COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

1. **All Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.** COCG will not reimburse for either garden plot or shed key fees once paid to COCG.

2. **Annual Garden Plot** fees are due **October 31st**. Failure to pay the annual fee by this time will result in *forfeiture of the plot*.
   - **Garden Plot Fee:** $40.00 payable to COCG, due **October 31st**
   - **Shed Key Fee:** $ 5.00 one-time fee (replacement key - $5.00)

3. Plots are **NON-TRANSFERABLE**. Forfeited plots will be offered to the next person on the waiting list. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

4. Garden plots are restricted to **one plot per household** per season. A season is one year in duration and begins and ends on October 31.

5. Plot wood surrounds are to be kept to one level – no exceptions. Those plots already with an existing second level will be allowed to remain until the plot requires repair. Sunken walkways bisecting the plots will not be allowed.

6. Tilling is discouraged in organic farming and COCG supports this practice. Therefore, use of a rototiller is not allowed.

7. Plot must be prepared for winter by October 31 and it is strongly recommended that it not be left bare. Plots can be covered with plant material, straw, unsprayed leaves or planted with either cool weather crops or a cover crop such as fall rye.

8. COCG follows organic gardening principles. Usage of non-organic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers is not permitted.

9. Any new structures must be pre-approved by the Coordinator in writing (email). All structures must be easily removed and materials used within the garden plot must be made of natural untreated, unpainted metal or wood. The Garden Coordinator can request that building materials that do not meet the standards, be removed from the garden.

10. Composters are not allowed. Existing compost bins can remain until the plot is given up. Composting in your own plot using the 'chop 'n drop' method is encouraged year-round. Garden waste that has not gone to seed, nor have mildew, and other household waste like fruits, vegetables, tea bags and coffee grounds can be composted. Gardeners are NOT to compost: weeds that have gone to seed, egg shells, animal waste, meat or fish products, or chemically treated yard waste.

11. ALL garden ‘waste’ that cannot be composted on your plot ie: sunflower stalks is your responsibility to remove from the garden site - dumping within the garden area is NOT allowed.

12. Gardeners are not to contact the City or municipality directly regarding garden issues. All concerns or questions are to be directed to the Garden Coordinator, who will follow up as appropriate.

13. All items in the shed are for communal use by all gardeners. COCG is not responsible for individually owned items, which are stored there at the gardener's own risk.

14. The COCG Coordinators for the garden **MAY**:

- Give permission to gardeners to deadhead weeds in a neighbouring plot;
- Contact gardeners if the plot or the area surrounding the plot appears neglected or improperly cared for;
- Reassign plots when plots are not properly maintained;
- Contact gardeners regarding usage of non-organic materials or garden applications.

15. All Gardeners **will**:

- Park in designated parking areas, where appropriate
- Contact coordinator if garden plot must be abandoned;
- Remove weeds by May 1st and begin planting by May15th. The plot must be planted all summer long;
- Only garden WITHIN the designated plot area;
- Participate in general maintenance and upkeep of the common areas;
- Harvest your own crop only, unless given permission by other plot owners;
- Maintain the garden plot for the season including, but not limited to:
    - Keep weeds, trash and litter cleaned from the area around the plot;
    - Keep weeds, trash and litter cleaned from adjacent pathways and fences;
    - Keep weeds down and remove any that are going to seed;
    - Keep a regular maintenance schedule throughout the growing season;
    - Do not leave personal items in the walkways;
    - Arrange for a neighbouring gardener to care for your plot during time away;
    - Remain on site while watering.
    - Water restrictions applied by the Municipalities must be followed explicitly.

16. Gardeners **WILL NOT:**

- Use peat moss in their garden, as it is a non-renewable resource;
- Grow invasive plants, trees, shrubs or grape vines in the garden plot or common areas of the garden;
- Bring pets within the perimeter of the garden (Service Dogs allowed);
- Smoke in the perimeter of the garden;
- Water other plots unless given permission by the plot owner;
- Harvest other gardeners' produce unless given permission by the plot owner.

17. I understand that neither the garden group nor the owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE GARDEN GROUP AND OWNERS OF THE LAND FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE GARDEN BY MY GUESTS OR MYSELF.

18. **Gardener:** Please keep this sheet for your records

Send Correspondence to: Central Okanagan Community Gardens,
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