Our Mission is to:
Grow – Food for ourselves and our community
Connect – To each other and to the land
Educate – By sharing our skills and knowledge
Welcome – Everyone to participate

Every gardener is responsible for keeping the gardens safe, productive, and inclusive spaces for everyone by following the agreements listed below. I agree to:

Meet all important dates and deadlines:
- Early March: Return my Spring Application and plot fee by the due date, or my plot will be reassigned
- By May 25: I will begin gardening
- May - October: keep my plot planted, weeded, and harvested (before vegetables rot)
- May - October: make sure there is not wasted space in my plot
- Complete all tasks listed on the Fall Checkout Form (posted in the garden sheds in October) and return it to the shed by November 1st.

Stay in good communication:
- Respond within 2 days if I am notified by Cultivating Community that there is overripe produce going to waste or attracting disease/pests in my plot. I understand that if I do not reply within this time, my plot may be gleaned by Cultivating Community staff and donated.
- Confirming plot dimensions and placement with Cultivating Community before installing any raised bed. I understand that a permanent wooden frame may be built immediately inside of plot edges and needs to be less than 8 inches tall to allow wheelbarrow access through pathways.
- Staying informed by reading emails and regularly checking the message board in the shed.
- Notifying Cultivating Community with any change to my contact information.

Keep my plot well maintained:
- Remove weeds before they develop seeds that can spread to pathways and other garden plots.
- Keep pathways around my plot free of weeds and covered with wood chips.
- Clear any plants hanging over pathways around my plot (including at the end of a path next to the fence) so that pathways are fully accessible to all.
- Place all structures and plants that are 2 feet or taller (including trellises, sunflower, cosmos, tomatoes, or asparagus) at least 2 feet away from the edge of the plot to prevent crowded pathways and shading other plots.
- Grow annuals and perennials that die back to the ground every winter (No bushes, trees, roses or other woody plants).

Follow organic garden practices:
- Use organic compost, seaweed, leaves, or grass clippings from untreated lawns to fertilize the soil
- Avoid any products or materials that will leach chemicals into soil, including: synthetic chemicals (such as pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, weed killers, and fertilizers), plastic weed barrier, plastic (PVC) pipe, pressure treated or painted wood, dyed or treated wood chips, and glossy newspaper pages
Avoid any products or materials that will cause a safety hazard, including: glass, chicken wire (or any other wire that rusts easily).

**Do my part for the garden community:**

- Complete a minimum of **SIX HOURS of community work** per season. Community work includes turning compost piles, organizing and cleaning garden shed, mentoring new gardeners, etc. At least half of your hours must take place at your own garden while the other half can go to supporting other Portland community gardens.
- Avoid planting any difficult to remove plants (e.g. bishop’s weed or horseradish) or plants that are irritants (e.g. stinging nettle) in my plot.
- Remove all trash or recycling I bring to the garden (rather than leaving it in or behind the shed).
- Treat fellow gardeners, garden visitors, and garden program staff with respect.

**Stay informed and respect garden policies, including:**

- Pets are not allowed in the gardens.
- Smoking is not allowed in the gardens.
- Cannabis is not allowed at the gardens.
- Any personal tools left in the garden shed may be used by others. The City is not liable for any lost or damaged tools.
- **The City of Portland cannot guarantee protection against vandalism or theft.** Community Gardeners have reported theft of produce in previous years. We ask that gardeners be aware of this reality when gardening in a public space.
- Water is turned on in May and off at the beginning of October. We cannot guarantee advance notice of the specific dates.
- Any evidence of a disrespectful or disruptive action from any garden member towards another individual (gardener or public citizen) may warrant the immediate termination of that member's plot.
- The City requires all gardeners to sign the “City Release Form” in order to receive a garden plot.
- Payson Park gardeners may not park in the Seaside Nursing Home parking lot.

REGISTRATION & WAITING LIST:

- For plots that become available after July 1, the charge will be prorated.
- Garden plots are limited to Portland residents.
- Only one plot per household is permitted.
- The primary gardener may register a second gardener at the time of application. The second gardener may not be changed during the season and must be actively involved in the plot. Plots are not transferable to anyone other than the second gardener.
- Formally organized groups may apply for one plot.
- The garden plot waiting list is maintained in the order that requests are received. Any Portland resident may request to be added to the waiting list by contacting Cultivating Community.
- Gardeners who qualify as low income under the City’s Community Development Block Grant program guidelines, as well as organizations serving low income Portland residents, receive priority for garden access. Residents seeking this priority may be asked to verify their income eligibility.

**Failure to comply with these agreements may result in loss of your plot and/or disqualification from future participation in the Community Garden Program.**

The Community Gardens are a City of Portland Parks and Recreation program. Cultivating Community provides program management. Volunteer Garden Leaders support each garden site. Please contact Cultivating Community if you would like more information about the roles and responsibilities.

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