



**North East Burnaby Community Association (NEBCA)
Organic Community Garden
GENERAL INFORMATION 2023**

Welcome to NEBCA Organic Community Garden. We are a gardening cooperative committed to the practice of organic gardening. As a member, you are responsible for the care of your garden plot, as well as contributing to the overall care of the community garden by participating in work bees and completing assigned tasks. By working together, we can ensure that this beautiful garden will bring pleasure to future gardeners as well as inspire future generations of gardeners.

Please read the following and familiarize yourself with the important dates and general practices.
Happy Gardening!

General Contact: NEBCAGarden@gmail.com

Communication is conducted via email. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

It is your responsibility to make sure we have your current email address so that you don't miss important notices.

Facebook

Please join our group www.facebook.com/groups/NEBCAcommunityorganicgarden

This is a great way to get notices of important dates and to communicate with your fellow gardeners. Email will still be the main communication method to facilitate members that do not use social media.

EMERGENCIES

Please contact 911 with any emergency that involves fire, property destruction or life-threatening situations. For non-life-threatening emergencies use the RCMP non-emergency line 604-646-9999.

The 2023 Administrative team

Role	Name
Chair, registration, communication, membership management	Larissa Rudyak/Cathy Griffin
Garden Supervisor	James Berkinshaw
Treasurer	Mylene Fortier
School Liaison	Ingrid Hoff
Work Bee Coordinator	Anna Berke
Front/Flower/Herb Coordinator	Grace Burns
Vegetation Coordinator	Jeremy Hoff
Member at Large	Yves Emond

Please remember when communicating with the Administrative Team that they are all volunteers who are donating their time to ensure everyone has a rewarding gardening experience.

What is a Community Garden?

A community garden is a shared green space that is maintained collectively by its members for their use and enjoyment. Gardeners grow food, herbs and flowers, share knowledge with each other and the community and enhance the quality of urban life.



Community Gardens

- Provide you with the opportunity to grow your own organic produce
- Improve the quality of life for people in and around the garden
- Stimulate social interaction
- Beautify the neighbourhood
- Create opportunities for recreation, exercise, and education
- Preserve green space
- Provide opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections
- Create a benefit for pollinators species

Members Benefits

You will be provided with your own plot of rich soil in which to grow your own food. You may plant your plot as you wish, provided that is within the parameters of the garden rules and regulations.

You will have full access to the shed and the tools therein, provided you return tools to the shed after use and do not take them home.

You will be provided with soil, compost, and manure free of charge at the beginning of the season. Later in the season, you may order straw mulch, also free of charge. Special soil amendments, such as sea soil or other organic amendments are too expensive to provide to all the members, so if you want those products, you will have to purchase them.

You have access to the shared plots, such as the herb garden.

You will be entitled to a discount of 10% at Garden Works. Please request the account number if you are interested.

Herb and Flower Beds

Members may help themselves to any of the herbs in the herb garden, but please avoid taking flowers from the perennial garden. The flowers in these beds, in addition to adding colour and beauty, are a key resource for pollinators.

Plots and Fees

Plot fees for 2022 are \$35 per plot for all plot types. All members are sent an annual letter asking if they wish to renew. If a gardener chooses not to renew, the gardener must email nebcagarden@gmail.com so the plot can be reallocated.

For 2023, members must renew and register their plot between **Tuesday February 15** and **Tuesday February 23**.

If the Administration Team has not seen your registration by the midpoint of the registration period, they will reach out to remind you. Plots not registered by the deadline will return to general inventory and offered to new members from our waiting list.

New members from our waitlist will be given priority on plots that become available after registration. The waitlist will be entirely cleared before making any existing plots available to current members.

New members are entitled to one plot in their first year. If they maintain their plot and fulfill their community hours and work bee obligations, they can apply for an additional plot once the waitlist has been cleared.

Members may request to exchange their plots for other available plots during registration, but may not increase the number of their plots until new members have had an opportunity to acquire one plot.

Those members who have in excess of four plots have been grandfathered into the current policy. If these plots are given up for any reason, they will then be split up and return to the general inventory in order to be distributed to new members.

Soil and Compost

In a typical season, we have one delivery of soil and compost during Spring Break. Members are allowed to take one wheelbarrow full of each per plot to maintain the health and level of soil in your garden. Once every gardener has had a chance to take their share, members will be notified if there is extra soil or compost available.

Straw mulch will also be ordered if a sufficient number of members request it. However, only enough will be ordered to distribute to the requesting members.

Co-Gardening

Members may have one registered co-gardener with whom they share their plot. The co-gardener will have the combination to the shed and can work in the garden alone. Co-gardeners must be identified at registration and their contact information provided.

Subletting your plot is not allowed. A member who is found to be subletting their plot will forfeit their plot and their membership, as well as their current plot fee immediately.

You are encouraged to appoint a co-gardener if you foresee a problem with fulfilling your membership obligations. Having a co-gardener who will take over your task assignment or work bee commitment, may prevent you from having to forfeit your plot.

Co-gardeners do not inherit the garden plot if a member leaves. The co-gardener must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of one year, and to have shown themselves to be a responsible gardener who participates in group tasks. Otherwise, they will go on the waitlist.

General Maintenance Tasks

Each gardener is expected to contribute a minimum of 5 hours and 30 minutes of work per season per plot. This includes one 3 hour work bee and another 2.5 hours on the assigned tasks laid out in the registration form. Those members with multiple plots will be expected to complete additional tasks in relation to how many plots they have. This is to make sure all garden maintenance is covered fairly.

The Administration Team will be in touch with members who have signed up for tasks and explain the responsibilities to you, as well as monitor task assignments throughout the season.

Benefits of Mulching

Mulch not only beautifies planting beds with an attractive layer of material over bare soil, but it also has several positive benefits: adding nutrients to the soil, making garden maintenance easier while improving the health of your plants, protecting your plants from extreme heat, and helping the soil retain water. Organic mulching materials, like straw, wood chips, leaves, and grass clippings, offer the greatest benefits

We will notify members when we plan to place an order for straw mulch so that you can indicate whether you would like to be included in the order. We will only order enough for those gardeners who have indicated they want some.

Preventing theft in the Garden

Unfortunately, all community gardens seem to suffer from a certain amount of theft. We'd love to hear any ideas you might have for preventing theft in our garden. Here are some of the most popular ideas from other garden sites:

- Meet your neighbours! Introduce yourself to your fellow gardeners,
- Greet and question unfamiliar visitors. Would-be thieves hate a place where people talk to them. Ask if they are interested in joining the garden or have an interest in community gardens,
- Consider growing varieties that are not as easily recognizable. For example, green or yellow tomatoes may look like they have not yet ripened and deter the grab and run thief,
- Don't delay harvesting. Check your garden regularly and take plants home as soon as they are ripe.

Many members have put up fences to deter theft. Please be aware the garden is situated above a pipeline and any post stakes should not penetrate more than 30cm into the soil. Fences should also be sturdy and maintained so as not to fall over, stick out, or potentially snag people as they walk past.

Smoking

There is no smoking or vaping in the garden, including tobacco or cannabis. The garden is on Burnaby School property and is covered under the Smoke and Vape Free Environment policy #7.10

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

A detailed document RULES and RESPONSIBILITIES has been sent to you as a separate document. Please read this document carefully. Failure to comply with NEBCA Organic Community Garden rules may result in loss of membership.

You will be asked to agree to these conditions of membership registration.



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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Administration Team at nebcagarden@gmail.com