



LBCA Field Garden Guideline: New Gardener Orientation and Rules

Authored by Dave Goertzen, LBCA Field Garden Volunteer Organizer; October 23, 2021

THE GARDEN IS CONSIDERED ORGANIC!!

General guidelines to follow when using the garden:

1. General:

- Times of operation: Gardening should be limited to within 7am – 10pm.
- Parking is not permitted in the residential alley, nor in front (north side) of the garden as it is a public access for the gravel parking lot that also serves as parking for the recreation fields and Field House building nearby. Please park in the gravel parking lot. Gardeners shall never park against resident fences or garage driveways.
- Steel Storage Bin is for storage of seeds, tools, written garden guidelines, watering components, etc. The storage bin is to remain locked with a combination lock (combination number is 219, please do not give this number out to others, it is for registered gardener's use only).

2. Noise limitations:

1. Quiet period: The garden shall remain quiet outside the hours of 8am – 9pm.
2. Construction/maintenance noise period: Use of any power or construction equipment that produces noise shall be prohibited outside the hours of 10am-8pm, always. The construction and maintenance strategy for the garden is planned to prevent loud noises:
 - a. Wood garden beds and fencing will be pre-cut at an offsite location and assembled at the garden only with power drills to reduce loud noise.
 - b. The garden design is to be fully mulched area land (no grass) so no lawn mower cutting and weed whacking noise is anticipated.
3. Background: The above noise limitations are more conservative than City of Calgary bylaw and are intended to maintain good relations and accommodation of the nearby residents of the Field Garden to ensure harmony and a respectful neighborhood.
4. In the event a resident communicates dissatisfaction with noise or gardener access/groups, the gardener(s) upon hearing complaint shall obtain the residents name and contact information and inform the LBCA Office (Garden Manager) immediately for responsive accommodation action and formal follow-up (within 2 days of the complaint). Any resident concerns or complaints can also be addressed as assisted by the Garden Organizer.
5. Special events with gatherings of greater than 10 gardeners shall be planned with noise in mind with advance notice supplied to residents by the Garden Volunteer Organizer

3. Vandalism accommodation:

1. For Residents:
 - In the unlikely event of vandalism to the garden, the garden group membership shall rectify and repair the conditions to the satisfaction of the reporting resident to ensure visual conditions of resident views of the garden are acceptable. Repairs shall be carried out as quickly as reasonably possible and within 1 week of the vandalism.
 - In the unlikely event that garden property is vandalized and end up located on the resident's property (or restricts access to the resident's property), the garden group membership will assist by removing the debris within 24 hours of the request by the resident.
2. For Gardeners:
 - If an individual bed is vandalized (plantings and/or bed facility) the garden group membership shall collectively share to volunteer to rectify the bed within 1 week of the offence.
 - Members shall assist in replanting the vandalized garden bed, or in the case of late season occurrence, turnover yield of common bed plantings will be allocated to the victimized gardener. Individual gardeners (non-group) will be invited to donate a portion of their vegetable harvest to recover a substantial portion of the vandalized gardener's anticipated lost harvest

4. Plot start-up:

- Remove weeds
- Turn soil, consider adding organic material as necessary.



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5. Compost, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides:
 - Organic fertilizers are available, use them only.
 - Aged manure and compost are to be from reputable clean organic sources only.
 - Herbicides, pesticides and/or soaps etc. are PROHIBITED. Only natural organic products are permitted (cinnamon, mint tea spray, vinegar spray, etc. are permitted such as for ant nest prevention).
 - If you are unsure of a product you want to use, please contact the Garden Organizer for direction.
6. Plant Staking:
 - Various stakes are provided by the garden for common use by all and they are normally stored on the garden shelf rack. Please take what you can use and return items at end of season for future use by other gardeners
 - Gardeners are free to add their own supports during the garden season, provided they remain within the bed internal area and are taken down at the end of season close
7. Watering:
 - Two (2) valved hose rack locations are provided with spray nozzles. Please replace the hose back on the rack after use.
 - Morning vs. evening: Surface watering is encouraged (more efficient) in early or late hours of the day to avoid evaporation loss.
 - Irrigation vs. overhead: Water by irrigation (watering applied to the soil surface) is preferred. Overhead watering (above plants) is not preferred since it can promote certain types of plant fungi to grow and is less efficient.
 - If you are going to be out of town, arrange for someone to water your plot or place an "Out of Town, Please Water Me" sign (other gardeners will cover you).
8. Composting
 - a. All of your plants and trimmings can be composted.
 - b. Dispose of any weeds and plants with powdery mildew in the garbage can. Pea and gourd families (pumpkin, squash) are most prone.
 - c. Place your 'greens' directly in the primary ground compost bin (east side of the compost barrel rack) and chop them with the large garden shears (located in the steel storage bin).
 - d. Please dispose of weeds, ground mushrooms, grass seed heads, and sunflower heads in the garbage can. Please keep them out of our compost.
9. Seed storage: Generally, seeds can be stored in the steel storage bin during the gardening (warm seasons). At winter, they should be moved in warm storage in the Field House Garden locker (see Garden Organizer for key) or a gardener's home. Seeds may last as follows from time of purchase:
 - 1 year – onion, lettuce, parsley
 - 2 years – corn, leeks, okra, peppers
 - 3 years – beans, peas, spinach, carrots, Chinese cabbage
 - 4 years – beets, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, pumpkin, radish, squash, tomato, watermelon
 - 5 years – cucumber, endive, muskmelon
 - 8 years – celery
10. Pets: Pets are generally not permitted in the gardens. Pets are permitted to be in the garden for walk through or visiting purposes (as the general public is also welcome in the garden) but pets must be on leash and prevented from urinating/markings the grounds or the garden beds.
11. Common Beds: Common beds (for herb and/or strawberry planting) if available after registration are for everyone's use and enjoyment (help yourself). They will be signed so that it is clear they are free use and maintenance will be as directed by the Garden Organizer.
12. Fence perimeter berry bushes (future): For everyone's use



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13. Garden Contacts:

- For administration and general management of the garden contact the LBCA Office at:
Tammy Brennan, LBCA Garden Manager
Email: garden@thelbca.ca
Office Phone: 403-271-7107 ext 225
- For operations and coordination of gardening, contact the Garden Organizer at: Dave Goertzen, LBCA Field Garden Volunteer Organizer
Email: goertzentech@shaw.ca
Cell: 403-837-2124