

Guidelines & Rules at Heritage Community Garden and Park

Background: The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD), in partnership with the City of Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department, developed the Heritage Community Gardens at 2100 Hutto Road in Georgetown. The Heritage Community Gardens (HCG) will feature 55 raised garden plots, an education center and a Children's garden which includes specialty theme gardens. This garden is being designed as a hands-on learning and exploration center to teach children and their families how to garden, prepare healthy meals, and discover nature. Some guidelines have been established to assure that we best utilize the land provided by the City of Georgetown to develop an opportunity for physical activity, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, social interaction, neighborhood beautification, and community service.

Guidelines:

- There are 55 garden plots, a one acre production and several in-ground gardens at Heritage Community Gardens.
- There is a variety of garden plot sizes. This is to accommodate a variety of gardeners such as but not limited to children, beginner gardeners, individuals, youth groups, large & small families, and experienced gardeners. If interested in changing the size of a garden plot contact WCCHD for approval.
- Most of the garden plots are 2 cinder blocks high with a few being 3 cinder blocks high. These plots (3 bricks high) are suggested for individuals in a wheel chair or with other physical disabilities.
 - There is a yearly fee to adopt a community garden. This fee is due in the month of January each year.
- There is also a volunteer commitment from each gardener that supports the beautification and growth of our community garden. You are required to do 30 hours of volunteering in the garden each year.
- To involve more community members at the gardens, an individual gardener can adopt no more than two garden plots.
- A waiting list will be established when all garden plots have been adopted. However current gardeners with two plots will be asked to give up a plot to allow a new gardener in.
- 90% of each garden bed must be fruits, vegetables or herbs.

Rules:

10% Back

- I have adopted a garden plot with the understanding that I will give at least 10% of the produce back to the community through a local food bank or charitable organization.

Plot Maintenance

- I will actively garden in my HCG plot. I understand that I am responsible for watering, weeding, fertilizing, amending the soil and caring for my plot.
- I will contact the Community Garden Coordinator if I am unable to care for my garden for any reason.
- If I cannot garden or I choose to skip a season (i.e. doesn't want to winter garden) I will give up my plot. I will be able to have a new garden plot assigned to me upon availability.
- I am responsible for maintaining the appearance of my garden plot and 2 feet of bordering pathways. This includes cleaning up trash, litter, pulling the weeds, rolling up hoses, removing dead/dying plants and rotting vegetables and putting tools away.

- If my plot becomes un-kept at anytime, I understand the Community Garden Coordinator or persons working with him/her have permission to clean out weeds, invasive plants, dead plant material, spent plants, fruits or flowers. If I continue to neglect my garden I will be given 2 weeks notice to clean it up. If it remains in unkempt, the garden will be re-assigned. I understand this notification is a one time courtesy.
- I will harvest my produce in a timely matter. If I am unable to pick my vegetables, I will notify WCCHD that my plot needs to be harvested and donated to the Caring Place. If the vegetables in my garden bed are un-harvested WCCHD has my permission to harvest and donate them for me unless otherwise communicated (i.e. saving seed).
- I will not pick produce from any other gardener's garden.
- I will record my produce donations in the donation book at the barn.
- If I must give up my plot for any reason, I will notify Williamson County & Cities Health District immediately.
- I will not grow noxious weeds, vegetables, vines or fruit that will interfere with other gardener's enjoyment of their gardening experience.
- I will report any problems, vandalism or damage to WCCHD Community Garden Coordinator.

Water

- I will water my garden. I will water responsibly. I will not leave my garden plot unattended while watering. I will report any plumbing damages to WCCHD immediately. When finished watering, I will coil the hose.
- In ground gardeners' note-you are to provide your own sprinklers, timers and hoses. You can install a watering system at your own expense. Do not borrow hoses or sprinklers.

Organic

- I understand that Heritage is an organic garden and I will only use organic fertilizers and pesticides. If I am in doubt about a fertilizer or pest solution, I will check with the Community Garden Coordinator.

Tools

- I am allowed to use the tools stored in the barn only for the purpose for which they were designed. I must clean the tools and return them to their proper place in the barn, close and lock the door. I will report and replace any broken or damaged tools.
- I will store all supplies in the barn/shed.
- . I will put away my tools after each time I use them.

Power Tools

- I will report any problems with the tiller, mower or weed eater.
- I will use power tools responsibly and safely.
- I will repair any damages I cause.
- I will check the oil and fuel before I start to work.
- I will refill the engine with fuel when I am finished. I will clean and put it away after each use.
- . I will report to the Community Garden Coordinator when we are out of gasoline.

Pets

- Dogs must be on a leash at all times while on Heritage Community Garden premises. Dog owners must clean up after their pets.

Children

- I will encourage my child (ren) to come with me to Heritage Community Garden. I understand that it is my responsibility to keep my children focused on the garden activities. If my child (ren) is disturbing other gardeners I will encourage them to play in the children's garden.

Children must not be allowed to play in the parking or driveway areas. Parents are solely responsible for the safety and welfare of their children including fire ant bites, wasp stings and bee stings. Parents must educate their child (ren) about the dangers in the garden.

Tobacco Products

- I will NOT have tobacco plants or products on site. I will not smoke and/or chew tobacco on site. Tobacco carries the Mosaic Virus that is easily transmitted to other plants and kills them.

Illegal Substances

- I will not consume alcohol or illegal substances on Heritage Community Garden premises.

Fire Arms

- I will not carry fire arms onto Heritage Community Garden property; unless I am a police officer, law enforcement agent or am licensed to carry.

Compost Bins

- I will follow the guidelines provided on what to add to the compost and when I can use it.

Park and Grounds

- I will help maintain the grounds by keeping litter and debris picked up.
- If I am the last gardener to leave HCG, I will lock the gate when I leave.
- I will not drive over hoses, water facets or signs. If I do I will take full responsibility to repair or replace damaged item.
- I will not drive in the field when the ground is wet. If I choose to drive in the field I will take full responsibility for getting un-stuck from the mud and/or all towing costs. I will also repair all the rutting and damage I cause.
- I will not make any major changes to the gardens or garden grounds without first consulting with the Community Garden Coordinator.
- I will not take or use bulk supplies (mulch, compost, manure) unless I have permission to do so from the WCCHD Community Garden Coordinator.

Non-Compliance to the Rules and Guidelines

- I understand that if I do not abide by the above agreement that I will lose my community garden privileges and my garden will be re-assigned.

Conflict Resolution

- I understand that the Community Garden Coordinator will act as fairly and justly as possible, but she/he has the final say or vote for conflict resolution between gardeners or others in the HCG setting.

Personal Responsibility

I understand that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE GARDEN GROUP AND OWNERS OF THE LAND FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS.

Name

Signature

Date

