

St. Anthony Park Community Garden Policies 2016

The St. Anthony Park Community Garden is a cooperative garden. All gardeners are expected to take an active role in tending their individual plots as well as maintaining the entire community site. In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners shall treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and visitors with respect and consideration.

Garden Management

The St. Anthony Park Community Garden is a self-organizing project of the St. Anthony Park Community Council (SAPCC), which owns the property and which has authority and responsibility for its use. SAPCC dedicates one plot for growing vegetables to be donated to a food shelf of the Steering Committee's choosing. The implementation is the responsibility of the Steering Committee. All monies are handled by the SAPCC through its 501c3 account. Fees for 2016 are \$30 per plot. They cover operating expenses such as tillage, water, equipment maintenance, and office costs, as well as assessments. Contributions to the Community Garden in excess of fees are used to build up reserves for capital improvements such as to the water system and fence. Contributions are tax deductible. The SAP Community Garden steering committee will supervise all financial business.

Each individual plot is part of a larger section supervised by a section manager. The section managers, the equipment manager, and the garden coordinators form the garden steering committee, which makes decisions related to garden policies and procedures, including enforcement of rules. The Steering Committee is responsible for mediating complaints. Any gardener wishing to serve on the Committee or to work on any project for the gardens should contact a member of the steering committee.

Types of Plots

Seasonal plots, which are tilled every spring, approximate 15 x 20 feet and are in the front two rows of the garden.

Extended-season plots, which are not tilled, are on the back row and at the west end. Extended-season plots must be kept up to the same maintenance standards as seasonal plots and must be renewed each year. No trees or ornamental shrubs are allowed. Extended-season gardeners who expect to return may leave structures in place over the winter, but if they do not expect to return they are responsible for removing structures before they leave.

Flower beds are located along the south side of the fence on Robbins St. and are approximately 10 x 3 feet. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no fee for flower plots. These flower beds help make our garden an attractive presence in the larger community.

Plot Assignment Procedures

Returning gardeners will receive an application in the mail by January 15. The deadline to return them, with check or money order, is February 15. This assures that returning gardeners will be granted the same plot, if that is their request, or another request, if it is available. If a returning gardener's application is received after February 15, the application is handled with those of new gardeners. Application forms will be available to new gardeners from Feb 15 to March 10, either on the website www.sapcc.org or at the Hampden Park Co-op. Deadline for applications is March 11. Open plots will then be assigned to applicants by lottery. If requests cannot be filled, the fee is refunded.

Applicants will be notified by mail if they have been assigned a plot. All gardeners are required to attend the Garden Opener Meeting on **April 23 at 9 a.m.** in the **St. Anthony Park Methodist Church**, 2200 Hillside Ave. (corner of Como and Hillside), at which they will be notified of their plot number, elect their section manager, and sign up for volunteer jobs so as to share in the responsibility of maintaining the garden. Failure to attend that meeting (or to send a representative) may result in forfeiture of your plot and the return of your rental fee.

A waiting list is kept for current gardeners who wish to have an extended season plot instead of a seasonal plot. (Only one plot is assigned per household.) When a plot becomes available, it is offered to the person at the top of the list, as long as that person has maintained their seasonal plot up to standards. Contact the garden coordinators if you wish to be added to the list.

Important Dates for 2016

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| Applications due from returning gardeners | Monday February 15 |
| Applications due from new gardeners | Friday March 11 |
| Garden Opener Meeting | Saturday April 23 |
| Plant-by date | Sunday June 5 |
| Clean-Up Date | Sunday October 16 |

Garden Rules

- Plots must be at least partially planted by **June 5, 2015**. Plots not planted will be reassigned.
- No stealing (harvesting from others' plots without authorization), or verbal or physical harassment is allowed. Violation of this rule will result in immediate expulsion from the garden.
- Gardeners should respect each other's plots. Leave a one foot wide unplanted border along each plot line where there is no aisle, 6 inches on each side of the line. Do not place opaque structures where they will shade a neighboring plot. Tall crops, such as sunflowers and corn, should be planted so as not to shade other gardener's plots.
- Gardeners provide their own tools and seeds. Water and hoses are available at the garden.
- Please help conserve water by not watering aisles and by watering no more quickly than the soil is capable of absorbing. Be considerate of other waiting gardeners. Water hoses must not cross other plots and must be attended at all times. Water sprinklers are not permitted in the garden.
- Rocks which are removed from one's plot should be piled in the designated area at the east end of the garden. Do not add rocks to the pile at the west end which is full. Rock borders are not permitted on the exterior borders of plots, including the outside flower beds, because they interfere with mowing. Do not dump rocks in the path.
- **Gardeners must maintain plots (including adjacent aisles) throughout the growing season.** This means;
 - Keeping annual weeds from going to seed and keeping perennial weeds, such as quackgrass, bindweed, and tree seedlings from becoming established. If left, these will be a problem for future gardeners and garden neighbors.
 - Keeping trash out of their plots. This includes empty plant pots and old trellising and fencing. There are no trash receptacles at the garden, so what is brought in should be taken out when its use is finished. An exception may be made for extended-season plot holders who wish to store trellising in the garden over the winter, as long as it is done neatly and is not abandoned.
- Weeds which have gone to seed, or that have the potential to reroot, should be removed from plots and piled in the designated areas for hauling to the compost site. Crop residues that are infested with insects, insect eggs, or diseases should also be removed and taken to the compost pile to haul to the compost site. All other plant matter is best left in one's plot to return their nutrients to the soil. We encourage composting within plots.
- Herbicides are not permitted in the garden. Insecticides and fungicides are strongly discouraged. Consult <http://www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/> for alternatives or to ask a Master Gardener.
- Gardens must be cleared and cleaned at the end of the growing season prior to the fall cleanup date on **October 16, 2016**. All fencing, trellises, stakes, and synthetic mulch should be removed from seasonal plots and taken home for the winter. These materials interfere with plowing in preparation for the next season. Crop residues should not be removed unless they are harboring seeds, or insect or disease pests. If a garden is abandoned during the year, or the gardener fails to clean up his or her garden in the fall, no plot will be allocated to that gardener in the following year.
- Electric fence is not permitted in the garden.
- Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied by an adult. That adult is responsible for their behavior.
- Pets are not allowed in the gardens.

Failure to abide by these rules, including failure to maintain one's plot, will result in forfeiture of an individual's plot and ineligibility for a plot in the succeeding year.

The Steering Committee has the responsibility and authority to monitor plots for compliance with policies and to raise concerns they may have with gardeners. Enforcement of policies may include taking a plot away from a gardener or not allowing a gardener to return next year. If for any reason you are unable to maintain your garden, it is your responsibility to find someone to maintain it for you.

Call 651-646-6667 if you have any questions.