

West Reading Community Garden

2020 Season

(April 5th – November 29th)

Rules & Responsibilities



Each member must read, understand, and agree to the following Rules and Responsibilities before being accepted as a Gardener in the West Reading Community Garden.

1. Returning Gardeners, Ten Points, & Center Point residents are given priority in selecting garden plots. Remaining plots will be offered on a first come, first-served basis to West Reading residents. A waiting list will be maintained if all the plots are reserved.
2. The fee for the use of the Community Garden is \$30 per plot per annual season. Annual Gardening season is April through November. There are no refunds. Other volunteers may tend shared spaces if approved by the Garden Manager.
3. Each raised garden bed plot is 4x10 feet. Plots may not be expanded beyond this measurement or into other plots or walking paths. All plants within the limits of the plot must be kept free of weeds, pests, and diseases. Members are expected to prune and harvest their plants as necessary. Weed vegetation, scrap plant material, and over-ripe fruits/vegetables should be discarded in the appropriate composter or disposal receptacle. Gardeners and other volunteers are encouraged to help tend common spaces if physically able.
4. Do not take food, plants, or other items from other gardeners' plots. Do not take anything from the Community Garden that is not rightfully yours.
5. Do not share lock combinations with non-members. Remember to lock the tool shed and both of the gates when leaving the Community Garden.
6. Gardening tools and equipment are available in the tool shed for use by all members. Please contribute to their upkeep by hosing off shovels/trowels before returning them to the shed. If any equipment needs to be repaired, please notify the Garden Manager.
7. Do not plant illegal plants. Smoking, illegal drug use, weapons, and pets are prohibited in the Community Garden.
8. Guests and visitors are permitted access if accompanied by a member or official volunteer, and they must follow all rules stated in the Rules and Responsibilities. Members/Volunteers are responsible for their guests/visitors.
9. Respect other gardeners, no abusive/profane/discriminatory language. Keep the Community Garden a happy, secure, enjoyable place to garden and socialize with your neighbors.

10. End of the season is November 29th, all plots must be cleared of all dead vegetation by this date. Any items left behind at the end of the season may be utilized the next year by any member, so take any fencing/stakes/materials with you until next year.
11. Monthly garden cleanups will be conducted the 1st weekend of every month to give members the opportunity to dispose of any compostable material, where a public works dump truck will be left in front of the garden.
12. Members are not permitted in the Community Garden between Sunset to Sunrise. This is for the safety of the members, as there is wildlife such as skunks and opossums that travel at night. Mosquitoes and other insects are commonly found in the garden, use sprays outside of the garden to prevent introducing chemicals into the garden space.
13. Synthetic herbicides, pesticides, weed/plant killers are not permitted anywhere in the Community Garden. Only organic substances may be used. Do not put anything in the soil that could affect the health/well-being of the gardeners who come after you.
14. Composting guidelines are posted on the compost bays. This system helps us to produce free, all-organic fertilizer as well as keeping rotting vegetation out of landfills.
15. "Pack it in, Pack it out". Take home any trash/non-compostable items such as plastic packaging. Use the trash receptacle provided and close the lid tightly.
16. If, for any reason, you are unable to tend to your garden for the rest of the season. Please use black matting to prevent growth of weeds/vegetation, to avoid others having to tend to your plot in your absence.
17. Please water plots according to water-wise guidelines. Always shut off the main hose stanchion and hang up the hose when finished.
18. Members are encouraged to share surplus crops with Bethany Lutheran Church Food Pantry at 336 Franklin Street, West Reading on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 9:30am-12pm. The Greater Berks Food Bank delivers for the Bethany Church Food Pantry the 2nd Thursday of every month at 1pm (610-926-5802).

Violation of Rules & Responsibilities

The Community Garden Manager and the West Reading Environmental Advisory Council are the highest governing authority in the West Reading Community Garden. Violation of any Rules and Responsibilities and/or terms of the Agreement is cause for action up to and including exclusion from the Community Garden and forfeiture of your plot(s).

1. 1st warning of an infraction will be communicated by email from the Garden Manager.
2. If no correction/response is made by the member after the 1st warning for the infraction within 30 days, a Final Notice will be emailed or mailed to the member.
3. If no correction/response is made by the member after the Final Notice for the infraction within 30 days, the member will forfeit their garden plot(s) and privileges for the remainder of the season. If the infraction results in damage to any plot, common space, or equipment, the member may be fined for the costs associated with repair or

remediation of the damages. Reapplication of the member for the following season will be subject to review before acceptance.

Liability Release

1. I am duly aware of the risks and hazards that may arise through participation in the West Reading Community Garden and assume any expenses and liabilities I incur in the event of an accident, illness, or other incapacity. If I have any questions about the Community Garden, its nature, risks or hazards, I have contacted the Garden Manager and discussed those concerns to my satisfaction.
2. In consideration of being granted the opportunity to participate in the Community Garden, I, for myself, my executors, administrators, agents, and assigns do hereby release and forever discharge the Borough of West Reading, the West Reading Environmental Advisory Council, Community Garden Manager, volunteers, other gardeners/members, and the cooperating landowner from all claims of damages, demands, and any actions whatsoever, including those based on negligence, in any manner arising out of my participation in this activity. I understand that this Release means that, among other things, I am giving up my rights to sue for any such losses, damages, injury, or costs that I may incur.

Agreement

I represent and certify that I am at least 18 years old and that I have read and understand the Rules and Responsibilities and Liability Release in this Agreement, and accept these for the participation in the West Reading Community Garden.

Signed: [Gardner]_____ **Date:**_____

Gardener Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

Approved: [Garden Manager]_____ **Date:**_____

Plot Assignment:_____ **Paid:**_____ **Date:**_____