

## **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 a question.

#### ***Expectations of Gardeners:***

Throughout the course of the growing season Gardeners are expected to

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 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

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 shall be responsible for the maintenance of the irrigation system and provide hoses for each irrigation post.

The Board shall be responsible for providing straw or marsh hay and some cardboard, newspapers for mulching .

The Board shall provide some gardening tools for gardeners to use.



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The Board shall provide tillers, wagons, push mowers and necessary large equipment to be used to maintain garden plots

The Board may provide some organic fertilizer, and organic insecticides for the gardeners to use.

### ***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.

***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.

### ***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](http://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program).

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



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Organic Materials Review Institute



Midwest Organic Services Association



US Dept of Ag Agriculture Marketing Service National Organic Program

***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.

***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.

## ***Weeds:***

Spring Green Village ordinance 300.6 states that all weeds and grasses are to be kept under 6 inches. 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 Gardene

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. 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.

## ***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.



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If the gas can is emptied or equipment isn't working, please notify Doug Rouse and leave a dated message on the equipment.

## ***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 per irrigation post. Gardeners may provide their own hoses and watering tools.

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

## ***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 or sunflower stocks and diseased plant matter which will be taken to the dump.

## ***Mulch.***

Biodegradable mulch such as compost, 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 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 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.





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### ***Pathways and Plot Boundaries:***

Lawn 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

### ***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. Contact the Registrar on parking questions.

### ***Gardening resources and advice:.***

Board members are good resources-specifically Doug Rouse, UW professor of plant pathology and Rose Ellen Schneider, Master Gardener. Also other gardeners have a lot of experience and knowledge. Gardening is a series of experiments 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!~~

### ***Waste receptacles:***

Please do not litter. Any garbage or recyclable waste should be placed into the appropriate receptacles.

### ***Plastic seedling packs:***

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



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**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. Task have a range of difficulty.

### 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](mailto:alt.sarah@gmail.com)

Melissa Hildebrandt, Treasurer Phone: 608-425-0669 Email: [mghlitzie@gmail.com](mailto:mghlitzie@gmail.com)

Duties: Budget / Fund raising

Tom Hilston, Director Email: [tchilston@gmail.com](mailto:tchilston@gmail.com)

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

Duties: Mowing, Maintenance

Emily Martorano, Director Email: [emily.martorano@gmail.com](mailto:emily.martorano@gmail.com) Phone: 847-373-1156

Doug Rouse, VP / Superintendent Phone: 608-225-4522 Email: [dir@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto: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](mailto:rschneid3@frontier.com) or [info@rvacg.org](mailto:info@rvacg.org)

Amy Thompson, Phone: 610-551-6543 Email: [flutteryby@gmail.com](mailto:flutteryby@gmail.com)

Duties: Student Gardening Committee, and Social/ Education Committee

Wid Yarnall, Director Phone: 331-757-8416 Email: [connectitelectric@yahoo.com](mailto:connectitelectric@yahoo.com)

Duties: Student Gardening Com

