

URBAN FOOD GARDENS



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND BUILDING



WHAT IS AN URBAN FOOD GARDEN?

An urban food garden is the use of non-agricultural lands such as residential yards and vacant lots for growing and harvesting fruits and vegetables. Urban food garden uses permit the sale of the harvest to a retailer.

BENEFITS OF URBAN FOOD GARDENS

Food produced locally is less susceptible to disruptions in the food supply and is carbon neutral and more environmentally friendly. Urban food gardens create new opportunities for entrepreneurs to grow and sell locally grown food to community retailers. Locally grown food allows people who are not able to garden to enjoy the benefits of food grown locally.

URBAN FOOD GARDENS:

- allow up to 20% of a parcel to be used for the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and edible plants (but specifically excludes mushrooms and marijuana);
- are permitted in all zones within the City of Parksville;
- permits fruits and vegetables to be collected for wholesale or exchange;

URBAN FOOD GARDENS MUST NOT:

- involve direct retail sales on the parcel to the general public;
- use artificial light;
- use pesticides or herbicides;
- occur within a building except in conjunction with a residence where one greenhouse or accessory building with a floor area of less than 10 sq m may be used.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF AN URBAN FOOD GARDEN

- composting is limited to only organic plant matter generated on the parcel and shall not create odour detectable off the property or generate nuisance;
- shall not create noise, dust, vibration, odour, smoke, glare, electrical interference, fire hazard or any other hazard or nuisance to any greater or more frequent extent than that usually experienced in the zoning district in question where no urban food garden exists;
- shall not occur within 7.5 m of the natural boundary of the sea or lake or within 30 m of the natural boundary of any other watercourse or source of potable water supply;
- shall be subject to “Tree Management Bylaw, 2012, No. 1484” and subsequent amendments thereto.



Photo Captions

Cover photo: High Point Community Garden, Seattle [public domain].

Inner photo 1: Joshjrowe (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Community_Garden.JPG), „Community Garden“, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>

Inner photo 2 (top): Ruth Hartnup from Vancouver, Canada ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Exploring_the_community_garden_\(10294783064\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Exploring_the_community_garden_(10294783064).jpg)), „Exploring the community garden (10294783064)“, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/legalcode>

Inner photo 3 (bottom): Ruth Hartnup from Vancouver, Canada ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maple_Community_Garden_\(5860616445\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maple_Community_Garden_(5860616445).jpg)), „Maple Community Garden (5860616445)“, <https://creativecommons.org/>

Information is for convenience only. Contact department staff to discuss current and applicable bylaws



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