

Community Garden Policy

The City of Barrie supports the use of public and private land for community gardening. City Owned community garden sites will be subject to Council approval, and shall only be used by City of Barrie residents in accordance with the Community Garden Policy and Contract. Where land is owned by the City of Barrie but leased to another party, use of that proposed site as a Community Garden shall be subject to the lessee's approval as well. Gardeners shall sign the Community Garden Contract and abide by the Community Garden Policy.

City of Barrie Community Gardens are outdoor spaces on designated public lands where Barrie residents meet to grow and care for vegetables and flowers, and where the gardeners pay a small annual fee to the City to register and rent their own plot and take initiative and responsibility for organizing, maintaining and managing the garden area. Each Community Garden location must select one person to act as their Garden Coordinator who shall be the main contact person with the City.

Responsibilities

Gardener

1. Will pay an annual plot rental fee to rent a garden plot within a designated Community Garden Area.
2. The period of the plot rental shall be seasonal. Fall cleanup of the garden is required. All above ground material, including stakes, must be removed by October 31 unless the gardener has reserved the same plot for the following year; then only perennials may remain.
3. Plots will be assigned on a first-come/first-serve basis. Gardeners wishing to reserve their same plot for the next year shall register for that plot by October 31st of the current year.
4. Garden plots must be planted by June 1st. If a gardener is unable to continue gardening, he/she shall notify his/her Garden Coordinator or the City of Barrie Community Garden Program Administrator. Gardeners wishing to cancel mid-season should notify his/her Garden Coordinator or City of Barrie so that plots may be reassigned. There will be no fee reimbursement and all above ground material, including stakes, must be removed by the gardener.
5. Pesticide use is discouraged. Fertilizers must be used as per manufacturer's instructions and shall not be left on-site unattended at any time. Organic fertilizers are recommended.
6. Gardeners shall keep their plots weeded and tidy, and maintain tidy pathways of one long edge and one short edge surrounding their plot surrounding their plots.
7. If a gardener's garden bed is unkempt, they will be given two (2) weeks notice to clean it up. If they do not comply in two weeks, their bed may be reassigned and their annual fee forfeited at the discretion of the Garden Coordinator and/or the City of Barrie.
8. Gardeners will not plant corn and any tall crops where they will shade other people's plots unless the gardener can demonstrate that there will not be a negative effect. Illegal plants are strictly prohibited. Trees and other woody plants are not allowed on garden plots unless the gardener can demonstrate that there will not be a negative effect. Vegetables, grains, berries, fruits, beans, herbs and flowers (annuals and perennials) are allowed on garden plots.
9. Smoking on City lands is prohibited as per By-law 88-260 Section 4.1.1.
10. Pets are not allowed in the garden.

11. Gardeners shall not sell garden produce or engage in for-profit business practices. Gardeners may fundraise towards site improvements.
12. All structures shall be approved by the City of Barrie and must be in compliance with zoning and building requirements. Installation of any fencing, boards or any other materials to enclose the individual garden plots requires consent from the City of Barrie.
13. Vehicles are not permitted in public parkland as per City By-law 88-260.4 unless they are within designated parking areas.
14. Gasoline or other flammable or toxic substances shall not be stored overnight in any designated Community Garden Area.
15. Please report any vandalism to the Garden Coordinator and the City of Barrie. Repairs must be completed in a timely manner in accordance with the Property Standards By-law 2006-262 within 14 days.
16. Each gardener's contact information will be provided to their Garden Coordinator and the City of Barrie. The Garden Coordinator's contact information shall be shared with other Garden Coordinators and posted on the City of Barrie website.
17. Theft of items, in or around the garden, will result in expulsion from the garden.
18. Any member who feels rules governing the garden have been violated is to provide a written complaint to the Garden Coordinator and the City of Barrie.
19. Gardeners shall not remove corner garden plot stakes.

City of Barrie

1. Community garden plot sizes, layout and locations shall be determined or approved by the City. Typical plot sizes shall be 1.5 metres by 4.5 metres and/or 3 metres by 4.5 metres. Plots are to be marked with four corner stakes.
2. City staff will supply, place and empty recycling and trash containers as part of routine property maintenance.
3. City staff will conduct the regular inspection of garden areas. If any contravention of rules is found, the Garden Coordinator will be notified, and it may result in the cancellation of the gardener's privileges.
4. All produce, crops, or personal property belonging to the gardener must be removed by October 31, unless the gardener has reserved the same plot for the following year; then only perennials may remain. After the expiration of the above period, any produce, crops, or other personal property shall be disposed of at the discretion of the City, and there shall be no liability of such disposal.
5. The City of Barrie reserves the right to discontinue the program at any time with written notice to all gardeners.

Gardener's Code of Conduct

1. Be considerate of neighbours when planting garden plots.
2. Pick only your own crops unless permission is given by the other gardener.
3. Gardeners are responsible for supervising those individuals they bring to the garden including other adults, youths and children.
4. Abide by all City of Barrie By-laws.
5. Work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden peacefully in a neighbourly manner.
6. Use on-site recycling, compost and trash bins as provided. Community Garden groups are encouraged to establish and maintain a composting area.
7. Laneways and paths are to be kept clear of obstacles. Tools and personal property must not be left on the site overnight.
8. Loud music is prohibited. Please respect the neighbours.