



2023 MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Being a member of Creekside Community Gardens means agreeing to the following guidelines:

1. Garden Membership

- a) I will pay the **non-refundable** annual membership fee by **February 1st** of each year. Membership fees will be \$40/year for the larger plots, or \$20/ year for all other plots (include half plots).
- b) I will be the primary gardener of my plot throughout the garden season. If I will be away for part of the growing season or summer, or if I am unable to garden for any other reason I will find someone to tend to my plot while I am away.
- c) I will advise the Membership Coordinator if I cannot keep one or more of the commitments in these guidelines, or if I choose to terminate my garden membership. (Note: Membership fees are non-refundable.)
- d) I will advise the Membership Coordinator of any change of address, email address or phone numbers so that I can be contacted regarding garden clean-up parties or other garden business. I understand that if I do not advise the Membership Coordinator of any changes and cannot be contacted, I will lose my garden privileges and my plot will be reassigned.

2. Garden Maintenance

- a) I will use only organic gardening practices in my plot. This means I will not use any chemical fertilizers or pesticides in the garden.
- b) I will have dug over and cleaned my garden by April 15th at the latest and started planting by May 15th. Should planting not be completed by this day, the plot will be considered abandoned and assigned to a new gardener. **Fees are non-refundable.**
- c) I will keep the garden planted and weeded throughout the garden season. Garden cuttings and trimmings will not be placed on paths or in common areas but will be recycled in a timely fashion.
- d) I will plant/maintain and weed the areas immediately surrounding my plot.
- e) I will maintain the steel structure of my plot and will participate in cleaning it up should it happen to be vandalized.
- f) I will not use treated or other potentially toxic materials in or around my garden plot.
- g) Trellis supports in excess of 2 feet must be approved by plot neighbors.
- h) I will “winterize” my garden within 2 weeks after the first frost of each year. Winterizing your garden includes the following: Removing annuals, weeding, deadheading/cutting back perennials and general cleanup of your plot if you do not plan to garden over the winter season from November –March.
- i) I understand that I can plant any non-invasive plant as long as they do not obscure or interfere with other plots in the garden.
- j) Invasive plants (i.e. Mint/oregano) must be planted in a pot within my plot.
- k) I understand that extra pots are not permitted on the ground surrounding a personal plot due to accessibility requirements.
- l) I will harvest produce in a timely manner to avoid food waste and attracting pests/rodents.
- m) I will not compost within my plot to avoid attracting pests/rodents.

3. Being a Part of the Community

- a) I understand that as a gardener, it is *EVERYONE*'s responsibility to pick up garbage in the garden and dispose of it in the city bins on the North and South side of the garden. If garbage is too large to dispose of in the bins, please report it to the city for pickup by either:

- Calling: 311
 - Visiting: <https://van311.ca/services/illegal-dumping2>
 - Via the VanConnect App
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- b) I will be assigned a perimeter or community plot and will be responsible for watering, weeding, dead-heading and garbage pickup around this plot.
 - c) If I am a gardener adjacent to large round barrel planter, I am responsible for also watering, weeding, deadheading and garbage pickup around these planter pots.
 - d) If I choose to use the communal compost bin I will not add weeds, diseased plants, rocks, or any non-organic materials (e.g. plastic) in the compost. These items will be disposed of in the city garbage bins.
 - e) If I use any of the community gardening tools, I will clean and return tools to the tool shed after use. The toolshed is located in P1 under the Creekside Community Recreation Center. A code will be provided to gardeners to access the shed.
 - f) I will participate in a minimum of **4 garden cleanup parties** throughout the gardening season or the equivalent of **8 hours**. If I cannot meet this requirement, I will arrange make-up work with the Garden Coordinators.
 - g) If I am unable to contribute a minimum of 8 hours of Garden Work during the year, my membership in the garden will be revoked and my plot will be reassigned.
 - h) I will not engage in abusive or disrespectful behavior toward any member of the garden or the general public.