

# Garden City Community Garden

## Introduction

The Garden City Community Garden was established in 2002. It has seven plots located in the grounds of the Fishermen's Bend Community Centre and is managed by the Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House.

It is the most recent (and smallest) of several community gardens made available to residents by the City of Port Phillip including Dig In (Port Melbourne), Veg Out (St Kilda), and others at Balaclava and Elwood. The Garden City Community Garden seeks a cooperative and working relationship with other community groups, including other community gardens in the City of Port Phillip (COPP), to advance the interests of members and to promote the principles of environmental sustainability and gardening as recreation. Membership of the community garden is open to applicants who agree to abide by the Garden Rights and Responsibilities (below). The Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House employs two part-time staff which report to a Committee of Management. Members of the Community Garden are welcome to nominate for membership of the committee.

The aims of the Garden City Community Garden are:

- To provide opportunities for social interaction and healthy recreation through the shared enjoyment of gardening.
- To provide opportunities for people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities to increase their gardening knowledge through visiting the garden, maintaining a plot and tending common garden areas;
- To provide a cooperative and sharing environment which promotes good gardening practices in sustainability, recycling and waste management.

## Garden Rights and Responsibilities

### Members

1. Members will be allocated a key to the garden entrance and to the members' garden shed for which they pay a deposit \$20.00 which is returned if they cease to be a member.
2. Each member will be allocated shelf space in the community garden shed.
3. Each member are expected to attend regular garden meetings and to help out with general maintenance tasks for the entire community garden site, and raise issues for discussion. These are held on Saturday mornings up to once per month. Meeting times and dates will be placed on the notice board inside the shed.
4. Planting in shared areas of the garden should be done as an outcome of joint planning with other members at community garden meetings.
5. Organic garden practice is strongly encouraged. Pesticides and weedicides are not to be used without the unanimous prior consent of the members. All non-garden rubbish including cigarette butts is to be removed from the site by the member producing it.
6. As far as possible organic refuse should be composted in the compost areas available.
7. Members are expected to be mindful of the need to use water efficiently and non-wastefully and comply with all water restrictions stipulated by public authorities.
8. The garden is to be used for plantings only, and constructions over fifty centimetres are discouraged without the unanimous consent of members. Members should also ensure tall plants do not overshadow adjacent plots to the detriment of the plots. Trees are to be planted in pots. Invasive species of plants are not to be planted in the garden including in pots.
9. Members should be respectful of other members' tools and plots. Communal tools stored in the shed must be treated with care and returned to the shed after use.

10. The last person to leave the garden is responsible for ensuring the locking of the gate and shed.
11. Members are required to abide by the rules for the benefit of all and the smooth running of the garden. If a member is in breach of the rules, two warnings will be given before membership is terminated and the garden plot reallocated by PMNH. If the offence is serious, the plot may be removed immediately.
12. To maximise the opportunities for residents of City of Port Phillip to participate in the community gardens, only one plot is allocated per household/group. Plot holders may not transfer their plot to another person.
13. Plots are allocated by the PMNH on the basis that they will be used and maintained regularly as a garden and plots will be reallocated by PMNH if they are not used for an extended period. Plot holders are also expected to contribute to maintaining the garden site.
14. Vacant plots will be advertised to applicants by PMNH on a first come, first serve basis in the event of their being insufficient plots PMNH will maintain a waiting list and allocate plots, as they become available.
15. Membership fees will be collected annually by the PMNH:
  - letters will be mailed to all members in August of each year seeking annual renewal of fees
  - fee levels for plots are determined by the members of the community garden. In 2004 the fees were set at \$5.00 per square metre for the year
  - all fees collected will be used for maintaining the community garden as determined by the members at community garden meetings.
16. PMNH will maintain a current list of names and contact details of all plot holders for correspondence and public liability purposes.
17. PMNH will allocate a key to new members to the garden entrance and to the members' garden shed collect a deposit (currently \$20.00) which is returned if the cease to be a member.
18. If a garden plot is not maintained PMNH will inform the plot holder and the member will have one month from that day to tend their plot. If a member has not done so in this time, the plot may be re-allocated and the appropriate portion of fees refunded.

# Garden In the City Community Garden Application Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to abide by the above rules:  
(name)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

What do you intend to grow? \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred size of garden plot:  small (1-4 sq mt)  medium (4-7sq mt)

large (7-10sq mt)

if available, plot number: (in order of preference) 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Number allocated: \_\_\_\_\_

Key issued: Yes  No