



2022 Oak Lawn Community Garden Allotment Member Rental Agreement



KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR REFERENCE

The mission of the OLCG is to provide a gardening experience for all community members while supporting those in need of food assistance through a safe, chemical-free environment to raise vegetables, herbs and fruits.

All community members are welcome in the garden; therefore, the gates are never locked. This open-door policy requires everyone to apply standards to child-proof, animal-proof and vandal-proof your plot and the garden commons (within reason). Please be understanding.

Garden Policies and Procedures:

1. In order to support the founding mission of the garden and as a provision of participation, all allotment garden members are required to assist with pantry garden volunteer efforts at some point throughout the grow season. In most cases this will amount to a minimum of few hours over the length of the season. Frequently communicated activities provide many opportunities to volunteer time in a variety of ways. Sign in sheets will be available on all build dates, planting dates, harvest dates and clean-up dates. It is the responsibility of each member to sign in as appropriate.
2. Garden plots are assigned to one person only and are non-transferable. Others may garden at your site, but the responsibility for payment of fees, cleanup and other duties at the site will be the responsibility of the individual whose name is registered to the plot. You may not give your plot to another person.
3. Rental payment is due at the beginning of the season. By Friday April 1, 2022.
4. Each gardener must complete a Waiver form at the time of registration, before any work in the garden can begin.
5. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to water their plots.
6. Be considerate of the surrounding neighborhood; this is an open area in a school park. Seasonal and temporary gardening structures such as trellises and cloches are allowed in the garden. All structures must be reasonably presentable. Plant and structures must not encroach on the paths, community spaces or neighboring plots. Orient your structures and plantings to avoid casting a shadow on other plots.
7. Chemical-Free gardening is required. No synthetic chemicals including herbicides, pesticides or chemical fertilizers are allowed without approval of the garden manager and School District 123.
8. No chemicals, fertilizers, supplements or gardening tools are to be left out.
9. Communal tools should be cleaned and returned to the storage area when finished. Tools are not to be taken away from the garden except for maintenance.
10. Please refrain from watering your garden with an open-ended hose. The use of a hose nozzle will conserve water and maintain sufficient water pressure for other gardeners. Water sprinklers are not permitted in the garden. Hoses should be rolled up at the end of each day.

11. The compost bins should only be used for compost. No trash please. Do not put plant material with diseases, insect infestations, or weed seeds in the compost. Garbage cans will be provided for garden waste. Soil is not permitted in the garbage cans. Weeds and plant refuse cut to size, only.
12. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times.
13. Pets are not allowed under any circumstances.
14. Notify the garden manager if you are no longer able to care for your plot, will be absent for a long period of time, or have asked a friend to tend your garden.
15. Garden plots should be cared for at least once a week. If any plot remains unattended for more than three weeks that plot is subject to reassignment and all vegetables gleaned for the food pantries.
16. All gardeners are required to keep their plots as disease and weed-free as possible. If a garden is not maintained, a warning will be given. If conditions do not improve, the garden will be forfeited.
17. Do not harvest from other's plots unless given specific permission by renter to harvest from their plots. Do not handle any plants, fruits or vegetables other than in your own plot. The exception is when volunteering in the pantry garden.
18. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring. Specific year-end procedures will be issued when appropriate; non-compliance will be taken into consideration for subsequent rental applications.
19. If you fail to follow any of the above guidelines, you will be contacted and given a reasonable amount of (usually from 1-2 weeks) time to correct the problem. If you do not respond, your plot will be considered abandoned. Plantings will be removed from abandoned plots or gleaned for charity and you will not be eligible to return the following year.
20. Your compliance with the above regulations will help everyone have an enjoyable and prosperous garden season.
21. Failure to comply with above regulations during the season may result in a loss of future gardening privileges.
22. The Garden is co-managed by representatives of the Oak Lawn Park District and Oak Lawn – Hometown School District 123. All decisions are final.

I have read and agree to abide by the above garden rules and policies. I understand that failure to abide by these rules will result in forfeiture of my gardening privileges.

I understand that neither the Oak Lawn Park District nor School District 123, nor the Village of Oak Lawn are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless them for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests.

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SIGN AND RETURN TO OLPD

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Signature

Date

Printed Name

Number of Beds