



Gardener Welcome Package 2023

Welcome to the Holyrood Community Garden! This welcome package contains important information about how our garden operates and who to contact with questions. It also contains information about how you can get involved to make the garden grow.

Welcome to Community Gardening

A community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbours. For others, it is a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Others use community gardens simply because they lack adequate space to have a garden at their house or apartment. Regardless of why you are choosing to take part in a community garden, the activity comes with both responsibilities and rewards.

Opening Day 2023:

We are pleased to announce the Community Garden will open to gardeners on Friday, May 26.

Tilling and Fertilizer

Thanks to your Community Garden Committee and the Town, all garden boxes will be tilled, fertilized and ready for planting on Friday, May 26.

Communication

Connect with other gardeners by using the Holyrood Community Garden Facebook Page.

- Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/886737411662915/>
- Facebook Search: Holyrood Community Garden

Garden Improvements

This year, our gazebo will finally be completed before June 1st. We also hope to see our new berry bushes flourish this growing season! Gardeners can expect more professional development opportunities available for everyone before the gardening begins. We are also testing several methods to remove vandalism and wildlife from affecting our garden. We will have this and the professional development sessions communicated to all plot owners as soon as possible.

Gardener Responsibilities:

Community gardening requires more work than just tending to your plot. Every gardener is asked to participate to the best of their abilities in the management and upkeep of the entire garden.

Ensure your Garden is set by June 15

After last growing season the Holyrood Community Garden experienced some plots taken over by weed growth as they were never used. The Holyrood Community Garden Committee has brought this rule in to ensure all boxes are used during our short growing season.

Keep to Your Own Garden Plot

Please do not touch another Gardener's plot unless you have permission to do so. While watering someone's garden plot may seem to be a kind gesture, these gardeners may enjoy tending to their plot themselves.

End of Growing Season

Please make sure your boxes are left with only soil at the end of your growing season. Please remove any rocks, wood or plastic dividers or any other tools used during your growing season.

Weed Removal

Please use the garbage cans provided on site to dispose any unwanted growth from your garden plot. Please do not put these on the ground outside your rental plot.

Plan to visit your garden 2 – 3 times a week during the growing season.

Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door it is sometimes easy to forget that there is wedding, watering, staking, or harvesting to do.

Attend scheduled meeting and workdays

This will help you meet other gardeners and become part of your gardening community.

Make friends with other gardeners.

Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource at your garden. Pick their brains for gardening tips.

Volunteer for a garden job or the committee.

The Holyrood Community Garden Committee may post various jobs to help around the garden You'll be supporting the garden a whole and the whole community will benefit from it.

Educate yourself.

Check out books from the library or attend classes. There is always something to learn about gardening. The more you learn, the more success you will have with your plot.

Harvest product on a regular basis.

During harvest season, let garden leaders know if you plan to be out of town for more than a few days. Gardeners can harvest for you and donate the food if requested.

Garden in Pairs

Stay safe by always having someone with you in the garden. Do not stay in the garden after dark and make sure you have a cell phone nearby incase anything goes wrong. Please note: When working in pairs, your co-gardener must be within your "household bubble".

Rewards of Community Gardening:

Community gardening has the potential to offer a range of benefits to individuals, families, communities and the environment. Benefits include, but are limited to:

Food Production – Community gardens enable people to grow high quality vegetables and fruits for themselves their families and their communities.

Nutrition- Community gardeners eat more vegetables and fruits than non-gardening families.

Exercise- Gardening requires physical activity and helps improve overall physical health.

Mental Health- Interacting with plants and nature helps reduce stress and increase gardeners' sense of wellness and belonging.

Community- Community Gardens foster a sense of community identity and stewardship among gardeners. They provide a for people of diverse backgrounds to interact and share culture traditions.

Environment- Gardens increase biodiversity, reduce runoff from rain, recycle local organic materials and reduce fossil fuel used to transport food.

Learning- People of all ages can acquire and shape skills and knowledge related to gardening, cooking, nutrition, health, culture, etc.

Youth- Community Gardens provide youth a place to explore nature and community.

Income- Produce grown at gardens may be sold or used to offset food purchases.

Property Values- Property values around Community Gardens increase faster than property values in similar area with no garden.

Town Contact information:

If you experience any issues or concerns with the Community Garden, please do not hesitate to contact the Town of Holyrood at 229-7252 ext. 204 or email steve.martin@holyrood.ca

Committee Members

Councillor Sadie King

Steve Martin

Stephanie Quinlan

Rosemary McGrath

Agatha Hickey