

FRIENDS OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY GARDEN, INC (MTCG)

RULES AND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1 Liability

General

1.1.1 A Waiver Agreement must be signed yearly along with the Membership Application

2 Administration

2.1 Applications and Signatures

2.1.1 All new and returning members must sign and submit a copy of the following:

- Application
- Signed Waiver
- Signed last page of the Rules and Member Responsibilities
- Drivers License and Utility Bill to prove residency

2.2 Fees

2.2.1 Fees for a standard 9-1/2 foot x 9-1/2 foot gardening site and for gardening along the fence will be found on the annual Application

2.3 Hours of Operation

2.3.1 Hours of operation are dawn to dusk.

2.4 Key Dates

2.4.1 Failure to pay for a site by the renewal date of November 30 will result in site forfeiture.

2.5 Disputes

2.5.1 Final resolution of disputes rests with the Board

2.6 Site Neglect

2.6.1 Failure to maintain your site will result in a violation. Three (3) violations equals immediate revocation of membership.

2.6.2 A member will receive due notice regarding a violation via two (2) official emails and one (1) phone call, spaced three days apart.

2.6.3 If adequate action is not taken within two weeks of notice from the first official email, the site is considered abandoned.

2.7 Site Size and Modifications

2.7.1 Sites cannot exceed a nominal size of 9-1/2 feet x 9-1/2 feet to maintain a reasonable path size to allow for wheelbarrow or cart use.

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2.7.2 Any site modification (raised bed, trellis, fence, etc.) must be approved by the board.

2.7.3 Any modifications to a site cannot impede or restrict path access.

2.7.4 Structures, trellises and fences are limited to a height of **five (5) feet** and cannot have a top. Any structures, fencing or vegetation cannot impede a walkway. Crops must not shade neighboring sites.

2.8 *Gardening Along the Perimeter Fence*

2.8.1 Members are prohibited from using the perimeter fence as a trellis.

2.8.2 Members with sites located along the perimeter of the garden have the additional responsibility of removing all weeds growing near and on the fence.

2.8.3 Planting along the inside fence line will be prohibited starting in 2026.

2.8.4 There will be no new outside the fence sites allowed. All current outside the fence sites cannot be expanded.

2.8.5 The soil of all current sites outside the fence must be a minimum of one (1) foot from the fence.

2.9 *Organic Materials*

2.9.1 Use only organic materials when mulching, fertilizing, and treating for pest and weed control. Items marked as OMRI are acceptable. See complete list at <https://www.omri.org/>. All fertilizers and pesticides must be labeled organic.

2.10 *Restricted Plants*

2.10.1 Growing marijuana, tobacco, hemp, or any mood-altering substances are prohibited.

2.10.2 Invasive plants like mint must be contained in pots and prevented from spreading into a site and walkway. Spreading plants will be kept off pathways.

2.11 *Email Accounts*

2.11.1 All members must have an email account

2.12 *General Meeting Attendance*

2.12.1 Attendance at the first General Meeting of the year is mandatory.

2.13 *Subletting*

2.13.1 Subletting of a site is not permitted.

2.14 *Extended Absence*

2.14.1 If a member cannot work their site for the entire season they need to inform the Board.

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2.14.2 If a Member is unable to attend to their site due to vacation or illness, arrangements must be made for site maintenance.

3 Gardener Responsibilities

3.1 Behavior

3.1.1 Create a friendly atmosphere. Respect and build relationships with other members.

3.1.2 Pets are not permitted inside the gate.

3.1.3 Illegal drug use, cigarette and cigar smoking, chewing tobacco use, and spitting are prohibited.

3.1.4 Members will not engage use profane language or damage other sites or garden property.

3.1.5 Confrontational and/or argumentative behavior is not acceptable and will be addressed in the same manner as site neglect.

3.1.6 Members are responsible for supervising visitors brought to the garden. Children under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a guardian. Young children should be monitored at all times.

3.1.7 Members should not leave personal belongings on the MCG property. Small hand tools, watering cans, tomato cages and small garden decor are permitted provided they are in your site.

3.2 Volunteering

3.2.1 Members are required to not only maintain their sites, paths and fence line but to also participate in other activities for a minimum of 3 hours per season. These activities may be: area captain, seasonal cleanup, new gardener orientation, website design and maintenance, membership, fundraising, plant sale, greenhouse management, hose repair and collection, meadow garden weeding, fig tree garden maintenance, bee hive maintenance, honey gathering and processing, tool maintenance, tool shed maintenance and cleaning, food bank gardening and harvest, securing manure (leaves, mulch) for the Garden, realign raise beds to maintain path size, grants, cleaning picnic tables and chairs, etc.

3.3 Closing and Locking Gates

3.3.1 Each member has the responsibility to keep the gates closed and to lock the gate (with chain and lock) when they leave.

3.4 Site and Paths

3.4.1 It is the responsibility of each member to maintain their site and surrounding areas by keeping them weed free. Wood chips should be applied to assist with weed management.

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3.4.2 All crops must be harvested upon maturity. Harvesting of another member's crop is not allowed unless permission has been given. If you have surplus produce that you would like to donate to our local food pantries, please contact a board member who can arrange pick up.

3.4.3 Fallen or rotten produce should also be disposed of. Remove plants that have reached the end of their productive life. Remove all trash and litter from the premises.

3.5 *Watering*

3.5.1 Keep hoses on the pathway and off members' sites when watering. Wind hoses onto hangers when done. **DO NOT TIGHTLY WIND** on hangers. This damages the hoses. Shut off water spigots after use.

3.6 *Tools*

3.6.1 Basic garden tools, carts and wheelbarrows are available for member use. They are to be returned (**clean and free of soil**) to the appropriate shed and bin.

3.7 *Greenhouse use*

3.7.1 A gardener cannot bring soil or planting medium into the greenhouse. This is a standard procedure to prevent disease.

3.7.2 If a gardener would like to start seeds in the greenhouse they will be provided with one (1) tray, sterile planting medium and eight (8) four packs for a fee on a first come, first serve basis. No other planting will be permitted.

3.8 *Disposing of Plant Waste*

3.8.1 Plant waste from your site must be disposed of in the designated compost bin. Plant waste must be added from the rear of the bin to the front to maximize bin capacity.

I have read and will abide by the above RULES AND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____