

ST. ANDREW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our Mission

- Stewarding our natural sanctuary to provide a healing and renewing escape for the community
- Providing a place for our members to work the soil, growing and harvesting organic produce and flowers
- Educating people of all ages about the benefits of sustainable and eco-friendly gardening
- Hosting events for the community and garden members
- Cultivating a community of individuals committed to sustainable land use in an urban setting

Garden Policies

St. Andrew Lutheran Church has made part of its property available to church participants and neighborhood community members for the benefit of gardeners. In the spirit of making and maintaining the garden as a true community endeavor, we ask that participants contribute to its upkeep. Gardeners are responsible for following the garden policies below.

Using Your Plot

You are welcome to garden all year round. During the main growing season (April–October), show you are using your plot by:

- Preparing the soil for planting
- Planting and growing crops
- Harvesting ripe produce
- Removing weeds, especially those in flower or setting seed
- Collecting seed you want to save before it drops on the soil
- Refraining from planting trees or other plants that shade adjacent plots.

When you are not actively gardening, continue to care for your garden plot by:

- Removing weeds, especially those in flower or setting seed
- Removing dead and dying plants, especially if they are diseased or covered with pests
- Neatly storing seasonal structures (e.g., tomato cages, stakes, trellis materials, and wood) when not in use

Maintaining Your Plot

You are responsible for:

- Providing soil, fertilizer, pest control, and soil testing as needed
- Keeping paths bordering your plot free of obstructions so others can safely pass
- Removing weeds from the paths and your plot
- Maintaining paths that touch your plot

- Storing supplies and tools inside your plot
- Keeping plants within the boundaries of your plot

St Andrew Church is responsible for:

- Providing water
- Repairing or replacing plot frames as needed. Work will be scheduled whenever possible in the “off season” when garden plots are not growing crops.

Waste and Debris

St. Andrew Lutheran Church provides plant debris containers. You are responsible for managing the plant material and trash from your plot.

You may not compost plant material in your plot. Do not dump material anywhere inside or outside the garden other than the supplied waste bins.

Pest Prevention

- Remove piles of debris.
- Remove food sources by harvesting produce when ripe.
- Dump water that has been standing for more than 3 days to keep mosquitoes from laying eggs.

Organic Gardening

Organic gardening is required.

Use only organic weed killers or bug killers. If you are unsure whether a product is recommended, search for it on the Organic Materials Review Institute website at www.omri.org, or call the Master Gardener Hotline at 503-655-8631.

Equipment

Hand- and battery-powered garden tools are encouraged over gasoline-powered ones. Electronic wildlife repellent devices, electric tilling equipment, and soil testing probes are allowed. Other electronic equipment must be approved by the garden manager(s). Cameras, microphones, and other audio or video recording devices are not permitted in the garden.

Structures

Keep any garden structures (supporting posts, etc.) to a height of 4-6 feet tall and 4 feet wide, and do keep these in the center of your garden plot. These structures tend to shade neighboring plots from early and late day sunshine, oftentimes robbing your neighbor's garden of needed sunlight, especially in early spring and late fall.

Structures to keep pesky deer out should be used sparingly and taken down when there is no sign deer are active in the area.

Harvest

Harvest your crops once they have matured. If you produce more than you need, please donate the surplus to a food pantry.

Seasonal Cleanup

Each garden plot must be cleared of dead plants, debris, and trellis supports no later than December 15. Fall/winter crops may remain but must be removed as their growing cycle ends. Cover crops, such as winter rye, peas, clover, and vetch, are allowed and encouraged for soil improvement.

Service Hours

- Contribute and log a minimum of 2 hours per year, per plot.
- Service hours must be completed by October 31.
- Hours may be earned by helping in the community garden or with other approved work around the church grounds.
- Contact the volunteer garden manager(s) for a list of available tasks and workdays.
- If you are unable to do strenuous physical work, contact the garden manager(s) about another way you can help.
- If illness, travel, or another circumstance prevents you from completing your hours by October 31, contact the garden manager(s) to discuss an accommodation.
- If you do not complete your service hours or make another arrangement by October 31, this may affect renewal of your plot for the following year.

Gardener Accountability and Policy Enforcement

The volunteer garden manager(s) will regularly monitor plots throughout the year. If there is a maintenance or policy concern, the garden manager(s) will contact the gardener by email and explain what needs to be corrected and by when.

Abandoned Plots

- If a garden plot appears abandoned (no gardening has begun) during the main garden season (April–October), the garden manager(s) will check in with the plot holder as to the reason for the delay. If it is due to travel, illness, or another reason, the plot holder and manager will agree on a start date. If caring for the plot does not commence by the agreed upon date, the plot may be reassigned so another gardener can use it.
- If problems with plot maintenance or adherence to this policy are not corrected within a reasonable time after you have been contacted, it may affect whether your plot is renewed for the following year.
- Decisions to reassign or not renew a plot will be made by the garden manager(s) in consultation with St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

Plot Limit

Gardeners may generally hold up to 2 plots. When there is a waiting list, people who do not currently have a plot will have priority before additional plots are assigned to current gardeners. If plots would otherwise remain empty, the garden manager(s) may allow a gardener to use additional plots for that garden year. An additional plot is not guaranteed for future years if demand increases.

User Fee

A user fee is assessed annually to help defray costs such as water use and materials to repair or replace plot frames.

Gardeners who want to return the following year must complete the annual policy acknowledgment, waiver and renewal form by December 31. Renewal forms and user fee information will be sent in October-November. If you do not complete the renewal process by the deadline, your plot may be offered to someone on the waiting list.