

City of Surrey Community Garden Guidelines

All members of community gardens on City land should be familiar with the following guidelines. It is recommended the guidelines be incorporated into the society's governing constitution.

Garden Design and Construction:

- A garden site plan must be approved by City staff
- All gardens shall include provisions for accessibility for seniors and/or disabled persons as well as fully accessible paths
- The City will construct the garden beds, supply the first year's soil, and provide other amenities as agreed upon by the City of Surrey and the community garden group
- Signage must be approved by the City of Surrey

Plot Maintenance:

- Plot holders are responsible for the maintenance and weeding of plots and surrounding pathways at all times
- Plots must be tidied and prepared for winter, preferably by mulching, planting cover crops, and/or planting winter crops
- Volunteer hours, upkeep and maintenance are to be coordinated by the non-profit group managing the City land
- Small gardening structures such as trellises and cloches are allowed if they do not encroach upon paths, community spaces, or neighbouring plots
- Plants must be kept within one's own plot boundaries
- Taking things from garden plots other than one's own plot is considered theft

Membership:

- Garden plot membership is to be made available on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to residents of Surrey, and those that do not already have a garden plot
- Garden plot membership must be open to any resident of Surrey with preference given to residents of the neighbourhood in which the garden is located
- Membership lists should be updated and submitted annually to the City
- Membership fees charged by the non-profit must be reported to the City on an annual basis

Irrigation:

- The City will provide a water source/spigot for each community garden
- Garden members must be present while watering their plots
- Water is a limited resource, and should be used sparingly. Where feasible, gardeners are encouraged to collect and use rainwater for irrigation

Compost Bins and Refuse:

- Weeds will be disposed of in designated compost areas only
- Food waste from outside of the garden cannot be brought into the community garden site for composting, in order to avoid rodent problems
- Garbage should not be left on site at any time

Pesticides/Toxins

- Gardeners should follow organic growing practices, and may not use chemical fertilizers or pesticides in the garden, including animal poisons
- Treated wood or railroad timbers may not be used

Hours of Operation:

- The garden is to be open from dawn to dusk, seven days per week
- Locked barriers preventing public access to the site is not permitted, unless previously approved by the City

Pets:

- No pets, with the exception of visual aid dogs, are allowed in the community garden site at any time

Parking:

- No vehicles are permitted access within the community garden site, with the exception of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and City service vehicles

Dispute Resolution:

- All complaints must first be presented to the governing non-profit group leasing the City land

In addition to the above guidelines, community gardens are expected to be in compliance with City of Surrey by-laws and all senior government laws and regulations. Plot holders identified as non-complying to the above guidelines will be notified in writing and have a 30 day grace period to bring their plot up to standard.