

Mount Forest Community Garden



Mount Forest Community Garden Agreement

1. Your rights as a community gardener and volunteer

- You have the right to garden in a happy, joyful, and secure place where all members and guests are welcomed and treated with respect.
- You have the right to participate in the community.
- You have the right to contribute creative ideas that foster a thriving, healthy, and welcoming community space.
- You have the right to receive communication that keeps you informed.
- You have the right to collaborate and meet other gardeners.
- You have the right to decline tasks you feel are unsafe.
- You have the right to provide feedback via member surveys, design sessions, conversations, emails, and other avenues.
- You have the right to *honourable harvest* * from the common spaces.
- You have the right to participate in the various community garden committees, events and organized activities.
- New members have the right to an orientation. To request an orientation email mountforestgarden@gmail.com, post a request on the Message Board at the garden or contact a member of the Mount Forest Community Garden Leadership Committee (CGLC).

2. Your responsibilities as a community gardener and volunteer

From rights stem responsibilities. Because you and your fellow gardeners have these rights, you also share a collective responsibility. You may renew your membership each year as long as you uphold your responsibilities as outlined below and complete the registration process by the deadline.

2.1 General responsibilities

- I will grow food, flowers, and herbs for personal use only.
- I understand that this is a community garden and to help it succeed **I will contribute at least 5 hours per gardening season to help maintain the site.**
- I am responsible for my own safety and will not hold the Mount Forest Community Garden Leadership or Committee members, its staff or volunteers, Mount Forest Family Health Team or the land owner liable for any injury/loss resulting from any form of participation or work in the community garden.
- I am responsible for ensuring that all guests are aware of the terms outlined in this Agreement.
- My guests and I will abide by all municipal by-laws where applicable.
- I agree to always supervise any children in my care.
- I will email mountforestgarden@gmail.com if I no longer wish to rent my plot(s) or contact a member of the Mount Forest Community Garden Leadership Committee (CGLC).

Mount Forest Community Garden



2.2 Stewarding your garden

- I will plant my garden by June 15 and maintain it throughout the summer. Plots unplanted by June 15 are assumed abandoned and will be reassigned without a refund. If, due to extenuating circumstances, I am unable to plant my garden by June 15th I will email mountforestgarden@gmail.com before this deadline or contact a member of the Mount Forest Community Garden Leadership Committee (CGLC).
- Food Security is a paramount priority for the Community Garden. If I neglect my garden, I will be notified by the Site Manager that my produce may spoil if not harvested. After two notices, remaining ripe produce will be harvested and donated to those in need.
- If I have produce to share from my garden plot, I will offer it to other gardeners, or place it on the Sharing Shelf.
- I understand that I may also mark produce in my plot for volunteers to harvest for donation.
- If I am away for more than two weeks, I will arrange to have someone look after my garden and will notify the Site Manager.
- I will put my garden to bed for the winter by November 1 by following the garden's composting program or cutting back dead plants, and removing any temporary supports. I will strive to protect the health of the soil by covering with compost, leaves, straw or mulch.
- I will use organic methods only (no fungicides, fertilizers, or pesticides).
- I agree to weed and maintain the pathways adjacent to my garden. Any plant protruding into the next garden or onto the path may be trimmed or picked by the adjacent gardener or garden volunteers.
- I will place any tall plants (such as corn, pole beans, or sunflowers) in the center of my garden so they do not shade my neighbour's plants. I may be asked to remove a plant if it interferes with other gardens.
- Despite legalization, I will not grow cannabis or marijuana.
- I will compost unwanted plants either in my garden or by using the garden's compost program.
- I will not plant invasive plants such as mint, catnip, sunchokes, comfrey or other similar plants, unless approved by the Site Manager and in designated containers and locations.
- I will do my best to control insects and pests to reduce the spread into other gardens and will seek out guidance from fellow gardeners and volunteers should this become a challenge for me to manage.
- I will not plant, weed, water, or harvest from any other members' garden unless invited.
- I will use water in a conservative and respectful way.
- I will clean and return tools to the shed.
- I will keep the garden shed locked and will not share the pass code with anyone.

Mount Forest Community Garden



2.3 Keeping Mount Forest Community Garden safe, secure, and beautiful

- I will not drive any vehicles on the garden grounds. Parking is available in the designated areas off of Foster Street and Sligo Road, as indicated on site. Additional street parking is available on Foster Street.
- I will not use any power equipment.
- I will not leave any garbage or unwanted items on site.
- I will not disturb commercial or residential neighbours with noise or loud music.
- I will keep my pets leashed, clean up after them and restrict them to designated areas only. Pet waste will be put in the porta potty tank, and never in the vegetable compost area.
- I will not smoke in the garden area and limit this to the parking areas, and dispose of cigarette butts in the designated container.
- I will garden only during daylight hours.
- I will report theft, vandalism, and unusual activities to mountforestgarden@gmail.com or contact a member of the Mount Forest Community Garden Leadership Committee (CGLC).
- I will read the Message Board in the garden regularly for updates and information.

2.4 Respecting other gardeners, guests, volunteers, and the community garden rules

- I welcome people of all ages, genders, cultural backgrounds, and abilities in the garden and will work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden peacefully in a neighbourly manner.
- I will treat other gardeners, guests, volunteers and committee members with respect.
- I will do my best to resolve any conflicts privately without involving other garden members. If this is unsuccessful, I will email mountforestgarden@gmail.com or contact a member of the Mount Forest Community Garden Leadership Committee (CGLC).
- Serious incidents, such as aggressive, abusive and destructive behaviour or repeat violations/offences can result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges and forfeiture of any crops remaining in the garden.
- I understand that if I violate any of the rules, terms, and conditions outlined in this agreement, it can ultimately result in the loss of membership. When violations come to the attention of the CGLC and where there is no reasonable excuse evident, the process will be as follows:

Mount Forest Community Garden



- The member will receive an initial warning in writing from the CGLC with a clear statement of the violation and the expectations regarding resolution.
- If no response or correction has been made, a second written notice will be sent to the member two weeks later.
- In situations such as conflict with another member, additional expectations such as participation in mediation may be made at this stage.
- In another two weeks if no correction has been made, written final notification will be sent to the member that they have forfeited membership and the plot(s).
- That person will be allowed to reapply for reinstatement of membership and a plot only after one year, and reinstated only at the discretion of the CGLC.

Honourable Harvest*

The Honorable Harvest, a practice both ancient and urgent, applies to every exchange between people and the Earth. Its protocol is not written down, but if it were, it would look something like this:

*Ask permission of the ones whose lives
you seek. Abide by the answer.
Never take the first. Never take the last.
Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.
Take only what you need and leave
some for others.
Use everything that you take.
Take only that which is given to you.
Share it, as the Earth has shared with
you.
Be grateful.
Reciprocate the gift.
Sustain the ones who sustain you, and
the Earth will last forever.*

[By Robin Wall Kimmerer](#)

The Mount Forest Community Garden Leadership Committee would like to acknowledge the Lakeside Community Garden in Kingston, Ontario for sharing their wisdom in drafting this agreement.