



The Plot is operated by the Salt Lake City Public Library, 210 E 400 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 | email: theplot@slcpl.org

Garden Policies (Source: Wasatch Community Gardens' Garden Policies, used by permission)

Violating garden policies may result in loss of garden privileges and forfeiture of crops. The Salt Lake City Public Library reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to these policies at any time.

Reserving and Renewing Your Plot

- Plots are assigned by lottery open from January 1 – March 1 and limited to one plot per household. Gardeners will be informed of their allotment by the middle of March.
- All gardeners must attend an on-site garden orientation and plot assignment before beginning to garden.
- Gardeners who fulfill policy requirements, including plot maintenance, meeting attendance and community behavior expectations, may reapply for the same plot each year. Renewal forms are sent to eligible gardeners in November. The renewal deadline is December 31.
- Proxy gardening or sub-letting of plots is not permitted.

Community Garden Involvement

- In addition to tending personal plots, gardeners are expected to contribute at least four hours per year to tend common areas or participate in special projects that benefit the garden as a whole.
- All gardeners with email access and written English proficiency are required to be signed up to the garden's email distribution list, which is used for official notifications and garden-related discussions.
- Attendance is required at the garden's spring and fall meetings. One time each year, gardeners may arrange for a friend or family member (proxy) to represent them at a meeting, in lieu of attending in person, if they notify the Garden Coordinator in advance of the meeting. In the case of emergency circumstances (medical, death in the family, etc.) gardeners may request an exemption from the Garden Coordinator. Gardeners missing spring or fall meetings are required to arrange a make-up activity determined by the Garden Coordinator.

Garden Management

- The Garden Coordinator oversees garden management, but regularly seeks gardener input and participation when appropriate.
- Group discussion and elections are made at spring and fall meetings, and through the garden's email distribution list.
- Maintenance of the garden is the collective responsibility of all gardeners.
- Outreach activities (including public events, flyering, tabling, public speaking on behalf of the garden, and posting of signage at the garden) require pre-approval by the Garden Coordinator.

Land Use Restrictions and Safety

- The Plot is a public space and can be accessed at any time.

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- For safety reasons: exposed rebar and metal posts must be securely capped; pathways clear of tripping hazards; tools locked away; holes and construction hazards identified with colorful barriers; irrigation controls secure from public access; and a first aid kit and emergency contacts on the premises.
- Liability waivers are required for all gardeners and volunteers and must be submitted to SLCPL.
- For Health Code reasons, it is prohibited for anyone without a permit to serve prepared foods at public events.
- SLCPL and WCG are not liable for lost or stolen items of gardeners or visitors to the garden.
- Gardeners are not permitted to leave items in garden common areas without the permission of the Garden Coordinator. Any materials left in common areas of the garden, without written arrangement with the Garden Coordinator, may be assumed abandoned and disposed of by the Garden Coordinator at their discretion.
- Please alert staff to any safety issues or illegal activities that you observe at the garden.

Gardening Organically

- Our goal is to nurture healthy soil and environment. Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not allowed. Certified organic seeds and seedlings are encouraged, but not required.
- Please read WCG Organic Standards for more information on organic restrictions and recommendations.

Water Use and Drip Irrigation

- The automatic drip irrigation systems is generally on from May-October, weather permitting. Gardeners should not alter the system in any way. Gardeners should report problems to the Garden Coordinator.
- Each gardener is responsible to know how the system works and how to make light repairs on their plot.
- Gardeners must keep drip tape in plots, laid straight, without kinks, and connected to the main water line.
- Natural mulch (straw, leaves, etc.) is recommended to conserve soil moisture, and to reduce weeds.

Plot Maintenance

- Plots must be cleared of weeds by May 1st, and planted end-to-end by June 1.
- Gardeners must control the weeds and trash in their own plots and adjacent pathways during the season. All weeds must be removed if they are growing up from the ground taller than six inches, growing along the ground longer than 12 inches, or going to seed.
- Weeds that have gone to seed, or weeds that reproduce from cuttings (eg. bindweed), are not permitted in compost piles, and should be deposited in trash or brown waste bins. Any plants added to compost bins must be chopped to three inches. Additional protocol is directed by the Garden Coordinator.
- Gardeners must harvest their ripe produce regularly to reduce garden pests and vandalism.
- Gardeners must maintain their plot in a safe condition.
- Perennial plantings or permanent improvements are not allowed without the permission of the Garden Coordinator.

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- Plots are inspected the week of the 15th of each month. Gardeners of plots that do not meet maintenance requirements will be notified. Failure to remedy the situation within 14 days will result in plot forfeiture.
- If a gardener is unable to tend their plot, it is their responsibility to notify the Garden Coordinator if they will be absent during plot checks, or have asked someone else to temporarily tend their plot. Long-term proxy gardening is not permitted.
- The Fall clean-up deadline is November 1st. Perennials and winter crops may remain. Plots must be cleared of debris and trellising, and covered completely in mulch and/or cover crop. Trellising that is too large to transport off site may be stored on the plot in a tidy fashion. Drip tape should be laid out straight in the bed, below mulch.
- Gardeners who fail to meet plot maintenance requirements will lose their gardening privileges, as well as their place on any garden waitlists administered by SLCPL and WCG. To be considered for a new plot, they must reapply and complete a make-up activity determined by the Garden Coordinator.

Community Behavior and Non-Discrimination

- Disrespectful or abusive language, harassment, discrimination, illegal activities, activities that endanger others, or destructive behavior (including vandalism and theft) may result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges and forfeiture of crops.
- WCG staff and the Garden Coordinator are available to mediate conflict between gardeners as needed.
- Gardeners may be required to meet with the Garden Coordinator to address conflict or other garden-related issues.