

Westminster Community Garden

Rules & Guidelines Contract

Please read and sign this rules and guidelines contract:

General Use

- 1) The garden must be a safe place for the community, children, and other gardeners. Do not bring anything that will compromise the safety of the garden.
- 2) Ensuring enjoyable gardening experience for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and responsibilities. For this reason, observe the rules of the garden, and be a good neighbor.
- 3) Teach your children to respect others' plots.
- 4) Each person must apply each year for a plot but returning gardeners will be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish. The number of plots per gardener will be limited according to demand.
- 5) Stakes that mark your plot's corners and have your plot number and name must be left in place all season.

Taking Care of Your Garden Plot

- 6) You are responsible for planting, weeding and harvesting your own plot. Visit your plot at least once each week. If your plot appears to be abandoned it will be given to someone who will actually make use of it.
- 7) Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw, and hay are encouraged. Carpet mulch is not allowed. Remove any non organic mulch by closing day. No wood chips as mulch. They do not biodegrade quickly. Black plastic is allowed, but must be removed at the end of the season.
- 8) Never use any herbicides (weed killers), and pesticides are discouraged and prohibited at many community gardens. Keep pest-control products/containers away from children.

Email Sustainable Living Maryland Volunteers at communitygardens@sustainablelivingmd.org or call the Carroll County Master Gardeners at (410) 386-2760 for garden support.

- 9) Please do not plant mint, catnip, Jerusalem artichokes, comfrey or raspberries.
- 10) If you decide not to use your plot, please contact the volunteers from Sustainable Living Maryland or the Department of Planning so it may be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. If there is no evidence of activity at your plot by June 1st, it will be reassigned.
- 11) If you are unable to care for your plot for a time because of illness or vacation, let our new volunteers from Sustainable Living Maryland or the Department of Planning know so they can arrange for help with weeding and harvesting.
- 12) If your plot is overgrown with weeds, you will receive a warning. After two weeks of no action or communication, your plot may be mowed and reassigned.

Garden Etiquette

- 13) Do not pick produce from your neighbor’s garden even if you think they have neglected their plot.
- 14) Please do not put up brightly-colored fencing (for instance orange plastic construction fencing) around your plot.
- 15) Keep vines and visitors out of neighboring plots.
- 16) Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash-free. If you are on a pathway, you are responsible to care for 1/2 of the pathway between you and your neighbor. Keep plot edges and fencing free of weeds that will go to seed. Don't put rocks and sticks in paths.
- 17) Keep tall plants such as corn or sunflowers at the center of your plot so they do not shade your neighbors’ plants.
- 18) Pack your trash back home to dispose of properly.
- 19) Try to resolve any conflicts or issues with your garden neighbors. Unresolved issues between gardeners will be referred to the Department of Planning

Important Contacts:

Sustainable Living Maryland Volunteers – communitygardens@sustainablelivingmd.org

Melissa Hynes – City of Westminster – 410-876-0299 or mhynes@westgove.com

Master Gardeners - (410) 386-2760

CUT HERE

I have read and agree to the above Westminster Community Garden Rules and Guidelines Contract.

***Signed: (Gardener responsible for plot): _____
Name Date

Please cut this slip off so you can keep the rules and guidelines for your records and please include the signed slip with your application.