



## **Maples Discovery Gardens Co-op Community Garden Member and Plot Rental Guidelines**

### **For all Members:**

-An annual Membership Fee of \$15.00 is due for per each person over the age of 18. Membership fees are due no later than March 31 of the calendar year.

-I understand that the Maples Discovery Gardens Coop is a drug and alcohol free area.

-I will not play loud music, as it disrupts other members, gardeners, and community groups.

-I understand that community garden plots are only for the use of those renting the space. I will not enter into a plot that is not mine, and I will not take anything out of a plot that is not mine. Theft is not tolerated at the Maples, and those found stealing will have their membership and/or plot revoked immediately.

-I will register all those using tools and working my plot with the Membership Coordinator. Every individual gardening, regardless of age must be registered, and pay the membership fee for insurance purposes. This is the same for members who have access to the toolshed, but only working in communal garden areas.

-I understand that as a Member I am protected subject to insurance policy terms and conditions, with the requirement to sign in and out when visiting.

-I will clean and return any borrowed communal tools to the storage area and I will assist in keeping the shed tidy and locked at all times. If I bring a visitor to the gardens, they are not to use the tools.

-I understand that the fruit trees on the property are used for fundraising methods of the gardens. If you would like to sample the fruit, as a member, you can. However, it will not be tolerated to pick more than this. For clarification, please contact the Garden Coordinator.

-Pets are welcome at the Maples, however, they must be on leash at all times and owners are responsible for cleaning and disposing of any pet waste.

### **For Plot Renters:**

I will pay an annual fee of \$0.50/square foot for a garden plot no later than March 31 of the calendar year to secure a garden plot. I will pay a one-time, non-refundable \$20.00 tool usage fee.

For the upkeep, maintenance and beautification of the common areas and grounds, I will provide four post-dated cheques of \$20.00 each dated as follows:

**#1 Spring Fling Clean-up** - March 21, 2015 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**#2 Ready, Set, Grow** – May 16, 2015 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**#3 Weed Whack** – July 18, 2015 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**#4 Fall Fun** – September 26, 2015 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

If I choose to attend the beautification work parties scheduled for these dates my post-dated cheque will not be cashed. If I choose not to attend any particular scheduled work party my cheque will then be cashed and monies used towards the upkeep, maintenance and beautification of the common areas and grounds.



-I understand that there is a \$15.00 penalty for NSF cheque payments. This fee is payable immediately along with the outstanding amount of the original cheque. Should these funds not be received by the Maples in a reasonable amount of time I forfeit the items for which the cheque was provided i.e. Membership, Plot Rental.

-I will begin to develop my plot no later than two weeks after I have rented it.

-I will keep my plot maintained and as weed-free as possible while it is in production.

-I understand that plots are rented for one year with the option to renew a plot at the end of that year based on availability.

- I recognize that this is an environmentally friendly garden. I will not use any harmful herbicides, insecticides, fungicides or any other type of harmful pesticide at any time. All soil amendments will be environmentally friendly. I will only use non-genetically modified seeds.

-I will not grow any herbs or plants that propagate through root division directly into the soil. These plants are almost impossible to dig up for the next plot gardener. For clarification, please ask the Garden Coordinator.

-I will not grow any illegal plants or invasive species such as blackberry, ivy, lamia strum as they are aggressive and threaten the diversity of our ecosystem.

-No barriers to general public access to the site can be erected. The gardens are public property and should not appear to be an exclusive area where the public is made to feel unwelcome.

-I will keep weeds managed so that seeds do not spread into neighbouring plots and will maintain the area immediately surrounding my plot. If I fail to do so, I will be given a warning to clean up the areas, or I will lose my plot.

-If my plot becomes unkempt, I understand I will be given 2 weeks written notice to clean it up. After that it will be reassigned and/or tilled.

-If I will be temporarily unable to maintain my plot, I will inform the Membership Coordinator. If I have a substitute gardener, I will notify the Coordinator of their name, address and phone number. Substitute gardeners will only be permitted to maintain my allotment garden until December 31 of that same year.

-I will only hand water my plot with a hose in order to conserve water. I am also aware that use of sprinklers encourages weed growth on the paths. I will be careful not to water others' plots without their permission and will shut off the water supply valve when finished.

-I will plant tall crops only where they do not shade neighbouring plots. Please contact the Garden Coordinator for clarification.

-I will not grow woody plants such as shrubs and trees as they may shade other plots.

-I will compost plant material in accordance with appropriate composting methods (especially with regard to diseased material). Tomato plants are not to be composted. These and diseased plants should be placed in plastic bags and put into your home garbage.

-I will not put weeds inside the composting area. I will follow the direction of the Garden Coordinator, and follow any instructions necessary.

-I will take non-compostable waste home with me and dispose of it in a responsible manner.

-Trellises, pergolas, cold frames or other such structures of 4 feet high and beyond are not permitted on garden plots.

-I understand that the Maples Discovery Gardens Co-op, or, owners of the land, is not responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE MAPLES DISCOVERY GARDENS CO-OP and THE OWNERS OF THE LAND, FOR ANY LIABILITY,



DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME, MY GUESTS, AND/OR MY PETS.

-I am aware that the Maples Community Gardens Co-op will revoke the assignment of my plot if any of the following occurs:

- 1) If the allotment fee or any part thereof is in arrears as of March 31st.
- 2) If my plot is not actively maintained two weeks after renting.
- 3) If my garden plot is not adequately maintained.
- 4) If theft or attempted theft occurs.
- 5) If I grow any illegal substance or invasive species.
- 6) If I use insecticides or herbicides.
- 7) If I expand my designated area beyond the limits of my plot as set out by the Maples Community Gardens Co-op.

If it appears to the MDGC that there has been a breach of the condition and agreements on the part of the participant, the MDGC will issue two letters. The 1st letter will be a letter of warning. The second letter will be notice that MDCG is revoking the assignment of the plot and will not be required to reimburse the participant.

I have read and fully understand the contents and liabilities of these rules and agree to abide by the rules set out by the Maples Discover Gardens Co-op for the Community Gardens.

Member name:

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Member address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Member phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Member email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Maples? If you could provide us with that information we would greatly appreciate it!

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**Creating a Healthy Community by Nature**