



# Community Garden Policies & Guidelines

## **Sustainable Gardening:**

Garden City Harvest's Community Gardens follow sustainable guidelines. No synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers are allowed (i.e. Miracle Grow). Please see our handout on sustainable gardening guidelines for details.

## **Community Garden Etiquette:**

A community garden is for the enjoyment and benefit of all of its community gardeners. For that purpose, upkeep and care of the community garden is the collective responsibility of all gardeners. It is also important to ensure good relations with fellow gardeners, community members, and land owners.

Communicate with your neighbors, help water and tend communal areas, and clean up after yourself when you leave the garden – i.e. put tools away, coil hoses, turn off the water and lock the shed and/or gates when you leave.

## **Plot Abandonment Policy:**

Due to our short growing season and long gardener waitlist, it is important to start turning your plot and planting as soon as possible after Opening Day. **May 1st is the first deadline for plots to be cleaned and planted.** You are responsible for keeping your garden plot planted, weeded and watered from Opening Day to Closing Day.

Notification calls or emails will be given to gardeners whose plots appear to be abandoned or neglected.

**Gardeners must clean up their plot within a week from time of contact, or else it will be forfeited to a new gardener.** If you are going to be out of town, arrange for someone to weed and water for you. If, for any reason, you need to discontinue your gardening mid-season, you must notify a Garden Manager immediately.

## **Watering:**

Gardeners are responsible for watering their own plots. All gardeners should also know where the emergency water shut-off is for their garden and are encouraged to know basic irrigation repairs.

Practice water conservation and courtesy: coil up hoses when finished, mulch to conserve water, wait patiently for free hoses and look out for your neighbor's plants as you move hoses. If you notice a hose leak, let a Garden Manager or a Leadership Committee Member know. *Garden Tip! Get to know your neighboring gardeners. They may be willing to water for you if you are on vacation.*

## **Weeds:**

You are expected to keep your plot and pathways maintained and free of weeds. A weedy plot can be an obnoxious source of invading weed seeds and consternation for your fellow gardeners. Gardeners with excessive weeds or weeds going to seed will receive a warning call, and if not cleaned up may be asked to leave the garden.

## **Pathways:**

In order to maintain an orderly garden, you are required to keep **the north and west** pathways (unless otherwise noted to center of pathways) surrounding your plot weed free.

## **Compost:**

The compost bins and finished compost are for everyone's household and garden use. Likewise, it is also every gardener's responsibility to maintain them. Please talk with a Garden Manager or a Leadership Committee Member if you have any questions about how to use and maintain them properly.

**Keep stalks and weeds out of compost bins (place in separate “stalk” and “weed” piles).**

**Rocks, Twine and Trash:**

Place rocks in the designated rock pile. Rocks tossed into the field are hazards to mowers, weed whackers and those who operate them! **Please pack in and pack out** any trash, twine, plant tags, pots or other gardening materials.

**Tools:**

Tools are to be stored in the tool shed and are for use at the community garden only. Let a Garden Manager know if a tool breaks or if you think there are additional tool needs.

**Perennials:**

It is OK to plant perennials in your plot; however your garden cannot be more than 25% non-edibles or perennial plants. Check with a Garden Manager about major perennial plant plans.

**Safety:**

Read the safety guidelines posted on the garden bulletin board and in the Opening Day packet.

**Kids' Gardening:**

Young children are welcome at the gardens, and must be supervised at all times.

**Pets:**

Gardeners' pets are welcome at most gardens unless otherwise posted. Where allowed, pets must be leashed and supervised at all times. Pets must be cleaned up after. Pet waste and pets seen walking through plots or marking near any garden plot will not be tolerated.

**Take Only What You Grow:**

Only take vegetables from your own plot or the designated communal plots, unless you have been given permission from another gardener.

**Vandalism:**

The best defense against vandalism is taking care of the gardens and maintaining a presence. If plots look taken care of and vegetables are harvested when ready, vandalism is less likely to occur. Watch the gardens while you are there and talk with people who appear to be taking vegetables or damaging plots. Let kids know what is and is not appropriate. Please report any vandalism to the Garden Managers or a Leadership Committee Member.

**Harassment Policy:**

Harassment and threatening behavior is not tolerated at any Garden City Harvest affiliated site. Please report any harassing behavior to Garden City Harvest. Continued behavior will be grounds for immediate eviction from the site and loss of all plot rental fees and deposits.

**End of Season:**

Closing Day is October 21<sup>st</sup> and the date by which all plots must be cleaned up and put to bed for the season.

**Gardeners who do not clean out and winterize their plot by the Closing Day deadline will automatically forfeit their current deposit and plot for the following year.** Mandatory end of season duties include: removing weeds, rotting vegetables, trellising, trash, and any other garden debris or unproducing plants.

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As always, please reach out to your Garden or Farm Managers if you have questions, ideas, suggestions or concerns.