



Community Garden Rules

1. Management

The garden is managed by a sub-committee of the Bellvista Community Association (BeCA) known as the Community Garden Group (CGG).

2. Membership

Residents of the Bells Reach and Bellvista communities and other individuals or groups with an interest in the CGG activities and alignment with its objectives.

3. Eligibility for personal plot

Members who are residents of Bells Reach or Bellvista.

4. Fees

Membership \$20 per annum
Plot Hire \$40 per 6 months

Fees to be paid into the BeCA Trust Fund using their name as a reference.

5. Plot allocation

A six (6) month initial plot allocation will be used to establish demand, need, interest and future allocation process. The initial allocation will be based on the receipt of the applications until such time that all plots are allotted. Where demand is greater than supply, a wait list will be established.

After six (6) months, all allocations will be rescinded and the membership will review the use of the garden to date, including turn over, supply, demand and communal plot use. A process for future allocation of plots, duration of plot allocation and costs will be decided by the members. This is to be consistent with the group's objectives. Within one (1) month, BeCA will endorse the CGG's allocation process.

6. Individual plot holders

Individual plots can be used by any number of individuals or family groups, however the applicant is responsible for the upkeep of the plot and fees.

7. Communal plots

Communal plots are available to members and plot holders for gardening purposes.

All members of the public are welcome to harvest from the communal plots and are encouraged to make a donation for the items harvested.

8. Forfeiture of plots

Members cannot transfer plots to another person without the permission of CGG.

If a plot holder no longer wishes to maintain their plot, the plot will be reallocated to a person on the waiting list. If a plot holder/s is unable to tend a plot due to illness, travel, work or emergency for one (1) month or more, they must advise CGG.

If a plot has been unused for three (3) months, the plot holder will be advised in writing that their plot has been forfeited.



Community Garden Rules

9. Responsibilities of plot holders

General maintenance – It is the collective responsibility of members to care for and maintain the area around plots, keeping it free of weeds and rubbish and ensuring there is nothing obstructing the pathways. Mulching of plots is strongly recommended to control weed growth.

Climbing plants – Members are encouraged to use stakes for climbing plants such as tomatoes and beans. A plant height limit of 1 metre applies to prevent blocking the sun to surrounding plots and to keep the garden looking tidy.

Building– Permanent structures must not be built on garden plots or on vacant areas of the garden and surroundings.

Types of plants – Garden plots are intended for growing fruit, vegetables, herbs and companion plants including flowers. Trees and large permanent shrubs are not suitable as they may block the sun to other plots.

Soil – Members are responsible for improving the condition of the soil in their own plot. This can be done by adding manure, compost and mulch.

10. Access to the CGG shed

Members will be issued an access to the shed. Garden-owned tools for the use of members are to be stored in the shed. They must not be removed from the garden at any time.

The shed must not be used for the storage of personal gardening items.

11. Maintenance of common areas and assets

All members of CGG are expected to share responsibility for the care of common areas in the garden. Acceptance of a plot includes a commitment to communal activities such as:

- Removing weeds along the border of garden plots and pathways adjacent to garden beds.
- Picking-up and disposing of any rubbish around the garden. .
- Participation in at least one Working Bee/Clean-Up Day per year. .

12. Task groups

Members are encouraged to volunteer for the following task groups:

Fruit tree maintenance – Regular watering of fruit trees and vines and monitoring the health of the trees. This includes pruning fruit trees and vines and removing excess / fallen fruit .

Compost maintenance - Manage the health of the compost bays.

General maintenance - Make small repairs around the property and take responsibility for the shed and the property stored in the shed.

Communal plots – Coordinate activities in the communal plots, such as planting and maintenance.

13. Waste management

Any suitable plant matter or easily decomposed waste may also be placed in the compost bins. All other rubbish, e.g. wood, plastic bags, tin cans or polystyrene foam must be put in the rubbish bins provided or taken home for disposal.

14. Water management

All members are required to use sustainable watering practices in the garden. Hoses should be hand held and not be left unattended. The use of watering cans is strongly encouraged.



Community Garden Rules

15. Control of garden pests

Members can use safe, environmentally friendly products such as white oil, garlic, chilli or rhubarb sprays, or simply remove pests by hand. Good soil quality and healthy plants will reduce pests.

Members are encouraged to investigate more information about organic pest control.

16. Garden tools

Members must provide their own small tools, e.g. hand trowels.

Larger community garden tools will be kept in the shed. These tools are for the use in the community garden only. Members are responsible for returning tools to the shed and advising of any lost or missing equipment.

17. General conduct in the garden

Members and visitors respect the garden as a community space. Behaviour reflects the objectives of the garden.

18. Dealing with issues

If members have any concerns about the garden – safety, breakages, damage, malfunctioning equipment - they are to advise the CGG .

Grievances relating to plot use or member interacts are to be resolved directly between affected members. Where a matter persists, either member may refer the matter to CGG.

19. Change in circumstances

Members must advise the CGG of:

- Change to address or telephone number
- Inability to tend plot for one (1) month or more
- Forfeiture of plot

20. Other matters

Animals – Dogs, cats and other pets must be under the control of their owner at all times while in the garden. All animal faeces must be collected by the owner and placed in the rubbish bin – **not the compost bins.**

Garden security – Gardeners must lock the shed when leaving the garden

Visitors – CGG is a community area and plot holders are encouraged to welcome visitors who wish to both look around and talk with members.

Children - Children are welcome in the garden and must be supervised by adults

Sale of garden produce –The use of plots for growing plants and/or produce commercially is not permitted, however the swapping and sharing of produce is encouraged.

Community events – CGG is a not-for profit group. Community members are encouraged to participate in, and make suggestions for events or activities. Ideas are welcome.