

Lake City Community Garden 2016 Guidelines and Rules

New 2016 Policies Summary:

The Community Gardens will be open for gardening as soon as we receive the signed waiver and deposit from returning gardeners. If you had a plot last year and renew by March 8th you will have the same plot. **Do not work in your plot if you have not signed and returned the waiver form and deposit.**

Compost from the Lake City Compost area can be used in the Community Garden. However the city does not have any available for us this spring. We are working on other sources and hope to get some delivered for use. More information will be communicated as plans develop.

We are requesting that gardeners make a bigger effort this season to keep the aisles between the plots free of rocks. Rocks are taking a toll on our mower! Put rocks in the road when they are removed from plots.

The combination for the shed during the gardening season is: 33 – 35 – 5

The tools in the tool shed do wear out. If you find some in good shape at garage sales for reasonable prices, please purchase them and submit a bill to one of the board members. You will be fully compensated for your purchase.

Important Dates:

April 1st – New plots assigned. Work may begin in the Community Garden plots. Note: Water will not be turned on until we reach the expected “frost-free date.”

June 15th – Gardens must be planted

Second Tuesday of each month, June-October – Weed control inspections.

Pot Luck Dinners on third Tuesdays – May 17, June 21, July 19, and Aug 16.

October 31st – Fall garden clean-up must be complete

November – Deposits returned by City Hall

General Information: The Lake City Community Gardens are located on North 10th Street across from the former Home Pros Building Store. New plots will be assigned by **April 1**. Registration for the new plots is on a first come-first served basis, limited to residents of Lake City or employees of businesses located within the city of Lake City. **Returning gardeners have first chance to renew the use of their plot.** Requests from former gardeners who have failed to follow the guidelines and rules will not be honored.

The Lake City Community Garden is staffed entirely by volunteers. If you have an interest in helping with the garden, please contact someone on the committee. Names and contact information appear at the bottom of this letter.

Policies:

Gardening in public plots is different from gardening in your own backyard

because how you care for your plot in a community garden impacts many others. Therefore, we have policies on how and when some things are to be done. The Garden Committee reviews and updates garden policies.

Gardens must be used for growing vegetables, annual fruit and/or flowers and must be cared for throughout the growing year. Gardens must be planted by **June 15**. Regular care includes watering and harvesting when necessary and the **prompt removal of weeds and spent crop plants**. Plots that are not used or cared for will be reassigned. Fall garden clean-up must be completed by October 31st. All plants, weeds, and produce must be removed and the plot made ready for use in the spring. Large root masses such as corn stalk roots must be removed. Crops that are winter varieties or those planted in the fall for harvest the next year are allowed. Examples are garlic and kale. Ever-bearing crops like strawberries or raspberries are not permitted.

Plots are for growing fresh, healthy produce for your family and friends. No produce may be sold. Extra produce may be donated to local charities such as the Lake City Food Shelf or individuals as long as they do not sell them.

Refundable Deposits:

A refundable deposit will be required again this year. This action has been implemented to ensure that gardeners clean up their plots in the fall at the end of gardening season. The deposit fee will be \$25 for small plots and \$50 for large plots. The city will mail deposit refunds following the final garden inspection by the Garden Committee. Checks should arrive in November.

Weeds:

All plots should be kept weed-free throughout the season. Plots in violation of this policy may be re-assigned (see policy enforcement section). Inspections will be done monthly and notices sent out. Recurring violators will lose their right to have a plot. Please note that only organic herbicides are allowed (see "Chemicals" section). We understand that life sometimes gets in the way of lesser important items like weeding. If a situation arises that unexpectedly prevents you from maintaining your garden, please feel free to contact a garden committee member and we will see what we can do to lighten your load. We have many gardeners that are more than happy to lend a helping hand when necessary.

Paths and Boundaries:

You must keep your garden within its official defined boundary. Corner stakes mark the boundaries of each garden plot. These stakes should not be disturbed. Report missing corner posts to a Garden Committee member.

The paths separating gardens from each other will be mowed by volunteer gardeners. **Show your appreciation by keeping the paths clear, level, and free of rocks and garden plants.** The paths are the joint responsibility of the

gardeners on both sides of the path. Those gardeners on the outside border of the community garden are responsible for maintaining the path on the outside edge of their garden.

Because garden plants must not extend into or over the paths, plan for future growth when planting. Any garden plant substantially extending into a path may be trimmed, moved or removed by the Garden Committee without notice.

Tall plants, pest plants:

Please work with your neighbors when planting tall plants such as sunflowers or bean trellises so you don't shade adjacent gardens.

Planting trees, shrubs or perennials is not allowed at the site. Be very careful when considering plants that are invasive and hard to eradicate. Should you decide to plant them, please do not allow them to get away or go to seed, or they may be considered weeds.

Fencing:

If you would like to put fencing around your plot, you may use either wire poultry fencing or welded wire fencing to a maximum height of 4 feet. Plastic or chain link fencing is prohibited either because it is environmentally unacceptable or because it detracts from the visual attractiveness of the garden (such as orange fencing). Be sure your fencing and associated posts are in your plot boundaries. Work with your neighbors to make sure your fence does not shade other garden plots. **Fencing must be removed at the end of the season.**

Pests and Diseases:

Gardeners are encouraged to keep insects and pests under control so they do not spread into other gardens. (See notes in "Chemicals" section). Please dispose of diseased plants to limit the spread of disease. Remove them from the garden, or put them in the ditch dug on the north end of the gardens on the 10th Street side or take them to the City Compost site.

Chemicals: Pesticides/Herbicides:

The Lake City Community Garden is focused on providing a place for residents of Lake City to produce fresh, healthy produce. To that end we encourage, teach and support organic methods of managing weeds, insects, and diseases and of increasing soil fertility.

When you plan your garden, please look for disease resistant plants.

Gardeners should only use organic insecticides, fungicides and bactericides. Please note that the use of synthetic chemical insecticides, fungicides, and bactericides is not allowed. Natural methods of pest control such as traps, companion planting, good plant and soil health, and parasitic or biological controls are encouraged, and education in these methods will be

available. If you observe an insect or disease problem, please contact Master Gardener Margaret Haase to help you solve it naturally before it becomes catastrophic. Permission to use a chemical product in the event of a catastrophic infestation may be granted by the Master Gardener on a one-time basis, applied at the safest time using the safest method possible. We have experienced very good success with use of some organic formulations obtained at local stores such as Ag Partners and Gerken's. Products using Neem oil appear to be very effective.

Fertilizer Use: Natural fertilizers such as compost, composted manure, seaweed, fish emulsion, and cover crops can provide a balanced diet for the soil and a favorable climate for the organisms that make up healthy soil and disease-resistant plants if this approach is used consistently over a period of years. **However we are aware that compost alone may not provide a balanced supply of NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) in the short term and for this reason we permit the use of synthetic fertilizers.** Compost selection is up to the gardener. Agricultural lime is also permitted to adjust the soil pH.

If you have any questions about whether or not a particular product is allowable, contact Margaret Haase before you apply it.

If you plan to use mulch to control weeds in the garden, please select materials that have not been exposed to herbicides or pesticide use. Grass clippings from lawns that have been treated for crabgrass or sprayed for broadleaf weed control should not be used as mulch until there have been three mowings after the last application of herbicide.

Plant debris is best utilized by composting, digging it into the soil or as a mulch on top. That which is not used must be placed in the designated composting area. Trash, especially plastic, should be picked up and disposed of promptly, either by placing the trash in the blue barrel or by taking it home.

Please place garden debris in the shallow trench that has been dug on the north end of the garden on the 10th street side. The trench will be emptied by the Streets and Parks Dept as required.

Water:

A moderate amount of water will be available for use on your garden. We encourage water-saving techniques, such as mulching, direct plant-root watering and avoiding mid-day or overhead watering. Use of landscape fabric for weed control will also reduce evaporation and will keep the soil moist. The water is turned on after the last "frost-free date" in April.

Children:

Children are welcome in the garden area with adult supervision. If you bring your children it is your responsibility to see that they are helping you in your plot, or

playing safely within your sight.

Pets:

Pets are not allowed within the gardens. If a stray dog is a repeat invader, please report it to the Animal Control Department of Lake City.

Shed:

A storage shed was added in 2010 to make it easier to work at the Community Gardens. The shed is for storing tools owned by the Community Garden. Feel free to use the tools stored in the shed and please return them to the shed when done. The combination is 33-35-5.

Please do not store your personal possessions in the shed – it becomes unmanageable when individuals start storing personal effects in it.

Parking:

We encourage walking, or bicycling to the gardens. If you do drive, please use parking on the back side – away from 10th street, or at the garden (southeast side) leaving space for other vehicles. Please do not park next to the hoses because it blocks access to the water for other gardeners.

Notices and Procedures:

Notices to individual gardeners and general notices will be e-mailed. Please inform Jim Schreck (theschrecks@gmail.com) of changes in your address, phone number or email address.

Abandonment:

Any garden that is apparently abandoned may be reassigned with **2** weeks notice. As stated above, if a situation arises that unexpectedly prevents you from maintaining your garden for a period of time, please feel free to contact a garden committee member and we will see what we can do to help. If you feel you are unable to continue your plot, or no-longer are interested in gardening, please consider giving it up so that someone else can use it.

Vacations:

Vacationing gardeners still must comply with weed and other maintenance rules deadlines.

Arrange for a member of your family or group to maintain your plot while you are on vacation. Consider swapping with a gardening neighbor to allow each of you to have some summer vacation flexibility.

Policy Enforcement:

The Garden Committee is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the policies. Most things can be resolved informally, but at times a more formal process is needed to deal with some issues, such as weed policy enforcement. A Garden Committee member will try to call or meet the gardener to discuss any problems while they are still small.

If the Garden Committee determines that a plot or its owner is in substantial violation of garden policies:

1. Notice of the problem and a request for corrective action will be given either by phone or email.
2. If the problem remains unresolved **1** week after notice is given, a 2-week deadline written notice will be given.
3. If the gardener does not comply within **2** weeks, s/he will be evicted and the deposit will be forfeited.

Gardeners are encouraged to discuss the situation with the Garden Committee at any time during this process. Special circumstances will be taken into account and other arrangements made at the discretion of the committee members. The Garden Committee reviews all final evictions and appeals.

If you need assistance in preparing your garden, check the bulletin board for information on those offering that service.

2015 Garden Committee Members:

Georgene Arndt	651-345-5836	email: georgeneardt@live.com
Jim Schreck	651-345-9834	email: theschrecks@gmail.com
Larry Foster	651-345-3128	email: larfoster@gmail.com
Larry Himanga	651-345-6125	email: lhimanga@embarqmail.com
Julie McDevitt	651-345-2418	email: mcdevittjm@mchsi.com
Rick Panther	319-415-5732	email: rpanther3@gmail.com

Master Gardener:

Margaret Haase	651-345-5229
----------------	--------------