

The Pender Harbour Health Centre Community Garden

Sponsored by the Pender Harbour Health Centre

GUIDELINES:

Gardening in public plots is not exactly like gardening in your own back yard, because how you care for your plot impacts many others. Therefore, we have policies and rules on how and when some things are to be done. The sponsoring organization, The Pender Harbour Health Centre along with our administrative team will review and update garden policies and rules on a yearly basis.

The annual growing season will be May 1 to October 31st. Administrative staff will be calling those with plots in April of each year to renew their plot for that season. If you do not have a plot currently, you will be waitlisted and offered any available plots once current plot owners have been offered the chance to renew. PHHC leadership reserves the right to limit plots, reserve plots and decide who be allocated a plot based on operational and safety needs.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS:

Community gardens and gardening have been proven to improve users' health by increasing access to food security and providing a venue for exercise and social connection. Community gardens encourage a social community by bringing people together, it also brings gardeners closer to their food source. We encourage you to sign up for a community garden plot and come out to meet others and share in this positive experience.

POLICIES:

Garden plots are assigned annually, and current plot owners will be offered the chance to renew their plot before available plots are then assigned on a first come first served basis to waitlisted folks. There is a \$10.00 fee per garden plot with a maximum of two plots per person. This fee is payable at the beginning of each season (May 1st). If payment is not received by May 1st the plot will then be transferred to the next person on the waitlist. Garden plots are not transferrable, meaning it is the responsibility of the person who was assigned to the plot to supervise, maintain, care and clean up after the growing season.

Trash cans and a compost area will be clearly defined for gardeners use. Hoses and watering cans will be provided. We encourage water saving techniques such as mulching, direct plant root watering and avoiding mid-day and overhead watering. Water conservation will be adhered to Regional District watering standards and monitored by the PHHC. Plots are for growing produce for you, your family and friends, and may not be used to grow crops for sale, including plants used for illegal purposes. You may consider donating extra produce to the local food bank.

Community Garden Rules

Tools: Gardeners must bring their own tools from home and not leave them at the garden for security and safety reasons. We cannot be responsible for lost or stolen personal tools. Tools are used at the gardener's own risk.

Children and Pets: Children and pets are welcome in the garden area with adult supervision. It is your responsibility to ensure they are within your sight and not accessing or damaging other gardener's plots. Dogs should be always kept on a leash while in the garden area.

Parking: Parking is restricted to the lower parking lot next to the community garden. Those with disabilities who possess a blue badge may park in the designated blue parking stalls in front of the Health Centre.

Hours: The garden is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week from May 1st to October 31st. No access is permitted outside of these times.

Access: Only those who have been assigned the plot may maintain and remove items from their plot. Plot owners must be present if they are bringing family and friends to their plot or the community garden.

Maintenance of Plot: It is up to the assigned gardener to maintain their plot during the growing season. This includes planting, watering, keeping adjacent areas and pathways clear around their plot.

Banned Materials: The following items are not permitted in the community garden; Chemical insecticides, fungicides and bactericides are prohibited.

Plant Types: Plants must produce edible crops and must not exceed 4ft tall. We ask that no marijuana is grown in the PHHC community garden.

Plot Reassignment: Plots that appear to be abandoned after three weeks will be reassigned to a gardener on the waitlist. At any time, a gardener may relinquish their plot, if this happens the plot will be assigned to a waitlisted community member. No refunds of fees are given.

End of Season: Removal of all plant material and objects used for staking must be done by October 31st. After this date PHHC maintenance staff will be clearing all plots ready for the new season.

Concern and Complaints: The gardener is responsible to report any problems to the PHHC administrative team. The PHHC administrative team is responsible for communication and management of the guidelines and will call or meet with the gardener to discuss any problems or concerns. The PHHC administrative team can be reached at 604 883-2764.

Contact Information: Please keep your contact information including current phone number and or email address up to date so you can receive updates and be contacted as needed.