

FOREST GROVE COMMUNITY GARDENS GUIDELINES

The Forest Grove Victory Garden is a non-profit venture operated and maintained by Forest Grove Community Gardens (“FGCG”) with support from the City of Forest Grove (“the City”). The Victory Garden is not a public park and is not open to the general public, except for scheduled events hosted by FGCG. Gardeners and their guests must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. People not affiliated with the City or with FGCG may not use the site for any purpose, and entry onto the site is an act of illegal trespass on City property and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law. It is illegal to dump materials at the site without first obtaining permission from a legal representative of FGCG.

SECURITY

FGCC does not provide security at the Victory Garden. Neither the City nor FGCG are responsible for personal injury, vandalism, loss, damage, or theft of crops, equipment, or personal property at the Victory Garden. A signed Release of Liability is required from the renter of each Garden plot before they begin working their plot. If you witness illegal activities or theft at the Victory Garden, report it to the police. Call FYPD dispatch at (503) 629-0111 (the Victory Garden’s physical address is 2301 Maple Street in Forest Grove). For emergencies, dial 911.

GENERAL RULES

Mutual respect for one another’s space and property is vital to the success of the Victory Garden. Do not encroach on other gardeners’ plots or damage their crops. Garden paths and maintenance trails are not a place for children to play or for riding bikes or walking dogs. During summer months (April through October), a variety of toys will be provided at the front of the Garden near the picnic table for the use of plot renters’ children while plot renters are working their plots. It is the sole responsibility of all plot renters to supervise their children at all times while at the Victory Garden site, and to keep them from causing damage to other plot renter’s crops and equipment. FGCG does not provide child care of any kind. The garden site is open during daylight hours and is closed after dusk.

Do not block other vehicles in the parking lot. Do not block the substation gate. There are two high-voltage electrical substations next to the Garden site. Respect the boundary of the substation perimeter fence by staying away from it and keeping your children and guest away from it, as electrocution and death could result from contact with the fence. The substations are on private property that is not part of the Victory Garden.

Do not block maintenance trails. Personal items left in Garden pathways will be removed and disposed of without notice. Green waste should be composted or hauled to the debris pile at the north end of the main Garden path. Do not leave debris in Garden paths. It will be placed back in your plot. Do not start new debris piles. If you have a disability and need help hauling garden debris, contact FGCG for help from a volunteer.

The plot rental fee includes access to hoses, hand tools, and wheelbarrows at the Garden site. These items are marked with orange paint. If you are the last person to leave the Garden, even in the middle of the day, lock the tool shed. Do not assume someone else will lock it.

ABANDONED PLOTS

A plot will be considered abandoned if it is not properly maintained. This includes regular weeding, which eliminates reseeding. The weed cycle can be greatly reduced if everyone manages their plots. Abandonment will be assessed on a plot-by-plot basis. Plots should show signs of preparation or planting by June 1 or they will be considered abandoned. If FGCG volunteers have to remove problem plants/weeds due to a plot renter's negligence, crops could be damaged as a result, so it is best to keep your plot well-groomed.

If you suffer a personal illness or injury, or have a family emergency that prevents you from working your plot, notify a FGCG volunteer or call FGCG. An effort will be made to maintain your plot in your absence. Crops harvested during your absence will be donated to the Oregon Food Bank.

ORGANIC GARDENING

FGCG promotes the principles of organic gardening. These are sustainable practices that do not damage the soil or surrounding environment.

Water Conservation: Water at the Victory Garden is not free. Plot rental fees help pay a City water bill. FGCG must determine how water use affects expenses in order to properly manage the Victory Garden. Wasteful watering habits could significantly increase the Garden's water bill. This cost could be passed on to gardeners in the form of higher plot rental fees. Gardeners are asked to monitor their water use. Unattended sprinklers will be shut off without notice. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems are highly efficient and easy to manage. If you are interested in drip irrigation, contact FGCG.

Fertilizer: Organic-based fertilizers feed plants without harming microorganisms that are essential to a garden's life cycle. Run-off from organic fertilizers will not cause significant groundwater pollution. Organic fertilizers can be found at retail outlets in Forest Grove and Cornelius. Non-organic pesticides and herbicides are **prohibited**.

Compost: Whenever possible, compost green waste at your Garden site. Decomposing plant matter feeds the soil and returns vital nutrients for the next planting cycle.

FINAL THOUGHT

Common sense and courtesy are your best guidelines. Let's make the Victory Garden a positive experience for all.