



CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLAIN
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY GARDEN
GARDENERS HANDBOOK

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

A Community Garden is a unique opportunity available to residents whereby a group of community members will join together to manage and maintain an identified plot of land for the purpose of growing fresh produce and plants. These opportunities are typically made available for residents who do not have access to a suitable space for a garden.

Community Gardens provide opportunities for neighbourhood improvements, a sense of community, and a connection with the environment. The land is owned by the City of Cambridge. The garden is overseen by Kinbridge Community Association.

Community Gardens can be as diverse as its gardeners. Some may only grow flowers or produce or both, but they will all be nurtured communally and their bounty shared.

PREFACE

This manual was developed by Kinbridge Community Association. It was adapted to incorporate required health and safety measures as outlined by The Region of Waterloo Public Health COVID-19 pandemic response.

This handbook is based on best practices identified through a review of reports, resources and guidelines on community gardens across Ontario.



GARDENERS CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

GARDEN PLOT INFORMATION

Your assigned garden plot is: # _____

You are permitted to enter the garden on (circle one)

ODD EVEN Days of the week.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Water barrels are accessible at all times.
2. Plants are available, but you are able to supply your own if desired.
3. Fencing is available for your plot and is strongly recommended.
4. Please report any damaged or dead trees to KCA.



GARDENERS SIGNED AGREEMENT

All gardeners must sign this agreement and return to the garden coordinator. Failure to do so will result in non-compliance and you will not have access to a community garden plot.

1. I have read and agree to the Christopher Champlain Cultivating Community Garden Gardeners Agreement 2020
2. I will maintain safe space (2m or 6 feet) while in the garden
3. I will only access my assigned garden plot on the corresponding date according to the garden schedule
4. If I feel unwell I will not visit the garden plot
5. I will wash/sanitize my hands prior to entering and upon exiting the garden

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

GARDEN COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Rose Bettio

Email: roseb@kinbridge.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. What is a Community Garden
2. Preface
3. COVID-19 Guidelines for Community Gardens
4. Christopher Champlain Cultivating Community Gardens - Gardeners Agreement 2020
5. Gardeners Signed Agreement
6. Garden Coordinators Contact Information
7. Gardeners Contact Information
8. Garden Plot Information
9. General Information



COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

COVID-19 is a virus that is easily transmitted in the community.

For information on the virus, please visit <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/2019-novel-coronavirus.aspx>

Community gardens provide a unique opportunity for individuals and families to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables that are an important part of a healthy diet. COVID-19 presents some challenges for the 2020 growing season and the following guidelines provide direction to ensure all gardeners minimize their risk of exposure to the virus while at the garden.

1. Prior to visiting their garden plot, the gardener should use the COVID-19 [self assessment tool](#) to ensure they do not have any symptoms present and/or requirement to self-isolate at home. Note that older adults, individuals with underlying medical conditions (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases), and individuals with compromised immune systems from a medical condition or treatment (e.g., chemotherapy) are more vulnerable to COVID-19.
2. Any one who is unwell should not visit the garden: if the gardener has COVID-19 symptoms, lives with someone who has symptoms, or has been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, the gardener should stay home and self-isolate for 14 days before returning to the garden.
3. Gardeners should clean their hands when entering and exiting the garden.



10. The gardener shall not plant marijuana, illegal, invasive plants or perennials and must prevent their plants from creeping outside of the garden plot border. Tall plants like corn, or plants climbing a trellis, shall be planted so that no shade is cast on neighbouring plots.
10. This is an organic garden. Please consult the committee as to the list of acceptable organic fertilizers and pest repellents.
11. Pets are not allowed in the garden. Small children in the garden must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Do not send children by themselves to harvest your plot.
12. All organic waste should be deposited in the yard waste bags. Non-organic waste should be deposited in the garbage container or removed from the site. Recyclable materials should be taken home and recycled (e.g. water bottles, bedding plant containers).
13. All gardeners are able to access garden tools and resources if needed. Gardeners are responsible to return any borrowed hand tools and to treat garden resources with care.
14. Gardeners are also to advise the garden coordinator if any tools or resources are damaged or missing.



CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLAIN-CULTIVATING COMMUNITY, GARDENERS AGREEMENT 2020

1. It is advised that all gardens be accessed by the members of the garden or the individuals who are assigned a plot in the garden only.
2. Gardeners should be on site only for the planting and maintenance of the garden and should not engage in other social activities or gatherings.
3. Follow the gardening schedule as assigned to ensure that physical distancing (2m or 6 feet) can be maintained. Gardeners bringing other family members or children with them must ensure they are able to keep a 6 foot distance between their family and other gardeners.
4. Good hand hygiene is key to fighting COVID-19. Please use the garden hand washing stations and/or hand sanitizer that has been provided to each gardener to use while in the garden.
5. Each Gardener is responsible for his/her own plot during gardening season. (May to October).
6. Garden plots are not transferable to third parties not registered with the Garden Coordinator. If a gardener is unable to maintain the plot to the end of the season (moves away, etc.), they must advise the Garden Coordinator.
7. The Garden Coordinator will arrange for someone else to take over the plot, if possible.
8. All garden plots must be weeded and maintained on a weekly basis.
9. Failing to harvest/abandoned garden: (if the gardener cannot be reached) allows other gardeners to harvest the plot for themselves or for donation.
4. Gardeners are also encouraged to bring hot soapy water in a thermos or hand sanitizer for their personal use at the garden.
5. Physical distancing must be maintained at all times. This means gardeners must keep a 2 metre (6 feet) distance between themselves and other gardeners.
6. Gardeners are permitted to access their garden plot according to the garden schedule you are provided. Even numbered plots can access the garden on even days of the week, odd numbered garden plots can access the garden on odd days of the week.
7. Gardeners should bring their own tools where possible and not share tools with other gardeners. If using gardening gloves, the gloves must be washed after each use. Gardeners should not share gloves.
8. If garden tools must be shared, gardeners must clean their hands before use, wear gloves while using them and ensure the tool is properly cleaned and disinfected after use.
9. The garden may be monitored and strict adherence to the recommendations is required. Gardeners who do not follow the recommendations will be asked to leave the garden, or may face fines for non-compliance under the Ontario Emergency Measures Orders and Regulations. Local municipal by-law can be contacted regarding non-compliance and enforcement of the legislation.

