

Mooney's Bay Community Gardens

General Practices and Policies

Member Roles and Responsibilities

- All gardeners commit to using only organic gardening practices in their plot. For information on how to do so, please see justfood.ca/cgnresources;
- No seed, plant, tree or shrub may be sold for profit;
- Cannabis is not allowed to be grown in any community garden due to gardens being on public land, the risk of vandalism and for the safety for all gardeners;
- Fall cleanup: please remove all plant matter, vegetables, netting, supports etc. by the first week of November.
- Spring weeding: once you have been assigned your plot, please ensure it is weeded by May 31st and planted by June 8th. Beds not planted by June 8th will be reassigned. (later for 2020)

Garden Maintenance Expectations

- Keep your plot and the adjoining pathways tended. If you plan to discontinue use of your space, please let the Gardening Committee know as soon as possible so that your plot can be re-assigned.
- Pick up litter when you see it.
- Trash must be removed from the garden site with each visit. There will not be garbage facilities on site. Trash must be disposed of at your residence.
- Plant tall plants and vines in places where they will not interfere with your neighbor's plot.
- Do not use materials containing ecological contaminants such as painted or pressure treated wood.
- Please put weeds and dead plants into the compost bin provided. Any diseased plants or seedy or invasive weeds are to be bagged and put in the trash so as not to contaminate the gardens.
- Do not apply anything to or pick anything from another person's plot without their approval.
- Please do not leave the water on, unattended. When finished gardening for the day, please roll up the hose at the faucet area.
- Arrange for a friend or garden neighbour to tend your plot while you are away. Contact gardening@riversidepark.ca if you need help finding someone to do this.

Conditions:

- You must maintain a relatively weed free garden bed. Beds that look visibly neglected (as determined by the Gardening Committee) will be given 10 days to clean it up, after which time it could be reassigned to another garden applicant;
- You must harvest your produce. Rotting produce attracts pests. You will be contacted by phone or email, if no reply, we will harvest the produce for donation;
- Failure to clean your garden bed in the fall will result in the loss of your place for the following season. You will have to reapply and join the waiting list;
- If you have not fulfilled your volunteer commitments, you will not be eligible to renew your garden membership for the next season. You will have to reapply and join the waiting list;
- If a gardener experiences any conflict or challenges, and the garden resolution process has not resolved the issue, there is an option to contact communitygardening@justfood.ca for support.

General Operating Guidelines 2020

- To become a member, applicants must live in Riverside Park;
- Membership is \$15.00 for the 2020 season, due upon signing the gardening agreement;
- Membership applications for new and returning members opens February 1st, 2021. Returning members will get priority;
- If awarded a plot, it must be planted by (July 4th 2020);
- Only one plot is permitted per household;
- If there is a non-member who is interested in volunteering with the garden, no formal application is necessary. The interested individual can consult with the Gardening Committee regarding their involvement;
- Garden beds that are not planted by July 4th are forfeited and will be tended by volunteers for donation;
- Abandoned plots (no tending for 2 weeks, no arrangements made) will be donated to the local food supply;
- Smoking and chewing tobacco is not allowed;
- Pets, drugs (including alcohol), and fires are not allowed;
- Please supervise children in the garden;
- For your safety, only garden during daylight hours. Consider gardening in pairs or keeping a cell phone nearby if it makes you feel more comfortable;
- Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to the Gardening Committee (garden@riversidepark.ca);
- To join the Just Food and/or the Community Gardening Network newsletters, please sign up here: justfood.nationbuilder.ca/newsletter_signup.

Procedures for Decision Making and Financial Leadership

- Decision making will be undertaken by the Garden Coordinators, headed by the Chair of the Gardening Committee of the Riverside Park Community Association (RPCA);
- Garden meetings will be hosted at least once a year, in the spring;
- Gardeners and community members are invited, at any time, to volunteer to join the executive in an advisory role;
- Financial decisions will be made by the Garden Coordinators and subject to the approval of the Board of the RPCA.

Procedures for Conflict Resolution

Garden members are asked to contact the Coordinators with garden conflicts: garden@riversidepark.ca. There are four Garden Coordinators available to oversee issues arising from garden disputes.

In relation to conflict in the community garden, the Coordinators agree to the following:

- To act neutrally in any dispute and support everyone to come to a fair resolution.
- To identify if you have a conflict of interest or are a part of the conflict and if so, to ensure another coordinator can take on a supporting role to that conflict.
- To work to resolve any disputes within the garden with a community development approach, meaning using language and actions that support inclusivity, de-escalation, and balancing needs of gardeners, the garden and where relevant, the broader network.
- Some suggestions include:
 - Using active listening techniques, re-stating key issues back to confirm needs/concerns are understood.
 - Evaluate the conflict to see if any accessibility or supports are needed – is interpretation needed for language barriers? Are accommodations needed to be made to support individual abilities, schedules, etc?
- To bring any disputes in a community garden group that cannot be resolved internally to the CGN Coordinator in a timely manner so Just Food can facilitate mediation.

Procedures for Plot Allocation

- Garden beds are available to residents of Riverside Park with preference given to those living in the immediate neighbourhood, and to those with no garden plots elsewhere.
- Each year, priority will be given first to gardeners in good standing from the previous season.
- A waitlist will be maintained year over year. Once applicants from the waitlist have been contacted (telephone and email), they will have 2 weeks to confirm their spot after which point, it will be given to the next person on the waitlist.

Adapted from: Brewer Park Community Garden: www.brewerparkcommunitygarden.com
http://www.foodsecuritynews.com/Publications/Community_Garden_Best_Practices_Toolkit.pdf