

Community Garden Guidelines and Rules



- A. Growing Healthy Kids and Neighborhoods are our first priorities. As a gardener, I understand that I am also a teacher, mentor and model for children.
- I show my concern for the safety and health of children now and in the future by using gardening as a “community building” activity.
 - When children are present, I will guide and direct them when necessary, share my knowledge and love of growing things, and integrate them whenever possible into the community of gardeners
- B. Community Gardeners share our harvests, our skills and concerns with others more needy than ourselves
- I will share whatever expertise I have with other gardeners when asked
 - I agree to share a portion of my harvest with others more needy than myself
 - I agree to donate 10 volunteer hours per year beyond managing my own plot, to tasks that will benefit the community garden in general (see list of tasks generated by Garden Leadership group, next page)
 - I will share water, available tools and resources with others in the garden based on principles of need and equity.
- C. Community Gardeners respect others’ space and purpose in the garden
- By the end of April I will have submitted a plot plan on paper.
 - By June 9th, I will have something planted in my plot.
 - I will keep the plot planted throughout the summer.
 - If I must abandon my plot for any reason, I will notify Garden Leadership.
 - I will keep weeds down, trash and litter cleared from the plot and adjacent pathways. I understand that if my plot becomes unkempt, I will be given 1 week’s notice to clean it up. At that time, the plot may be re-assigned or tilled in.
 - I will plant tall crops where they will not shade neighboring plots.
 - I am responsible for fall harvesting and completing a clean-up of the garden plot by October 31st.
- D. Community gardeners always protect the safety of themselves and others in the garden.
- I will not bring pets to the garden.
 - I will not use fertilizers, insecticides or weed repellants that will in anyway affect other plots, and will use any chemicals only under the direction of Master Gardeners, or Garden Leadership.
 - I will return tools to safe storage places off the ground after any work session in the garden.
 - I understand that neither the garden leadership group, nor the County on which my plot lies are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the Community Garden Leadership Group and Muskegon County for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me, my family or any of my garden guests.
- E. Community gardeners are always interested in growing productive gardens
- I agree to attend a minimum of 8 of the workshops offered by the County/Master Gardener Programs, in order to remain a plot manager in good standing throughout the year.
 - As plot manager, I understand that it is my responsibility, given the conditions of the Michigan growing season, to employ the best techniques for a successful garden plot, and will share these with all others who work in my plot.

Signed: _____ Date: _____