

Member Guidelines

CURLY COMMUNITY GARDEN Inc

1. Garden Atmosphere:

- Members are responsible for cultivating a friendly atmosphere and being respectful of other members and visitors to the garden.

2. Garden Beds:

- All garden beds are shared beds, which are maintained and harvested at garden working bees.

3. Management Committee:

- The Management Committee consists of five to ten garden members, elected at the garden's Annual General Meeting (AGM), who meet regularly to plan and oversee the operation of the garden.
- The committee is responsible for maintaining communication with the Northern Beaches Council and fulfilling the legal requirements associated with being an Incorporated Association.

4. Working Bees:

- Working bees are held on Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons to maintain all areas of the garden.
- Members are encouraged to arrive as early as possible so the working bee can end at the scheduled time.

5. Garden Co-ordinators

- A team of Garden Co-ordinators takes turns running garden working bees.
- Upon arriving at the garden, members should check with the Garden Co-ordinator to determine what tasks need to be done. Members may also make suggestions if they have ideas of other tasks that should be done.

6. Organic Gardening and Permaculture Methods:

- Healthy soils, companion planting, biodiversity and crop rotation are used to encourage plant health and natural pest and disease control.
- Compost generated by the garden's community composting program is used to enrich garden beds.
- Myrtle rust is a serious fungal disease that can infect plants in the Myrtaceae family, including the Lilly Pilly, Feijoa, Native Guava, Cinnamon Myrtle and Lemon Myrtle trees that grow in the garden's food forest.
- Members should report any plant diseases, invasive plants or pests that they observe to the Garden Co-ordinator or another member of the Management Committee.
- Chemical pesticides and fertilisers are not used, and organic sprays are only used as a last resort.

7. Harvesting:

- Harvesting occurs during working bees, with produce shared between the members in attendance.
- Members are welcome to harvest herbs from the garden at any time during the week.

8. Garden Access:

- The garden is open to both members and the public from sunrise to sunset every day of the week.
- Garden members are given the combinations to the garden sheds' locks on a need to know basis.
- Members are not permitted to use the North Curl Curl Community Centre building, including indoor toilets, water and power sources. Public toilets are available behind the children's playground.
- Dogs on leashes are allowed within the community centre and grounds but are prohibited within 10 meters of the playground and food preparation areas.

9. Watering the Garden:

- Members can join the garden's Watering Team to water the garden between working bees.
- Beds are mulched and watering is done using watering cans or hoses with trigger nozzles to ensure efficient water use.
- Ten of the raised garden beds are wicking beds that supply water from the bottom up, so require less top watering.
- Members should adhere to the garden's Watering Guidelines and Sydney Water restrictions.

10. Garden Logbook

- Garden Co-ordinators record the working bee attendees and any important notes in the Garden Logbook, which is stored in the shed.

11. Garden Tools:

- Members are encouraged to use their own garden gloves and tools.
- Garden tools and equipment must be cleaned before being returned to their assigned location in the shed.
- Report damage or wear and tear of tools to the Garden Co-ordinator or a Management Committee member.

12. Waste Management:

- Members who don't compost at home are encouraged to participate in the garden's composting program.
- Most organic waste produced on site is placed in the garden's compost bins or bio-intensive compost pile.
- Invasive weeds, seed heads and pods, bindis and large branch off cuts are disposed of off-site.
- All non-organic waste must be taken home to be disposed of responsibly.

13. Garden Safety:

- All members are encouraged to attend an orientation session to become familiar with garden procedures and safety guidelines.
- Members must take full responsibility for their actions and adhere to the Safety Guidelines for Curly Community Garden when working in the garden. Participation in the garden is at the member's own risk and Curly Community Garden is not liable for any injury that may occur or for any loss of possessions.
- Report all potential dangers, accidents, injuries and near misses occurring in the garden to the Garden Co-ordinator or another member of the Management Committee to note in the Garden Logbook. If necessary, fill out an Accident, Incident and Near Miss Report form.

14. Children:

- Children are encouraged to participate at the garden.
- Parents are responsible for supervising and ensuring the safety of children.
- Children under 11 are not to be left unsupervised.

15. Communication:

- Methods of communicating with garden members and with the community include face-to-face communication, emails, and the garden's website and Facebook page.
- If a working bee is cancelled due to inclement weather (e.g. heavy rain, storms, extreme heat), members will be notified via a post on the garden's Facebook page.
- Members are encouraged to make suggestions or provide feedback about the garden.
- Members are welcome to attend Management Committee meetings and the garden's AGM.

16. Disputes:

- Members should attempt to amicably resolve any disputes with the person who is causing them concern.
- If an amicable resolution is not possible, refer any issues to the Management Committee, who will follow the guidelines for dispute resolution according to the Association's constitution.

17. Smoking and Alcohol:

- Alcohol is only to be consumed on site at specified social occasions.
- Smoking or any form of substance abuse is not permitted at the garden.

18. Member Details:

- Members must notify the Management Committee of any change of address, phone number or email address.

19. Fees:

- The annual membership fee is due on 1 July each year.

20. Voting:

- An individual or household membership entitles a person or household to one vote per agenda item at the Curly Community Garden AGM.