



Safety Guidelines

Gardening at the waterfront requires that safety is always on the mind. The following safety guidelines will help make your gardening experience successful. Your cooperation in following these safety guidelines will ensure that everyone has a safe season.

Weather

- Wear sun protection, including a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and long sleeves when needed.
- Wear gloves to protect your hands (remember stinging nettle!).
- Drink water regularly to prevent heat exhaustion and dehydration.
- Stop gardening and seek shelter when a thunderstorm is imminent.

Garbage and Debris

- Place garden debris into paper leaf bags to a **maximum of 25 lbs.** Bags can be obtained from the Heritage Gardener shed.
- Place bags beside the walkway without blocking the path. Garden debris will be collected by City Parks staff for composting.
- **DO NOT PLACE GARDEN WASTE IN CITY GARBAGE CANS AND RECEPTACLES AT THE WATERFRONT.**
- Leave tree limbs to be pruned by City Parks staff.

Tools

- Leave tools in the garden bed when not in use with the sharp or pointy side facing into the soil. Tools left on the walkway could injure you or a member of the public.
- Keep hoses in a straight line close to the curb and avoid crossing pathways. **A minimum of three orange safety cones** (available from the shed) must be used to mark a hose that crosses the walkway; someone should warn walkers of the hazard.
- **Hoses are NEVER to cross the Kate Pace Way.**

Others

- Take care when watering your garden bed to avoid soaking park users.
- Check to see if anyone is walking on the path before stepping out of your bed.
- Ask dog owners for permission before petting their dog(s).

Volunteers

- **DO NOT DRINK WATER OBTAINED FROM HOSES.** Water from hoses is **not potable** as the system uses water taken from the lake (there are signs on the hose boxes).
- Move slowly and carefully when pushing a wheelbarrow.

- Report any hazards, sharps, or incidents to your Team Leader. Take extra care to identify potential hazards before gardening. If you identify hazardous objects, do not touch them and report them immediately to your Team Leader (or Horticultural Coordinator or Executive Director as necessary).



City Policy States

The following items must not be transported to the waterfront when performing gardening tasks:

- Gas-powered equipment
- Chain saws
- Tractors and motorized vehicles
- Herbicides/pesticides

Sharps

A sharp is an object that has the ability to puncture or cut someone or something. Examples include:

- Needles
- Syringes
- Lancets
- Scalpels or razor blades
- Glass pipes
- Any other item(s) that may cut or puncture the skin, which may have also been contaminated by blood or bodily fluids

What to do if you see a sharp

- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RECAP NEEDLES OR ANY SHARP OBJECTS.**
- If you identify hazardous objects, do not touch them and report immediately to your Team Leader.
- If your Team Leader is not available, contact the Horticultural Coordinator at 705-497-4755 or Executive Director at 705-825-4118.
- The Horticultural Coordinator or Executive Director will then contact a City Parks Supervisor to properly dispose of the sharp(s).

Protect yourself while gardening

- Take extra care to identify potential hazards before gardening.
- Familiarize yourself with the Heritage Gardeners Safety Guidelines document.
- Report any hazards, sharps or incidents to your Team Leader (or Horticultural Coordinator or Executive Director as necessary).

If injured by a sharp

- **Immediately report the injury to the Horticultural Coordinator at 705-840-8600 or Executive Director at 705-825-4118.**

North Bay and Parry Sound District Health Unit recommends the following actions if you are injured by a sharp:

- Let the wound bleed freely.
- Wash the area with soap and water.
- Seek medical attention for serious injuries and for advice about risks of infection and suggested treatment.

For additional information or questions about sharps in the community, please email at harm.reduction@healthunit.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Heritage Gardeners' Safety Guidelines