaw Records

APPENDIX A:

Summary Notes from Project Meetings and Community Visits

September 12th

SUMMARY NOTES FROM INITIAL VISIT

This is a brief summary of what occurred during U of M's first visit to Garden Hill. We were taken on a tour of the community to show us the health centre, police station, schools, Band Office, store, fuel tank farm and landfill among others.

- Met with band manager to discuss project potential
- Met with housing coordinator(s) to talk about where housing is, where it could go, and general land use issues surrounding residential development
- Participated in morning prayer

Presented brief overview of history of U of M Studio's to Chief & Council, as well as desire to collaborate with GHFN.

October 11th

SUMMARY NOTES FROM GARDEN HILL VISIT

This is a summary of what was heard during October 11th visit to Garden Hill. The majority of the below information was collected during an afternoon session with a group of community members.

What is important for Garden Hill?

- Housing
- Over 4000 people, overcrowding, reserve is really spread out, roads can be built, lots of space for housing, need long term planning, think about road
- 10-20 years in advance, if a road is built people will go there
- Bedrock along the shore
- Begin to understand a bit more about community needs once working within it
- Family lives around the main house on the land can become cramped
- Trailer parks not that good? Option for housing because the family wants to stay together
- Seasonal housing development- order in winter roads (Jan-March supplies must arrive)
- Gas comes in by air plane

About the Community/Community Information

- Vision, aspirations and building capacity
- Continually in transition economically and socially 3rd generation of people (grandfathers) that relocated from 10 miles from the old post when the churches and Europeans came
- Don't see the same concept we do in rural towns, less formal decision making in where things should go, because people were moving around based on hunting/trapping etc. because being stationary is a new idea
- Unitary church the only thing that hasn't moved probably due to the graveyard
- Concerns about high drop out rates in education, small % of people who have been able to have more education
- Decisions were made on the land earth, water but government system was changed and now adaptation has been needed
- "We have not mismanaged our community" or land
- It is the governments dictatorship that has caused this rift, (Indian Act)

- The funding that is received is the same as 20 years ago although prices and population has increased, so they are in a position due to isolation, costs are higher due to isolation
- They aspire to build capacity and vision but those are the barriers
- In seeking funding they are told they need to dig into their own pockets 50-60%
- Little earnings from industry itself
- Administration in 1968 to say they are formal council who can accept the money
- Traditional activities are less to support their families and becoming dependent on social services, mentality of some young people is that in a few years they will be able to access social service money so less motivation
- He has applied for \$ for people to think and build capacity, 1 week of every month, to review the funding agreement with Feds believing if they understand the term of \$, requirements and reporting, also to make linkages with private sector, how to attract investment into the community
- Before getting funding, you now to show that you have a community plan
- If council wants to get out of co-management of housing? You need to have people on staff to build capacity
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Assembly of First Nations too much bureaucracy? Chain around neck
- Intervention policy
- AMC Housing website (www.firstnationshousinginitiative.ca) - would be more interested in a website to market to Garden Hill to the outside housing authority to collect rent and capital under that model

Land Uses/What exists?/What goes where?/What could go where?/Anything else?

- Park space- gathering ground, annual healing gathering event (3-4 night), playground, field for sports and traditional activities with trees.
- On the south side off the map there is a beach (old gravel pit) and golfing (access driving or by boat)
- A community hall would be part of the new band office
- Existing stage area
- Duck and beaver hunting, south side, a bit swampy area, cleared the golf course area, hard to maintain, but good land
- Swampy area in central area, challenging when it rains- almost floods homes
- Planning to move the fish plant- look for an area to move it and saw mill, tank farm
- Rock crushing industry- ongoing major project to benefit all 4 communities, have the equipment – does it need to be mobile/adaptable? Machinery and material storage, parking
- Construction company needed
- Talk of regional hospital between GH and Wasagamack- if this is developed GH would provide the building materials for the hospital
- Can't just continue to cluster development – how to spread out
- Housing committee/council make the selection for who gets housing, challenge if the person wants to stay close to their family but options may be further away. Want to have a housing plan. Need to do an environmental assessment before building (looks at slope, foundation to build on) more clustered rather than teachers development – Housing Authority may help to address some of the housing related questions
- GH bought some trailers this year, wanted them to stay near water services
- If a housing corporation/authority is developed that develops bylaws, they are considering regulations
- Home ownership/rent in separate area not in family cluster; others see traditional family gathering developed with that (reminded me of farm homesteads being subdivided- Hanover)
- CMHC Section 695- when they write applications for housing, they wanted names of people who would be living in the units, CMHC built houses lined up but it wasn't appropriate in locations they wanted. Could it work better to line up names after- CMHC might think it is cheaper infrastructure wise to have them lined up?
- Maybe open to housing like the
- Too crowded in the core, like to live by the lake, move with family
- 99% chance that band council will say no to an land use map option just because they can, even with thought out rational, they may agree with recommendations but they do not allow it if one person will not commit

- To streamline at Chief and Council level – perhaps Consider the recommendations etc. and make a decision within 30 minutes and then move to next recommendation
- Need a community planning impact statement – housing authority established that would have power, sharing power, really positive statement so they can't say no

What makes you proud of Garden Hill?

- o Exclusiveness - its isolated. When you come home, you know your homw and it's the most beautiful place
- o Family ties in Garden Hill. The community is a big family.

The saw mill - the trainees see things differently when you look at them away from work- in their homes they are using skills learned at the saw mill to make their own things (toys, furniture), improve their homes, use their imaginations.

October 26th SUMMARY NOTES FROM AMC WORKSHOP IN WINNIPEG

Land Use Themes/Inventory

Priorities

- Community health (physical, spiritual, emotional and mental)
- Economic prosperity

Example of interconnections- Crushed rock industry relates to economic development, natural environment (extraction), roads, dust control/health, higher attendance at schools (easier transportation access), industrial activity.

Community Services

- Nursing station
- Nurses residence- housing
- Health resource centre
- Youth centre
- Family services
- Health offices
- Home care
- Day care
- Welfare office- social services
- Administration
- Band office
- Police station
- Fire hall

Housing Development

- Band housing
- CMHC housing
- Non-band housing
- Garden Hill Housing Authority
- Teacher housing
- Town houses
- Apartment buildings
- Trailer park
- Skate park/ playground

Manufacturing and Production (Commercial Activity)

- Gravel/ crushed rock
- Fish plant
- Sawmill

Health Related

- Buffer zone (environmental protection)
- Dust control

Natural Preservation Areas

- Open space
- Fishing areas
- Hunting areas
- Trap lines
- Picnic/camping/park areas
- Youth hangout spot
- Water activity area (separate areas for fishing and swimming)

Recreation

- Rink/arena
- Youth hangout spot
- Youth centre
- Golf course
- Playground

Public Safety

- Police station
- Fire hall

Waste Management

- Landfills
- Garbage piles
- Old cars

Public Works

- Road maintenance garage and storage
- Water treatment plant
- Sewer treatment
- Lagoon
- Bus shelter (school buses)
- Building material storage warehouse
- Sub station
- Tank farm (old and new)

Transportation

- Airport (not reserve land)
- Causeway (bridge btw. north and south sides)
- Roads (community, winter and all-weather (i.e. in the future)
- Marina
- Water taxis/boats

This is a summary from the November 3rd visit to Garden Hill. There are three main occurrences summarized below – an engagement session at the high school, a brief meeting with Chief & Council, and an afternoon community meeting. During this visit to Garden Hill there was also a television presentation by the U of M students for the community.

1. Morning session @ the Garden Hill High School 15 students (5 male, 10 female)

Principal, Cathy Monias

- Has worked in a range of locations, back in GH for a few years.
- School is the only one in the province using a 3 semester a year to assist with graduation rates and they are increasing since it was started
- 370 students enrolled

Questions & Answers with students

What don't you like about Garden Hill?

- Mud
- Stray dogs (mutts) get shot when there are too many
- Not being close to family (not sure what context this was in)
- People being mean

What do we need to know about Garden Hill?

- Stay away from stray dogs
- To get around town you drive a vehicle
- Mostly go home after school, not much to do
- No hang out spot in town but generally in the central area – don't hang out at the convenience store
- Many students didn't plan to stay in Garden Hill after they graduate

What would you want Garden Hill to be/have in the future?

- Functional outdoor basketball court
- Places to eat (like a food court at a mall)
- Parks to play sports
- Smooth roads
- Lakes are too polluted so they don't swim

2. Late morning session @ Chief & Council Chambers

Summary of talk with councilors in attendance

- Tommy Little is the Treaty Lands Coordinator
- GH needs an old folks home
- Housing challenges due to shifting foundations, CMHC housing doesn't last 10 years these days, there are a few examples of appropriate housing that has lasted 30 years in town
- It would be good to test different foundation options on different ground types before they invest in more housing. CMHC housing also have highest hydro bills
- New cemetery land without bedrock, 3 locations proposed already
- Idea to have a GH air strip/airline near golf course
- There is a toboggan slide near the golf course in the winter

- Kids need to be more physically active, less video games and tv
- There is a ball field (baseball?)
- Concerns about tank farm contamination
- Concerns about mining and reduced fish populations
- One councilor used Buffalo Point example as good economic development
- Concerns about the 2 year political cycle in efforts of getting a long term plan and actions implemented
- Need for different options for water and sewer as it isn't being done properly in the south end, waterline is not appropriate due to bedrock, mentioned Flin Flon using above ground insulated pipes
- They have drilled a few wells recently (successful?)
- There are meetings with the University of the North and Robertson to see if Garden Hill can have its own program in town

3. Afternoon Session @ Police Station Board Room

Approximately 10 Attendees – some gave brief introductions

- (Elder) – 76 years old, only speaks oji-cree but understands english – likes to attend meetings like this as feels kids are troubled these days, never went to formal school, parents taught wilderness skills, When younger was always out on traditional lands, checked traps with dad, processes moose hides into mukluks, moccasins, gloves from hides she prepares herself. Used to use Clan system)which meant that parents chose who she would marry).
- (Youth)– member of youth council
- (Elder) - elder for police and child/family services, justice, has 30 years experience in government working in electrical, plumbing, power engineering, has accountant training. Was 10 years old when pulled off trap lines to go to residential school but got out in 1963. Has knowledge on traditional medicines and there need to be more teachers of traditional knowledge that can't be learned from institutions (e.g. smoking fish etc.)
- (Councilor) - will be working with Planning Initiative (on behalf of Chief & Council). Interests in self governance, has the winter road portfolio and is assigned to work with the planning committee. He also mentors a Youth Council member

General Comments

- Need to decolonize the community and teach the reasons for why the residential schools were brought in (not ignore it)
- U of M has been to the community in the past – recalls one time when they came in and wanted to document medicinal plants (type and where they were) to develop this into a class – community said no – this is traditional knowledge – not something to be westernized and sold
- Important to have a traditional area (conservation area)
- There is lots of gold under GH trap lines areas (which outsiders want) but are not welcomed by residents
- There were petitions signed to support a trap line/fishing preservation area near Benson Lake where a new reserve is proposed, there is a monument honouring people who have died there
- Incorporate justice as part of this planning exercise
 - o Wants to have something run by the band to deal with crime instead of sending community members to prison (2/10 go to prison at some point) like a sentencing circle
 - o Wants to incorporate this into the existing aboriginal policing on site
- Wish List for maps of all of the island lake area and treaty lands area

Talked about the big maps on the table (aerial overview map of GHFN)

- Blasting for the road got rid of the area where blueberries grow
- Future residential development will require a road
- Future saw mill development area – harvest then build sawmill on that site
- Rocky and muskeg areas – can't build on (the gold is underneath this)
- Housing development needs to be focused outside of the existing built up area
- Multiple quarry sites
- Contaminated soil sites- have killed a nearby lake
- The road to the garbage dump is the reason people don't go – it's an awful road
- Fuel tanks are near an existing contaminated site
- Put new site where water doesn't flow thru it (to decrease contamination chances for the future)
- Was mentioned that power only came about 10 years ago (prior to that they had diesel generators)
- "you have to plan the future, if you don't have a vision you are going to be lost somewhere"
- "If you don't have a plan you are going to be lost somewhere"
- Need to prepare for tourism when the all weather road is established. It is welcomed by the community but they need a plan to deal with it.
- Cottages could be built/rented to other Manitobans
- Island Lake in Oji-Cree is phonetically pus-goo-nash-ink
- Oji-Cree to English translation happens in high school
- Used to be 6 or 7 planes and many other resources but a chief and council bankrupted leading to current co-management
- \$1 million in payroll is currently paid out in community
- Lots of talented hockey players but they don't get out of the community
- 11-12 hours to drive to Winnipeg on good winter road conditions (18hrs if not good)
- 4hrs to Norway House and another 2.5hrs to get to Thompson

Cognitive Mapping Exercise

Map 1

- Highlighted existing nurses station, police station, convenience store, fish plant, hydro dock, gas tanks, panty lake, keno town, where rummage sales occur
- Her dad was chief and would tell the children what to expect in the future (and he was often correct)

Map 2

- There are social issues in GHFN – it seems like the community gets more than their fair share of them
- Before (when a kid- no electricity, vehicles (dog teams instead) spare time was occupied (by chores), it was something you wanted to have
- In summer you had spare time – had baseball/soccer – now kids have tv and play video games – that's what everyone does and it has changed relationships with people
- Education at home and school is seen as less important
- Thinks people don't see institutionalized education important as it is
- No one fishes – need traditional activities re-established thru programming, no on-shore fishing anymore
- Need to all participate together – not just certain people
- Need a safe place to fish off shore (traditional ground)
- Need recreation programs, sports area with seating
- Need bowling alley (winter activities), indoor roller skating rink, baseball, traditional campground with space for story telling of legends as it is becoming a lost art

Map 3

- Played hockey and baseball growing up (prior 1980s) against the other nations of Island Lake (would arrive by float planes to play)
- Prescription drugs an issue in GHFN and gangsterism
- Speaks to housing crisis
- All weather road – if we don't plan – cottages will arrive on traditional hunting/trapping grounds – the people won't want hunting around and there will be further displacement
- Highlights an area for future housing growth
- Says we need more options (bungalow – small, 1 bedroom for older generation to live near family where help is available) townhouses were also fine
- Need to have better foundations – to investigate how (ground shifting wrecks the current CMCH style housing)
- Wants to bring in rules for housing – and how to take care of a house maintenance training

Map 4

- Focused on roads – future residential development will require new roads
- Overcrowding of housing is an issue
- Use the rest of the reserve land (spread out a little)
- How did people live 50 years ago – share this with the whole community)
- Mentions a traditional village area (for traditional continuation and tourism)

We need to plan into the future – his plan is long term (see on back of his map included housing, health, recreation, education, youth, elders and other categories)

Economic development conversation (informal we wouldn't know about/see)

- Used to have lots of soapstone carving
- Moccasin/glove making (from moose hide), snowshoes, tickanageng (baby backpack/cradle) are made informally in the community
- Looking into the process of establishing an economic development corporation
- “there is so much out there for us to have – if we can develop part of it, the other will come”
- Used to have airline in GH
- Wants the recreation director to incorporate into a non-profit (results in funding and ability to get supplies for kids) – but before doing this need to understand the dangers of incorporation
- Want out of co-management
- They need mechanics
- “self discipline in office to make self progressive”
- Need to have/follow regulations (motion, resolution, implementation) and have discipline toward self governance
- Band/chief/council must start from scratch because there are no policy guidelines
- There is uncertainty on what leadership model the Chief is using so it is difficult to do their work, no clear answer from him.
- A lot of community members don't know the councilor process/ responsibilities and they need to be educated on why projects are being done.
- Need to educate the people on: how chief and council works, on how planning works, need to motivate the people. 1st week in January there is a workshop on self-governance
- They are impressed by our (U of M) approach as we are to help, not take
- Bill C31(sec 1, sec 2), INAC cutting off 2nd generation treaty rights, sees this as breaking of clan system
- Winter roads – lack of education – bring it in
- Urban circle training centre

APPENDIX B:

Outline and Description of PhotoVoice Activity

Information Gathering through Photography: Land Use Mapping of Garden Hill

Garden Hill First Nation, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the University of Manitoba City Planning students are working together on a community driven project of how land is used in Garden Hill. When students visit Garden Hill to speak with the planning committee, we hope to discuss your ideas/plans for this ongoing project. One way to discuss how land is currently used, what works well, what doesn't and think about how it could be used in the future is a process called Photovoice. The students suggest that you take photographs of places around the community that have special importance for you.

Thank you and we look forward to meeting with you!

Garden Hill Representatives: Gerry Hastings, Abraham Harper, and Mallick Loonfoot
City Planning Students: Jonathan Hildebrand, Jill Collinson and Laura Rempel

Why PhotoVoice?

- Community members can record, reflect and discuss community land use through photography. This is an important part of planning for the future.
- Priority areas addressed in the photographs and discussions will guide the project

What to Do?

- Use the camera provided; take photos of your community based on the questions below and bring to the engagement session on TUESDAY OCTOBER 11th at the Band Office.
- Think about where you take pictures and why you took them.

How photos will be used?

The photos you take will be used for activities in the community encounter on October 11-12, 2011 in Garden Hill. We will ask your permission for any other use.

Here are some ideas about things to photograph:

1. Take a photo of yourself so we can link your photographs with the photographer
2. What makes you proud about your community?
3. What do you like about your community?
4. What don't you like about your community?
5. What represents Garden Hill?
6. Provide an example of a place in your community
7. A location in Garden Hill you would like to live.
8. A location in Garden Hill you would prefer not to live.
9. Take a photo of an industrial use in town.
10. Where is a good location for industrial activity?
11. What is the most important building in Garden Hill?
12. What building is well used by community members?
13. Take a picture of a business in Garden Hill.
14. Take a picture of a place that is culturally important.
15. A place you think should be conserved for environmental reasons.
16. A place that should not be developed.
17. Take a photo of anything you think is important that we have missed

Additional Questions to Consider

General GH community questions

What are things you like most about your community?

What makes it a good place to live?

What could make it a better place to live?

Service based questions

What services are available in town?

How important are these services to you?

How could they be altered to better suit your needs?

Community based space

What are important community places? And what makes these important?

Are there important spiritual places?

Important environmental/natural places?

Important cultural places?

Natural resource / conservation areas?

Land use directed questions

How would you like to see land used?

What is the role of land in the community?

What are land use priorities?

Future potential

If you had to 'reorganize' your town, what would you relocate first? Why?

What should stay the same re: land use? (ie preserved)

What should be changed re: land use? (or removed)

If you had to add one asset to your town, what would it be the greatest priority?

Remote focused questions

As Garden Hill is considered to be a remote community, how do you think this affects the community?

What do you feel makes this a 'remote' community'?

November 3, 2011

Mapping exercise: Identify existing structures and locate them on map

1. Discuss precedents for land use categories, or typical designations
2. Categorize the existing structures and locations into land uses.
3. What are future land uses, where would they be located on the map?
4. What resources currently exist that can help maintain and develop a land use plan?

APPENDIX C:

CCP Project Update Provided to Garden Hill

Comprehensive Community Planning Workshop Update Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs & University of Manitoba

October 25/26, 2011 Winnipeg, MB

Earlier this year the Department of City Planning and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) began to establish a knowledge exchange in community planning and development. This planning project began September 2011 and will continue into 2012.

The three students working with Garden Hill are Jonathan Hildebrand, Laura Rempel, and Jill Collinson. Early in September Jonathan, accompanied by University of Manitoba Professor Ian Skelton, visited Garden Hill to meet Chief and Council. In mid October the three students (Jon, Laura, Jill) visited Garden Hill. During the morning of this visit Gerry Hastings toured them around the community including visits to the fish plant, saw mill, school sites, and health centre. The afternoon consisted of mapping exercises and discussing land uses with three community members – Gerry, Mallick Loonfoot and Abraham Harper.

During the third week of October a Community Planning Coordinator (Morris Knott) was hired to assist the students with ongoing planning work in Garden Hill. Late October saw Morris, Gerry, Mallick and Abraham attend a Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) conference, put on by AMC and U of M.

The CCP conference was held October 25 and 26 in Winnipeg. The morning of October 25th was filled with introductions. Opening remarks were given by AMC Grand Chief Nepinak with the U of M's Garry Robson offering the morning prayer. On behalf of AMC, Darcy Wood and Brian Sauliner provided a background to the conference. Professor Ian Skelton spoke about U of M's role and development in Indigenous Planning. A representative from Peguis First Nation summarized Peguis' work creating a CCP document. U of M students introduced

Comprehensive Community Planning and provided an overview of projects. The afternoon included guest speakers from the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), consultants Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram as well as the International Institute for Sustainable Development. October 26th provided time for breakout sessions with the community.

During the Wednesday 26th session time, Garden Hill representatives and students built on the mapping exercise they had begun earlier in October. Prior, a land use inventory of what exists had been collected. Garden Hill representatives categorized the inventory into groups to help guide upcoming conversations around future land use. This time was also spent talking about the Community Planning Coordinator's role with U of M, with Chief and Council, and with the Community. Plans were also made for an upcoming visit (November 3rd, 2011). AMC mentioned that another workshop is being planned for the end of November to continue the conversations. If there are any ideas from communities on what would be useful to include in the workshops please let Brian or Darcy at AMC know.



APPENDIX D: Community CCP Overview Pamphlet



Who's involved?

YOU

All Garden Hill residents are encouraged to get involved with the Community Planning Project.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA (U OF M)

Students from U of M are working in partnership with the Garden Hill community planning coordinator and planning team.

www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/architecture/programs/cityplanning/

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS (AMC)

AMC has created a website to provide an information sharing platform. It can be found at: www.firstnationshousinginitiative.ca

Garden Hill Community Planning Coordinator

MORRIS KNOTT
456-9320

Garden Hill Community Planning Project



Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP)

What is CCP?

A holistic approach to planning in which the planning process is community driven.

Why are the benefits of CCP?

- Allows community to shape its own future and implement projects to help realize that future
- Economic development & funding opportunities
- Increase self reliance



What has been done (so far) in Garden Hill?

September to December 2011

Earlier this year AMC put a call of interest out for communities wishing to participate in a community planning pilot project – Garden Hill responded. Since September 2011 three University of Manitoba students and a group of Garden Hill community members have been discussing community planning matters including; land use, economic development, housing and comprehensive community planning.

The U of M students have visited Garden Hill repeatedly and engaged with students at Garden Hill High School, Chief & Council, and the general community – including some Elders.

The Garden Hill Community Planning project is just beginning! In the coming months there will be opportunities for ALL community members to get involved. Watch out for updates regularly broadcasted on the local television channel!

APPENDIX E:

Funding Sources for Comprehensive Community Planning

Internal AANDC Funding:

FIRST NATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (FNIF)

From AADNC website: “The FNIF is intended to assist First Nations to improve and increase public infrastructure on reserves, Crown Land, land set aside for the use and benefit of a First Nation, or off-reserve in the case of cost-shared projects with non-First Nation partners such as neighbouring municipalities. There are five funding categories eligible for funding under the program:”

1. Planning and Skills Development
2. Solid Waste Management
3. Roads and Bridges
4. Energy Systems
5. Connectivity

Funding is available for “Comprehensive Community Planning,” since it falls under the category of “Planning and Skills Development.” Among other criteria, CCP applications must:

- provide for a long-term commitment to planning and/or capacity building, and specify how capacity will be retained once developed through the CCP project.
- show how the CCP will take a holistic comprehensive approach to planning (including areas such as social, economic, environmental, cultural, and other community aspects).
- give details as to how the planning process and community engagement will be supported and maintained, and outline the roles and responsibilities of all those involved.

For more information, visit: www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100010656

PROFESSIONAL & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (P&ID)

The P&ID Program funds governance capacity development projects at both the community and institutional level. These include activities that develop the capacity of communities to perform ten core functions of governance:

- Leadership
- Membership
- Law-making
- Community Involvement
- External Relations
- Planning and Risk Management
- Financial Management
- Human Resources Management
- Information Management
- Basic Administration

Since many of these areas – such as community involvement, planning and risk management, and human resources management – relate to CCP, funding could be applied for to help with CCP processes.

For more information, visit www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013815

APPENDIX F:

Island Lake Freeze and Thaw Records

Records of freeze and thaw patterns were collected at Rick's Lodge on Wass Island. U of M students took photos of the records and Andrew Smith from Dalhousie University, who participated in the Trash Talk project in Garden Hill, took the dates and put them into a graph.

FREEZE UPS

1980.

| | | |
|----|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 80 | NOV. 10/80 | FROZEN W/COMMUNITY WALKING HYDRO TO MIKISEW |
| 81 | NOV. 20/81 | FROZEN W/COMMUNITY PEOPLE WALKING TO STEVENSON ISL. |
| 82 | NOV. 17/82 | WALKING HYDRO DOCK TO THE BAY |
| 83 | NOV. 30/83 | WALKING BAND DOCK TO H.B.C. STILL SOME OPEN WATER |
| 84 | NOV. 10/84 | FROZEN W/COMMUNITY WALKING LUKE HARPERS GOVT DOCK |
| 85 | NOV. 18/85 | FROZEN W/COMMUNITY SNOW MACHINES MONIA PT. - GOVT DOCK |
| 86 | NOV. 10/86 | WALKING BAND DOCK TO THE BAY SOME OPEN WATER |
| 87 | NOV. 20/87 | FROZEN W/COMMUNITY WALKING TO THE BAY. |
| 88 | NOV. 21/88 | WALKING RESERVE TO THE BAY FROZEN ALL OVER. |
| 89 | NOV. 15/89 | FROZEN ALL OVER WALKING G.H.S. DOCK TO THE BAY. |

Total Freeze-over Days
Garden Hill First Nation / Stevenson Island Crossing

