

Gardening Guidelines and Expectations 2023

River Valley Area Community Gardens, Incorporated

Welcome to the 2023 Gardening Season!

The Board of Directors of River Valley Area Community Gardens (RVACG), wants you to have a great experience gardening. Please notify a Board member if you have questions.

Expectations of Gardeners:

~~Throughout the course of the growing season Gardeners are expected to~~

Make a commitment of time to spend **time** at the Gardens. ~~Gardening requires time and a commitment.~~ Please don't expect to put seeds or plants in the ground and they will take care of themselves.

Be respectful of your fellow community gardeners. Each Gardener has a different viewpoint to gardening. Discuss issues respectfully and bring any disputes or concerns to the Board of Directors where appropriate.

Plant inside the boundaries of the plot. **Allow 1 foot on each side** to take into consideration the growth or spread of plants being planted so that they stay within the plot boundaries and the sides are easy to mow.

Enter the plot of another gardener only when invited or permission is given.

Manage weeds so that they do not flower and go to seed.

Keep the pathways free of hoses, weeds, equipment, etc. so that they tools may be easily mowed and not pose a hindrance to walking.

~~Participate as able in community garden work days activities to help maintain the Garden site and/or fund raising events.~~ **Gardeners are expected to contribute 12 hours of time in some way to the Gardens.**

Check email on a regular basis as this is the method of communication for the Gardens

Dogs brought on site are to be kept on a leash and out of the garden plots. All waste is to be picked up.

Responsibilities of the Board

The Board shall work with gardeners to ensure that they have a successful gardening season

~~The Board~~ (It) shall provide educational opportunities to learn about organic and sustainable gardening techniques and practices as well as the fundamentals of gardening..

~~The Board shall provide water to plots, 1 hose and water nozzle per irrigation post, straw and/or marsh hay, cardboard and newspapers for mulching, composted manure, some gardening tools, tiller, mowers, and wagons~~

~~The Board (It) may provide organic fertilizer and pesticides, for Gardeners to use.~~

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Registration:

The registration process for new and returning gardeners begins with completing the Application form.

New Gardeners or Gardeners New to the Gardens: New gardeners are required to attend a pre-season course to learn about gardening practices, seed starting or planting, plot maintenance, etc. as well as review the Gardener's Guidelines. returning gardeners must meet with the Registrar to review the Gardening Guidelines before planting.

Season: All plots are rented for a gardening year. Late registrations will be accepted for an extended period of time into the summer. (Policy,,not necessary in Guidelines

Refunds: Gardeners who choose to forfeit their plot after registering must contact the Treasurer.
Plot Forfeitures and Transfers: If a gardener gives up the plot before the end of the season, the Gardener must contact Doug Rouse or R.E. Schneider. Refunds may be given until May 1.

Garden Plots: Each plot must be used for the cultivation of vegetables, flowers, fruit, or herbs for personal use not commercial use.. Gardeners may not sell produce. Excess produce may be shared with area food pantries, friends, school kitchens, nursing homes, etc. or placed in the Veggie Kiosk on Westmor Street.

Organic Gardening Standards: The Garden practices organic gardening techniques. Acceptable fertilizers include compost, composted manure, green manure, leaf mold, and worm castings.

If using any chemical fertilizers, pesticides or other soil amendments, they must be approved by the National Organic Program (NOP), which is administered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). A registry of NOP-approved and prohibited substances may be found by visiting: www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program..

The following graphics may be found on the labels of approved garden chemicals



Organic Materials Review Institute



Midwest Organic Services Association



US Dept of Ag Agriculture Marketing Service National Organic Program

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Temporary absence(s) due to vacation, illness, etc. Gardeners who are unable to care for their plot/s due to vacation, illness, or some other event shall be responsible for finding someone to care for their plot until their return or contact the Superintendent to discuss arrangements for caring it.

Abandoned plots. Plots are considered abandoned if they haven't been tended in 4 weeks.

Refunds: Gardeners who choose to forfeit their plot after registering must contact the Treasurer.

Plot Forfeitures and Transfers: If a gardener gives up the plot before the end of the season, the Gardener must contact Doug Rouse or R.E. Schneider. Refunds may be given until May 1.

Permitted plants: Gardeners may cultivate annual fruit and vegetable crops. The planting of more permanent crops needs to be discussed with the Superintendent.

Tall Plants: Tall plants such as sweet corn or pole beans or trellises should be placed where they will not shade neighboring plots. Tall support structures must be sturdy and reinforced so they do not fall into a neighbors' plot.

Plastic seedling packs: Plastic seedling packs or pots and starter trays are recyclable and are given to the RVHS Ag Department. Please place them in the designated tote in the Gardeners Shed.

Compost. ~~Compost bins and a tumbler are available for garden waste.~~ Composted manure is provided. Gardeners may add their own compost. There are two compost piles. One is for plant waste to compost. The other is for weeds with seeds, large, heavy weed, vegetable or sunflower stocks and diseased plant matter which will be taken to the dump.

Mulch. *Mulch is a proactive way to prevent weeds from the start of the gardening season*

Biodegradable mulch such as composted, leaves, straw, and hay are acceptable and encouraged. Gardeners may use from the bales of straw / marsh hay provided by the Garden.

With the exception of glossy ~~ad~~ sheets, newspapers and non-glossy cardboard should be ~~may be~~ laid in garden rows as a weed inhibitor and topped with mulch. ~~Non-glossy cardboard is also acceptable.~~

All non-organic mulch such as plastic or fabric sheets must be removed by Closing Day if the plot is to be tilled in the fall or spring.. (???????)

Carpet, stone and wood mulch are not allowed in garden plots. (?)

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Weeds: *(Following is a summary Or Give a copy of the Policy for the first and second year? Include village info in Policy?)*

Spring Green Village ordinance 300.6 states that all weeds and grasses are to be kept under 6 inches. A list of noxious weeds designated by the Village of Spring Green is posted in the Gardeners Shed.

Weeds should be placed into the designated weed pile for composting or each Gardener may keep a compost pile in their plot. ~~Any questions on weed management should be directed to Doug Rouse (?). A list of noxious weeds designated by the Village of Spring Green is posted in the Gardeners Shed.~~

Out of Control Weeds: Gardeners whose weeds are out of control will be contacted by a Board member.

-The Gardener will have up to 2 weeks to get weeds under control. The Board member may offer to organize a volunteer group to help the gardener get weeds under control.

-If the Gardener does not get weeds under control in the allotted time, the Gardener will be contacted a second time and given 1 week to get weeds under control. Failure to do so may result in the plot being mowed. Any viable produce will be left for harvest.

- The Gardener will be required to attend a Garden Basics seminar before being granted gardening permission for the coming year.

-The Gardener may be asked to reduce the size of the plot until they demonstrate that they can keep the weeds in their plot under control.

Any questions on weed management should be directed to _____ (?).

Equipment: A tiller, mulching push mower, wheelbarrow, and wagons are provided for Gardener use. Please return equipment to the storage area. Equipment should not leave the garden site.

If the gas can is emptied or equipment isn't working, please notify Doug Rouse and leave a dated message on the equipment **(or on bulletin board in the shed)**

Some equipment borrowed for individual garden use, i.e. stakes, mesh, tomato cages, trellising equipment should be returned to the equipment area at the end of the season. Gardeners may provide their own.

Tools:

Gardeners may borrow tools from the Gardeners shed, as long as they return them – ~~Tools may not be taken from the Garden site.~~ Tools should not leave the garden site

Irrigation system. Irrigation ports are available in each garden section. ~~Gardeners may provide their own hose or use the hoses provided by the Garden.~~ The Gardens will provide one hose and one nozzle per irrigation post. Gardeners may provide their own hoses and watering tools.

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Drip irrigation installation is permitted. Doug Rouse is available for consultation on installing drip irrigation systems.

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~~**Mulch.** Biodegradable mulch such as composted, leaves, straw, and hay are acceptable and encouraged. Gardeners may use from the bales of straw / marsh hay provided by the Garden.~~

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~~All non-organic mulch such as plastic or fabric sheets must be removed by Closing Day if the plot is to be tilled in the fall or spring.. (???????)~~

~~Carpet, stone and wood mulch are not allowed in garden plots. (?)~~

Prohibited Activities: The Garden is located on land owned by the Village of Spring Green. Village ordinances prohibit target shooting, and open fires. The Gardens prohibits alcoholic consumption on-site when operating equipment. Gardeners are encouraged to smoke in the picnic area for fire safety purposes.

Pathways and Plot Boundaries: All pathways are to be kept clear of tools, hoses, garden equipment, weed piles and other obstacles. Gardeners may not extend plots past the boundary markers. Plants growing into pathways may be mowed. The boundaries of individual plots are marked with posts which should not be removed. When planting, **allow a foot on all boundaries** for walking, plant overgrowth, and mowing.

~~**Permitted plants:** Gardeners may cultivate annual fruit and vegetable crops. The planting of more permanent crops needs to be discussed with the Superintendent.~~

Gardeners storage shed: A locked storage shed is available for Gardeners storage of their personal garden tools and supplies as well as community tools for gardener use: The combination will be given to each primary gardener. Gardeners may provide their own storage totes

Gardening resources and advice: Gardening is an series of experiment and a learning experience that may yield mistakes and successes. Many of our Gardeners are seasoned veterans with lots of experience and knowledge. Doug Rouse, Wid Yarnall, Nancy Hume and Emily Martorano are especially knowledgeable about vegetable gardening.

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~~Board members are good resources, specifically Doug Rouse, UW professor emeritus of plant pathology and Rose Ellen Schneider, Master Gardener. Also other gardeners have a lot of experience and knowledge. Gardening is an series of experiment and a learning experience that may yield mistakes and successes~~

~~**Park area:** The Village of Spring Green provides two picnic tables in the park area for public and Gardener use. Enjoy them for a brief respite after gardening, or to enjoy a meal!~~

~~**Work Days:** Work days are days planned to provide time to prepare the Garden site for the season or the winter and to do tasks to maintain it. Gardeners are encouraged to participate. Tasks are also available for people to do on their own time. Tasks have a range of difficulty.~~

~~**Volunteer Hours:** Gardeners are expected to contribute ___ hours per season. Work hours may be completed at scheduled events or on the gardeners own time and as simple as 30 minutes or less at a time. This may include work days, task force committees, mentoring new gardeners or Junior Gardeners, helping with the Busy Bees program, working fundraisers, serving on committees, serving on the Board of Directors, tending the garden of someone who is on vacation, ill, or other reason having difficulty watering or weeding on a regular basis, etc. ???Participating in seminars????.~~

~~**Task Force Committees:** Task force committees are specialized committees to allow Gardeners to volunteer hours in a group or individually. The Task forces include (1) Food Pantry, (2) Flowers /Perennials, Ornamentals and Fruit, (3) Grounds / Equipment / Irrigation, (4) Food Pantry, (5) Administration / Finance / fundraising,~~

~~**Waste receptacles:** Please do not litter. Any garbage or recyclable waste should be placed into the appropriate receptacles. The wind blows down the prairie so please be watchful of g-pick up garbage that may have blown in or things that have been blown around.~~

~~**Plastic seedling packs:** Plastic seedling packs or pots and starter trays are recyclable and are given to the RVHS Ag Department. Please place them in the designated tote in the Gardeners Shed.~~

~~**Car parking:** Parking is available along both Westmor Street and Locust Drive. Gardeners may drive only on the north side of the site and on the driveway in the southern area of the site. Driving to plots should only be done if the gardener has a physical limitation, or the gardener is delivering items to or harvesting from their plot. Contact the Registrar on parking questions.~~

~~**Orchard:** Gardeners may partake of community fruits and vegetables in season i.e.strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb, apples asparagus, aronia, and sweet corn. Please pick moderately to share with other gardeners~~

~~**Work Days:** Work days are days planned to provide time to prepare the Garden site for the season or the winter and to do tasks to maintain it. Gardeners are encouraged to participate. Work days also include fundraisers. Tasks are also available for people to do on their own time. Tasks have a range of difficulty.~~

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Renewal of Registration: Gardeners who wish to continue their gardening experience need to complete an application form, and sign a Gardeners Agreement annually. Gardeners Guidelines are reviewed annually and gardener input is encouraged.

Board of Directors

The members of the RVACG Board of Directors are as follows: To be determined....Do I include on sabbatical or not even add them.

Sarah Alt, Secretary Email: alt.sarah@gmail.com

Melissa Hildebrandt, Treasurer Phone: 608-425-0669 Email: mghlitzie@gmail.com

Duties: Budget / Fund raising

Tom Hilston, Director Email: tchilston@gmail.com

Don Koller, Director Telephone: (608) 588-2406

Duties: Mowing, Maintenance

Emily Martorano, Director Email: emily.martorano@gmail.com Phone: 847-373-1156

Doug Rouse, VP / Superintendent Phone: 608-225-4522 Email: dir@plantpath.wisc.edu

Duties: food pantry plots; plant disease/pest control and prevention; irrigation

Rose Ellen Schneider, President / Registration Phone: 608-732-6571

Duties: Registration, Publicity, Facebook/ Web site administration; Student Gardening Committee

Email: rschneid3@frontier.com or info@rvacg.org

Amy Thompson, Phone: 610-551-6543 Email: flutterybys@gmail.com

Duties: Student Gardening Committee, and Social/ Education Committee

Wid Yarnall, Director Phone: 331-757-8416 Email: connectitelectric@yahoo.com

Duties: Student Gardening Com

