

Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO) Vegetable Garden Plots Rules & Guidelines for Your Safety and Gardening Success

1. Orientation: All gardeners must attend a 2021 Season Orientation online Zoom meeting in April. Zoom meeting dates will be sent to individuals who are awarded plots. You must complete orientation even if you are a returning gardener, or you will forfeit your plot award to a person on the waiting list.
2. Plots: Vegetable plots are reserved for one gardening season, from spring to fall. If requested, all efforts will be made to assign the same plot the following year(s). Any plant materials planted, such as perennial herbs, are planted at the gardener's own risk. You may plant only within your assigned plot. All plots are raised beds, varying in size from 4' X 6' to 4' X 8'. ** Be aware: right-of-way construction by the city or Union Pacific Railway may impact the usage of any garden plot. **
3. Storage: Do not store wood, materials, tools, or other supplies in the garden. Any items that the gardener wishes to keep at the end of the growing season (i.e. tomato cages, stakes, trellis, etc.) should be removed at the end of the gardening season.
4. Neighboring Plots: Do not take, weed, destroy or help yourself to anything from another gardener's plot. Harvest only from your assigned plot. Designated community plots are available for all to harvest.
5. Pest Control & Fertilizers: Only organic means of pest control and/or fertilizer may be used. Herbicides (weed killers) of any kind are strictly prohibited in vegetable plots and in all areas of the garden. If you have questions regarding a fertilizer or pest control product, please contact the BCO Garden Committee prior to using.
6. Plot Maintenance: You must prep and plant your plot by June 1. If you do not, your plot will be reassigned, and you will forfeit the application fee. After planting, you must actively tend your garden and maintain your plot in an acceptable manner. This means that you must do such things as weed, prune, water, harvest and/or remove debris at least once a week during the growing season. If your plot looks unattended, you will receive an email warning that you have seven days to remedy the situation. If you do not, you will receive a second warning via phone. If within seven days of the call (14 days after the initial warning) you still have not addressed the complaint, you will be notified by email and phone that your plot will be reassigned to the next person on the waiting list, and you will forfeit your plot rental fee.
7. Pathways: You are responsible for weeding, watering, and taking care of the paths and berm in the garden. Additionally, the 2 foot perimeter around your box must be kept free of weeds and debris. The area around your plot cannot be planted in and must remain clear of any objects that would potentially cause injury to yourself or another gardener. Be considerate of all who walk past; prune, tie back, or transplant errant plants, particularly those that may be thorny.

8. Discouraged Plants: All crops planted and harvested must be legal. No trees are to be planted in a plot. Plants with invasive root systems cannot be planted, (i.e. mint). Plants that may grow large enough to cast shade must be arranged in a manner that does not allow shade to be cast on another plot. The primary use of the plot is for the planting of fruits and vegetables, not for the production of seeds.

9. Structures & Fencing: No walls or additional timbers may be used in or on the plot or its boundaries. Structures to support climbing vegetation are allowed, provided they do not shade a neighboring plot. Poles, stakes, and other open, airy structures to support climbing vegetation are allowed. Fencing to prevent the invasion of small animals (such as chicken wire) may be used as long as it is not tacked or otherwise fastened to the plot timbers. Fencing material must be staked inside the garden plot. The height of any fencing used must not exceed 36" from the ground. Structures in your plot may not intrude into the area around your plot or into other plots. The timbers that outline the plots shall not be painted, stained, or otherwise permanently modified in any way. Do not nail or screw anything to the raised bed boards and timbers.

10. Watering & Hoses: Watering of the public common areas will be done on a rotation basis by plot gardeners as determined by a watering schedule. Please conserve water. The water supply is to be used only by gardeners in caring for their plots and the garden area. No washing of cars or other personal items is permitted. Please shut off the hose spigot completely, drain water to depressurize the hose, and neatly stow the hose after use. Take special care not to damage another's plants when pulling the hose to and from your plot. Do not leave the hose running unattended for any period of time.

11. Volunteer: In addition to tending your plot, we require that you help maintain our community gardens and or support a BCO event for a minimum of ten (10) hours per season. Additional volunteer time to garden maintenance is needed and appreciated if you have time available. Garden workdays are announced at the beginning of each growing season. Typically, we have workdays every month on the 4th Saturday and on weeknights in the second week of each month. Completing and documenting volunteer hours is used to prioritize your future (returning year) applications.

12. Activities in the Garden: Littering, urinating and defecating are absolutely prohibited. Amplified sound is not permitted unless through personal headphones. No unlawful activities or alcohol are allowed in any part of the garden. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited.

13. Pets: For the safety of all gardeners and for food sanitation reasons, pets are not allowed in, on, or near the plots. Pet owners must obey city leash laws. NeighborSpace site guidelines prohibit dogs from community gardens.

14. Gardeners & Sharing: The primary gardener of a plot must be at least 18 years old. Gardeners younger than 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult while gardening. If gardeners have chosen to share a plot, the plot shall be divided up as the individual gardeners see fit and agree.

15. Gardening Hours: Gardeners may tend to their plots at their convenience between dawn and dusk. No gardening shall be conducted outside of this time to ensure quiet for our neighbors surrounding the garden.

16. Personal Use: The garden and its vegetable plots are for personal and educational use only and are not for growing of vegetation for commercial purposes or commercial harvesting.

17. Debris Removal: Weeds, cuttings, and other debris removed from your garden must be placed in the appropriate garbage bin or recycle bin. Do not leave or throw debris in any other area of the garden.

18. Harvest Deadline: All crops must be harvested, all beds tilled under and cleared, and all fencing, stakes, debris or other objects must be removed from your plot by November 21, 2021. Crops and other remaining materials or items left after this date will be removed and disposed. Failure to comply with this rule will adversely impact any future application you make for a BCO garden plot.

19. Community Materials: Tools and/or plants will occasionally be available but cannot be guaranteed. Each gardener is responsible for providing his/her own plants, tools and other necessary gardening materials.

20. Changes to Rules and Guidelines: The BCO reserves the right to change and/or amend these rules at any time. The gardener will be provided with a new copy of these rules and guidelines should changes occur.

21. Hold Harmless Agreement: The undersigned: (a) agree(s) to all the rules stated herein and release(s) the Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO), its officials, agents, representatives, and board members, from any claim for injuries and/or damage arising from, or in any way relating to participation by the undersigned, in the program, plot or tool use; (b) agree(s) to indemnify and hold harmless the BCO, its officials, agents, representatives, and board members, for all losses, damages, attorney's fees, costs, or expenses resulting from any injuries or damages which the undersigned may suffer during participation by the undersigned in community gardening activities, including work performed in a plot and in the common garden areas, and from all losses or injuries the undersigned may cause another during the course of the activities; (c) understand(s) participation is entirely voluntary and will involve moderate physical activity; (d) agree(s) to participate at the own risk of the undersigned and acknowledge(s) that reasonable physical capacity is required; (e) understand(s) that there are risks of accident from participation that may result in injury; (f) hereby state(s) that to the knowledge of the undersigned, the undersigned is/are not affected by a physical condition or disability that would prohibit safe performance in any aspect of the activity; (g) understand(s) that if the undersigned is/are injured during participation in the community garden activities that the undersigned will not be eligible for workers' compensation benefits.

The undersigned has/have read completely and fully understand all statements contained herein and agree to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth in this document.

Primary Gardener Signature _____

Date _____

Second Gardener Signature _____

Date _____