

Sakaw Gardens Membership Contract

Our vision for Sakaw Gardens is a simple one: provide a place where people of all ages and backgrounds come together in the experience of growing food.

Millhurst Community League (MCL) is the legal entity that supports Sakaw Gardens. The League has empowered the Garden Committee to make decisions regarding garden operations.

Garden Director – Works with stakeholders to manage garden operations and attends MCL board meetings to report to the League. The Director is the first point of contact for issues relating to garden operations.

Community League Liaison – Appointed by the MCL President to relay information between the Garden Director and MCL, facilitate stakeholder communication, and ensure garden operations follow League Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

Garden Committee – A subcommittee of MCL that is made up of gardeners who volunteer their time to oversee the operations and events of the garden. Monthly Committee meetings are open to all current garden members.

Membership Coordinator – Garden Committee member who oversees renting of plots, collects fees, and organizes member contract signing.

Gardener Coordinator – Garden Committee member who tracks volunteer attendance and participation, organizes work bees, and communicates to gardeners and volunteers if additional help is needed.

Conditions of Membership:

- A current Millhurst Community League membership is required to rent a garden plot.
- Anyone under the age of 18 assisting with garden activities must have consent of their parent/guardian.
- Members are required to follow the responsibilities below to keep the garden thriving. Membership depends on staying in Good Standing (see #2–#4). Failure to do so may result in loss of fees, deposit, or membership.
- Gardeners are required to attend Spring Launch in May and fall Garden Clean Up (dates TBA). If you absolutely cannot attend these events due to unforeseen circumstances, you are required to make alternate arrangements with the Director or the Gardener Coordinator.
- Practice courtesy and respect to all community members and stakeholders. Please communicate with the garden committee if issues arise – we are here to ensure a pleasant experience for all!

1. Garden Fees

Plot rental fees and deposit are listed below and must be paid by October 31 annually. If the gardener has been in Good Standing for the season, the deposit will be refunded or carried over to the next year. Gardeners are responsible for any fee increases. The deposit ensures that

- Garden plots are kept in good condition and weeding area is kept weed-free all season (See 2.i), and plots are cleared at the end of the season.
- Gardeners fulfill assigned duties, attend Spring Launch and Fall Cleanup. (See 3.c.)

Plot size	Plot Fee	Deposit	Total Amount Due
4 x 8 raised bed	\$30	\$30	\$60
10 x 10 in-ground bed	\$30	\$30	\$60
10 x 15 in-ground bed	\$35	\$30	\$65

2. Planting, maintenance, and harvesting

- a. Only work on your own plot unless arranged with another gardener. You are welcome to weed any of the pathways in the garden.
- b. Bushes, trees, shrubs, and cannabis are prohibited. Perennials (e.g., strawberries, asparagus) are allowed unless invasive (e.g., mint). Plants with runners or vines are permitted (e.g., pumpkin, squash, strawberries) but must stay contained within your plot border.
- c. **Organic Growing Methods: *All Gardeners Must Follow These Methods***
 - Weed killers and insecticides are not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification of membership. Organic products ***may*** be permitted on a case-by-case basis with approval by the Garden Director.
 - If at any time you have questions or concerns about fertilizers, insects, fungus or other diseases, you can contact the Garden Director at communitygarden@millhurst.ca
- d. **Compost:**
 - Place garden waste in compost bins. Chop large items before composting. Do not add seed heads or propagating roots (thistle, quack grass, etc.) to the compost; dispose of these in your green bin or the bins provided by the composters. Do not dispose of garden waste in main garden garbage bins.
 - The garden operates a Bokashi Composting program, headed up by our Master Composter; information will be presented at the Spring Launch.
- e. **Harvesting:**
 - Except for perennials and fall crops, plots must be harvested with the plot cleared and weed-free by the October 31. Gardeners are encouraged to leave garden plant matter on their plot as mulch to help improve water retention and soil quality.
- f. **Water:**
 - Water at the plant base only, not bare soil.
 - The use of mulch is encouraged to reduce evaporation and improve soil.
 - Notify the Maintenance Director via the WhatsApp group if you notice the water barrels are empty.
- g. **Tools:**
 - Bring your own tools whenever possible.
 - Limited communal tools are available in the shed — always clean and return after use.
 - Never leave any tool unattended at the garden site.
- h. **Plot Upkeep: *To remain in Good Standing you are required to:***
 - Keep your plot weeded and surrounding pathway free of all plants. Neglecting your plot, pathway or assigned area for more than two weeks with no communication may be considered garden abandonment - with next steps determined by the Garden Committee.
 - Prevent all weeds from flowering (e.g. dandelions). Prevent plants from going to seed unless you are

harvesting the seeds and ensure any seeds do not spread to other plots or the pathway.

- Remove all noxious weeds immediately, as they are prohibited; see the poster for a list. If you do not remove noxious weeds, a Committee Member will contact you and then remove them from your plot if you do not
- If you anticipate time commitment challenges, please discuss them as quickly as possible with the Garden Director or Gardener Coordinator, or post in the WhatsApp group to ask for help.

3. Mandatory Garden Duties

- a. You will be assigned a small weeding area, requiring about 6–10 hours per season. If you need help or have unforeseen circumstances, contact the Gardener Coordinator, Director, or post in WhatsApp.
- b. Keep your plot and surrounding pathway in good condition. (see 2.i.)
- c. **Mandatory Events:** All gardeners are required to attend Spring Launch and Fall Clean-Up.
 - During Spring Launch, you **MUST** attend or make alternate arrangements or risk having your membership revoked.
 - During Fall Clean-Up, work on assigned communal tasks only, not your plot and not your weeding area. If you cannot attend the fall clean up and do not make alternate arrangements to complete the 2-hour requirement, you risk having your membership revoked.
- d. The Garden Director may request assistance with other duties such as:
 - Manual labour for maintenance and upkeep
 - Watering the public plots, Food bank plot, community plot, orchard, native plants
 - Other tasks that are required throughout the season

4. Vandalism, Theft and Safety

- a. The garden is on public property and therefore is vulnerable to vandalism and theft. Members are asked to promote the security of the garden by reporting any incidents to the Garden Committee.
- b. Garden during daylight hours only.
- c. As this garden is situated between a park and school, dogs are not permitted inside the fence.
- d. Do not smoke, chew tobacco, or use drugs or alcohol at the garden site.
- e. The shed must always be locked and gates closed by the last person leaving the garden.
- f. During midsummer when vegetables are ready for harvest, gates will remain locked and gardeners will have access. Gate must be locked by the last person leaving.
- g. If you notice any altercations, theft, or vandalism, please report this to the Garden Director and post in WhatsApp. Document with photo or video and note the date and time.

5. Plot Assignment and Retention

- a. New members will be given plots on a first-come-first-served basis upon signing the contract and paying membership fees, and they will be placed in the first available plot.

- b. Non-resident gardeners might not be able to retain their plot from year to year if a Millhurst resident is on the waiting list. Garden plot / weeding areas will be reviewed throughout the summer and will be discussed by the Garden Director, Gardener Coordinator and Membership Coordinator at the end of the season.
- c. Members in Good Standing who secure their plot have priority for their plot next season. Notify the Membership Coordinator with payment by Oct 31; after that, plots will be re-assigned. If you are unsure about retaining your plot, contact the Membership Director by that date to discuss.
- d. Members in Good Standing may plant fall crops if plot is otherwise clean and plot fees are paid by Oct 31.
- e. If the plot is not in use by the second weekend of June and the Membership Coordinator cannot reach you, your plot will be reassigned and fees will be non-refundable.

6. Communication

- a. You are asked to let the Membership Coordinator know your preferred method of communication at the beginning of the season. We will attempt to always use this mode to notify you of events, urgent matters, and matters pertaining to your contract and membership.
- b. You are required to respond to Garden Committee communication within one week if a response is required. If no response is received within two weeks, this may be considered plot abandonment, and the Committee will decide on next steps.
- c. We encourage gardeners to join our WhatsApp group to stay updated and connected with the gardener community. If you are not part of the WhatsApp group, ask the Membership Director how to join.

7. Education

- a. We encourage you to read the Sakaw Gardens Newsletter, which provides great gardening tips and information. You will be subscribed unless you opt out.
- b. We offer monthly Garden Workshops for \$5. Each member earns two free Garden Workshops per year with code LOVETOGARDEN. Details and registration at <https://www.millhurst.ca/sakaw-gardens>. Past topics have included drying, canning, starting plants indoors, and various cooking topics.

___ I understand that participation in the garden is at my own risk.

___ I understand that neither the garden group, associated sponsors, nor the owners of the land are responsible for my actions, or those of my guests, while they are on the land. I therefore agree to hold harmless the Sakaw Gardens Committee, Millhurst Community League, associates or sponsors, and the City of Edmonton, its employees or agents, for any liability, expense, action, suit, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the garden by me or any of my family, friends, guests or pets, etc.

___ I understand that I must fulfill the conditions outlined above (especially sections 2. and 3.) to remain in Good Standing.

___ I understand that my email address will be used to communicate electronically.

Member Information

Name		Date
Email		Phone #
Address		Postal Code
MH Membership #		Plot #
Best mode of communication		

This Membership Contract shall be fully binding on all members and will be reviewed with you by the Membership Coordinator annually, requiring signature.

I have read and agree to comply with the above rules and accept the responsibilities of membership. I am aware that failure to comply may result in the termination of my membership with Sakaw Gardens.

Gardener's Signature: _____

