

Victoria Street Community Garden Welcome Packet 2026

Welcome to the Victoria Street Community Garden! This packet contains important information about how our garden operates and whom to contact with questions. It also lets you know how you can get involved to make the garden run smoothly and efficiently. Every gardener is asked to participate to the best of their ability in the management and upkeep of the entire garden. We communicate via email and the [Victoria Street Community Garden](#) Facebook group during the year to keep you updated on what's happening.

Community Garden Team

The following people have volunteered to head up the following areas at the garden this year

Role	Name(s)	Phone	Email
Coordinator	Walter Thiessen	506-465-6249	vicstreetgarden@gmail.com
Registration	Rosie Sperling Funk	506-321-0697	vicstreetgarden@gmail.com
Food Bank Section	Frances Megilley	506-466-3074	fegilley13@gmail.com
Composting	Carol Thiessen		vicstreetgarden@gmail.com
General	Brian and Lorna McMaster	603-724-0057	pembrokefarmpei@gmail.com
General	Judy Ells-Whittingham		jellsw hitt@gmail.com
Maintenance	(Currently Vacant)		vicstreetgarden@gmail.com

Community Garden Guidelines

- New gardeners are required to complete a registration form. A fee of \$10 per plot and an annual membership fee of \$10 per year are due when you register.
- If you discontinue use of your plot, notify Walter Thiessen so the plot can be reassigned.
- Group days are scheduled a few times during the season. Use them to get to know fellow gardeners and help with garden upkeep. Helping with group days and other garden upkeep covers your annual membership the following year.
- There is **no use of chemical pesticides, fungicides or fertilizers** on any garden bed.
- There is a limit of (2) beds per household unless there are additional beds available.
- Do not plant sprawling or tall crops that might interfere with other plots.
- **Gardeners are responsible for weeding pathways surrounding their garden plot. Place weeds in the garbage bag beside the shed or in compost barrel if not seedy (or horsetail)**
- Only weed beds besides yours with prior permission.
- Harvest only from your assigned plot.
- Place all other plant residue and organic waste in designated compost areas only.
- If a plot of yours becomes neglected, you will be given 2 weeks' notice to clean it up. After that time, it may be reassigned or tilled if you have not responded.
- Keep trash out of the plot, and discard in the garbage bag beside the shed.
- Do not allow pets to roam through the garden.
- Do not plant illegal, poisonous or invasive plants.
- Children may not play unattended in the community gardens.
- We cannot guarantee protection against vandalism or theft. Any vandalism should be reported to the coordinators or on the Facebook group.
- At the end of the season, all dead plants and non-plant materials must be removed and all gardens left neat and tidy. If you want to plant garlic or other plants for the following season, notify the coordinators.

Making the Most of Your Garden

Some tips to consider:

- Plan to visit your garden two to three times a week during the growing season. Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door, it can be easy to forget that there is weeding, watering, staking or harvesting to do.
- Make friends with other gardeners. Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource, pick their brains for gardening tips.
- **Ask Frances how you can help with the Food Bank beds.**
- **Ask if you would like some mentoring about garden skills.**
- Consider mulching with grass clippings or leaves to reduce the need for watering.
- Harvest on a regular basis. During harvest season, let someone know if you plan to be out of town for an extended time so they can harvest for you.
- Grow more than you need in case some is lost or so you can give some away.

A community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbours, reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Others use community gardens because they lack adequate space at their house or apartment. Whatever your reason for joining, participation comes with responsibilities and rewards.

Responsibilities: Successful and vibrant community gardens rely on the dedication of each and every gardener to 1) maintain their own plot and 2) contribute to general upkeep and management of the garden.

Rewards: Community gardening has the potential to offer a range of benefits to individuals, families, communities and the environment, including:

Food production — Community gardens enable people to grow high quality vegetables and fruits for themselves, their families and their communities.

Nutrition — Community gardeners eat more vegetables and fruits than non-gardening families.

Exercise — Gardening requires physical activity and helps improve overall physical health.

Mental health — Interacting with plants and nature helps reduce stress and increase gardeners' sense of wellness and belonging.

Community — Community gardens foster a sense of community identity and stewardship among gardeners. They provide a place for people of diverse backgrounds to interact and share cultural traditions.

Environment — Gardens increase biodiversity, reduce runoff from rain, recycle local organic materials and reduce fossil fuel use from long-distance food transport.

Learning — People of all ages can acquire and share skills and knowledge related to gardening, cooking, nutrition, health, culture, etc.

Youth — Community gardens provide youth a place to explore nature and community.

Crime prevention — Community gardens can help reduce crime.

Property values — Property values around community gardens increase faster than property values in similar areas without gardens.

(Adapted from: Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador

http://ruralnetwork.ca/sites/default/files/tools_resources/communitygardenbestpracticestoolkit.pdf)