



## Community Garden Policies

The mission of Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) is to empower people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. We envision a community where everyone values and has access to growing and eating healthy and delicious food.

Our gardens are safe and welcoming places for people of all ages, races, genders, incomes, and backgrounds. Everyone belongs here. Gardens and food are for everyone, and so is Wasatch Community Gardens.

### Our Core Values

- **Inclusion** - Create an environment that embraces and cultivates respectful, authentic connections among diverse people.
- **Collaboration** - Recognize that everyone has knowledge and experience to contribute that enlivens and strengthens our mission and community.
- **Joy** - Value fun and merriment in our work.
- **Stewardship** - Value the human, natural and financial resources that have been entrusted to us.

These policies help the gardens run smoothly and help gardeners succeed. If garden rules are not followed, gardeners may lose their plot and crops. Plot fees are not refunded. WCG may change or make exceptions to these rules at any time.

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## Getting a Garden Plot

### Waitlist

- You must fill out a free [waitlist application](#) to be eligible for plot registration.
- You can apply for the waitlist online, or fill out a paper application by visiting our WCG's Main Campus at 629 East 800 South, Salt Lake City.
- New plots are assigned between January and April.

### Registering for a Plot

- Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Priority is given to low-to-moderate income gardeners, people who live near the selected garden, and returning gardeners in good standing.

- Only one plot is allowed per household.
- There is a yearly plot fee due within 30-days of registering. Fees are not refunded after April 15.
- If extra plots are available after April 15, they are assigned by lottery for one season only. A secondary plot fee equal to the standard garden plot fee is required.
- You may not let someone else garden your plot for you. If someone helps you garden, you must fill out a [Garden Buddy form](#).
- Gardeners are responsible for their guests and must make sure they follow garden policies.
- New gardeners must attend the New Gardener Orientation or complete the make up activity

## Plot Fee Reductions

- Fee reductions of up to 50% may be available and considered on the basis of need and funds available.

## Renewing a Plot

- Gardeners who meet the policy requirements may apply to keep their plot each year.
  - Renewal forms are emailed in December and there is a December 31 deadline to complete the form and payment.
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## Water Use

- Water is usually available from May to October, weather permitting.
  - New plants and seedlings need hand watering when first planted.
  - Garden Managers monitor and maintain irrigation timers and update watering times based on time of year and weather conditions.
  - Gardeners may not change the irrigation timer or system.
  - Irrigation problems must be reported to the Irrigation Steward and to the Garden Manager if the Irrigation Steward is unavailable.
  - Large leaks and breaks must be reported to the Site Manager and to the Garden Manager.
  - Keep drip lines in plots, straight, and connected to the main line.
  - Hoses are not allowed.
  - Mulch like weed-free straw or leaves is encouraged to keep soil moist.
  - To learn more about drip irrigation, please review the [‘Successful Gardening with Drip Irrigation’](#) resource.
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## Plot Care and Maintenance

- WCG prioritizes soil health and organic methods in all of our gardens.
- Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not permitted. Please see [WCG’s Organic Standards](#) and [Organic Amendments and Fertilizers Fact Sheet](#) to learn about organic growing.
- Certified organic seeds and seedlings are encouraged, but not required.
- Treated wood is not allowed.

- Do not change plot borders or add structures without permission from the Garden Manager.
  - Perennial plants, trees, and invasive plants are not allowed. Some perennials may be permitted with approval from your garden manager.
  - Gardeners must:
    - Keep weeds and trash out of their plot and nearby paths
    - Remove weeds taller than 6 inches, wider than 12 inches, or going to seed
    - Place weeds in the trash or brown bin, not in the compost
    - Harvest ripe produce regularly
    - Remove sick or pest-filled plants and place in the trash
    - Follow compost rules
  - Important dates:
    - Plots must be cleared of weeds by April 15.
    - Plots must be planted by June 1.
    - By November 1:
      - Remove all plants from plot and walkways
      - Remove debris from plot and walkways
      - Cover soil with mulch or cover crops
      - Lay trellising flat in the plot
  - Plots are checked monthly for maintenance problems. Gardeners with maintenance problems will be notified. If problems are not fixed within 14 days, the plot may be forfeit.
  - Gardeners who don't meet plot maintenance requirements will lose their garden plot, crops, and their place on any WCG garden waitlists. To garden with us in the future, they must reapply to the Waitlist and complete a make-up activity set by the Garden Manager.
  - WCG reserves the right to access all plots at any time to remove weeds; trees; diseased perennial or invasive plants; safety hazards or other materials; check irrigation; or to address other needs of the Community Garden Program.
  - WCG is not responsible for any damage to plants or materials within a plot while enforcing policy.
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## Safety

- Gardeners must:
    - Keep plots in safe condition.
    - Secure tools and garden equipment in the locked shed.
    - Cap metal posts, keep walkways clear, identify holes and hazards with a yellow flag, and secure irrigation controls from public access.
    - Report safety or illegal issues to WCG and appropriate authorities.
      - Call 911 for emergencies and 988 for mental health emergencies.
    - Sign a WCG liability waiver prior to gardening.
  - Service of prepared foods at public events without a permit is prohibited for Health Code reasons.
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## Land Use Rules

- WCG does not own most garden land and land access may be revoked at any time.
  - Public access to the garden is required during daylight hours or based on landowner policies.
  - Gardeners and visitors must follow landowner rules.
  - Children under 18 must be supervised by an adult.
  - Pets must be leashed or crated and well-behaved. Gardeners must clean up after pets.
    - Pets may not enter garden plots, drink from watering cans, or defecate or urinate in garden plots or compost.
  - Public events and group visits must be approved by the Community Garden Program Director.
  - Do not leave personal items in common areas or the shed, without permission. WCG is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
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## Community Involvement

- Each gardener must complete **6 service hours** toward collective garden management per year.
    - Hours must be reported by November 1.
    - Working in your own plot or volunteering at other WCG programs or events will not count toward the 6 service hours.
  - WCG seeks to support gardeners of all abilities. If you need support to complete garden tasks required by our Garden Policies, please talk to your Garden Manager. WCG will work with you to make a reasonable accommodation plan as resources allow.
  - Gardeners are expected to attend Spring and Fall garden meetings to share ideas for the garden. Final project and improvement decisions are made by WCG.
    - A proxy may attend these meetings.
  - Donations of materials or funds are considered general donations to WCG. If you wish to donate to the garden, please contact your garden manager.
  - Gardeners must get permission from WCG before approaching any business or individual for donations to the garden.
  - Purchasing equipment or materials for the garden must be approved by the Garden Manager before the purchase is made to be reimbursed.
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## Communication

- Gardeners should use Mighty Networks and check messages weekly for updates.
  - Be respectful and stay on topic. Promotions or unrelated posts are not allowed.
  - Gardeners are expected to read emails and Mighty Networks Posts from their Garden Manager.
  - Personal contact information is shared with participants at your assigned garden. This information will not be disclosed without authorization from the WCG Executive Director for any other reason.
  - Public outreach, events, flyering, tabling, public speaking on behalf of WCG or the garden, and posing signs at the garden need pre-approval from WCG.
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# Terms of Engagement and Non-Discrimination Policy

- Gardeners agree to uphold these Terms of Engagement:
  - Engage with Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) staff, partner organizations, community gardeners, and public visitors with respect and compassion. Be kind, and practice grace.
  - Be open to feedback from others when language or behaviors have caused discomfort or harm.
  - Honor, acknowledge, and validate the experience of gardeners and visitors within the community garden.
  - Actively listen, without interrupting, speaking over, or silencing others.
  - Assume that everyone in the garden is doing their best and has the best intentions.
- Harassment, discrimination, offensive language, illegal activities, activities that endanger others, theft, vandalism, or other destructive behavior is not tolerated and may lead to immediate loss of gardening privileges and crops. Plot fees will not be refunded.
- WCG is committed to being an anti-racist organization; please read our [Anti-Racism Statement](#).
- Gardeners are encouraged to work through [conflicts](#) together. WCG staff can help mediate when needed.
- Gardeners may be required to meet with WCG staff to address conflict, or other garden-related issues.
- The Terms of Engagement and Non-Discrimination Policy apply in gardens and online spaces. If someone breaks these rules, report it to the Garden Manager. If you see that another gardener or visitor was the target of harmful behavior, please ask if they would like help reporting the incident. WCG staff will respond to all involved within 2-3 business days.
- Violation of the Terms of Engagement and Non-Discrimination Policy may result in loss of gardening privileges.