



Community Garden Program Guidelines

Community Garden Mission: Learn from each other while growing and sharing healthy, organic food based on sustainable practices tailored for our unique coastal climate.

Objectives

- Increase the community's capacity to grow healthy, affordable, local food
- Provide organically grown produce to the local food bank and senior meals program
- Focus on education and sharing knowledge
- Create a sense of community through programs and activities

Conservation Values

- To garden is to steward the land
- Recognize that nature and natural systems sustain all life
- Take responsibility for human impact on the natural world around us
- Learning is an ongoing process
- Live in harmony and balance with nature

Description

A garden and orchard area of approximately 1.2 acres plus a greenhouse is managed and maintained by members of the Community Garden. Planning, installation, maintenance and harvesting of the area is led by a Garden Coordinator and is open to interested community members on a space available basis. The open enrollment period begins the first week in February. Garden orientation and start up occurs at the end of February. At the close of the season we will meet to review our experiences, celebrate, and chart a course for the following growing season.

Guidelines

LNCT acknowledges that our Community Garden is situated on land traditionally occupied and stewarded by peoples of the Clatsop-Nehalem tribes. We encourage and invite participation in our Community Garden by persons of all backgrounds and persuasions, and expect all participants to show respect to everyone involved in, or visiting, the Garden.

A gardener is a steward of the land. We garden in a manner that maintains or improves the soil to produce food for many generations to come. We use organic gardening methods and products exclusively as defined by Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), All soil amendments and organic fertilizers must be pre-approved by the Garden Coordinator.

Plant starts are produced in the greenhouse for use in the garden, CG Annual Plant Sale, and for donation to the local food bank. All proceeds from the Plant Sale are used to fund Community Garden operations. Excess starts may also be donated to area garden clubs, local schools, or other nonprofit organizations. Plants and produce are not to be used or sold for personal gain.

To bring a spirit of community to the garden we garden collectively, as a team. Expect to spend a minimum of 3 hours per week assisting in the garden by planting, weeding, mowing, digging, watering, and harvesting. Missed time must be made up within one month of an absence unless otherwise approved by the Garden Coordinator. Additional work time is required during the beginning and end of each season, in addition to the 3 hour per week commitment. Working in or for the garden qualifies you to take home a share of fresh produce for your household. Our goal is to support the local community, and produce is taken to the North County Food Bank and/or the Senior Meals program weekly. At times, surplus produce provides an opportunity for preserving, authorized by the garden coordinator after the community needs are met.

Garden open hours are dawn to dusk. Please take care of our assets. Drive slowly: a maximum of 10 MPH on Underhill Lane. We encourage walking, biking or carpooling to your garden work session whenever possible. This saves on fuel, reduces disturbance for our neighbors, and helps maintain the condition of the gravel road.

Responsibilities by Role

Gardeners

- Follow the guidelines contained within this document
 - Participate in the Garden Kick Off Event in February
 - Participate a minimum of three hours at Tuesday or Saturday work sessions and make up missed time within 1 month
 - Participate in the annual plant sale fundraising event
 - Take care of any Trust-owned tools, with proper cleaning and storage
 - Submit a garden fee to help cover costs of seeds, fertilizer, supplies, etc. (financial aid is available)
 - Maintain the garden area, greenhouse and barn in a neat and safe manner
 - Drive slowly on access road – 10 miles per hour MAXIMUM
 - Actively share knowledge and skills with fellow gardeners
 - Accept responsibility for specific tasks or garden crops as assigned
 - Adhere to organic gardening principles set forth by the Trust
 - Available to garden Tuesday or Saturday mornings
 - Capable of: *
 - lifting 25lbs on occasion
 - operating a lawnmower, a gas weed eater and other tools
 - bending, stooping and reaching
- * some tasks may be less physically demanding – please discuss modified assignment options with the garden coordinator

Community Garden Coordinator & Leadership Team

- Facilitate garden team meetings to make group decisions and determine program direction
- Maintain a list of garden members, phone numbers or other contact information
- Maintain the garden task list, develop a planting plan, manage resources, purchase supplies, etc
- Provide work session guidance
- Assist in locating organic soil amendments and fertilizers
- Manage garden budget expenses
- Maintain records on Volunteer Time and Plant and Food Donations for LNCT records.
- Summarize and report activities to LNCT management and BOD
- Participate in Trust strategic planning, staff group meetings and Trust events as requested

Board of Directors Liaison and Trust Management

- Assist with registration and collection of membership fees
- Assist in organizing and leading garden education programs
- Provide power equipment, hand tools, irrigation water, a secure fenced area, and chips for mulch
- Assist with development of strategies and action plans
- Assist with providing work session guidance
- Liaison reports status and represents CG at the Trust Board of Directors Meetings
- Provide program funding
- Provide infrastructure maintenance for buildings, fences/gates, utilities, systems, etc.