



Fellowship Community Garden 2024 Rules and Policies

Garden rules inform the gardener of the expectations of participating in the West Vincent Township ("WVT") Fellowship Community Garden. Gardeners will be asked to read these rules and sign the Gardener Agreement Form at the end of the document indicating that they have read these rules and agree to abide by them.

Gardening Courtesy

In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners are asked to treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and visitors with respect and consideration. Please always be courteous and work together to resolve any disagreements.

Fees and Plots

- Gardeners can officially garden at Fellowship Gardens after reading and signing this agreement, and after the **official 2024 garden opening which is Monday, April 15, 2024.**
- It is the responsibility of each gardener to follow Community Garden rules and to take an active role in administering the gardens. All gardeners are **REQUIRED** to attend at least **one pre-season clean-up event** which provides maintenance to all areas of the garden. Clean-up events at Fellowship Garden are planned for **9am-12pm** on the following dates: **Sunday, April 7, 2024, and Saturday, April 13, 2024.** Failure to attend a clean-up event (or to send a representative) may result in forfeiture of your plot and the return of your fee.
- The plot fees for the garden can be found in West Vincent Township's Fee Schedule. For 2024, the fees for **residents** shall pay **\$35 for a 10'x20' plot or \$45 for a 20'x20' plot**; fees for **non-residents** shall be **\$55 for a 10'x20' plot or \$65 for a 20'x20' plot**. Proof of residency is required to receive resident pricing. Fees must be paid at the time of registration. Checks (made out to West Vincent Township) are required for payment.
- **Gardeners who have previously gardened at the site AND are WVT residents** are given preference. They will be allowed to register first, from **February 5 through February 16, 2024,** and will be given their previous garden plots. Gardeners who have had their plots since the inaugural year of the garden are also allowed to register first regardless of residency.
- From **February 19 through March 1, 2024,** **WVT residents who are new to the garden** will be allowed to register. These gardeners shall pick from open plots that were not gardened the previous year and will be assigned on a first-come/first-serve basis. If all of these open plots become taken, a wait-list will be formed. At the end of this registration period, the number of plots needed to supply these new resident gardeners will be determined. The plots that will be given to these residents on the wait-list will be determined by lottery of the previous year's non-



resident gardeners. These new gardeners will select their plots after the non-resident lottery is conducted, and available plots are identified. **ONLY ONE PLOT PER HOUSEHOLD.** If needed, the lottery will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024. Gardeners on the wait list will be allowed to select their plots on March 4th and 5th.

- **All previous year's non-resident gardeners and new non-resident gardeners** will be allowed to register between **March 6 through March 15, 2024.** However, if plots are needed fill the resident wait-list, all previous year's non-resident gardeners will be placed into a lottery on March 4, 2024. Those not selected to return via the lottery will be notified. **NEW GARDENERS MAY ONLY CLAIM ONE PLOT PER HOUSEHOLD.**
- Garden plots are assigned to one person/household and are NOT transferable. The responsibility for payment of fees, cleanup and other duties at the site will be the responsibility of the individual whose name is assigned to the plot. Friends and family may help care for and enjoy your garden and are asked to adhere to all rules and policies.

Plot Responsibility

- Garden plots are assigned to one person/household and are not transferrable. The garden applicant is responsible for payment of fees, gardening, maintenance and cleanup of their garden and the surrounding area. **The season begins April 15, 2024, and ends October 31, 2024.**
- Inform the Township Office of changes to your current address, email and telephone number and/or your desire to discontinue gardening in your plot.
- Plots must be cleaned/started no later than April 15, 2024, or they will be given to the next person on the waiting list with a forfeiture of plot fees. Plots must be planted and weeded all summer long. If the kind of plants you are growing must be planted later, weed your plot as needed before then. Gardeners are responsible for their plots for the entire season. Keep it free of weeds and harvested through **October 31, 2024, when the season ends.** Please ensure your garden is cared for when away for an extended period of time.
- Gardeners will call WVT at 610-458-1601 if they decide not to plant their assigned plot. Plot fees will be forfeited and may result in forfeiture of your plot the following season. Plots that are not tended for more than two weeks without any notification (i.e. vacation, sickness) are assumed abandoned and may be forfeited without a refund. Plots not planted will be reassigned.
- If a plot becomes unkempt, the gardener will be given 2 week's notice by phone, mail or email provided on the registration form to clean it up. At that time, it will be re-assigned or tilled in and any produce will be donated to charity. Deposit is forfeited to pay for cleanup.
- Gardeners understand that this is a community garden and, in order for it to succeed, gardener support is needed to maintain the site and equipment, deal with wildlife, help keep the site picked



up from debris, and plan events. Gardeners shall maintain their plot and walkways adjacent to their plot by keeping them free of weeds, over-ripe produce, and trash, as well as keeping spreading plants confined to their own plot. Weeds are a major complaint of neighbors and other gardeners and are the leading cause of plot forfeiture.

- Stones may be used to edge individual spaces. Do not throw non-organic materials into the walkways or leave it outside of the fence; items such as rocks damage tools and pose tripping hazards. Please take those items with you if they cannot be incorporated into your space.
- Respect each other's gardens and the tools in their garden. **DO NOT harvest, eat, weed, plant, or remove tools from another garden unless given permission by the gardener.**
- Permissible plants: vegetables, herbs, flowers, and small fruit plants for home consumption and donation. **Please DO NOT plant woody trees or shrubs.**
- Maintain stakes and plants to stay under 8'. **Please DO NOT plant or erect structures that shade or impede the growth of neighboring gardens.**
- Communal tools will be available in the shed for all gardener's use on a first-come, first-served basis. Please return tools to the shed promptly after use. **DO NOT remove communal tools from the garden.**
- Gardeners choosing to share their tools may store them in the shed. All tools should be clearly marked with your name.
- Gardeners are responsible for maintaining communal tools and property. If tools or items become broken or damaged, garden members are responsible for the maintenance or repair of those items.
- Power equipment may only be operated by those over 18 who are registered gardeners. Please remember that gardeners are responsible for maintaining the walkways around their plots which includes weeding and trimming those adjacent areas. All use is at your own risk.
- **Stealing (harvesting from others' plots without authorization), verbal or physical harassment is NOT allowed. Violation of this rule will result in expulsion from the garden.**
- If any plots are not rented for the season, WVT reserves the right to tarp those plots to limit the amount of weeds and cleaning on those plots.
- **GATES MUST BE CLOSED AT ALL TIMES. NO PETS ALLOWED INSIDE THE FENCE.** Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied and fully supervised by an adult. It is encouraged to introduce children to the wonders and benefits of gardening with proper monitoring at all times.



- Vegetables from garden plots may not be sold for personal profit.
- Should you wish to listen to the radio, please use headphones so as not to disturb the tranquility of the gardens.
- Growing or using illegal substances, including hemp, in the garden will lead to immediate expulsion with no return of plot fee.

Watering

- Gardeners need to be diligent in shutting the water off after their use. WVT has seen a rapid increase in water consumption/costs and will consider raising fees if the trend continues.
- Only water your garden unless you are asked. Water your garden by going around your neighbor's garden, not through it. **Sprinklers and soaking hoses are NOT permitted**, and watering must be tended at all times. No overnight watering is permitted. Coil hoses correctly (no kinks) after water use and ensure the spigots are turned off.
- Gardeners must report all spigot-leaks to WVT (610-458-1601). Leaks from hoses are the responsibility of the gardeners.
- Water use is limited to 15 minutes per plot per day. Please help avoid water loss in the aisles and be considerate of other waiting gardeners. If a watering ban is in effect, please comply with regulations.

End of Season

- Garden clean up must be accomplished by October 31, 2024. Cover crops can be left on plots.
- At the **end of the season (October 31, 2024)**, all dead plants, weeds and debris should be removed. **The garden will not reopen until the start of the 2025 season.**

Soil Amendments and Disease/Insect Control

- Please keep the garden organic. Mulching with leaves, grass clippings or hay reduces water evaporation and unwanted weeds. The following is a list of gardening soil amendments that are generally considered an organic source of nutrients which can be used directly in your garden or in composted form:

Alfalfa	Bark	Blood meal	Coffee grounds
Dolomite lime	Fish fertilizer	Grass clippings	Greensand
Hay or straw	Phosphate rock	Leaves	Manure
Peat moss	Tea grounds	Potash rock	Sawdust
Seaweed	Wood chips	Wood ash	



- **DO NOT use non-organic substances, including, but not limited to herbicides, fertilizers, rodenticides and pesticides.** Organic definitions can vary and organically labeled pesticides can actually be as toxic or even more toxic than synthetic versions.

Compost and Trash

- You are responsible for trash removal, so please clean up after yourself. Each time you visit the garden, be sure to have a bag to collect your trash with you.
- There is a compost pile available for plant waste. The compost pile should only be used for plant materials. **Please DO NOT place plant material with weed seeds, diseases, or insect infestations in the compost pile; please take these items with you when you leave that day.**
- Individual plot trash must be removed DAILY.

Warnings & Penalties

- Gardeners who fail to follow any of the above guidelines will be contacted by WVT and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the problem. If gardeners do not respond, their plot will be considered abandoned. Plantings will be removed from abandoned plots and the gardener will not be eligible to return the following year.



2024 GARDENER AGREEMENT FORM

I have received, read, and understand the contents of West Vincent Township’s “Fellowship Community Garden 2024 Rules and Policies”. By signing below, I agree to abide by all policies and procedures outlined in the document. The policies may be updated from time to time, and I agree to review and comply with any changes made to these policies.

I understand that neither WVT or the other members of the Fellowship Community Garden are responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS WVT and MEMBERS OF FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR ANY LIABILITY , DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS.

I understand that I will also need to participate in one pre-season mandatory clean-up event. The event date that I am selecting is:

- Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 9am to 12pm (Initial _____)
- Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 9am to 12pm (Initial _____)

Registered Gardener’s Name: _____

Registered Gardener’s Phone Number: _____

Registered Gardener’s E-mail: _____

Garden Plot: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____