

Community Garden Rules

1. Plots must be maintained. Regular weeding and debris removal are required to keep everyone's plots growing well. Composters are provided for plant material.
2. Plots that are not regularly tended to will receive a notice to clean up within a timeframe. If the gardener receives multiple notices their plots and produce will be forfeited, without refund.
3. No pesticides, herbicides, or manure fertilizers may be used. The Community Garden is not only in the floodplain but also in the WellHead Protection Area for the municipal drinking water source for the Village of Stirling.
4. Packaging including trays, pots, and seed packages must be taken home with you. All garbage and recycling is the responsibility of the gardener. There are no waste receptacles onsite.
5. Stakes and fencing are permitted to keep plots safe from rabbits and groundhogs but must be erected inside of the plot stakes.
6. Tomato cages, moving or noise-making (eg. wind chimes, pie plates) ornaments, trellises, or other decorations may be used in garden plots but may not infringe on the enjoyment of the garden, or park, by other members of the community. Garden objects may not block the light to another plot or create overly loud noises or bright lights.
7. Please try to avoid the use of plastic plant labels as these tend to disappear into the soil and become garbage for other gardeners. Consider wooden stakes, popsicle sticks, or creating a plot map to keep plants identified.
8. Keep your stuff in your plot. If you choose to leave gardening items, it is at your own risk. Please leave items inside your plot so as to not interfere with lawn mowing or other gardeners.
9. Water is provided on-site in large holding tanks. Gardeners will need to bring their own buckets or watering cans. Please be sure to close all of the valves to the water tanks and let the Lions club know if the water is low. Tanks are filled on a regular basis.
10. Weed barriers are welcome including cardboard, landscape fabric, or straw. Please refrain from using any wood chips or seed-producing mulch and make sure to have all of the non-organic weed barriers removed at the end of the growing season.
11. Taking produce, walking through, or damaging any other gardener's plots is strictly forbidden. Anyone found to be behaving in any activities of this nature will have their plots taken back, without refund, their produce forfeited and their welcome to the Lions Park revoked permanently.
12. If you cannot continue to maintain your plot, whatever the reason, please let the Lions Club know. We may be able to find short-term assistance, offer your plot to another gardener, or rehome your produce. Please do not let your produce go to waste without reaching out.
13. All plots must be cleared of plants, fencing, stakes, or other garden infrastructure and ornamentation by the end of the Thanksgiving Weekend in October. Any plots not cleared by the closing date will have the produce removed and donated to the Community Food Cupboard. Gardeners that do not adhere to this policy will not be permitted to participate in the Community Garden during future growing seasons.

