



Gathering Place Community Garden

Guidelines and agreement between the Plot renter(s) and Garden Community

Mission Statement: We exist to demonstrate the love of Christ to the community by providing a garden space for this community where we can build friendships, serve one another and encourage the production of nutritious food.

Gathering Place Community Garden will provide garden space, water, wood chips, tilling, tools and compost enclosure.

Garden Plots are for individuals and families who desire to grow their own food. Gardeners rent their plot with a commitment to use 10% of their harvest for donation to a food bank or persons in need.

Garden Plots

Plot sizes and rental fee:

- (10 x 10) ideal for beginners and individuals is \$15 a season.
- (10 x 20) ideal for families or groups is \$30 a season.
- Plot rental fee and application is due by May 4 and plots assigned by May 5. No plot will be assigned without payment of rental fee.
- Plots are assigned by lottery with names drawn.
- Person applying for plot maintains the plot according to Plot Maintenance section.
- Plots may not be given away or transferred to someone else.
- If all plots are assigned, additional gardeners will be placed on waiting list. Gardeners not receiving a plot are placed ahead of those requesting second plots.

Garden Season (dates depend on weather)

- Friday, May 5 / Plots assigned.
- Saturday, May 7/ First volunteer workday to prepare gardens.
- Monday, May 8/ First plant date. Gardens open.
- Tuesday, October 31 / Garden closes.

Plot Maintenance: Gardeners should plan on working in their gardens several times a week for four hours to maintain their plots and paths next to their plots. Untended plots will be forfeited along with rental fee. See unattended garden section.

- Gardeners may not make any permanent changes to the garden, nor changes that prevent use and care of pathways.
- Only hand watering is allowed. Please turn off spigot when finished.
- Gardeners must weed the paths adjacent to their plots.
- Plants must be kept within plot boundaries.

- Plants and structures may not be taller than 6 feet and should not shade other plots.
- Composite vegetation should be dug into your plot or placed in compost area.
- Gardens must be kept free of trash and debris.
- No meat, trash, weeds or diseased plants should be composted. All such material should be taken out of the garden and disposed.
- Do not put sand, gravel or landscape rock in your plot. Use straw or organic mulches.
- If for any reason you cannot maintain your plot, please contact the office **651-633-2402**

Untended Garden: Gardeners must maintain their plot throughout the growing season. Untended plots will be cleared or re-assigned to other gardeners. All plants, produce and structures will be forfeited.

An untended garden is:

- A plot not weeded or harvested for two weeks.
- Trash and debris are allowed to accumulate.
- Rotten vegetables and diseased plants left in the garden.
- The garden is abandoned.

End of Season Clean Up: All plots will be cleaned up by October 31.

Definition of cleaned plot:

- All support systems, boxes and decorations removed.
- All corner stakes removed and placed in designated area.
- **Cleared of plant material and debris.**

Organic Practices: Only organic fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are permitted. An organic gardening practices information sheet is available. (Non-organic seed and seedlings are okay.)

- Pest controls and fertilizers must be organic.
- Sustainable practices will help with pest and weed control.
- In case of extreme infestation, Garden Community will decide a course of action.

Tools: Tools are provided for use in gardens.

- Tools must be cleaned before returned to garage.
- Tools may not be removed from garden.
- Personal tools must be clearly marked with owner's name.
- Personal gas power tools are not permitted.

General Rules:

- Be considerate and respectful of other gardeners and plots.
- Children must be directly supervised by adult chaperones.
- No glass or pets are allowed.
- Smoking is not allowed in garden area.
- A bathroom is located on first floor of the church and is available during office hours.
- Use headphones radios, playing music, etc.