

GARDENERS' WELCOME PACKET
Victoria Street Community Garden 2017

Welcome to the Victoria Street Community Garden. This Welcome Packet contains important information about how our garden operates and whom to contact with questions. It also contains information about how you can get involved to make the garden run smoothly and efficiently. Because community gardening requires a fair amount of work beyond tending to your plot, every gardener is asked to participate to the best of his or her ability in the management and upkeep of the entire garden.

SCV COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

- All gardeners are required to complete an application form. A plot fee of \$10 per plot and a membership fee of \$10 are due by May 31.
- Work parties may be scheduled several times during the season. Please plan to attend and get to know your fellow gardeners and help with garden upkeep.
- There is **no use of chemical pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers** on any garden bed.
- There is a limit of two (2) beds per household (unless there are extra beds left).
- Be considerate of your neighbours. Do not plant sprawling or tall crops that might interfere with other plots.
- Don't weed other beds without permission.
- **Gardeners are responsible for weeding pathways surrounding their garden plot. Don't leave weeds on path but place in garbage bag beside shed.**
- If you plan to discontinue use of your plot for any reason, please notify the registration person (Carol Thiessen - 466-0994) so the plot can be reassigned.
- If plot becomes neglected, you will be given 2 weeks' notice to clean it up. After that time, it may be reassigned or tilled if you have not responded.
- Keep trash out of the plot, and respect neighboring plots. Please take trash and litter and discard in any waste containers.
- Do not allow pets to roam through the garden.
- Do not plant illegal or poisonous plants.
- Children may not play unattended in the community gardens.
- Harvest only from your assigned plot.
- Consider mulching with grass clipping or leaves to reduce need for watering.
- Place all plant residue and organic waste in designated compost areas only (please be careful to put weeds and diseased plants in garbage bag beside shed).
- We cannot guarantee protection against vandalism or theft. Any vandalism should be reported to the garden manager or on Facebook to remind all to keep a lookout.
- At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly and all gardens left neat and tidy. Ensure your garden is cleaned-up at the end of the season.

Sowing Seeds, Growing Community!

Success, Safety and Security at the Garden

- Plan to visit your garden regularly - ideally, two to three times a week during the growing season. Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door, it is sometimes easy to forget that there is weeding, watering, staking or harvesting to do.
- Attend scheduled workdays if possible. This will help you meet other gardeners and become part of your gardening community and you will have next year's membership fee waived if you help out regularly!
- Make friends with other gardeners. Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource at your garden. Pick their brains for gardening tips. **Check Facebook to see when others will be out in the garden (and let others know when you'll be there).**
- Volunteer for a garden job or committee. By pitching in on a certain job or project, you'll be supporting the garden as a whole and ensuring that the work is spread among many people.
- **Ask Kelly or Frances how you can help with the Food Bank beds.**
- Educate yourself. Check out books from the library, attend classes, or use online resources. The more you learn, the more success you'll have. **Ask if you would like some mentoring about garden skills.**
- Harvest produce on a regular basis. During harvest season, let garden leaders know if you plan to be out of town for an extended time. Other gardeners can harvest for you and donate the food to a local service.
- Consider growing unusual or hard to harvest varieties if theft is a concern.
- Grow more than you need in case some is lost or so you can give some away.

2017 COMMUNITY GARDEN TEAM

The following people have volunteered to head up the following areas at the garden this year.

Jobs	Names	Phone	Email
Coordinator	Ray Funk	321-2297	vicstreetgarden@gmail.com
Registration/Treasurer	Carol Thiessen	466-0994	vicstreetgarden@gmail.com
Food Bank Section	Kelly Hughes /Frances	Kelly-466-6429	Kelly -kellylbhughes@gmail.com
Composting	Kelly Hughes	466-6429	kellylbhughes@gmail.com

Maintenance	Andy Kramer	465-8066	andybronc@gmail.com
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A community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbours. For others, it is a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Others use community gardens simply because they lack adequate space to have a garden at their house or apartment. Regardless of why you are choosing to take part in a community garden, the activity comes with both responsibilities and rewards.

Responsibilities: Successful and vibrant community gardens rely on the dedication of each and every gardener to 1) maintain his or her own plot and 2) contribute to the upkeep and management of the entire garden.

Rewards: Community gardening has the potential to offer a range of benefits to individuals, families, communities and the environment. Benefits include, but are not limited to:

Food production — Community gardens enable people to grow high quality vegetables and fruits for themselves, their families and their communities.

Nutrition — Community gardeners eat more vegetables and fruits than non-gardening families.

Exercise — Gardening requires physical activity and helps improve overall physical health.

Mental health — Interacting with plants and nature helps reduce stress and increase gardeners' sense of wellness and belonging.

Community — Community gardens foster a sense of community identity and stewardship among gardeners. They provide a place for people of diverse backgrounds to interact and share cultural traditions.

Environment — Gardens increase biodiversity, reduce runoff from rain, recycle local organic materials and reduce fossil fuel use from long-distance food transport.

Learning — People of all ages can acquire and share skills and knowledge related to gardening, cooking, nutrition, health, culture, etc.

Youth — Community gardens provide youth a place to explore nature and community.

Crime prevention — Community gardens can help reduce crime.

Property values — Property values around community gardens increase faster than property values in similar areas without gardens.

(Adapted from: Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador

http://ruralnetwork.ca/sites/default/files/tools_resources/communitygardenbestpracticestoolkit.pdf)

And

(<http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/Facilities/Documents/Community%20Gardens%20Application.pdf>)

The community garden has a facebook page (Victoria Street Community Garden), which is a great place

to get advice and instant notifications about events happening in the community garden. If you would like to be part of the page please email Ray or Carol at vicstreetgarden@gmail.com.