

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS

AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. The Town gives the Participant permission to use the designated portion of land as indicated below, for the sole purpose of a garden plot. The plantings must be confined to within the staked area of the Participant's assigned a plot.
2. The term of the Agreement shall be from the Friday of May long weekend to Monday of the Thanksgiving weekend, unless terminated before by either parties.
3. The Participant will pay a non-refundable fee of \$30 for a garden plot (\$15 for a smaller plot) to be paid in full at time of registration.
4. The Participant agrees to accept the garden plot as it stands.
5. The Participant agrees to cultivate the garden plot in proper agricultural manner, taking care not to cause the land to deteriorate in any way.
6. The Participant agrees to use their best efforts and approved horticultural methods to prevent the growth of all weeds on the garden plot and walkways. If the Participant fails to do so, the Town will cultivate or mow the plot to prevent the spread of weed seeds after July 6 with NO notice to the Participant and the Participant will be unable to register for a plot the next year. In such an event, the Town will not be liable to the Participant for any damage to crops.
7. The Participant agrees to dispose of all garbage from the garden plot, other than plant material, in a proper manner this includes weeds and litter.
8. The Participant will ensure that the Participant or the Participant's family or invitees cause no nuisance or disturbance to other Participants or adjacent neighbours.
9. The Participant agrees to refrain from the trapping, poisoning or killing of any bird or animal on Community Garden land.
10. The Participant agrees to use the garden plot at their own risk. The Town is not liable in any way for any loss, injury or damage caused to any person while such person(s) is in or about the garden plots.
11. The Participant acknowledges having been informed that the Town will supply water to the tank on site, for participants use on their plot.
12. The Participant releases The Town from any and all liability for any claims whatsoever arising out of damage to, loss of, or theft of the Participant's property kept or stored on the garden plot, including the crops grown in the garden plot.
13. If the Participant breaches or fails to perform any of the above points, then The Town may declare the Participant in default, declare the agreement null and void and repossess the land without any refund of registration fee.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

Being a part of a community garden program provides great opportunities to grow healthy foods, beautiful flora, meet new people and enjoy our community through the growing season. The Town of Blackfalds is proud to provide the opportunity for our community to come together through the community garden program.

Like all activities, there is an expectation that participants will do their part to ensure that the community garden program remains successful and enjoyable for all participants. In addition, community gardeners are expected to be stewards of the entire garden area and therefore be responsible for reporting misuse of park areas, collecting litter, being responsible for the surrounding environment and keeping noise levels down. The following checklist of rules guides users through the appropriate activities for participating in this program.

1. Please respect the surrounding houses and residents.
2. There is absolutely no parking in alley ways and in front of residential houses surrounding the gardens. The areas will be monitored by Town Bylaw Enforcement.
3. Only annual plants are permitted in your garden plot (As an example: Mint is a perennial).
4. Individual garden plot boundaries will be staked and marked; boundary markers should not be removed.
5. The Town of Blackfalds will provide a watering source at the site of the garden plots.
6. Pets are not permitted in the garden area.
7. The gardens are treated as organic; the use of herbicides and pesticides is prohibited.
8. Be considerate of your neighbours; do not plant sprawling crops or tall ones that might interfere with the garden next to yours.
9. Please do not water, weed or prune other gardens unless requested to by that gardener.
10. Do not enter any private lands adjacent to the garden site.
11. If vandalism or theft occurs, please submit a service request at www.blackfalds.ca/request.
12. If you are not able to tend your plot (severe illness or injury), notify the Community Services Department at 403.885.0122 Neglected plots will be either reassigned or tilled.
13. If you will be away during the growing season, it is your responsibility to ensure that someone will tend your plot in your absence.
14. At the end of the gardening season all plant materials, should be pulled from the ground and placed in the compost pile.
15. Failure to comply with the above rules will result in the loss of gardening privileges.
16. Be kind! Please treat staff and other gardeners with respect. We will not tolerate any verbal abuse or aggressive behaviour. Doing so may result in being banned from the community garden program.

TIME COMMITMENT/SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES

In order to properly maintain a garden plot the renter should tend to the plot 3-5 days per week for a duration of 30 minutes minimum depending on weather, soil conditions, presence of weeds, and crop maintenance.

Extra watering will need to take place during the dry season, typically increase watering in August.

March 13	Plot registration opens at 7:00am!
May 15	Plots open for season (weather dependent) - if gardens open sooner you will be notified by email.
July 6	'Weed It or Lose It' starts. Notifications will be sent to applicants if the garden is not adequately maintained. Garden inspections will continue throughout the season periodically.
October 12	Last day to harvest produce and remove all fencing, stakes, water containers, tools, etc.
October 13	Plots are cleared and tilled by Parks - any items removed will be discarded, with NO exceptions.

It is up to the gardeners to plant, tend to and manage all aspects of their rented garden plot. This includes, insects, diseases and molds.

The Parks Department has done everything they can to set up the plots to benefit the gardeners including weed suppression, soil amendments, etc. If we find that pests populations are not being managed appropriately, we will turn the garden plots under and the gardener registered to that plot will not have access to a garden plot the following year.

**Planting mint within the community garden is strictly forbidden due to its invasiveness.*