

## WESTON COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN

### *POLICIES AND PROCEDURES*

The following is an overview of rules and regulations for the community garden. We have established these policies to make the gardening experience more enjoyable for everyone involved. We don't want anyone in the position of being "garden police", so if you see a fellow gardener ignoring the rules, please let a committee member know.

#### **Getting a Bed**

- All beds will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis at the Senior Center office.
- Current community gardeners will have until October 1st to reserve and pay for their desired beds for the next season. On October 15th, the remaining beds will be advertised and become available to new gardeners.
- Once you are assigned a numbered raised bed, you may not switch beds with another gardener without contacting the Senior Center office. This keeps our records accurate.

#### **Use common courtesy:**

- Allow adequate space within your designated plot for plants and crops that spread to keep them from encroaching on paths or adjacent plots. Trailing or vining plants also make it more difficult to mow between beds. Trellises or wooden tripods can help encourage plants to grow up, rather than out. Additionally, 'rows' are available in the Pumpkin Patch for rent for larger plants.
- Do not harvest other gardener's crops unless given permission. If you suspect an unauthorized person is harvesting, diplomatically question the person and/or contact a garden committee member.
- Sorry, but dogs are not allowed in the garden area, including dogs on leashes.
- No smoking is allowed in the garden.
- Please make sure gates are closed when you leave the garden! We have had gates left open in the past and it allowed deer to get in and 'feast'.
- Closely supervise your children. Community gardening can be a wonderful learning experience for children, but they must behave respectfully toward other gardeners and their plots.
- Please help pick up any litter you see and dispose of it in one of the provided trash bins.

#### **Maintain Your Garden:**

- Your garden should be planted by the first week of June, unless there has been very wet and cool weather. If nothing has been planted by June 10th, you will be contacted and may be asked to forfeit your plot and fee.
- Keep weeds removed from your plot, the perimeter of your plot and surrounding paths.
- If you are unable to maintain your plot due to illness or travel, it is your responsibility to ask another person to weed, water and harvest your plot as needed. Make sure this person knows which plot is yours!
- If a plot appears untended (overgrown weeds, un-harvested) you will be contacted. If your plot is not cleaned up within two weeks, it will be reassigned and your plot fee will be forfeited. This will help us keep weed seeds to a minimum and keep the garden looking nice and well cared for. You are also responsible for cleaning your bed at the end of the growing season.

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### **Be Considerate and Conservation-Minded When Watering:**

- When watering, be careful not to drag hoses through other people's plots. Try not to over-spray onto others' plots, since they may be planning to plant or work their soil.
- After watering, please return the hoses and watering devices to their storage location. And please make sure the faucet handles are pushed ALL the way down and off!
- Please remember that water is a precious and limited resource, so try to water early in the morning or in the evening when evaporation loss will be minimized. In addition, mulching your beds will significantly reduce the amount of watering (and weeding!) you will need to do. A free mulch pile is available.
- Please only water your beds, unless otherwise authorized. If you are concerned about another bed being un-watered and unattended please contact a garden committee member and they will contact the owner.

### **Chemical-Free Methods Only For Pest Control:**

- For our gardener's safety and health, and for environmental reasons, only 'organic' methods of insect, disease and weed control are permitted. We believe that toxic chemicals are simply not necessary to grow healthy, attractive and bountiful plants. There are many natural and low-toxicity products available to use to protect your plants. Our local library has a wide selection of books and magazines featuring organic gardening tips and techniques.

### **Conflict With Others:**

- Very occasionally you may have difficulty dealing with another gardener. Please remain polite and listen carefully. Usually solutions can be easily reached. If more serious difficulties arise, please contact one of the garden committee members to assist with mediating a solution. Neighborly relations are important to the spirit of community gardening.

***Remember...through community gardening you have the opportunity to have a very positive effect on other gardeners, your neighborhood and your community!***

(revised 8/11)

For more information or questions, please contact one of the following:

Jennifer Hinkhouse—746-3264      Senior Center—746-4903  
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