



**SANDOWN CENTRE**  
FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

## **Community Gardens Policy Book**

Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture  
1810 Glamorgan Rd, North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9  
On the traditional territory of WSÍ,KEM (Tsartlip) First Nation

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### **1. Introduction**

The Community Gardens are a program of the Circular Farm and Food Society, the non-profit organization that operates the Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture. Founded in 2019 our mission is to empower farmers, restore land, and secure our food

future. Situated on 13.5-acres of public land in North Saanich, our community gardens is one of many collaborative spaces on-site dedicated to reconnecting people to food, soil, and each other.

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## **2. About the Community Gardens**

**Sandown is a multi-use site** shared by:

- Youth in the Growing Young Farmers Program
- Farmers in the Regenerative Farmer Program
- Members of the public during events, workshops, and volunteer days

Please be aware that:

- The central gazebo is a shared community space
  - The site fosters respectful interaction and cooperation among all users
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## **3. Governance and Program Oversight**

Program Coordinator

The Program Coordinator is responsible for daily operations of the garden, member support, maintenance coordination, and communications.

Contact:

[programs@sandowncentre.com](mailto:programs@sandowncentre.com) or [info@sandowncentre.com](mailto:info@sandowncentre.com)

The Program Coordinator should be contacted for:

- Plot issues or damage reports
  - Irrigation problems
  - Membership inquiries
  - General concerns
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## **4. Membership and Fees**

Annual Fee Structure:

- Raised Beds (4' x 10'): \$150 + GST
- In-Ground Beds (3' x 10'): \$100 + GST
- Herb Garden (Optional add-on): \$25 + GST - Access to harvest from the communal herb garden, which includes established marjoram, rosemary, thyme, and oregano.

Fees include:

- Shared use of hand tools
- Automated irrigation system
- Access to compost and mulch as available

Membership:

- Term: Annual, from January 1 - December 31. Depending on the weather, you can expect to grow between April 1 – November 30.
- Up to 5 beds per family, unless approved by the Program Coordinator.

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## 5. Garden Use and Responsibilities

Gardeners must:

- Maintain edges of their plots
- Use only organic and regenerative methods
- Keep plots clear of debris and hazards
- Bring their own tools, seeds, plants, and soil amendments
- Be respectful and courteous to other users

**Prohibited:**

- Synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides
- Storing tools or materials on-site, including at your plot
- Unauthorized composting (use designated areas only)
- Use of discarded/treated wood for trellises or borders

Plot Maintenance Guidelines:

- Mulch beds by **November 1st**
- Keep row covers secure (site is windy)
- Avoid tall plants that may shade neighboring plots
- Only garden within your designated plot boundaries of 4' x 10' for raised beds and 3' x 10' for in-ground beds

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## 6. Volunteering and Community Engagement

While not mandatory, **volunteering is highly encouraged**. Participating in site projects or joining group activities is a great way to:

- Build community
- Share knowledge
- Contribute to shared goals

Volunteer opportunities can be found on the Sandown [volunteer platform](#).

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## 7. Irrigation and Water Use

- Irrigation system is automated and maintained by staff and is meant to be supplementary, not for germination
- Gardeners are responsible for monitoring irrigation within their plots
- **Do not tamper with irrigation lines or heads**
- Hoses and watering cans are available for additional watering
- In-Ground Beds in row F and row B have overhead irrigation
- In-Ground Beds in rows G - J have two lines of drip irrigation (see Appendix A)
- Raised Beds in rows A, C - E have emitters

Report any issues with the system to the Program Coordinator immediately.

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## 8. Ending Membership and Revocation

Voluntary Exit:

- Notify the Program Coordinator in writing
- No refunds after payment is processed

Involuntary Removal:

Membership may be revoked if a gardener:

- Fails to pay annual fees
- Steals produce, tools, or materials
- Neglects their plot to the point of it becoming hazardous or unkempt
- Is disrespectful to another site user
- Tampers with irrigation lines

Process for Revocation:

1. Program Coordinator contacts gardener
2. 14-day grace period for improvement
3. Final notice issued if no action is taken
4. Plot reassigned to someone on the waitlist

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## 9. Security and Site Access

- The site is fenced and gated
- Gardeners will receive an access code upon registration
- Do not share the access code with non-gardeners

Gardeners are expected to:

- Lock the gate upon exit (unless you have confirmed another gardener is on-site)
- Close the tool shed after use
- Respect off-limits areas (greenhouse, farmer plots, wash/pack facility)
- Take all garbage and recycling off-site

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## **10. Health, Safety, and Conduct**

- Children are welcome but must be supervised at all times
- Dogs must be kept on a leash
- Do not bring hazardous substances on-site
- Garden respectfully and peacefully with fellow site users
- Remove any potential tripping hazards or sharp debris

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## **11. Privacy and Media**

- Member contact details are kept confidential
- Information is used only for garden communication and emergencies

Photography:

- You may be photographed during garden activities
- Photographs may be used for promotional purposes
- Inform the Program Coordinator if you prefer not to be photographed

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## **12. Regenerative Gardening Standards**

All gardening must follow regenerative agriculture principles, including:

- No use of synthetic chemicals (fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides)
- Maintain living or organic ground cover (straw, compost, mulch, cardboard)
- Promote soil health, biodiversity, and minimal disturbance

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## **13. Contact Information**

For all inquiries and communications:

Program Coordinator  
programs@sandowncentre.com

## Appendix A: Community Gardens Map

