

## **WESTWOOD PLACE CO-OPERATIVE HOME INC.**

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICY**

There are 12 plots on the property for members to be able to garden in the community garden area, located at 6600 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls.

Plots will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. A wait list will be maintained by the Board of Directors. Each year, the member that had the plot the previous year, will have the option to have it again.

If that member does not want their plot anymore, loses the plot, or moves away, the member at the top of the waiting list will be given the chance to take over that plot.

If there are no names on the waiting list, current gardeners may pick up a second plot. However, if there are members on the wait list, gardeners may only have one plot, regardless if they had an extra one the year before or not.

The gardens were put in to address food insecurity. Therefore, the plots should be used to grow food. Flower plots will only be permitted if nobody, including current gardeners wanting a second plot, wants that plot to grow food.

Food grown is for personal use and can be shared with friends/neighbours but cannot be sold.

Accessible plots will only be assigned to gardeners requiring that accommodation. If there are not 3 gardeners that require it any given year, the empty plots can be assigned to someone on the wait list. However, it is understood that it is on a year by year basis and if a gardener requires an accessible plot, they will be assigned that plot the following season and the able bodied member using the plot will be put back on the wait list for a regular plot. If you are using an accessible plot for the season, but are able bodied, you will be put on the tank schedule.

Co-op members are responsible for their children's actions at the gardens, regardless if that member has a plot or not.

Members may use tools in the shed to garden and are responsible for the tools they use, making sure they get placed back in a secure place and are in clean, working order. You must get access to the shed from a key holder on the social committee or Board of Directors.

Members are encouraged to put their plots to bed by November 30th unless growing winter crops.

All gardeners must work together to make sure there is water available in the watering tanks. At the beginning of each season, a schedule will be made and give out to each gardener as to which days it is their obligation to fill the tanks. If either tank is under half full during your turn, it is expected they will both be filled.

All nine regular plots will be on the schedule. It is encouraged for 2 gardeners to work together to fill the tanks.

Due to the nature of the accessible plots, those plot holders will not be on the schedule but are encouraged to help when tanks are being filled, if they are able.

In addition to this, gardeners are expected to help with set up in the spring (mid May) and clean up in the fall (mid to late October) of the garden area.

When gardeners are assigned their plots for the year, they will sign an agreement that will include the watering schedule and a choice of 3 days (of various days and times) for set up and clean up and will need to commit to one in each season. A team leader will be available for each day. The jobs include setup and take down of the water tanks, putting away tools and watering cans, clean up of community berry bushes and various other small jobs to make the gardens functional and looking nice for everyone.

Failure to follow through with the team commitments of filling water tanks or helping with the opening and closing of the gardens will result in loss of the plot for the following season.

Members engaging in unlawful or harmful behavior or members that abandon their plots, or breaking any of the terms in this policy, may be asked to speak to a Board member to determine if they can keep their plot the following year or not.

Each gardener is responsible to purchase their own soil, seeds/plants etc.

The Board has purchased a seed bank. Members, if they wish, can purchase seeds, at a reasonable price, by making arrangements with a board member. Money generated will be put directly back into buying more seeds. No gardener is obligated to buy seeds from the bank.

If you would like to be put on the wait list for a plot, you must put it in writing, to the office drop box, addressed to the Board of Directors. Please include your name, unit number, phone number and whether you require a regular or accessible plot. It may take several seasons before a plot becomes open, and members will be put on the list in the order their requests are received.

**PASSED** by the Board of Directors on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

**CONFIRMED** at a general meeting of the Members on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

  
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President

c/s

  
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Secretary