



Policy Number: 2023-05	COMMUNITY GARDEN	Date Approved: Date Effective:
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POLICY STATEMENT:

Community gardens are an important tool for the development of healthy communities and quality of life improvements for residents. People can grow healthy and nutritious food while having a positive impact on the environment. The Village of Alliance supports and encourages the development of the Alliance Community Garden.

PURPOSE:

The goals of this policy are to:

1. Establish the Village of Alliance’s, the Community Garden Committee’s and the Gardener’s responsibility in the development and operations of the community garden;
2. Establish site selection criteria;
3. Conditions of Use

DEFINITION

“Applicant” The individual, group or association who applies to operate a Community Garden.

“Community Garden” Lands used for the growing of fruits, vegetables or flowers collectively by a group of people for non-commercial purposes. It may consist of a single or common plot of land or it may be subdivided into individual plots of land.

“Village” defined as The Village of Alliance.

“Committee” Community Garden Committee

“Community Garden Coordinator” The individual representative of the Applicant.

“Garden Lease/Use Agreement” The annual agreement signed by the Community Garden Coordinator.

“Gardener Waiver” The waiver signed by each individual gardener at the Community Garden.

“Site” A specific location within a parcel of land where a community garden will be located.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The Village of Alliance

1. Assists committee in identifying viable sites.
2. Develops Land Lease/user agreements.
3. Provides information on how to develop and maintain community gardens if needed.
4. Maintains grass(mowing) around the perimeter of the garden, rototilling, and waste removal, as needed.

Community Garden Committee

1. Read and adhere to the Community Garden Policy.
2. Review Community Garden Applications.
2. Maintains communications with gardeners, and a local round table committee.



3. Provides consultation and communication support, including consultation process with neighbours through surveys, (onsite) meetings, petitions, or outreach.
4. Undertakes initial site preparation and/or start-up prior to the first growing season, (i.e., rototilling, staking, tiling, wood mulch delivery, provision of topsoil).
5. Assist the Village of Alliance with enforcement issues arising from the Community Garden Policy, and work with the Village and the gardeners, whenever possible, to assist them in resolving the issue.
6. Provide support to gardeners regarding advertising and promotion opportunities for Community Garden events and projects.
7. Provide potential updates to the policy as well as keep track of outstanding applications.
8. Provides rain barrels.
9. Share the Rules of Operations with all members.
10. If the community garden project should fail, the committee is responsible for restoring the property to its former state.

Gardeners

1. Read, adhere and sign the Gardener Waiver.
2. Follow the direction of the Community Garden committee regarding the guidelines.
3. Contact the Community Garden Committee with any concerns and questions.
4. Dispose of litter (i.e. wrappers, uneaten food, cups, etc into onsite garbage containers or remove from the site.
5. Garden waste materials (i.e. plant material) will be managed in methods approved by the Community Garden Committee. Larger garden waste materials (i.e. tree trimmings as well as brush, leaves, stumps, etc.) will be disposed of in the compost bins provided to the Village by FRWM.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SITE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Through consultation with administration a garden site plan will be prepared (as part of the Application process) and submitted.
2. The garden site plan will include plot layouts and other features. Soil amendments and materials for pathways must also be defined.
3. Minimum setbacks of 5 meters from the edges of the Community Garden to surrounding amenities, property lines, hedgerows and trees may be required to allow for regular maintenance in a park setting. The Village will work with the Committee to identify and assess viable sites that meet the criteria in order to choose an appropriate site.

Site considerations include but are not limited to:

- a) An area that receives 6 or more hours of sunlight daily
- b) Availability of water (via existing water connection or ability to harvest and store in rain barrels or cisterns from the roof of an existing building.)
- c) In an area that will not interfere with other uses (ie. recreational)
- d) In an area that will not interfere with water drainage and site maintenance
- e) Walkable to the gardening community and accessible to parking.
- f) Any other criteria as the Village may from time to time deem necessary

CONDITIONS OF USE

1. The Applicant can be a legal entity in its own right, an unincorporated association or other form of informal organization or group.
2. The Applicant will execute the approved Garden Lease/Use Agreement in its Template form annually, running from April 1 to March 31, which will include but is not limited to the applicable rules for use:
 - a) Care and maintenance of the site;
 - b) Restrictions on use of chemicals;
 - c) Restrictions on use of equipment;



- d) Restrictions on construction, use and maintenance of any structure, including raised beds and storage shed;
 - e) Upon termination of the licence, return the site to its original condition; and
 - f) It is recommended that the Applicant carry insurance in an amount(s) and type(s) satisfactory to the Village's needs, but not required; and the Applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless The Village of Alliance from and against any losses.
3. The Village will establish a code of conduct and each individual gardener at the community garden would be required to sign a Gardener Waiver assuming all risks associated with their use of the community garden, and releasing and indemnifying the Village from any claims or actions resulting from their use of the community garden.
 4. Community Garden boxes must conform to administrative design standards and be approved by the Village.
 5. Applicant identifies a Community Garden Coordinator and an alternate contact who will be the main contact(s) with the Village. The name and contact information of the Applicant's Coordinator and the alternate will be provided to the Village at the beginning of each season.
 6. Educational activities surrounding local food are encouraged at the Community Garden site.
 7. Native Plants are encouraged at the Community Garden site to promote pollinator habitat. Invasive plants are prohibited.
 8. Impervious area should be limited encouraging the infiltration of storm water except were warranted for minimum accessibility considerations.
 9. Plot assignment is on a first come, first serve basis, with the gardener having the right of first refusal for the next gardening season.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This policy shall be posted on the Village website

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer