

Karen Davey Stewart Memorial Community Garden of Valdez

Rules, Regulations, & Expectations

FIRST & foremost-- The Community Garden is a SAFE ZONE. Harassment or behavior that causes individuals to feel they are being treated badly based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, or gender will not be tolerated. We maintain a ZERO TOLERANCE stance on this one. It is 2019 after all!

This is a community space & open to the public. Please enjoy the area and be considerate of others hard work. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult & supervised at all times. No unleashed pets are allowed in the garden. Aggressive or destructive pets will be disallowed. Please pick up after your pets.

Please DO NOT STEAL from the garden plot seasonal owners. Gnomes are on patrol & you are being watched.

Last but not least, the Community Garden and the City of Valdez are not responsible for lost or stolen personal items. By signing the following agreement form, you assume all risk and responsibility for any harm or injury experienced as a result of participating in the Karen Davey Stewart Community Garden project.

Community Garden Program provides:

- City water (hoses, pails, & watering cans) – Please be mindful of water use
- Basic Garden Tools & a Wheelbarrow on site. Please do not take these home or lend them out to non-garden participants.
- You will have access to a small storage shed, a greenhouse, a community container herb garden, & a compost pile. Assorted seeds, and seedlings are often shared. Please do not store food in the shed. This is to prevent bug infestation & bear activity.
- Garden tips, garden ideas, new friendship, and a great dose of Vitamin Sunshine are all bonuses! Please be mindful of the noise ordinance as we are located near a residential area and sandwiched between a church & the hospital.
- Annual Meetings: To meet the existing board, discuss the seasons plans, & elect new board members as needed.

Each gardener is responsible for the plot fee & maintenance of their plot & walkways:

- There is an annual program participation fee depending on the garden size you choose. You will be asked to sign a rental agreement before any work in the garden can begin.
- A clearly worked, weeded and harvested plot during the growing season is the expectation. Your plot should be cared for at least once a week. It is your responsibility to notify a member of the garden board if you are unable to care for your plot, a Garden Board Member will attempt one (1) contact with the renter to correct any issue/concern.
 - The walkway between you & your neighbor should also be maintained. Our LUCKY volunteers often help with this task but it takes a ‘community’ to maintain our lovely garden!
 - Please dispose of any weeds or garden waste properly. There is not a garbage can at the garden, but there is a large dumpster across the parking lot. Please don’t leave weed piles in the walkways. We are working on a WEED COMPOST pile... please look for signage!

Garden Policies

Refunds/Revocation

If a garden plot is voluntarily relinquished and written notification given to a Valdez Community Garden board member by May 1st, the plot will be reassigned and the plot fee (less online transfer fees) will be returned. No refunds will be given after this date. The Valdez Community Garden has the right to revoke plots for any reason, including failure to comply with the stated rules. No refunds will be issued for plots that have been revoked.

Plot Assignment

Garden plots are not assignable to others. All community garden program participants require registration through the Garden Board. Preference for next year's plot will be given to the previous season's fully paid registrant. Fancy lingo break-down: If you paid last year and want the same spot THIS year, it's yours!

Assignment of relinquished / revoked garden plots requested by multiple applicants will be awarded by a lottery system unless one of the applicants has had a garden plot revoked in a previous year.

Plot Neglect/Abandonment

Plots must be obviously worked and weed control begun by June 1st, weather permitting. Any abandoned or unworked plots will be reassigned, and no refund given. If you are unable to keep or maintain your plot you must contact a member of the Valdez Gardens board immediately. Temporary help will be sought, or your plot will be reassigned permanently, depending on the circumstances. We aren't ogres... we volunteer our time growing flowers and strawberries for Pete's sake!

Payment

It is each gardener's responsibility to pay the community garden plot fee by May 1st, 2019. We offer a number of options including a check, cash, or online payment option. You may make payments up to that date to help with your personal budgeting. If you would like to develop a payment plan please contact a member of the garden board.

Garden Work Days

On occasion, group work days are announced. They are infrequent, however they usually happen before any of our hosted summer events. These are times set out to meet your garden neighbors, share knowledge & supplies, mix & mingle, and most importantly to spruce up our little garden. Many hands make light work... then we all enjoy a summer beverage and some music! All garden fairies are welcome!

Sharing Surplus

You may share your harvest as you see fit. Please note that it is not permitted to sell excess produce from Community Garden plots. Trading between gardeners is allowed, but by no means required.

Maintenance Rules & Regulations

Composting

The Garden Board members will clearly mark areas you may add your allowed, compostable items to, however individual garden compost piles and bins are not allowed.

- ❖ All compost must be contained within the marked piles. Year 1, Year 2, Year 3... you get the picture. NEW add-ins will be placed in the YEAR 1 pile.
- ❖ The following items are **NOT ALLOWED** in garden compost pile, bears & rodents are attracted to these items
 - ◆ Meats in any form – This includes fish!
 - ◆ Oily foods,
 - ◆ Milk products
 - ◆ Manures
 - ◆ Plastic items & commercial grade compostable “green” bags
 - ◆
- ❖ These items ARE ALLOWED IN THE COMPOST PILE : Grass clippings, Vegetable & fruit waste, coffee grounds, egg shells, tree leaves, small twigs/branches, straw/hay. Please text/email a board member if you have questions!

Manure / Herbicide/ Pesticide Application

We strive to maintain an organic garden space for all. The application of commercial grade herbicides (weed killers) and pesticides (bug killers) to any garden plot is prohibited. Natural remedies are permitted, however keep in mind that several techniques commonly used can unknowingly draw in more critters. (Example: Beer Traps for slugs typically draws MORE slugs to your garden... and the garden next to you. DON'T be “THAT” neighbor). If you purchase any of weed/pest control items, please *triple check* that you are buying organic products.

If you opt to apply manure to your plot you must ensure it is “aged” and needs to be immediately watered down and thoroughly worked into the soil within forty-eight hours of delivery.

Mechanized Equipment

No person shall operate mechanized equipment including, without limitation, lawn mowers, roto-tillers, and motorized weed trimmers, between the hours of 8pm and 8am Monday through Saturday, and between the hours of 8pm and 11am on Sunday.

Fences

Tall fencing within the Valdez Community Garden is not allowed. How tall you ask? An adult should be able to easily step over the fencing or a gate must be easily accessible. This barrier must come down at the end of the season.

Accessory Garden Structures

No structure in a garden plot shall exceed 6 ft and should not exceed a footprint of 3' by 3' (excluding fences around the border of the plot). All garden structures should be contained within the plot and shall not shade the neighboring garden plots. No tires or toilets will be used for planting.

End of Season

At the end of each growing season, Gardeners are responsible for clearing their plots and all plant material and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring. There will be no permanent raised beds allowed in the garden. Due to snow load & heavy equipment use in the winter, those items will be damaged.

Not Allowed in the Gardens

Marijuana cultivation, personal bee hives, tires, pressure treated wood, carpet, barbed wire, smoking, loud music, selling produce, fruit trees, unleashed pets and unsupervised children.

Conduct Expectations

No community gardener shall:

1. Steal, damage, or misuse any Valdez Community Gardens property
2. NO CHEWING TOBACCO, NO SMOKING TOBACCO or MARIJUANA! This is a city campus and therefore a tobacco & drug-free area. Should you spot one of our gnomes partaking, politely ask them to stop or alert a Board Member.
3. Commit harassment of any person including
 - I. Lays a hand upon, shoves, strikes, or threatens another gardener, volunteer or community member
 - II. Engages in obscene gestures, objectionable demonstrations.
 - III. Uses foul language (swearing) or abusive verbal attack upon any fellow gardener
4. Commit indecent exposure.
5. Bring a “weapon” into the gardens. Legal knives are not weapons. This prohibition does not apply to police officers carrying service weapons in accordance with their department’s policies.
6. Possess or sell illegal drugs in or around the gardens.
7. Disturb other gardeners or volunteer so as to substantially interfere with their use of the gardens or constitute a general nuisance. Disturbances may arise from inappropriate use of personal equipment include but not limited to: cellular phones, computers, PDA’s, radios, music players, MP3 players, and conversations which contain any obviously offensive utterance, gesture, or display, which tends to incite an immediate breach of peace.
8. Solicit donations of money or anything of value, or sell or take orders for anything of value in any garden with exception of persons who have entered the gardens in order to conduct a commercial transaction within the garden.
9. Become intoxicated through the use of alcohol or drugs at the garden . Physical or mental impairment after use of these products that results in poor judgment & cause a decrease in your ability to follow the regulations within this document will result in a permanent ban from the grounds, and quite possibly a ride home from our local police department.

