

Community Gardener Contract with the City of Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

As a participant in the Ashland Parks Community Gardens:

- **I agree to** abide by the terms and conditions listed in the contract below for the right to garden, with access to irrigation, at my assigned plot from **February 1, 20__ through January 31, 20__**. If I fail to follow the guidelines of this contract, APRC may terminate this contract and I will forfeit my plot for the remainder of the current year without a refund. Nor will I be eligible to lease a plot the following year in any of the community gardens operated by Ashland Parks.
- **I understand** that my household may lease only one plot and that produce may not be sold.
- **I agree** to pay a \$20 deposit (only new garden members) to be refunded when I release my plot in good condition. If I fail to leave my plot in good condition, my deposit will be forfeit.
- **If I choose to forfeit my plot, I must notify the APRC no later than May 1** in order to receive a 50% refund. After May 1, no lease fee refunds will be given.
- **Most garden communications are sent via e-mail. I will keep the garden coordinator and manager informed of changes to my contact information.** I will be given the shed/gate lock's combination during my orientation with the Garden Coordinator or Garden Manager

TERMS

1. **I will adhere to USDA organic practices** that encourage healthy soil and limit negative environmental impacts. **I will not** use synthetic or petroleum-based pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers/amendments or chemically treated wood.
2. **I will adhere to generally accepted water conservation practices**, watering only within my plot's boundaries by hand or with drip irrigation. I will not let water run excessively, causing pooling in or around my plot. If I fail to control excessive irrigation after having been notified by the garden manager or coordinator, water to my plot may be turned off until I correct the situation.
3. **I will employ good garden practices** including:
 - Controlling weed growth within my plot before they go to seed.
 - Harvesting ripe food to avoid food waste and promptly removing rotting produce and vegetation to designated compost and refuse areas.
 - I will not bring raw kitchen waste from off-site.
4. **I will employ good community practices** including:
 - Maintaining paths and areas immediately surrounding my plot by keeping paths open and unobstructed from plant growth or weeds, keeping trash picked up and putting away tools, equipment and amendments.
 - I will trim vining, leaning, and fallen plants to keep pathways clear. No pots or planting containers will be added outside of my plot.
 - I will take large garbage home for disposal; including potting containers, bags, discarded irrigation equipment, broken tools, etc.
 - I will store all equipment and supplies in or near the shed provided. I will keep the shed and surrounding area neat and organized.
 - I will avoid planting tall crops where they might shade neighboring plots.
 - I will harvest only my own crops unless given permission by another gardener.
5. **I will get APRC approval from the Community Garden Coordinator**, before building or altering structures in my plot. Failure to do so may result in removal of structures at my expense or loss of my garden plot.
6. **I will not trellis plants** on the Community Garden fences or structures.

7. **If a problem develops I will communicate** directly with fellow gardeners **or** report problems to the garden manager and/or garden coordinator.
8. **I (or an authorized substitute) will actively maintain my plot at least weekly** (expect to garden 3-5 hours per week) during peak growing season (June 1 – September 30). I will notify the garden manager or coordinator in the event of my absence (vacation, etc. no more than 30 days) and provide contact information for any substitute gardener(s) and/or people permitted to harvest from my plot.
9. **First year gardeners** will make arrangements to meet with the garden manager or coordinator for an orientation.
10. **I will clear my plot of weeds and prepare it for planting by April 30**, or my plot may be reassigned without refund.
11. **I will winterize my plot by November 30**, by clearing rotting vegetation, removing temporary support structures, garden hoses, timers and furniture.
12. **I will contribute a minimum of 4 “community work” hours** toward maintenance of the garden’s common areas*, including fence lines and adjacent park areas. I may work independently or during organized work parties. I will complete and log my hours in the Community Work Log binder kept in the tool shed by the Nov. 30th deadline, to be eligible to renew my contract. (*weeding my own plot and the path around it, **does not fulfill** volunteer hours)
13. **I will not plant:**
 - Woody perennials such as shrubs and trees.
 - Any Oregon state-listed invasive or noxious species.
 - Plants that may spread aggressively in the garden, including **but not limited to:** mint, lemon balm, morning glory, milkweed. I will remove these types of plants if requested.
 - Cane berries such as blackberries and raspberries.
 - Marijuana
14. **I will not** smoke, drink alcoholic beverages or use illegal drugs while at the gardens.
15. **I will not** bring pets into the garden unless they are service dogs.
16. **I understand** that any guests I bring to the gardens must follow the rules and conditions stated here and that children will be supervised by a responsible adult.

APRC encourages donations of excess produce to food banks. If you have excess produce you may make a donation to the Ashland Emergency Food Bank located at 560 Clover Lane, 541-488-9544

APRC Coordinator

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