

THE GARDENER AGREEMENT
The Westside Community Garden (WCG)
Rules, Policies and Conditions for Participation

Please carefully read the following before completing the enclosed application. Keep this copy of the Agreement for your records and reference. We don't want you to lose your garden privileges because of failure to follow the rules, policies and conditions.

If accepted as a gardener, you agree to abide by the following rules, policies, and conditions:

GARDEN PLOTS:

1. Garden plots are 16ft x 16ft, 6ft x 16ft, and raised beds. The plots are assigned on a first come- first served basis. I understand that I should expect no more than one plot. I will not expand my plot beyond its measurement or into the paths between the plots. I will keep my plants within the limits of my garden plot. I must keep my plot free of weeds, pests and diseases.
2. **I understand that I must submit an application each year.** Applications for plots in the WCG will not be received before January 15 each year. If I receive a plot, I will begin maintaining it no later than March 15 or, if receiving a plot after March 15, within two weeks of being notified. I understand that I may reserve my garden plot for the following year, but must re-apply for the plot by January 31st or it may be released. If I want to continue gardening my plot through the winter, I will notify the Garden Coordinator no later than September 15th, otherwise I will clean my plot and "put it to bed" by November 15th.
3. if my plot is left unattended, I will receive one verbal warning from the Garden Coordinator/committee. If I do not respond or correct the situation, I will receive a written notice two weeks later. If, after two weeks of receiving the written notice, I have not attended to my garden plot, I will receive final written notification that I have forfeited my gardening privileges and plot. I cannot apply for another garden plot for a year and will be assigned one only at the discretion of the Garden Coordinator/committee.
4. I will not take food or plants from plots other than my own. I will not take anything from the garden that is not rightfully mine. **Please be aware, the WCG is an unsecured space and we cannot guarantee that persons from outside will not come in and pick produce. You may place "Do Not Pick" signs in your garden space if you wish. Garden at your own risk.**
5. I will keep my plot, the paths, and the surrounding areas clean and neat. I will put each type of trash or debris only in the areas designated specifically for each. I will not bring household trash and leave it at the garden.
6. I understand that ***only non-synthetic fertilizers and OMRI certified pest control and weed products*** will be allowed for use in the garden and that the Westside Community Garden will be managed as an organic garden. I will not use in or around my plot any structures or supports made of wood or other materials that have been treated with chemicals that can leach into the soil.
7. I will be conscious of water use when watering my plot. I understand that watering my plot is done by hand, that it is my responsibility to transport water from the water spigots to my plot, and that stationery sprinklers are prohibited in the garden. I will make sure that all faucets are off when I leave the garden and any hoses that I use are recoiled.
8. I will not plant plants that grow taller than 5 feet, such as trees or shrubs. I understand that corn may only be planted in plots along the far backside of the garden after authorization from the Garden Coordinator.
9. I will not keep a compost pile at my plot.

GUESTS & VISITORS

1. I understand that guests and visitors, including children, may enter the garden only if I accompany them. I will supervise them at all times in the garden. I am responsible for their compliance with the rules, policies and conditions of this agreement.

SAFETY, SECURITY, HEALTH & COMMUNITY

1. I agree to the Safety, Security, Health & Community policy, of the Westside Community Garden, which prohibits:
 - a. Smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, using illegal drugs, gambling, or planting illegal plants anywhere in or around the garden.
 - b. Fires or fireworks in or around the garden site.
 - c. Urination and defecation in or around the garden site.
 - d. Weapons
 - e. Pets
 - f. Loud music
 - g. Making duplicate keys for any locks at the garden or revealing lock combinations to another person.
 - h. Abusive or profane language with other gardeners.
 - i. The use of synthetic herbicides, pesticides, planting soil and fertilizer.
2. I will be aware of my surroundings and avoid being in the garden alone, if possible. I will avoid secluded areas with high vegetation. If individuals or groups of people taunt, bother, or threaten me, I will leave the situation immediately.
3. If I see a hazard, unsafe condition, or situation that could result in injury or ill health, I will take the appropriate action to eliminate the hazard or unsafe condition, if I am able to do it safely. Otherwise, I will notify the Garden Coordinator as soon as possible. For life-threatening and other significant incidents, I will call 911 immediately and afterwards will phone the Garden Coordinator. For minor, non-emergency incidents, I may notify Roseburg Police dispatch at 541-440-4471 and contact the Garden Coordinator as soon as possible.
4. The use of rototillers in the garden is discouraged. I understand that rototillers, motorized cultivators, lawn mowers, powered weed trimmers, wood chippers, chain saws, or other power equipment are to be operated in the garden only by individuals age 16 years or older who own the equipment or have personally borrowed or leased the equipment for their use and that persons who operate power equipment in the garden do so at their own risk.
5. I will respect the daily garden hours, which are from dawn to dusk.
6. I will not leave personal garden tools at the garden site. I will return borrowed garden tools to the shed and lock the shed when I leave the garden.
7. I will work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully and in a neighborly way.
8. **I will attend the annual garden orientation meeting in the spring.** If workshops are offered, I will participate in at least one a year.
9. I will volunteer for at least one garden task, project or chore during the warm growing season. When I am assigned a task by the Garden Coordinator, I will complete it within a month of receiving the assignment.

I agree to hold harmless the Westside Community Garden volunteer organizers and work leaders; their partnering organizations and their employees; Westside Community Garden Committee members, officers, and volunteers; and First United Methodist Church from any liability, loss injury, or claim that occurs in connection with participation in or association with the Westside Community Garden.

GARDNER COVENANT Westside Community Garden

The Westside Community Garden is a project that relies totally on volunteers. The Garden Coordinator and Committee members are volunteers. Only rarely, is someone, paid for contracted services. This reflects the philosophy of the Garden, which exists not only to grow healthy local food, but also to build community. Gardeners approved for a plot in the Garden are asked to honor the regulations, make a small donation towards its operating costs if possible, and agree to volunteer some of their time to the Garden during the year. Below is a list of volunteer jobs and a description of what is needed. Please choose at least one volunteer responsibility that you or someone in your household will fulfill. Thank you for your part in helping sustain the Westside Community Garden and making it the best garden it can be!

Please indicate on your application form one or more time commitments you are willing to make this year. Someone from the Garden will contact you to discuss your commitments with you. Thanks.

Task (Minimum time commitment)

Site Maintenance (2 hrs.)

A lot of the garden is “common ground” for which everyone and no one in particular is responsible. Site maintenance involves keeping the fence line free from weeds, tending to the labyrinth, trash patrol, etc.

Fall Clean Up (2 hrs.)

Annually, near the end of the warm growing season, a fall cleanup is organized for gardeners and other volunteers to prepare beds for the winter, spread mulch, and spruce up the space.

General Work Days (2-3 hrs.)

Throughout the year, general work days in the garden will be announced at various times for various reasons.

Composting (1 hr./2 times)

The compost area in the garden needs to be tended to, turned and aerated occasionally, and cleaned.

Watering Garden Features (1 hr./3 times)

While everyone in the garden is responsible for hand watering their own plots, other garden features need regular watering.

Path Maintenance (2 hrs.)

The paths between plots need to be weeded and occasionally resurfaced with wood chips. Some newer paths need to have weed barrier placed under the wood chips.

Annual Planting (2-3 hrs.)

Towards the beginning of the growing season, plant starts and soil amendments are given out at the annual planting event. This is a great way to start your season!

Construction (2-3 hrs. a project)

Now that there is little expansion left in the garden, construction is limited to special projects as they come up, such as fence repair, gate installation, water line expansion or repair, etc.

Communication (1-2 hrs. if needed)

Occasionally the garden needs to get the word out about something – a meeting, a workday, an event, a class. Communication may include preparing a mailing, making phone calls, using Facebook, etc.

Organizing a Social Event (As needed)

Since building community is one of our priorities, we look for persons who are willing to plan and host a social event for gardeners or for the community to get acquainted with the garden. Would you like to host one?

Hosting a Workshop (As needed)

There are many things to learn about gardening or being good stewards of the earth. This is especially true for organic gardening. Would you like to teach a gardening class to fellow gardeners or for people in the community?

Other: Perhaps you have ideas of how you can help the Garden with your time that are not covered above. Write it down on your application form in a phrase or short sentence and someone will contact you to learn more.

Gardening Basics for the Westside Community Garden

“The two major keys to a successful vegetable garden are planning and maintaining growth momentum. Planning will make your garden more productive and enjoyable. After your garden is planted, you’ll need to maintain growth momentum through proper fertilization, irrigation, and weed control.” MG pg. 125

Planning –

Who will do the work? Will it be you, a family member, or a group? Remember, a small, weed-free garden produces more than a large, weedy mess does. What do you and your family like to eat? How do you plan on using your produce? How much space is available?

Preparing the soil –

Ideal vegetable garden soil is deep, easily worked, and well drained.

If you can, check for soil fertility and pH by having your soil analyzed before you start gardening. Our local Master Gardener Extension office can test your soil. It costs about \$15 and takes several weeks to complete. Ask the Garden Coordinator if you are interested in getting your soil tested. The Westside Community Garden recommends all no-till methods of preparing the soil. Methods can include layering, mulching, or any type of “lasagna style” gardening techniques. There are lots of ways to sustainably garden without tilling. Please contact the Garden Coordinator if you have questions.

When to plant –

Regardless of whether you sow directly, start your own transplants, or buy transplants, it is important to plant each crop at the correct time! Air and soil temperatures are critical to maintaining healthy plant growth! Do your own research on the seed/start that you want to plant to verify the right time and conditions for optimal growth.

Irrigation—

Adequate moisture is essential for good crop growth. A healthy plant is 75-90 percent water. Typically, vegetables need about 1 inch of water a week from April to September. The amount varies depending on weather and stage of growth. Drip irrigation or slow hand watering is best. Mulching can significantly decrease the amount of water needed. A 6-8 inch layer of organic mulch can reduce the water needed by as much as half, by smothering moisture-using weeds and reducing water evaporation!

Fertilizing –

The amount of organic fertilizer depends on the organic matter present, the type of organic fertilizer used, and the crop being grown. Test your soil to determine its need.

Extra produce –

Please donate your extra produce to the Friendly Kitchen (in the FUMC kitchen), UCAN, the FISH Food Pantry, or the Dream Center! Do not let your produce rot in your plot, unless you are saving it for seeds.

Please contact the Garden Coordinator, by email or text, for any questions that you might have.

Westside Community Garden Coordinator

Sharon Bordeaux

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Text: 503-400-1100