

GARDEN POLICIES

Violating garden policies may result in loss of garden privileges and forfeiture of crops. Plot fee will not be returned. WCG reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to these policies at any time.

Reserving and Renewing Your Plot

- Plots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and limited to one plot per household across all WCG gardens.
- Secondary plots are assigned by lottery if the garden does not have a waitlist after May 1st. Secondary plots are temporary, for one growing season only.
- New gardeners must attend an on-site garden orientation and plot assignment before beginning to garden.
- A garden plot fee is required. No refunds are issued for plot fees after March 15th.
- Gardeners who fulfill policy requirements, including plot maintenance, meeting attendance and community behavior expectations, may reapply for the same plot each year, or for another plot, as available. Renewal forms are sent to eligible gardeners in December. The renewal deadline is December 31st.
- Proxy gardening or sub-letting of plots is not permitted.

Community Garden Involvement

- In addition to tending personal plots, gardeners are expected to contribute at least 6 hours per year to tend common areas or participate in special projects that benefit the garden as a whole.
- All gardeners with email access and written English proficiency are required to be signed up to the garden's email list-serv, which is used for official notifications and garden-related discussions.
- Attendance is required at the garden's spring and fall meetings. One time each year, gardeners may arrange for a friend or family member (proxy) to represent them at a meeting, in lieu of attending in person. In the case of emergency circumstances (medical, death in the family, etc.) gardeners may request an exemption from the Garden Program Manager. Gardeners missing spring or fall meetings are required to arrange a make-up activity determined by the Garden Program Manager.

Garden Management

- WCG oversees garden management, but regularly seeks gardener input and participation when appropriate.
- Group discussion and decisions are made at spring and fall meetings, and through the garden's email list-serv. Whenever possible, WCG encourages consensus-building among gardeners, with final decisions made by WCG.
- Maintenance of the garden is the collective responsibility of all gardeners, who volunteer for roles such as Irrigation Steward, Treasurer, Pest Monitor, etc. Gardeners with roles must be approved by the Garden Program Manager, and serve at their discretion.
- All donations of materials or funds to the garden are treated as general donations to WCG. Gardeners must obtain pre-approval from WCG before approaching any business or individual for donations for the garden.
- Outreach activities (including public events, flyering, tabling, public speaking on behalf of the garden, and posting of signage at the garden) require pre-approval by WCG.

Land Use Restrictions and Safety

- Generally, WCG does not own garden properties and there is always a possibility that we will lose land access.
- Public access is required during daylight hours or based on landowner policies.
- Exposed rebar and metal posts must be securely capped; pathways clear of tripping hazards; tools locked away; holes and construction hazards identified with colorful barriers; irrigation controls secure from public access; and a first aid kit and emergency contacts on the premises.
- Dogs are required to be on leash and supervised.
- Liability waivers are required for all gardeners and volunteers, and must be submitted to WCG.
- For liability reasons, hosting visiting groups or public events at the garden requires pre-approval by WCG.
- For Health Code reasons, it is prohibited for anyone without a permit to serve prepared foods at public events.
- WCG is not liable for lost or stolen items of gardeners or visitors to the garden.

- Gardeners are not permitted to leave items in garden common areas without the permission of WCG. Any materials left in common areas of the garden, without written arrangement with WCG, may be assumed abandoned and disposed of by WCG at its discretion.
- Please alert WCG staff to any safety issues or illegal activities that you observe at the garden.

Gardening Organically

- Our goal is to nurture healthy soil and environment. Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not allowed. Certified organic seeds and seedlings are encouraged, but not required.
- Please read our Organic Standards for more information on organic restrictions and recommendations.

Water Use and Drip Irrigation

- The automatic drip irrigation systems is generally on from May-October, weather permitting. Gardeners should not alter the system in any way. Gardeners should report problems to the Irrigation Steward first, and then WCG.
- Each gardener is responsible to know how the system works and how to make light repairs on their plot.
- Gardeners must keep drip tape in plots, laid straight, without kinks, and connected to the main water line.
- Natural mulch (straw, leaves, burlap, etc.) is recommended to conserve soil moisture, and to reduce weeds.
- Hoses are not allowed, unless specifically permitted by WCG.

Plot Maintenance

- Plots must be cleared of weeds by April 15th, and planted end-to-end by June 1st.
- Gardeners must control the weeds and trash in their own plots and adjacent pathways during the season. All weeds must be removed if taller than six inches, or longer than twelve inches, or going to seed.
 - Weeds that have gone to seed, or weeds that reproduce from cuttings (eg. bindweed), are not permitted in compost piles, and should be deposited in trash or brown waste bins. Any plants added to compost bins must be chopped to 9 inches. Additional protocol is directed by the Compost Stewards and Garden Program Manager.
- Gardeners must harvest their ripe produce regularly, to reduce garden pests and vandalism.
- Gardeners must maintain their plot in a safe condition.
- Perennial plantings or permanent improvements are not allowed without the permission of WCG.
- Plots are inspected the week of the 15th of each month. Gardeners of plots that do not meet maintenance requirements will be notified. Failure to remedy the situation within 14 days will result in plot forfeiture.
- If a gardener is unable to tend their plot, it is their responsibility to notify WCG if they will be absent during plot checks, or have asked someone else to temporarily tend their plot. Long-term proxy gardening is not permitted.
- The Fall clean-up deadline is November 1st. Perennials and winter crops may remain. Plots must be cleared of debris and trellising, and covered completely in mulch and/or cover crop. Trellising that is too large to transport off site may be stored on the plot in a tidy fashion. Drip tape should be laid out straight in the bed, below mulch.
- Gardeners who fail to meet plot maintenance requirements will lose their gardening privileges, as well as their place on any garden waitlists administered by WCG. To be considered for a new plot, they must reapply through WCG's Plot Application and complete a make-up activity determined by the Garden Program Manager.

Community Behavior and Non-Discrimination

- Disrespectful or abusive language, harassment, discrimination, illegal activities, activities that endanger others, or destructive behavior (including vandalism and theft) may result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges, and forfeiture of crops.
- WCG staff is available to mediate conflict between gardeners as needed.
- Gardeners may be required to meet with WCG staff to address conflict, or other garden-related issues.