



Timnath Community Garden Policies

Ensuring enjoyable gardening experience for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and responsibilities. For this reason, observe the rules of the garden, and be a good neighbor.

ENFORCEMENT

The garden's steering committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions for the garden. They have authority to resolve conflicts, including refusing a plot to a gardener or dismissing a current gardener.

PLOT MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

1. Each person must apply each year for a plot. Returning gardeners will be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish.
2. New gardeners will not be allowed to have more than one plot. Gardeners can have more than one plot only in their second year, and only if they have demonstrated they can keep their plots well maintained. The availability of extra plots may be limited according to demand.
3. If you decide not to use your plot, please contact a steering committee member so it may be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. If there is no evidence of activity at your plot by June 1st, it will be reassigned. There will be no refunds on plot fees.
4. Non-members are not allowed in the garden without a member being present.
5. Please visit your plot at least once each week. If you are unable to care for your plot for a time because of illness or vacation, ask a fellow gardener or a steering committee member for help with weeding and harvesting.
6. A gardener must have another TCG gardener take watering duties when they are not able. This ensures that all people watering have been through orientation.
7. Stakes that mark your plot's corners and have your plot number must be left in place all season.
8. If your plot is overgrown with weeds, you will receive a warning. After one week of no action, your plot may be mowed and reassigned.
9. Trellises can be no taller than 6 feet; fences can be no taller than 3 feet.
10. Keep trellises as well as tall plants such as corn or sunflowers at the center of your plot so they do not shade your neighbor's plants.

11. Keep vines out of neighboring paths and plots.
12. Also keep visitors out of neighboring plots.
13. Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash-free. **You are responsible to care for 1/2 of the pathway between you and your neighbor.** Keep plot edges and fencing free of weeds that will go to seed.
14. The garden is not available for commercial use; don't sell your produce. If your plot is held by a non-profit organization, you are allowed to sell produce as a means of fund-raising.
15. Do not pick from your neighbor's garden even if you think they have neglected their plot.
16. Gardening hours are from dawn to dusk.
17. Have your plot cleaned up by October 31. No personal tools or equipment can be left at the gardens over the winter. If your plot is not cleaned up by the deadline, your deposit will not be returned to you.

WATER

1. The garden shares irrigation water with the landowner. Watering days for the garden are **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday**. Please respect the rights of the landowner and adhere to this schedule. If others are waiting to water, please limit your time to 15 minutes. **DO NOT LEAVE WATER ON UNATTENDED.**
2. If you need to water on off days, please fill containers to keep in your garden. To discourage breeding of mosquitoes and the spread of West Nile, **CLOSED CONTAINERS ONLY** are allowed.
3. The irrigation water is not potable and should not be consumed.
4. Teach your children not to waste water.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. If you would like to listen to music in the garden, use headphones.
2. Pack your trash back home to dispose of properly.
3. If you use the garden's tools, please clean them and return them to the storage area when done.
4. Do not drive into the garden area.
5. No smoking in the garden. Tobacco carries the Tobacco Mosaic Virus which is lethal to tomato plants.

6. If you bring your dog to the garden they must be with you in your plot and leashed at all times.

ORGANIC ONLY

For our gardeners' safety and health, and for environmental reasons, only "organic" methods of insect, disease, and weed control are permitted. As a general rule, more dangerous pesticides are simply not necessary to grow healthy, attractive, and bountiful gardens. Since "organic" means different things to different people, we have provided more detail and suggestions in the attached sheet, entitled ***Pest Control***.

MULCH

Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw, and hay are encouraged. Carpet mulch is not allowed. Remove any non organic mulch by closing day. Black plastic is allowed, but must be removed at the end of the season. Black fabric can be left over the winter but must be well secured.

COMPOSTING

Composting will be available at the garden. Weeds and diseased plants should be put in plant refuse piles – not on the compost pile. Plant refuse piles are set up for weeds and diseased plants. Please use these designated areas. No trash in the piles, please. Please do not add kitchen scraps to the plant refuse piles because they are likely to draw animals.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

As part of your plot holder agreement, you are responsible for 4 hours of volunteer work contributing to the upkeep of the common areas. Volunteer hours will be tracked. You can contribute this time during work days or, if you are unable to attend a work day, you may contribute your time in other ways. Please contact a steering committee member to find out what tasks need to be done and to report your hours. You must complete your volunteer hours or you will not have first option on your plot the next year.

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

We require that you make at least one contribution of vegetables or fruits to the Food Bank of Larimer County. Please keep a copy of your receipt and turn it in to a steering committee member so that we can track your donations.