



City of St. Paul Park

Community Garden Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Community Garden Policy is to recognize community gardens as a valuable community activity that fosters the development of a community identity and spirit, contributes to health and well-being, encourages positive social interaction, environmental education, and connection to nature, and utilizes open space for nutritious food production. The Parks and Recreation Commission of St. Paul Park is the highest governing authority at the Community Garden.

Community Garden Defined

Our community garden is a city-owned plot of land that is managed and maintained by community gardeners and the City to produce food crops, flowers, or plants for private use, consumption, or donation. City parks or designated natural open spaces are not to be used for community gardens but the City may assist in establishing community gardens on other public or private parcels of land.

Garden Plots

Garden plots will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis and will be staked out by the City. Garden plots will be no larger than 4' x 12' plots. Only one plot is allowed per person or family and all participants must be residents of St. Paul Park. We will offer one larger communal plot that will be available to manage by those who wish to sign up. Crops harvested from larger, communal plot will be donated to local food shelf.

Garden Hours

Participants may garden at their own convenience during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to dusk, seven days a week.

Garden Cost

To help cover the cost of water and occasional clean – up by the City, each garden plot will cost \$20.00 annually, or the cost may be determined by the City Administrator. No refunds.

Parking

Although parking is permitted on the south side of city hall (nearest the garden), it is preferred that gardeners park in the west parking lots. This will keep the south lot accessible for police and firefighters in case of emergency.

Rules, Terms, and Conditions for Participation

To keep the community garden vibrant and healthy for all participation members, the below rules have been established and will be enforced. If accepted as a gardener, I will abide by the following rules, terms, and conditions:

1. I use this garden at the sole discretion of the St. Paul Park Community Garden. I agree to abide by its policies and practices.
2. I will keep my plot free of weeds, insects, rodents, pests, rotting or diseased vegetation, diseases, and other items that may harm the community garden.
3. I will supply my own seeds, fertilizer, and tools for proper preparation and cultivation of crops.
4. I will harvest produce only from my garden plot, unless harvesting from the larger communal plot (food to be donated to local food shelf).
5. I will remove paper, trash, and debris from my garden plot area.
6. I must not expand my plot beyond the 4' x 12' dimensions or into paths or other plots.
7. I will not allow any plants to grow more than six feet high.
8. I will harvest all crops and clean up my garden plot by October 31st. Any items left in the garden beyond this date may be destroyed and the gardener may not be allowed to return the following year.
9. If a garden plot is not used or attended to for two (2) weeks, or if the garden is not planted by June 1st, the City may lease the garden plot to another gardener.
10. Anything I bring from my home I will take back home.
11. I will not bring household trash and leave it at the Community Garden.
12. I will not plant any illegal plant. I will not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, use illegal drugs, or gamble in the garden.
13. I will not bring weapons or pets or other animals to the garden.
14. Guests and visitors, including children, must follow all rules, terms, and conditions stated here.
15. I agree to always supervise my children when they are in the garden. I am solely responsible for the behavior of my guests.
16. I shall remove unwanted organic waste from the premise.
17. I will water my plot according to water-wise guidelines.
18. I will not apply any pesticides in the garden without the approval of the garden coordinator or committee.
19. I will respect other gardeners, and I will not use abusive or profane language or discriminate against others.
20. I will work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.
21. I agree to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Restrictions:

1. The community garden is intended solely for personal use. If you wish to sell your produce, you are responsible for finding out what licensing or fees are required to do so.
2. Fresh manure is prohibited.
3. Rocks and woodchips are prohibited.
4. Water sprinklers are prohibited but hand sprinklers may be used.
5. Permanent or temporary structures, fixtures, or equipment, including trellises, or items creating a nuisance in the community garden are prohibited.
6. Garden plots may only be fenced with chicken wire no more than three (3) feet in height to protect crops from animals.
7. Parking automobiles is only allowed in designated areas.
8. Loud music is prohibited in the community garden.

Limitations

The City of St. Paul Park and its Parks & Recreation Commission reserve the right to have full access to all garden plots at any time to ensure that all rules, regulations, and laws are being observed, and if necessary, may terminate a garden plot lease or activity for any reason.

Waiver of Liability

The City of St. Paul Park assumes no liability for any injury, damage, theft, or loss of property belonging to garden user participants, before, during, or after their usage and or lease. The community gardener agrees to assume all and to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of St. Paul Park against all actions, claims, damages, or demands which may be brought or made against the City's interest in the premises by reason of anything done by the community gardener, in the exercise or purported exercise of the right and privileges herein granted.

The City of St. Paul Park or the Parks & Recreation Commission may terminate a community gardener's use of City property under the Agreement immediately for any reason.

THE CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK ASSUMES NO LAIBILITY FOR ACCIDENTS OR INJURY TO PARTICIPANTS OR OTHERS EITHER ON OR ADJACENT TO THE GARDEN AREA. NEITHER DOES THE CITY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTS OF VANDALISM OR LOSS OF CROPS OR PERSONAL PROPERTY DUE TO THEFT.

I agree to abide by these conditions set forth for the Community Gardener.

_____ **Applicant's Signature** _____ **Date**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____