**The Urban Farm**

 **2023 Community Garden Agreement**

**Preamble**

This document outlines policies governing management of the community garden and details expectations of participating gardeners. If expectations are not being met, the Steering Committee will discuss the issue with the gardener. If issues are not resolved, a gardener may be asked to relinquish their plot at the end of the year; or in rare instances for flagrant and repeated violations of garden/farm policies, during the growing season.

**PLEASE CHECK BOTH AGREEMENT BOXES LOCATED BELOW**

**Garden Plot Assignment**

1. Garden plots for a coming year are released in the following order:
	1. Gardeners from the prior year who completed the season and met all requirements have priority to retain their plots.
	2. Any gardener who has completed a season of gardening and met all requirements may seek to exchange their assigned plot for a vacant plot in the next year and will have priority in order of request by date received
	3. Gardeners who sign up for the open plot wait list are ranked in order of the date of the request and are offered vacant plots after the deadline for returning gardeners has elapsed.
2. Prior to obtaining a plot, each new and returning gardener must complete orientation, in person or online.

**Garden Care and General Requirements**

1. **Watering** - The community garden utilizes automatic watering. The timers are set and maintained by the Garden Steering Committee. Individual garden beds are each connected to the master drip system by ½ tubing running by each bed.

Gardeners should maintain and repair the ¼ inch drip lines and emitters in their beds. Overhead emitters and spray or drip watering are not permitted. Shared supplies are available to add, modify, repair, or plug a garden plot’s drip system.

You may elect to hand water instead of using the timed drip system.

1. **Weeds** - Each gardener will minimize weeds from growing in their plot and prevent weeds from going to flower in their own garden bed.
2. **ONLY ORGANIC PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES** are ever allowed in any garden or any part of the community garden, inside and outside the fence, at any time.
3. **Shade**: The sun is a precious resource each gardener relies on daily. Do not shade a neighbors’ crop with any tall plants or structures.
4. **Use of Manure** - Manure should be incorporated into the soil to a depth of 6 inches. It is safest to use aged manure vs. fresh; we try to provide aged manure at the garden for your convenience in the fall only, when possible. We do not guarantee or test the manure; use is at your own risk. Use of disposable gloves and masks when applying manure is optional.
5. **General TUF and Community Garden Requirements**
	1. Community Gardeners only have access to the community garden. Gardeners and their family members are not allowed to access the other parts of The Urban Farm. Any gardener may obtain a day pass or a membership to The Urban Farm, and then access it according the schedule and rules of The Urban Farm. Gardeners’ friends and family members who will be present at the garden should be listed on their application and a WAIVER must be completed.

[ ]  **I agree to the terms of third party access**

* 1. Gardeners may access the garden from sunrise to sunset, 7 days a week, through the Connor Family Gate. A new pass code will be provided at the end of the online orientation. It is not to be shared with others.
	2. Gardeners are not allowed to enter, water, work in, or harvest from a neighbor’s garden bed without express permission of the individual gardener.
	3. Each gardener, based on plot size, is required to complete a specified number of hours of volunteer work at the community garden per season and record their hours in the method provided by the garden steering committee. See below.
	4. The Community Garden with work with individual gardeners who express accessibility issues with volunteer work to assure that volunteer opportunities are available for any gardener who may need lighter duties
	5. Volunteer hours should be done in the garden or on activities approved by steering committee.

Volunteer Hours Per Year by Plot Size

* + 1. Small plot:  6 hours
		2. Medium plot:  8 hours
		3. Large plot:  10 hours
		4. X-Large:  12 hours
		5. Custom:  16 hours
	1. Gardeners should assure that the gates to The Urban Farm and to the community garden remain closed at all times. Animals can escape The Urban Farm through an open gate, and the community garden can easily be overrun by rabbits and prairie dogs if the community garden gate is left open.
	2. To close the Conner Gate when entering, turn the lock into the locked position. To close the Conner Gate when exiting The Urban Farm, press the button labeled “Schlage” and then turn the lock. Assure the gate is actually locked before you depart.
	3. There is no trash can for use by community gardeners and all trash should be taken home and disposed of.
	4. Composting –
		1. The community garden has unlimited access to disposing of plant material by placing it on the north side of the large triple-compost system located To the south east edge of the community Garden.
		2. Gardeners are not allowed to enter or engage any of the three compost system bays, and are not allowed to directly place plant material in these bays.
		3. The Urban Farm administers the triple bay compost system and assures the right balance of materials and temperatures to accomplish the several goals of composting.
		4. Gardeners should never place diseased plants or weeds that have gone to seed in the compost and should instead bag and dispose of this material as trash. and remove from the property.
	5. GENERAL FARM RULES THAT ALSO APPLY IN THE GARDEN:
		1. No dogs or other pets allowed
		2. No chewing gum
		3. No screaming or running
		4. Growing marijuana is prohibited
		5. No smoking, vaping, or smokeless tobacco is permitted at any time in any location.

**I agree to the terms of Community Garden Agreement and rules of The Urban Farm.**