

# NIAGARA WEST COMMUNITY GARDENS APPLICATION



**Welcome! Thank you for your interest in community gardening.** You are part of a growing trend in urban agriculture and self-sufficiency. Community gardens provide the opportunity to grow your own organic produce, learn and participate in a community initiative with fellow garden members.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact (circle one):                      **Phone**                      **Email**

Age & number of gardeners: **0 - 12 yrs.** \_\_\_\_\_ **19 – 50yrs** \_\_\_\_\_ **51 – 60 yrs.** \_\_\_\_\_ **65+ yrs.** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a new or returning gardener (circle one)?:                      **New**                      **Returning**

If returning, do you request to have the same plot as last year (circle one)?:                      **Yes**                      **No**

Which garden are you wanting to garden at?:

- Beamsville Gardens – Beam St. (near Queen St.), *Plot fee: free*
- Smithville Gardens – Hank MacDonald Park, Mill St. *Plot fee: \$30, free to low-income households*
- Vineland Gardens – Tallman Dr. *Plot fee: \$30, free to low-income households*

**If you are seeking to have your plot fee waived based on income level, please fill out chart & sign below:**

| Population         | Rural<br>(farm and non-farm)<br>< 2500 | Small urban regions<br>< 30,000<br>Beamsville, Vineland,<br>Grimsby, Smithville | 30,000 to 99,999<br>Stoney Creek  | 100,000 to 499,999<br>Hamilton<br>St. Catharines |
|--------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Family size</b> |  |   |                                   |  |
| <b>1</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,583      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$17,729   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$19,375 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$19,496                |
| <b>2</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$19,400      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$22,070   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24,120 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24,269                |
| <b>3</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$23,849      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$27,132   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$29,652 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$29,836                |
| <b>4</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$28,957      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32,943   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$36,003 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$36,226                |
| <b>5</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32,842      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$37,363   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,833 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$41,086                |
| <b>6</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$37,041      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$42,140   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$46,054 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$46,339                |
| <b>7+</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$41,240      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$46,916   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$51,274 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$51,591                |

I am applying to have my plot fee waived. I verify that my household income level based on family size falls at or below the Low Income Cut Offs (LICO) as above.                      **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only:** Plot Fee Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Plot # \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMUNITY GARDEN AGREEMENT + GUIDELINES



In our gardens, you are participating in a shared agreement with both rights and responsibilities. Community garden members are welcome to use a plot and share in the maintenance of the larger garden with the following understandings:

## RIGHTS

As a gardener you have the right to:

- ✔ Garden during the designated season as outlined for your garden site;
- ✔ The basic amenities such as access to your plot, water for your plot, devices for watering;
- ✔ Equal opportunity and non-discrimination;
- ✔ A reasonably harmonious environment, and appropriate conflict resolution measures if needed;
- ✔ An orientation to your garden by the Garden Coordinator or other assigned garden representative.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The sustainability of a community garden is only possible through collective responsibility. By participating in our program, you are agreeing to adhere to, promote and accept these responsibilities outlined below as standard operating philosophy.

As a plot holder you are responsible:

- ✔ For treating your fellow gardeners and community members with respect;
- ✔ For preparing your garden for planting by May 31st and cleaning up by October 31<sup>st</sup>;
- ✔ For maintaining a weed-free pathway surrounding your plot at all times;
- ✔ For taking responsibility for your garden waste by composting at your garden plot or removing compost off site;
- ✔ For cleaning and returning the tools to the storage area after each use and helping to keep the shed tidy and organized;
- ✔ For adhering to organic gardening principles. The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers is prohibited;
- ✔ For caring for your assigned plot. Plots must be maintained in an orderly condition at all times. Weeds must be removed on a regular basis and not allowed to take over a plot or go to seed;
- ✔ For not erecting any structures or pots alongside your plot. Trellis and cages inside a plot must not be higher than 4 feet and must not shade a neighbouring plot;
- ✔ For notifying the Coordinator as soon as possible if you must abandon your plot, so your plot can be reassigned;
- ✔ You agree to the removal of diseased plants in your plot by the Coordinator without notice.

Once a plot has been assigned and paid for, no portion of the fee is refundable. Plot holders are not allowed to give their plot to someone else. The garden sites are open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week. Family members are welcome - please supervise young children

Any violations of the agreement will be handled in the following manner: (1) we will phone you to state the violation; (2) we will send an email or letter regarding violation with options to rectify; (3) we will send a final notice of garden plot forfeiture with date when you have to forfeit your Garden plot.

Attendance at the Spring and Fall Meeting is important, for orientation and for fall clean-up coordinating. If you cannot attend you must call the Program Coordinator. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Gardens Program Coordinator at 905-563-9675 x2260, or email at [gardens@employmenthelp.org](mailto:gardens@employmenthelp.org).

*I have read and understand these terms and agree to abide by them. I hereby accept the conditions of this Community Garden Agreement, and understand that the contravention of this agreement will result in forfeiture of my garden plot.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_