

ALTONA COMMUNITY GARDEN (ACG)

Guidelines and Regulations - 2020

The Altona Community Garden is an **organic** garden managed by the Altona Community Action Network (ACAN) through a three-person Task Force it has appointed, consisting of

Jack Heppner (Manager)	204-304-0656
Jason Peters	204-325-2447
<u>Joel Martin</u>	<u>204-324-6790</u>

Ben Hildebrand (Assistant Manager)	204-324-6628
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Registration: The manager, Jack Heppner, is responsible for receiving applications and payments for garden plots and assigning plots as deemed appropriate. Specific requests of gardeners will be taken into consideration when assigning plots but cannot be guaranteed. A basic plot measures 15 x 45 feet. Gardeners may apply for a half plot, a whole plot, multiple plots or wheelchair accessible raised plots. They can also request to have the same plot(s) the following year, but in that case will need to re-apply by April 1st of the following year. Another option is to apply for permanent plots which will not be tilled by the Town. Each family or gardening unit is limited to a maximum of three plots at the time of registration. If there are extra plots available by May long weekend, additional plots may be assigned at the discretion of the manager, or in the event that demand exceeds supply, by lottery.

Management: The manager or assistant manager will be on call throughout the summer to assist gardeners. Notices will be posted on the bulletin board located in the Commons.

Tools/Shed: ACG will provide a garden shed located in the Commons Area, secured by a key pad lock. Tools and equipment stored in the shed will be clearly identified and available for responsible use by gardeners. All tools and equipment should be returned to the shed after which should remain locked at all times when not present at the shed.

Water Use: Water tanks at the Commons will be filled with Town water regularly. Gardeners are encouraged to use water responsibly. In dry conditions weekly deep watering is better than shallow daily watering. Overwatering can be detrimental to plant growth.

Compost and Straw Supply: ACG will provide a supply of compost which gardeners are free to use on their plots. Each plot will be limited to a specific number of wheelbarrows full at the beginning of the season (posted on the bulletin board). This number may change throughout the season depending on availability. Gardeners are free to bring their own additional supply of compost to use in their plots. Straw bales stored in the shed can be used responsibly by gardeners without extra charge.

Compost Bins: Compost bins will be provided in the Commons. Gardeners are free to bring compostable plant

material, including weeds, and deposit them in these bins throughout the summer. Whatever has not composted by fall will be removed from the garden. A special container will be provided in which to deposit diseased fruit or plants which will be emptied regularly.

Spring Setup and Fall Clean up: The Town will till designated areas of the garden both in spring and in fall. In the fall, gardeners are responsible to clean up their gardens, depositing all compostable materials in a bin which will be stationed at the entrance to the garden. A separate location may be designated for corn stalks.

Plot Maintenance: Gardeners are responsible to maintain their assigned garden plots.

- Weeds must be kept in check and not allowed to go to seed on plots and adjacent pathways.
- If planting potatoes, gardeners are encouraged to use varieties that do not attract potato beetles. Check with the manager about the availability of this variety of seed potatoes. If gardeners use other varieties they are expected to keep the potato beetles under control in an organic manner.
- Plants should not be allowed to overflow into the plots of other gardeners. Try to stay about six inches from plot border.
- Tall plants should be planted on the south side of garden plots to prevent shading adjoining plots.

Dispute Resolution: If a dispute or disagreement develops between gardeners, it is expected that gardeners will take the initiative to come to agreement on their own. If this is not possible, then the manager or assistant manager should be notified. Management will then attempt to mediate the dispute. If that is not successful, the Task Force will determine action needed and that decision will be final.

Crop Swap Table: Gardeners with extra produce may place it on the Crop Swap Table. All gardeners are free to take home whatever produce they find on the table.

Privacy: Information about gardeners gained during the application process will not be sold or distributed to other entities but used solely for purposes related to the Garden.

Safety and Considerations: For the safety and health of all gardeners and their families, no pesticides or herbicides should be used in the Garden. Only organic methods of weed and pest control are allowed. Gardeners should be considerate when sharing tools and equipment with others. (For example: use only two watering cans at a time.) Return tools and equipment to the shed when finished using them after having cleaned them as much as possible. Give mowers, tillers and other equipment adequate space while they are working in order to avoid injury. Climbing on the shed and other structures in the Commons is not allowed.

Liability Waiver: The Town of Altona requires all gardeners to sign a liability waiver in order to secure a garden plot.