

St George's Parish Community Garden Rules and Guidelines

A community garden is a shared green space maintained by community garden members to grow food, flowers, and other plants. This provides opportunities for local residents to grow food, meet new friends, share knowledge, and build community.

Becoming a Member

1. Membership is open to parishioners, age 15 or over, both with and without vegetable beds, who are interested in contributing to the well-being of the Parish Community Gardens and in strengthening our community.
2. Membership fees (currently \$10 per family) are to be renewed annually. Membership is a requirement for anyone renting a bed.

Renting a Vegetable Bed

3. Registration date is February 1 each year, with preference being given to those who gardened the previous year. Non-parishioners are also welcome to rent a bed upon invitation.
4. Some beds are designed to accommodate the needs of people with mobility challenges. Effort is made to match renters to the plots they need.
5. Rental fees are payable annually and are based on the square footage of the bed rented (currently \$0.85 per square foot). Note that assistance with rental fees may be offered to applicants expressing such a need.
6. There is a limit of one bed per person, although beds can be shared. After May 1 any remaining beds, or where annual subscriptions are unpaid, will be assigned without this restriction.
7. Upon written request, rented beds must be peacefully surrendered back to the Parish or Diocese, without complaint.

Maintaining the Garden

8. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their rented bed. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other related maintenance for that bed are the responsibility of the gardener. Gardeners may arrange for other Members to water or tend their beds.
9. A wheelbarrow and a limited number of tools, hoses and watering equipment will be available to Members when funds permit. These must be returned to the storage area after use.
10. The garden area is open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week. The access gate must be kept locked when the area is unoccupied (only Members will be given the access code).

11. All Members are expected to volunteer their time for general maintenance and to keep the garden site looking good.
12. Gardeners should use only non-synthetic organic pesticides, fungicides and herbicides and should avoid GMO plants or seeds. (Slug bait containing ferrous phosphate is acceptable when necessary).
13. Insect and weed infestations must be dealt with as quickly as possible to prevent spread to other beds.
14. Cultivation must be done using hand tools, with possible exceptions for installations in common areas.
15. Fencing, trellis or staking - preferably wood or metal - is allowed for the purpose of supporting or protecting plants. They must not exceed 6 feet (1.8 meters) in height above the rim of the bed. The use of such structures must take into account the needs (including light) of plants in surrounding garden beds. Please note some beds are more appropriate than others for trellises.
16. Gardeners may harvest vegetables from their beds only. All Members are welcome to tend and harvest from the communal beds.
17. Crops must be harvested when they are mature. If you feel you cannot use all of them, there are many community opportunities to use extra vegetables. Please let the Garden co-ordinator know if you have more than you can use.

Composting

18. Compost bins are provided, one for fresh material and the others for maturing.
19. Only healthy organic matter may be added to the compost bins. Cut or shred organic material into 15 cm (6") pieces. Longer pieces can make turning difficult.
20. No weed seeds, bulbs, corms or woody material may be added to compost. Disposing of old stalks, stiff material or other organics that won't break down easily? Please use the provided grey plastic can. This will be emptied regularly at the municipal yard.
21. The lids to the compost bin roofs must always be closed, except when adding material or for servicing. Members must discourage vermin from nesting in the compost bins.

General

22. Family members are welcome to the garden site. Please supervise children at all times.
23. Dogs, except on a leash, are not allowed. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up and removing excrement from the gardens. Please be respectful of other people's potential fear of dogs.

24. If theft or vandalism occurs notify the Garden co-ordinator/committee immediately. Help to discourage losses by questioning unfamiliar faces.
25. Unattended watering is not permitted. Please keep the applied water close to the ground to avoid spraying other beds, and to save on water use.
26. Please notify the Garden co-ordinator /committee member of any leaks in the water line. Please **make sure all faucets are off** when you leave the garden and keep hoses neatly rolled up by the water risers.
27. Garbage services are not available at the gardens. Please remove any such items when leaving the site.
28. Please park only in the prescribed areas.
29. If you are the last person leaving the gardens please ensure the gate is padlocked.
30. In order to prevent the spread of invasive plants within the garden, a list of plants not to be grown in the garden is available upon request.
31. While every effort will be made to protect plantings from deer and rabbits, this cannot be guaranteed.
32. There are no restroom facilities provided for Members although by request, access may be given for use of the Church's Office restroom during office hours (Tues - Fri: 8.30 - noon and 1pm - 4pm). Please remove outdoor footwear when entering the office building.
33. Produce from the garden may not be sold directly, however donating of produce to Church and Community (e.g. Rainbow Kitchen) is encouraged.
34. Renters of beds that have not been planted, are weedy, or do not meet the guidelines, will be notified. Failure to act may result in the forfeiture of the bed and donation of any vegetables to the community.
35. Please note the Parish Community Garden is on consecrated land and all those who use or visit the gardens are requested to respect this at all times.
36. St. George's Church is not responsible for loss or damage to plants, crops, structures, tools or personal property within the garden site nor is it liable for injuries sustained while participating in Community Garden related activities.
37. A Garden Committee may be established in due course.

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Parish Community Garden Co-ordinator contact: garden@stgeorgecadborobay.ca