



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 WSÍKEM (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.

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

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 or info@sandowncentre.com

The Program Coordinator should be contacted for:

- Plot issues or damage reports
- Irrigation problems
- Membership inquiries
- General concerns

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.

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

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](#).

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.

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

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

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

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

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

13. Contact Information

For all inquiries and communications:

Program Coordinator
programs@sandowncentre.com

Appendix A: Community Gardens Map

