



Community of Christ Grateful Gardens

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2023/24 Rules and Regulations

I. Overview

Our vision is to provide a garden space for members of the community to restore their soul, build relationships, and fulfill their unique potential.

Our mission is to provide a space for the community to gather around sustainable agriculture as restorative and meditative practices regardless of religious affiliation..

These rules and regulations have been designed for the following reasons:

- To ensure safety
- To ensure that the garden is a pleasant place to be for gardeners, neighbors and the general public
- To establish fairness and equity among community gardeners
- To responsibly care for the earth and prevent damage to the land and groundwater
- To protect the future of Community of Christ Grateful Gardens

The Rules and Regulations are reviewed and revised annually in an ongoing effort to improve and keep them relevant to changing conditions. You must abide by these rules and regulations as they are currently written. Failure to do so may result in the termination of gardening privileges.

II. Who can rent a box in the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens?

Anyone age 18 or older may rent a box in the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens.

One box will be reserved for educational use and/or church programs.

III. Box Allocation, Registration and Deposit

The Community of Christ Grateful Gardens uses the following guidelines.

1. One garden box per residence available during rental sign up period: Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, for the new year beginning November 1. Additional boxes can be rented, if available.
2. An annual rental fee or \$ 50.00 will be assessed to all box holders. A one-time refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required. Deposit is returned when the box is relinquished and cleaned out by the box holder to the satisfaction of the garden manager.
3. Boxes are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. If additional boxes are available after rental sign up period, they will be rented on a first-come, first-served basis.
4. Garden boxes are issued on a year-to-year basis from November 1 – October 31.
5. The person whose signature appears as the primary gardener on the registration form is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the entire garden box and for payment of all fees and charges.
6. The box holder is required to inform the garden manager of any changes to his/her contact information, including home address and telephone number. Failure to provide current contact information will result in termination of contract.
7. Box holders desiring to continue using a box are required to complete the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens Registration/Agreement Form and pay their annual registration fee by the registration deadline of October 31. Those who do not meet the registration/agreement deadline will automatically lose the assigned box and the assigned box will be reassigned to a new gardener.
8. If there are no vacant garden boxes, prospective gardeners may add their name to a waiting list by calling the garden manager. Wait list is on a first-come first-serve basis.
9. Box holders do not have any ownership interest in the boxes and may not transfer a box to anyone else, including a family member.
10. New box holders are required to complete the Community Garden Registration/Agreement Form and pay the total annual rental fee and deposit before they can begin gardening.
11. Full payment of the annual rental fee is to be made by check or money order payable to Grateful Gardens. **Cash is not accepted.** Electronic payment is not available at this time. **Checks or money order will be sent to JR Orlando at 500 E. Calaveras Blvd., Suite 333, Milpitas, CA 95035.**
12. The annual rental fee includes access to water and a garden box with existing soil.
13. The deposit is refundable only if the garden box is completely cleaned, including all personal items and garden structures, by October 31. A time limit of no more than 7 calendar days will be provided for cleaning of the box.
14. Annual rental fee is not refundable.
15. Additional containers inside the boxes are not allowed.

IV. Gardening Guidelines

A. ORGANIC GARDENING

The Community of Christ Grateful Gardens adheres strictly to the gardening principles, concepts, and practices popularly called “organic.” Products simply labeled “organic” or “natural” are not allowed unless they meet **USDA or OMRI approval (Organic Materials Research Institute)**. The use of pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers, or other such substances or practices inconsistent with organic gardening are prohibited. The use of fertilizer material or tillage methods harmful to the soil’s structure, fertility or microorganisms is prohibited. The use of materials or products harmful to humans is prohibited. (Reference: CRF 205 subparts A, B, C)

B. PLANTING SCHEDULE

1. Garden boxes must be planted and maintained year-round.
2. Summer gardens must be planted by May 31st.
3. Box holders who do not actively garden during the winter must plant a cover crop consisting of legumes and grasses such as oats and barley or add organic compost to keep the dirt level with the top of the box.

C. PLANTING GUIDELINES

1. Box holders may grow vegetables, herbs, flowers, strawberries, and blueberries in their box.
2. Box holders must utilize at least 75% of the box for planting vegetables, herbs, flowers, strawberries or blueberries. Boxes are not to be used to store materials or tools not associated with gardening.
3. The box soil must be maintained in an aerated state, and no modification or amendment to the soil shall impede the future use of the box. No more than 20 pounds of salt free sand will be allowed as an amendment to the soil.
4. Cannabis plants are strictly prohibited and will be removed immediately and the gardener will forfeit their box.
5. The following water-intensive crops are prohibited: Taro, rice, sugar cane.
6. Crops should be rotated.
7. Crops must be harvested and not left on the ground to rot and go to waste.
8. Box holders should grow a variety of plants and it is advised to not grow less than two types of plants at any one time.
9. Respect the need of your neighbors’ plants for sunlight. Do not plant tall crops in a way that will cause excessive shading to nearby boxes.
10. All plants and trellises must be placed and contained inside box perimeter. The garden manager has the right to trim excess plants growing into the walkway without prior notification.
11. All tires, including but not limited to car and truck tires, are prohibited for use in any capacity in an individual garden box. However, the garden manager may use them in common areas for gardening purposes.
12. Trellises or arbors may not be more than 6 feet high, may not shade neighbors’ boxes and may not be installed permanently. All trellises must be cleaned of all non-producing annuals at time of final harvest.
13. Cement may not be used in a garden box, under any circumstances. Any wood, metal or iron posts, including rods, may not be driven into the ground such that they compromise the gopher wire at the bottom of the box, and cannot penetrate the soil more than 18 inches in depth. Pressure treated wood in the box is prohibited.
14. The garden manager has the right to notify any gardener that their crop will be removed in no less than 48 hours if there is evidence of rust, aphid infestation, powdery mildew, or other pathogens or pests which may affect the health of the garden.

V. Box Holder Responsibilities

1. Box holders are responsible for the year-round maintenance of their garden boxes and the surrounding pathways. Boxes and pathways must be kept free of weeds, trash and other debris at all times.
2. Common areas are maintained as a shared responsibility by all box holders. Such maintenance will occur at garden cleanups scheduled by the garden manager on an ongoing basis.
3. Box holders are required to attend scheduled garden cleanups or make alternative arrangements with the garden manager to assist in the maintenance of the garden.
4. Box holders are encouraged to attend garden meetings, when scheduled.
5. Box holders must be involved in the hands-on cultivation of their boxes.
6. Box holders may not pay for someone else to garden their box.
7. Box holders may not charge a fee to other gardeners for the use of their personal tools and/or equipment.
8. In the event of a family emergency, illness or injury, vacation, or other unforeseen circumstance, the box holder may arrange for another gardener to tend the garden box but must notify the garden manager and provide the name of the other gardener.
9. Box holders and their guests must comply with all rules and regulations.
10. Box holders will be held accountable for the behavior of their guests.
11. Parking for vehicles must be on the asphalt parking lot.

VI. Violations of Community of Christ Grateful Gardens Rules & Regulations

The management of Community of Christ Grateful Gardens may enforce these Rules and Regulations, and in doing so will take action, including termination of the agreement with any box holder or gardener who is in violation of these Rules and Regulations.

VIOLATIONS WARRANTING IMMEDIATE TERMINATION BY THE GARDEN:

1. Theft of tools and equipment.
2. Theft of produce and plants.
3. Vandalism of tools, equipment and garden property.
4. The use of foul language and offensive behavior including but not limited to threats, intimidation, violence, racial/ethnic slurs and sexual harassment.
5. The use of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs of any kind, in any area of the garden.
6. Smoking is prohibited.
7. Failure to pay registration fee by the deadline.

VII. Miscellaneous

1. **Hours of Operation:** Community of Christ Grateful Gardens are open from sunrise to sunset.
2. **Cars:** Vehicles are not allowed in the garden, except in designated parking areas.
3. **Bathroom:** Bathroom facilities are not available. Urinating or defecating in the community garden is prohibited.
4. No dumping. The dumpster may be used for garden refuse only.
5. Composting: Composting is allowed in designated areas only.
6. You may not sell your produce on site.
7. Harvesting: Harvest only from your own box. Taking produce from a garden box without permission of the box holder will result in the immediate revocation of your garden box and/or privileges as a gardener.
8. Water: The amount of water used determines future water fees. No unattended and/or uncontrolled watering allowed. All gardeners are authorized to turn water off if it has been left unattended. Leaky water hoses must be replaced or repaired. It is preferred that watering be done before 10am and after 5pm.
9. Excessive Watering/Watering Schedules: Watering is limited to 15 minutes per box. Excessive watering may be defined as the following: runoff, water allowed to leave a defined vegetable box/bed; water allowed to run off into the pathway; unattended water hoses left running for extended periods of time. Those gardeners not adhering to a watering schedule or who continue to use water in excess may be terminated.
10. Standing Water: To reduce the breeding of mosquitoes, no stagnant/standing water allowed, including but not limited to water in containers and buckets.
11. Tools: Box holders need to provide their own tools. The garden is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen tools.
12. Animals: **Dogs must be on leash. Please clean up after your pets.**
13. Box rental fees do not include access to bees or chickens.
14. Social events must be preapproved by the garden manager.

Box Holder / Volunteer Gardener Agreement - Please submit the below agreement to gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com

I have read the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens 2023/2024 Rules and Regulations and agree to abide by its provisions.

Signed _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

Residence address _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Box Number _____