

Wild Rose Meadow Community Garden Guidelines and Agreement

The intent of the community garden at Wild Rose Meadow (WRM) is to offer garden plots to members of the community who want to grow food and flowers outside of their own household lot. Community gardens involve collaboration regarding the maintenance of the garden as a whole which include more than tending just one's own plot. Composting is encouraged to enrich the soil to grow organic produce. Below are the WRM guidelines/rules/agreement that will allow this community garden to be productive, accessible and beautiful. All fees collected are to cover the costs of tools, hoses, and other maintenance costs.

BED ASSIGNMENTS and FEES:

Garden plots need to be assigned by October of each year to allow gardeners to do fall planting. If people want a bed and haven't reserved it by October, they will be assigned any beds that have not been spoken for. If all of the beds have been reserved and a household would like to request beds, we will do our best to accommodate the request.

The plots will be reserved through the current chairman of the garden committee. The plot fee is \$5 per bed per year. If a household gardens more than 4 plots per year, the cost will not go above \$20. The signed agreement and fee will be given to the current chairman; the treasurer will keep a record of fees collected. This small collection of fees belongs to the garden committee and its members only and has no connection to the lease fee or ground maintenance fee for WRM as a whole.

The goal is to allow gardeners to use the same plots that they've gardened each year. A gardener may not transfer or sublet their plot(s) without a formal written request. Permission will be granted for no more than one one-year leave of absence. More than one year of subletting a plot(s) means that the plot(s) has been put back into the pool for other gardener(s) to reserve that plot(s).

Plots that are reserved and not paid for by Nov. 1 will be put back into the pool of available plots. Plots that were reserved and paid for but not worked by the second Saturday in May will be re-assigned and the renter will receive a full refund. Plots that were worked but abandoned by July 31 will be reassigned with no refund.

RESPECT OTHER'S PLOTS:

Please respect others' plots and harvest from your own plot only. Infringement of another gardener's plot could lead to loss of your plot.

The community garden is to be used for recreational gardening and for growing vegetables and flowers for personal or family use. Growing vegetables and flowers for commercial purposes is prohibited.

WATERING:

Please use water efficiently. Use nozzles, water cans or buckets. Treat hoses carefully and return them when finished. When moving hoses, be sure to avoid your neighbor's plot. Gardeners should install corner stakes to help prevent neighboring gardeners from dragging hoses over their

beds. Gardeners must be present at their plots while watering them. Drip irrigation or sprinklers may not be left on unattended. Please conserve water as much as possible and minimize watering and the use of sprinklers, especially between 10am and 6pm.

WEEDING AND PATH MAINTENANCE:

Keep beds as weeded as possible and try to keep weeds from going to seed. Pay special attention to thistles, dandelions and clover. As fellow gardeners share pathways between plots, each gardener should work to keep the pathways around their plots as weed-free as possible. Cardboard, straw and/or chips are useful in the pathways. Pathways and walkways will need to be mowed or weed-eaten periodically.

GARDEN COMPOST:

We encourage composting of garden waste for the growing of organic produce. All garden weeds and detritus may be composted in the garden in the designated wire cages. This needs to be done with some care and strategy to encourage quick decomposition. All woody stems and long stems need to be chopped up into smaller pieces (3-5" or smaller) to encourage decomposition. All dirt should be shaken off roots before being added to the bins. Even large leaves should be broken down into smaller pieces. If time doesn't allow for immediate chopping of the garden waste, it may be left outside the wire cage to be dealt with later. No household kitchen compost may be done in the community garden.

BORDERS AND BEAUTIFICATION:

In order to encourage pollinators (such as bees), we encourage gardeners to plant flowers and herbs around the fence lines and along the larger walkways. Many bulbs and perennials and shrubs have already been planted, but they need watering and weeding attention as well. Gardeners are to maintain the border areas adjacent to their beds by weeding and watering them.

NO CHEMICALS:

Wild Rose Meadow garden follows an organic gardening program. Use of pesticides and herbicides and insecticides made from synthetic materials as well as use of chemical fertilizers is strictly forbidden. Slug bait is permitted only when used in enclosed containers, which must be removed from the site after use.

TOOL SHED AND TOOL MAINTENANCE:

Please help keep the tool shed clean. Please clean tools before you put them back. Avoid leaving tools around the garden as they can be sharp and dangerous to children and adults.

TRASH:

Please remove any gardening supplies that you bring into the garden, such as plastic bags of soil/fertilizer and plant pots and trays. Some supplies and implements that don't fit in the shed may be kept neatly outside the garden shed, but anything that is your personal property should be removed. Wheelbarrows may be kept in the garden as long as they aren't blocking the walkways. Wheelbarrows left in the garden are available for everyone's use and should be returned clean.

SMOKING IS PROHIBITED IN THE GARDEN

PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE GARDEN

Wild Rose Meadow Gardening Agreement Form

AGREEMENT: Year _____

“I have read the WRM gardening guidelines and agree to follow them. I would like to sign up to garden this calendar year.”

Name of Gardener _____ Phone # _____

Signature of Gardener _____ Email: _____

Number of Plots Requested _____ Date Reserved _____

Amount Paid _____ (not to exceed \$20 per year)

Name/Signature of Garden Committee Chairperson: Issa Parker _____

Contact information for Chairperson: issaparker@centurylink.net/376-3868

Name/Signature of Garden Committee Treasurer: Jami Mitchell _____

Contact information for Treasurer: iamjami@rockisland.com