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**[www.communitygardenatoakgrove.com](http://www.communitygardenatoakgrove.com)**

## **PLOT CONTRACT 2025**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

#### **Rooted, Growing, Branching Out**

To invite neighboring communities to join in the planting and growing of organic vegetables at the Community Gardens at Oak Grove Lutheran Church for consumption and sharing.

### **PURPOSE OF THE OAK GROVE COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Provide garden plots and raised beds for households or groups to grow food. For the purpose hereof, the terms plot(s) and raised bed(s) are referred to herein collectively as the plot(s).

### **GARDEN SEASON AND HOURS**

By the end of April weather permitting to October 15 (*a two-week notice will be given to clean out*). Dawn to dusk

### **FEES**

\$25.00 fee for each 10' x 20' garden plot or raised bed for the season. There are a limited number of raised beds so these are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Plots harvested for 100% charitable donation are FREE.

### **USE OF YOUR OWN PLOT**

Gardeners may use only the plots assigned to them and will maintain their plants within their plots and will trim any plants that extend into neighboring plots or into common areas. Gardeners may not alter the dimensions of their plot.

## **PLANTINGS AND STRUCTURES**

Gardeners may plant vegetables. Gardeners may not maintain plantings or plant-supporting structures that impede the security of the garden or impede adjacent gardeners' access to sunlight by the nature of their height, material or density.

## **SUPPLIES**

Gardeners are solely responsible for the planning and management of their own plots, including providing their own organic/natural seeds, plants, fertilizer, and any tools not provided by Community Gardens at Oak Grove Lutheran Church.

## **ORGANIC METHODS**

Gardeners will garden organically. Gardeners will check with one of the Garden Coordinators before applying any fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or rodenticides, even if labeled "organic." Labels must state "certified organic" and GMO free (Genetically Modified Organisms). Use of compost, organic mulch, and weeding is always acceptable.

## **WATER**

Each Gardener is responsible for watering his or her own plot. Gardeners may use the common hoses, provided or provide their own hose. Gardeners will not overwater their plants or leave a hose running water unattended.

## **TOOLS**

Gardeners may use the tools from the storage shed, but are responsible for checking them out, cleaning them, and returning them to the shed at the end of the day. Gardeners may bring their own tools to use in their plots, but they cannot store any tools in the garden. Gardeners are responsible for any damage caused by tools they bring into the garden and so should use them with care.

## **PLOT MAINTENANCE AND TRASH**

Gardeners will maintain their plots and adjacent paths in a clean and neat fashion, promptly removing any weeds, overgrowth, or other waste from their plot. Gardeners will promptly harvest edible plants and are responsible for hauling and disposing of their own trash, such as weeds, boxes, trays, bags, packets, and similar items.

## **COMPOST**

Gardeners will place organic waste such as dead plants, weeds\*, rotted vegetables, etc. in the compost bins. Plant material should be cut or chopped into pieces no more than 12" to facilitate composting. Thick plant stems, diseased plants, and weed seeds, or weeds that reproduce through stolons (e.g., Bermuda grass), should be put in regular trash cans and not composted. No dog or cat manure can be placed in the composters.

## **ABANDONED PLOTS**

Abandonment means failing to maintain a plot for **2 weeks** from the initial tilling/planting notification. Abandoned garden plots will be taken over by garden members. In the event of an Abandonment, no portion of any payment of any kind previously provided to Community Gardens at Oak Grove Lutheran Church hereunder shall be owed or refundable to the Gardener(s).

## **GENERAL CONDUCT**

Gardeners are expected to be civil, honest, and cooperative in dealing with Oak Grove Lutheran Church, coordinators, with garden neighbors, other gardeners, and guests of other gardeners.

## **COLLECTIVE MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN**

Gardeners will share in the collective responsibility to keep common areas, such as pathways and storage sheds, clean and neat. Gardeners will promptly report any concerns about the safety of the garden to the garden manager. If there is vandalism, storm damage, or other damage to the garden, all gardeners are asked to help in cleaning up and restoring the garden to its prior condition.

## **HARVEST**

All gardens will be harvested by October 15<sup>th</sup> unless otherwise notified (*two-week notice will be given*).

## **PETS**

Gardeners may not bring any pets or animals into the Garden, including for burial.

## **RESPECT OTHERS' PROPERTY**

Gardeners may not enter other plots, use another Gardener's tools or supplies, or harvest another Gardener's produce, without the explicit permission of the other Gardener.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS; ILLEGAL PLANTS**

No illegal plants or intoxicants may be grown or used in the garden. Gardeners shall comply with all applicable laws while on Oak Grove Lutheran Church property. Without limiting the forgoing, Gardeners are expressly prohibited from growing any plants that are illegal under either state or federal law. For example, Gardeners may not grow *Cannabis sativa* (marijuana), regardless of whether or not the use of marijuana is lawful for medical purposes under state law. Any plant grown in violation of this Section may be subject to immediate removal and/or may be reported to local authorities.

## **COMPLIANCE**

Gardeners must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

## **NO FIREARMS**

Gardeners may not carry, use, or store firearms in the garden.

## **NO SMOKING**

Gardeners may not smoke in the garden. Gardeners who choose to smoke immediately outside of the garden are responsible for placing their cigarette butts in the provided trash receptacles.

## **NO ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE**

Gardeners may not consume or use alcohol or illegal drugs while on the garden premises. Gardeners may not bring alcohol or illegal drugs onto the garden premises. Gardeners may not come into the garden while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

## **NO FIRES OR COOKING**

Gardeners may not start or maintain a campfire or burn weeds in the garden.

## **NO LOUD MUSIC**

Gardeners may not play music or the radio loud enough to be a nuisance to other gardeners or to the garden's neighbors.

## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Any disputes about the Garden or with fellow gardeners will be discussed with the garden coordinators. The coordinators have the authority to hear these disputes and will resolve them in the best interest of the garden.

## **RULES VIOLATIONS**

The garden manager, in consultation with the garden committee may, at his/her discretion, **terminate immediately the gardener's right to participate in the garden if a gardener violates the rules and regulations that govern the community garden.** If a gardener violates any other of these policies, the garden manager will inform gardener of the violation by email and phone message. Gardener will have *one week* to correct the violation. If the violation is not corrected within *one week*, as determined by the garden committee may terminate the gardener's agreement. After termination, gardener will have *two weeks* to harvest and clean up the plot.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Community Gardens At Oak Grove Lutheran Church will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition, ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a veteran.

Please complete and return the following to reserve your plot(s):

Gardener Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Gardener Full Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Cell # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Community Garden? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ plots X \$25.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ raised beds X \$25.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (if available)

If Gardener donates 100% of harvest to charity, the plot is **FREE**.  
Do you plan to donate 100%? Please check

**Make check payable to:** "Rooted, Growing, Branching Out" (*place Community Garden in memo*)

**Mail to:** Community Gardens at Oak Grove, % Jenny Fessler, 639 Landis Road, Freedom, PA 15042

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**For office use:**

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Manager: \_\_\_\_\_