

North Bay Heritage Gardeners Safety Guidelines for Volunteer Gardeners

SAFETY FIRST! 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 with these safety guidelines will ensure that everyone has a safe season. This guideline is to be used in conjunction with the COVID-19 safety guidelines for volunteers.

1. Leave tools in the garden bed when not in use, putting the sharp or pointy side into the soil. Tools left on the walkway could injure you or the public.
2. 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 hose across the walkway and have someone warn walkers of the hazard. **Hoses are NEVER to cross the Kate Pace Way.** The garden beds have a watering system, thus reducing the need to use hoses except at planting time.
3. **DO NOT DRINK WATER OBTAINED FROM THE HOSES!** Water from the hoses is not potable as the system uses water from the lake (there are signs on the hose boxes).
4. Take care when watering your garden bed to avoid soaking park users.
5. Check to see if anyone is walking on the path then step forward out of your bed.
6. Ask dog owners for permission before petting their dog.
7. Place garden debris into paper leaf bags to a **maximum of 25 lbs.** Place bags beside the walkway without blocking the path. The bags can be obtained from the Heritage Gardener shed. Garden debris will be collected by the City Parks staff for composting at the Merrick Landfill site.
8. **PLEASE, ABSOLUTELY NO GARDEN WASTE IN THE GARBAGE CANS AND RECEPTACLES AT THE WATERFRONT.**
9. Leave tree limbs to be pruned by City staff.
10. Move slowly and carefully when pushing a wheelbarrow.
11. Wear sun protection – a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and long sleeves when needed, as well as gloves to protect your hands (remember stinging nettle!). Drink water regularly to prevent heat exhaustion and dehydration.
12. Stop gardening and seek shelter when a thunderstorm is imminent.
13. 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 immediately to the horticultural coordinator or executive director.

City policy states that the following must not be brought to the waterfront when performing gardening tasks:

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

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