

Gladstone Garden Association
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Rules and Responsibilities

Our gardens are to be managed as organically as possible to provide the healthiest food for your family. They are for personal and family (non-commercial use). Selling your produce is prohibited by the Gladstone Garden Association by laws. Sharing with friends, relatives, or donations to a non-profit food bank is encouraged.

The guidelines below define the ethics and courtesies that must be observed by all members and their guests for the benefit of everyone. Failure to observe them will result in disciplinary measures up to and including loss of membership.

The City of Gladstone owns our garden land and we lease it from them, so we must follow their rules. Become familiar with the City Park Rules posted inside the park boundaries, as they will be enforced by the City and/or the garden Board of Directors. The consumption of alcoholic beverages in the garden or surrounding park land is strictly forbidden and will constitute loss of membership. Marijuana is not to be grown in the garden. If found, it will be removed and you will forfeit your membership.

Requirements:

- You must be 21 years of age to apply for a garden lot.
- Keep your garden member ID card with you and know your lot number. Do not loan, share, or copy your ID card.
- When unlocking the gate to enter, roll all four dials so the combination does not show, then hang the lock in the locking hole. Be sure you lock the gate when you leave.
- If you have someone caring for your garden in your absence, provide them with written permission and inform a Board Member so they won't be asked to leave. You are fully responsible for family, friends, and guests while at the garden.
- Each gardener is required to perform a minimum of four work hours for each assigned lot. In order to retain your garden status for next season you are required to finish your work hours. If you are not able, or have extenuating circumstances, the Board of Directors will allow gardeners to make a contribution to the garden's equipment fund of \$10 (per work hour owed). This

will be on a case by case basis and only acceptable upon the approval of the Board of Directors and is due March 1st of the following year.

- Pipe repairs, if caused by a gardener's actions or negligence, shall be paid for by the gardener in materials and time spent for repair. Your assistance in the repair can be helpful and is encouraged.
- If you decide to give up a lot or leave the garden, you must clean it up well and leave it in a state you would enjoy taking over if you were new to the garden. If you relinquish a lot that has to be renovated by the Association, you will be charged a clean up fee.
- There is zero tolerance for unauthorized harvest by you, your guests, or unattended children in a lot other than your own; destruction of another gardener's plants or structures; or subletting your lot or part of a lot to another person who is not a member. You may take on a partner, but you are responsible for the lot.

Manage Your Garden Responsibly:

- Control weeds by pulling, hoeing, or tilling. Preem, Round-Up, or other long lasting chemicals are forbidden, as is plastic or paper sheeting to suppress weeds. Use organic practices to the fullest possible extent for your health and good soil.
- Maintain the pathways surrounding your garden by keeping the grass mowed for weed control and safe footing. Keep bushes and vines tied back from the pathways for ease of passage.
- East-West pathways must be kept to at least 30 inches wide. North-South pathways are 24 inches wide. Do not extend your garden into these paths. If you are unsure of lot lines, please ask a Board Member for help.
- Do not plant trees, blackberries, tall plants that shade a neighboring garden, large shrubs, hard kernel corns, pop corn, colored or field corn. Only sweet corn is allowed.
- All large plastic landscape covers, tall walls, and permanent structures are not permitted. They can blow away or shade a neighboring garden. Temporary small cold frames for seedlings and temporary shade cloths are permitted for delicate plants getting started.
- Wooden borders around lots or wooden box structures are not allowed as they harbor slugs and rodents. Do not use cement to set posts which can cause walking, tilling, or mowing hazards.
- Only garden plant materials are permitted in the compost piles. No stakes, twine or other binders, discarded gloves, plastic pots, or other non-plant materials are allowed. Dispose of them at home. The city will not recycle our compost piles if non-plant materials are found. Do not bring yard debris from home to the compost piles.
- Use water wisely, it is for watering garden lots only. It is a gift to from the City. Hand watering, low level sprinklers, soaker hoses, and trenches are recommended. Do not leave hoses running if you leave the garden or overnight.
- Share your knowledge with other gardeners. Each of us has special knowledge and talents that can help others.

- Alert the Board and other gardeners to problems such as theft, disease, or pest outbreaks. Our gardens are very close to each other and problems can spread quickly without prompt action. Ask for help solving these issues - we have some Master Gardeners who are willing to assist you.
- Maintain good soil structure and carbon content with periodic soil renewal of organic materials such as compost or other plant or leaf materials. (Many spade their weeds deeply into the soil as mulch.)
- If your garden soil has sunk well below the pathway level, it is a sign you need to add new soil and nutrients to your garden. Your plants will thank you too.
- Use appropriate winter cover crops or mulches when possible.

General Responsibilities:

- Courtesy and respect for each gardener's style makes the garden a pleasant and better place. You can learn a lot from others' methods too.
- While disagreements may happen, solve them quietly and politely or ask a Board Member to help resolve the issue.
- **Do you have a tiller, cultivator, or working garden tools to share or use yourself for helping other members? We especially need volunteer tillers to help others prepare their soil for planting in the spring.** We do have some equipment in the storage shed, but need volunteers to till for others and also to keep them in good working condition.
- If you do ask for help from another member in tilling or trimming, please pay them appropriately.
- Watch our bulletin board for announcements including work party dates, special project work dates, and alerts about disease or pest occurrences with methods of control.
- We need a few volunteers for pathway repair/realignment, plumbing repairs/maintenance, work party coordinators, and special projects.

This is your garden too. Please help share in the management.