



Gateway Community Gardens. A place for people and plants to flourish

Community Garden GUIDELINES

Below are the rule and guidelines for the Gateway Community Gardens. Our aim is to create an environment where both people and plants can flourish and grow. The rules and guidelines outlined below will help achieve those objectives.

Please familiarize yourself with the following guidelines and follow them.

General information

1. The Gateway Community Gardens will be run by a committee of volunteers, made of both church and community members, this committee has the duty of enforcing guidelines and resolving conflicts, including the power to refuse a plot to a gardener or dismissing a current gardener. Unresolved issues between gardeners will be referred to the garden committee.
2. A total of 5 volunteer hours in the community garden may be required by each gardener per year. This allows for smoother operation of the initiative and creates a feeling of ownership and commitment amongst the gardening partners. Volunteer hours will be used for maintenance of the garden space, potential expansion, or other duties as deemed fit by the committee.

Plot Rentals

1. To rent a plot, contact the garden administrator, via email gardens@gatewaycrc.org and you will be placed on a waiting list. Gardeners from previous years will be given first preference and will be required to keep their same plot.
2. Plots can be rented from the Gateway Community Garder Committee: \$35/year for a 4' x 12' sized bed. This can be payable by cash, cheque or e-transfer to the garden administrator once your application has been approved.
3. A deposit of \$30 is also due once you have been approved for a plot rental. This will be held by the garden committee and returned to you once you have decided to not renew your rental. If you plot is not kept in good condition, the deposit may be kept and used to fix the plot for the next rental.
4. If you decide not to renew your plot rental from the previous year, please contact the garden administrator so that it may be reassigned to someone else on the waiting list. If



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there is no activity on your plot by June 1, it will be reassigned. ***There are no refunds on plot fees.***

5. Our gardening season will run from Mid-April to Thanksgiving. At the end of the growing season, please clear your plot of *annual* plants no later than November 15. If you plan to keep your garden plot for the following year, you are welcome to plant fall or winter crops if you have expressed this desire to the committee ahead of time.

Garden Rules

1. Each gardener is responsible for maintaining and weeding their own plot. Keep the general garden area neat and tidy, picking up debris on the grounds and properly disposing as needed.
2. Petroleum-based pesticides (insecticides) and herbicides (weed-killers) or ANY chemicals or synthetic fertilizers are **strictly prohibited** in any part of the Garden. It is our goal to keep the gardens as **ORGANIC** as possible. We provide a good quality composted soil, so no outside soil or soil additives are to be brought in.
3. Do not remove any of the soil from your garden bed for your own personal use at home. If there is a surplus of soil at the end of our annual spring workday, please see garden administrator to purchase some.
4. Water is available on site. Avoid watering during mid-day during peak heat days. Early mornings and evenings are better.
5. It is suggested that you visit your plot at least once a week. If you are unable to tend to your own plot due to illness or vacation, please ask someone else to do this in your stead. If there is no activity after 30 days, your plot may be cleared out by the administrator.
6. If your plot is overgrown with weeds, you will receive a warning by phone or email. After 14 days with no action, your plot may be cleaned out by the garden administrator and reassigned. This will result in the forfeiture of your deposit.
7. Only clean garden debris from your plots is permitted in the compost bins.
8. Everything in your assigned plot must stay within the confines of your plot. Nothing is permitted to overhang or extend beyond the boundaries of your assigned plot.
9. Please keep the contents of the garden plots to below 6' tall from the surface of the box. This prevents your plot from casting shade on your neighbor's plot.



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10. Kids are welcome in the garden as long as they are respectful of the garden space.
11. To maintain a safe and healthy environment at the garden for all who come, no smoking permitted at any time on the garden site. We also ask that no pets be brought into the garden area.
12. We encourage people to plant all sorts of wonderful things in their plots, but there are no tobacco, cannabis, or any invasive plants permitted to be planted in the beds

Other

1. We ask you assist in helping us keep the garden space clean, tidy and in good working order. If you discover something that needs to be addressed, please contact the committee immediately so that corrective action can be taken.
2. Security is important, please ensure that you do not let non plot holders into the garden area. If people are looking for more information on the gardens, please refer them to the committee.
3. Please be respectful of all property belonging to Gateway Community Church as they are allowing us to use this area for our gardens.
4. If you have suggestions or ideas for improvement of the garden program, please direct to those to the committee.
5. These rules and guidelines will be updated regularly by the committee to ensure that we continue to meet the objective of create a space where both people and plants to flourish. Any changes will be communicated by the committee well in advance of them taking affect.

Acknowledgement

If you have read and understood these guidelines, please sign, and return to the garden administrator.

I, _____ (please print name), *have read and understood the guidelines pertaining to the use of the Gateway Community Garden and agree to adhere to them to best of my ability.*

Signature _____ Date _____