



### Safety Guidelines

When gardening by the waterfront, safety must be the key consideration. To ensure a safe, enjoyable, and successful experience for all, we ask that you adhere to the following safety guidelines. Your cooperation is essential in maintaining a secure environment throughout the season.

#### Personal Protection

- All volunteers must wear **covered footwear** while gardening at the waterfront.
- Gardeners must wear the provided **cobbler apron** when working in the garden beds. In addition to being the most important marketing tool for the Heritage Gardeners, cobbler aprons:
  - quickly and easily identify Heritage Gardeners at the waterfront in emergency situations
  - help clearly distinguish gardeners from others, ensuring that only authorized individuals are working in the garden area for added safety and security
  - safeguard clothing from dirt and wear
  - offer convenient storage and access to gardening equipment, phones, wallets, etc.
- While tools are provided, gardeners must **bring their own gloves** to garden.
- It is highly recommended that volunteers use **sun protection** - including a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and long sleeves when needed.
- Report any hazards, sharps, or incidents to your Team Leader. Take extra care to identify potential hazards before gardening. Refer to the following section on sharps for more information.
- Drink water regularly to prevent heat exhaustion and dehydration. **Do not drink water from hoses.** Water from hoses is **not potable** as the system uses water taken from the lake.
- 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. Leave tree limbs to be pruned by City Parks staff.
- **Do not place garden waste in city garbage cans/receptacles at the waterfront.**

#### Tools

- Proper use of tools is integral to gardener and public safety at the waterfront. Please ensure that:
  - tools are not left on public walkways, and placed in the garden bed when not in use, ensuring that the sharp or pointed ends are facing into the soil for safety.
  - all tools borrowed from the shed are returned by the end of your gardening session
  - hoses are maintained 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; walkers should be warned of the hazard.
    - **Hoses are NEVER to cross the Kate Pace Way.**

## Other

- 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).

### City Policy States

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



- Gas-powered equipment
- Chainsaws
- 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, or Lancets
- Scalpels or Razor Blades
- Glass pipes
- Any other item(s) that may cut or puncture the skin, which may be contaminated with blood or bodily fluids

## What to do if you see a sharp

- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RECAP NEEDLES OR 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 Office Administrator at 705-825-4118.
- The Team Leader or Office Administrator will subsequently dispose of the sharp, or reach out to the appropriate individual to ensure safe disposal.
- If you are comfortable managing this, please do so using the following methods:
  - Do not walk around while holding a sharp object. Bring a puncture-proof and hard-sided container with a lid (such as a jar) to the item.
  - Do not handle the needle directly. Use tongs if possible; if not, pick it up from the blunt end only.
  - Place the sharp in the container immediately and secure the lid tightly.
  - Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling.
  - Label the container "hazardous waste" and take it to the Health Unit for proper disposal.

## 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 Office Administrator as necessary).

## **If injured by a sharp**

- Immediately report the injury to the Office Administrator at 705-825-4118, and follow the steps below.

## **North Bay and Parry Sound District Health Unit recommend 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 visit <https://www.myhealthunit.ca/en/health-topics/sharps.aspx>.

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