

# **PINE STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN**

## **Membership Rules**

The Pine Street Community Garden Society (PSCG) operates on land owned by the City of Vancouver. The City leaves the administration of the garden to the PSCG Society although it also sets out some general rules that all community gardens must follow. The following rules respect those requirements as well as ones developed by the Society's Board of Directors.

**As a member of the Pine Street Community Garden Society, I commit to abide by the following Rules as approved by the Society's Board of Directors:**

### **Garden Membership – Administrative Requirements**

1. Members will pay a non-refundable annual membership fee by March 31st of each year.
2. Memberships cannot be assigned or transferred.
3. The primary-gardener member is responsible for their assigned plot throughout the garden season. If a member is away for part of the growing season or summer, or if unable to garden for any other reason, the member will find someone to tend to their plot while they are away.
4. Members must advise the Membership Director if they cannot keep one or more of the commitments in these Rules, or if they choose to terminate their garden membership.
5. Members will advise the Membership Director of any change of address, email address or phone numbers so that they can be contacted regarding garden work parties or other garden business. If members do not advise the Membership Director of any changes and cannot be contacted, they may lose their membership privileges and have their plot reassigned.
6. Members must accept and comply with the terms and provisions of the Pine Street Community Garden Society Bylaws which are available on the Society's webpage.

### **Maintaining Plots and the Garden**

7. Members will only use organic gardening practices. This means they will not use any synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, or fungicides in the garden. Combined fertilizer-pesticide products such as "weed-and-feed" products are not allowed.
8. Members will prepare their garden plots by May 1st at the latest and start planting by May 25<sup>th</sup>, unless otherwise communicated by the Board.
9. Members must keep their plots planted and weeded throughout the garden season and not leave garden trimmings on paths or common areas.

10. Compost Collection Bins: Members must only place **permitted waste** (no weeds, seeds, diseased plants, rootballs, thick stalks, wood, rocks, compostable plastics, or any other non-organic materials) in the marked PSCG compost collection bins **as directed by the compost committee**. See examples in the pictures below.

| Compost Collection Bins<br>for Green Material                                      | Compost Collections Bins<br>for Brown Material                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |

- 11. City Green Bins:** Members must place all other garden trimmings, weeds and other compostable materials in the City of Vancouver green bins. See picture below. Only when those bins are full can paper bags be used.



- 12. Compost in Progress Bins:** Only members of the Compost Committee are permitted to add material in the clearly marked bins where the composting process is in progress. Do not add anything to those bins.



13. Members must maintain and weed the areas immediately surrounding their plots, including keeping the grass around plots trimmed.
14. Members must maintain the structure of their plots, repairing or replacing the wood as necessary. They will not use treated wood, tires, or other potentially toxic materials in or around their plots.
15. Members must ensure any trellises, supports, fences, or any other structures in their garden plots are no higher than 1.5 meters. Plants must not infringe on neighbouring plots.
16. Members must “winterize” their plots by November 1st of each year by removing plant material that they do not intend to winter-over and taking down any trellis, stakes, or other plant supports not in use and storing them neatly and discretely in their plots for the winter.

### **Being a Good Neighbour and a Part of the Community**

17. Members must clean and return tools to the tool sheds after use. Garden sheds must be kept always locked.
18. Members are obligated to participate in a minimum of 3 Board-organized Garden work parties throughout the gardening season. Dates will be posted on the PSCG web site.
19. Members who cannot, for a valid reason, participate in sufficient work parties to attain the required hours can independently do make-up work. Make-up work should be pre-approved by the Membership Director, and photos or a description of the completed work should be promptly reported to the Membership Director.
20. Failure to perform required work hours will result in forfeiture of a member’s membership and garden plot.
21. Members are allowed to enter other plots only by invitation of the plot holder.
22. Members must not engage in abusive or disrespectful behaviour toward any member of the garden or the general public. The bylaws provide that abusive or disrespectful behaviour is a justification for expulsion.
23. Members are not allowed to cut down or prune any trees in the common garden areas, including in the PSCG orchards. Tree pruning is to be undertaken only by the PSCG Tree Management Committee or professionals contracted by the Board.
24. **Members cannot plant vegetables or other crops outside their designated plots.** Instead, members are encouraged to plant ornamental plants outside their designated plot boundaries to create an attractive buffer with the adjacent neighbourhood, but not to the extent where it interferes with the City’s maintenance of the Greenway or other public infrastructure.
25. Members should follow all requirements for the containment and management of invasive species and pests, including:
  - a. Japanese Beetle Containment (<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/japanese-beetle.aspx>);
  - b. Rat and Mouse Control (<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/rats-and-mice.aspx>);

c. Other invasive species

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/InvasivePlantsBrochure.PDF>

March 3, 2023