

## Community garden plot rules

- 1. Garden plots are rented to a specific person and are not transferable.**
  - Each gardener (renter) will be allowed only one plot.
  - Gardeners shall not maintain a garden for another gardener; or, ask other gardeners to maintain your plot.
  - Garden liaisons can have two plots.
- 2. Plots are rented in “as is” conditions based on how it was left last year by previous gardener.**
  - Please garden with the fact that someone else will inherit that plot.
- 3. Renters agree to plant by June 10 and to maintain the garden for the entire season.**
  - Rental plots not used by June 10 will be canceled and rented to the next person on the waiting list. No refunds are issued for unused gardens.
- 4. Renters will notify the city in advance if they must abandon their plot.**
  - Failure to notify the city will result in forfeiture of your deposit and future use of the community garden.
- 5. Renters agree to only plant annual crops of vegetable, fruit, herbs or annual flowers (*to attract the pollinators*).**
  - Plots will no longer be allowed to have perennial flowers, perennial fruits (i.e. raspberries) or woody vegetation. No shrubs or trees are allowed, and all rank trees must be removed.
  - Raspberries in particular are not allowed as they spread. Some raspberries may already be present, but no additional plantings of these will be allowed in individual plots.
  - **Note:** There are communal areas created in most of the community gardens where perennial flowers are grown. Growing berry bushes or other perennial plants could be considered in the communal area but not individual plots. Texa-Tonka is one of our original community gardens where perennials were planted in individual plots and they will not be forced to remove them until garden plot changes hands. As a rule, no further planting of perennials is allowed in plots in any of the gardens.
- 6. Renters agree to maintain their plots under the follow guidelines. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in forfeiture of deposit and the opportunity to rent next year.**
  - Plots shall not be overgrown with weeds. Violations will be given a two-week notice via email to clean it up. If not cleaned up after that time, it will be re-assigned and cleared.
  - The perimeter of the plot, including pathways and underneath the fencing, shall be kept cleared of vegetation; no vegetation can grow into pathways or areas that are mowed.
  - The premises will be kept in a neat and clean condition. All garbage and refuse shall be removed or placed in available refuse containers. Deposit all organic material in the wood bin located near the gardens. Deposit non-organic material in nearby waste containers.
- 7. Gardens may be fenced to protect crops but shall not be taller than 6 feet or encroach walkways.**
  - All vegetation must remain inside the fences and out of the way of the areas to be mowed

**8. Use of pesticides or herbicides is not allowed.**

- Use only certified organic fertilizers in a way as not to affect other plots.
- The exception would be in the case of rank trees that cannot be dug out or pulled and need to be cut and the stump treated. City approval prior to application is required.

**9. At the end of the growing season (on or before Oct. 15), all plots shall be completely cleared of all stakes, wire, tomato cages, rope or any other temporary supports used in adding the growth of plants:**

**10. All renters will commit to several hours of community service (upkeep) per the garden liaisons specifications/requirement:**

**Expectations of the garden liaison:**

- Lead the community garden by modeling proper garden upkeep.
- Arrange for the community gatherings and service days.
- Notify city staff when bins need filling or need to be emptied.
- Monitor plots for weeds and poor upkeep.
- Notify city staff on the condition of the gardens.

**Expectations of the City of St. Louis Park:**

- Manage garden sites and perform monthly inspections.
- Send out general communications to the community garden participants.
- All communication or correspondence from the city will be by email unless another form of communication is requested by the renter.
- Mow the surrounding property, fill bins with compost, supply wood mulch, and empty the bins for discarded vegetation (to be composted).
- Provide a water spigot and hose for watering your plot.
- Water to the spigots will be turned on by May 15, weather permitting, and will be shut off on Oct. 15. Hoses will be provided, but the care and rewinding of the hoses will be the responsibility of gardeners. Please wind or coil water hoses up after each use to keep them safe from mowers.