



What is a community garden?

A community garden offers families, individuals and community groups the chance to grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers on a piece of public land.

While people have the opportunity to tend their own plot of land, some gardening duties are shared. For example, gardeners help prepare the soil in the spring (e.g., turning over the soil and adding nutrients) and help look after the gardens during the summer. Because of this, everyone benefits from spreading around the work.

There are also many benefits from getting involved in a community garden. Community gardening enables people to grow fresh, nutritious and affordable food. It is a great way to meet your neighbours, and gain an understanding of the environment. It is also relaxing and good exercise. And finally, community gardening provides opportunities for knowledgeable gardeners to share their expertise with people just starting to garden. By encouraging people to gather and be outdoors, a community garden can help to make a neighbourhood a friendlier place to be!

Why have a community garden in Yellowknife?

Do you know someone who is unable to garden because they:

- live in an apartment?
- have a yard that is all rock?
- share a yard with another family or person?
- are unable to do the heavy gardening work?
- don't feel they know enough to start gardening on their own?
- don't have enough money to start up a garden from scratch?
- want to learn how to use organic gardening methods?

These are some of the reasons why the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective (YCGC) decided to start a community garden. Our community garden provides Yellowknife residents and non-profit community groups the opportunity to plan and grow their own gardens.

The community garden was also started for another reason: to assist Yellowknife food security groups by growing inexpensive and nutritious food for people in need. This is done by setting aside a section of the garden that is dedicated to growing produce for these food security groups.

Who runs the community garden?

The community garden is run by its members. A Board of Directors is responsible for organizing many activities, including:

- *site development and maintenance*;
- *administration* (paying water bills, collecting membership dues, setting bylaws); and
- *education* (providing information resources to gardeners, holding workshops on special topics).

Board Directors were elected at the Annual General Meeting held in the fall of 1997. The 1997/98 Board includes the following members:

(vacant)	Chair
(vacant)	Co-Chair
Laura Seddon	Treasurer
Lisette Self	Secretary
Margaret Ferguson	Site Manager
Janice Brum	Publicity/Public Relations
Daphne Landry	Liaison
Kay Gould	Education Coordinator
Bob Kosta	Archivist
Mark Eveson	Resource Coordinator

(over)

YCGC is a Society

YCGC is registered as a non-profit society under the *NWT Societies Act*. Society status is necessary for YCGC to:

- establish formal relationships and agreements with other agencies (eg., lease agreement with the City of Yellowknife to use and develop the garden site);
- accept donations and in-kind contributions from local businesses and individuals in order to offset costs associated with growing produce for food security groups;
- apply for funding from government programs to improve the community garden or contribute to the health and well-being of our community.

Where is the garden located?

Our community garden is located at the corner of Kam Lake and Woolgar Road. The site is 50 feet wide by 150 feet long, and is secured by a fence and gate. Site amenities include a garden shed, basic gardening tools, compost bins, water access and a picnic table.

Who can have a garden plot?

Anyone who is a Yellowknife resident is able to participate in our community garden. Youth under the age of 18 years must have adult consent and adequate supervision at the garden site. Non-profit community groups, including schools and organizations, are also encouraged to become involved.

Are there any costs?

All YCGC members pay a \$5 membership fee. This fee helps pay for garden materials as well as information resources. In addition, gardeners pay a plot user fee of \$20/plot. This fee helps to offset costs associated with water use. Fees are set at minimum levels that are affordable to members while meeting yearly costs.

How can I become involved?

Personal gardening:

Every year (approximately March), the Board confirms whether gardeners of the previous year wish to renew their membership. Once the Board knows how many garden plots are vacant, memberships are offered (on a first-come-first-serve basis) to new people who have indicated their interest. Contact a Board Director if you would like to have a personal garden plot.

Volunteer gardening:

Not all members want a garden plot of their own. Some people like to garden for the fun of it and give the produce to a local food security group. Individuals or non-profit groups who wish to do this are encouraged to contact a Board Director.

For more information

Please contact a Board Director for more information about YCGC, including membership:

Laura	873-2257	(betsed@internorth.com)
Lisette	873-6901	(lisette_self@gov.nt.ca)
Margaret	920-2347	(margaret@internorth.com)
Kay	920-2376	(lloydgo@ssimicro.com)
Janice	873-8705	
Mark	873-4834	
Bob	873-8909	

Our address is:

Yellowknife Community Garden Collective
PO Box 21
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1

We look forward to hearing from you!



Developing Community Spirit and Pride