

Nelson District Womens Centre
Community Garden Guidelines
May 2025

Welcome to the Nelson Women's Centre Community Garden! We're excited to share this space with you and grateful for the opportunity to grow together—literally! To ensure a safe, respectful, and thriving environment for all, please fill in the questions below, read through the rules and guidelines, and sign on the back page!

GENERAL AGREEMENTS:

1. Gardeners must respect the NDWC code of conduct (attached for reference)
2. **Respect Others:** Treat fellow gardeners, volunteers, and staff with kindness, patience, and consideration.
3. **Inclusive & Safe Space** this is a **women's and gender-diverse space**, guided by trans-inclusive, anti-oppressive values. Discrimination, harassment, or aggressive behaviour of any kind will not be tolerated.
4. **Designated Use:** The Women's Centre and garden are **exclusively for women and gender-diverse individuals**, including **outside of open hours**. Please do not invite or bring anyone who does not belong to this community.

PLOT AGREEMENTS

Plots

1. Plots are assigned on a first come/first serve basis. You can request specific plots, but please remember that since it is a first-come, first served program, you may not get your first choice. A waiting list will be maintained for applicants for whom no plot was available.
2. Email info@nelsonwomenscentre.com or call 250-352-9916 to apply for a plot.
3. Plots are non-transferable. Forfeited plots will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.
4. Garden plots are restricted to one plot per household per season. A season is one year in duration and begins and ends on October 31.

Plot Maintenance Expectations

5. I will maintain my garden on a regular basis

6. If, for any reason (health, vacation, work pressure), you will be temporarily unable to maintain your plot, inform the coordinator. If you have a substitute gardener, inform the coordinator.
7. I understand that if I abandon my garden for more than 2 weeks, without having given prior notice (i.e. of vacation, sickness, etc.) to the garden coordinator, my plot may be re-assigned to someone else.
8. If my plot becomes unkempt, I understand I will be given 2 week's notice by phone or mail address given to us to clean it up. At that time, it will be re-assigned or tilled in and any produce will be donated to charity.

End Of Season Responsibilities

9. Gardeners must clear annual vegetation by October 31st. Cover crops can be left on plots. All stakes should be pulled and piled in the designated location
10. Tilling is discouraged in organic farming and NDWC supports this practice. Therefore, use of a rototiller is not allowed.

GARDENING RULES

Your Plot

11. NDWC follows organic gardening principles. Usage of non-organic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers is not permitted. You will not use chemicals in the garden.
12. Use peat moss in their garden, as it is a non-renewable resource
13. Grow invasive plants, trees, shrubs or grape vines in the garden plot or common areas of the garden.
14. Gardeners agree to keep the garden & garden edges free of weeds, diseased plants, insect-infested plants and over-ripe vegetables. Diseased and infected plants must be removed from the garden and disposed of properly.
15. Do not plant trees or shrubs. If it's woody and perennial, it's not allowed in your plot.
16. Wood chips may be used in the public paths but not in the individual plots. Hay and straw are great mulches and may be used in the plots.
17. Any materials used or structures within the garden plot must be made of natural untreated, unpainted metal or wood. The Garden Coordinator can request that building materials that do not meet the standards, be removed from the garden.
18. You must provide your own seeds and plant starts

Watering

19. Gardeners need to be diligent in shutting the water off after their use (in the past, flooding has occurred due to the water not being shut off!).
20. Gardeners must report all leaks.
21. No overnight watering
22. Watering hoses must be attended at all times

23. Water use is limited to 15min per plot per day
24. Gardeners must follow City of Nelson Water restrictions

Composting and Trash

25. Each Gardener is responsible for trash removal
26. Compost must be put in the compost pile and not left on the side walks.
27. Gardeners are NOT to compost the following items in the outside compost: eggshells, animal waste, meat or fish products, or chemically treated yard waste.
28. Food compost can be added to the Food cyler inside during open hours. Other wise must be taken home with you.
29. ALL garden 'waste' that cannot be composted on your plot including sunflower stalks is the responsibility of the gardener to remove from the garden site- dumping within the community garden area is NOT allowed.

General Site

30. Gardeners will not make any permanent changes to the garden, such as adding an underground watering system or drastically changing the fence, without permission from Garden Coordinator.
31. Gardeners will not build structures greater than 6 feet in height;
32. Only garden WITHIN the designated plot area;
33. Substance use including cigarettes is not tolerated on NDWC property
34. Gardeners will not water other plots unless given permission by the plot owner;
Gardeners will not harvest other gardeners' produce unless given permission by the plot owner.
35. Gardeners will participate in general maintenance and upkeep of the common areas;
36. Park in designated parking areas, where appropriate
37. Electric fences are not permitted in the garden.
38. paths must be free of garden materials and debris so as not to create a hazard nor to impede accessibility.
39. Do not enter or alter other plots with out permission of the owner.
40. Vegetables from garden plots may not be sold for personal profit.
41. Should you wish to listen to the music or a podcast, please use headphones so as not to disturb the tranquility of the gardens.
42. Growing or using illegal substances (including cannabis) in the garden will lead to immediate expulsion.
43. Parking: Monday to Friday Gardeners may unload gardening supplies using either the alleyway or a Centre parking space if one is free for up to 10 minutes. Over weekends, community gardeners are welcome to use the Centre's parking spaces while working in

the garden, unless staff require them for Centre related activities. Gardeners will give advance warning will be given when possible.

Equipment and Tools

44. Take care of tools provided. When finished with garden equipment clean it and organize it back in the shed.
45. Help Keep materials tidy
46. Personal Tools left on NDWC Property is left at owners risk. NDWC is not responsible for theft of damage or personal items.

Gardeners Family and Pets

47. In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners shall treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and visitors with respect and consideration. No stealing (harvesting from others' plots without authorization), verbal or physical harassment is allowed.
48. Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied and fully supervised by an adult.
49. Teach young children to stay on paths.
50. Keep *pets* out of other plots. Keep dogs leashed and under your control at all times and clean up after pets
51. Under no circumstances should dogs be permitted into the gardening area proper because of potential disease from dog feces.

Violation of this rule will result in expulsion from the garden.

52. All concerns or questions are to be directed to the Garden Coordinator, who will follow up as appropriate.
53. All tools provided in the shed are for communal use by all gardeners. NDWC is not responsible for individually owned items, which are stored there at the gardener's own risk.

The NDWC Coordinators for the garden MAY:

- Contact gardeners if the plot or the area surrounding the plot appears neglected or improperly cared for.
- Reassign plots when plots are not properly maintained.
- Contact gardeners regarding usage of non-organic materials or garden applications.

I understand that neither the garden group nor the owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE NDWC AND WKWA OF THE LAND FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE GARDEN BY MY GUESTS OR MYSELF.

Sign-up for a plot:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Plot Number: _____

Start Date: _____

End date: October 31, 2025

I (print name) _____ have read and understood the community garden guidelines as set out by the Centre.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

NDWC Staff Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your participation and care! Let's work together to make the garden a vibrant, nourishing place for everyone.

For questions or concerns, contact us at: info@nelsonwomenscentre.com or 250-352-9916

Gardener: Please keep this sheet for your records