

Paul and Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden

at

Christ our Savior Lutheran Church



Gardeners' Welcome Packet

2024

Welcome to the **Paul & Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden**. This Welcome Packet contains important information about how our garden operates and who to contact with general and specific questions. It also contains information about how you can pitch in to make the garden run smoothly and efficiently. Because community gardening requires a fair amount of work beyond tending your own plot, every gardener is asked to participate to the best of his or her ability in the management and upkeep of the entire garden.

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Welcome to Community Gardening

Adapted from the Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin Community Garden Organizers Handbook

A community garden means many things to many people. For some, a community garden is a place to grow food, flowers, and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it's a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Yet others use community gardens simply because they lack adequate space to have a garden at their house or apartment. Regardless of why you are choosing to take part in a community garden, the activity comes with both responsibilities and rewards.

Responsibilities: Successful and vibrant community gardens rely on the dedication of every gardener to (1) maintain their own plot and (2) contribute to the upkeep and management of the entire garden. Many jobs need to be done to help the garden run smoothly, including keeping paths mowed or mulched, maintaining tools and equipment, planning events and workshops, stocking and hauling supplies, and building raised beds, among other things. The adage many hands make light work is appropriate. If everyone pitches in according to their ability and desire, then the garden will prosper and grow.

Rewards: Community gardening has the potential to offer a range of benefits to individuals, families, communities, and the environment. Benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

Food production — Community gardens enable people to grow high-quality fruits and vegetables for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Nutrition — Research indicates that community gardeners eat more fruits and vegetables than non-gardening families.

Exercise — Gardening requires physical activity and helps improve the overall physical health of gardeners.

Mental health — Interacting with plants and nature helps reduce stress and increases gardeners' sense of wellness and belonging.

Community — Community gardens foster a sense of community identity and stewardship among gardeners. They provide a place for people of diverse backgrounds to interact and share cultural traditions.

Environment — Gardens help reduce the heat island effect in cities, increase biodiversity, reduce runoff from rain, recycle local organic materials and reduce fossil fuel use from long-distance food transport.

Learning — People of all ages can acquire and share skills and knowledge related to gardening, cooking, nutrition, health, culture, etc.

Youth — Community gardens provide a place for youth to explore gardening, nature, and community.

Property values — Research indicates that property values around community gardens increase faster than property values in similar areas without gardens.

Above all, community gardening can provide a real sense of satisfaction and accomplishment for all involved.

Successful Community Gardening

Plan to visit your garden three to four times a week during the growing season. Make a schedule with yourself or other gardeners. Write it in your calendar. Post a colorful reminder on the fridge. Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door, it's sometimes easy to forget that there is pest removal, weeding, watering, staking, or harvesting to do.

Attend scheduled meetings and workdays. This will help you meet other gardeners and become part of your gardening community. You'll also learn about the various jobs and projects that need to be done to keep your garden in shape.

Make friends with other gardeners. Learn their names and a little about your non-gardening neighbors. Share some extra produce. Take the time to show how the garden works with them if they're not familiar with it. Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource in your garden. Pick their brains for gardening tips. Visit their plots to see how they stake their tomatoes or trellis their beans, or peas, or?

Volunteer for a garden job or committee. Community gardens don't manage themselves. They require a fair amount of work. By pitching in on a certain job or project, you'll be supporting the garden as a whole and ensuring that the work is spread among many people.

Educate yourself. Check out books from the library. Cruise the internet; when folks pass on helpful links to us, we will include them in our Newsletters. Attend classes. AND... ASK YOUR GARDENING NEIGHBORS! There's always something to learn about gardening. The more you learn, the more success you'll have.

Security and Personal Safety at the Community Garden

HARVEST PRODUCE REGULARLY. Some people use the excuse that “a lot of food is going to waste” to justify taking food from a garden without permission. During harvest season, let garden leaders know if you plan to be out of town for more than a few days. Make sure your alternate is prepared to cover for you. **With your permission**, other gardeners can harvest for you and donate the food to a local pantry.

DO NOT FORAGE IN SOMEONE ELSE’S GARDEN. Their plants and produce are private property.

IF YOU GROW MORE THAN YOU NEED. A basket will be provided for gardeners to place their surplus in, and we will deliver it to the LSSA Foodbank in Spenard.

USE COMMON SENSE Even though your garden may be well lit from street lights, only garden during daylight hours. Garden in pairs or keep a cellphone nearby if it makes you feel more comfortable.

LOCK THE GATE! If you are concerned about your personal safety, day or night, LOCK the gate as soon as you enter the garden. Other gardeners can unlock it when they come in as everybody has the combination. Always lock it when you leave. Sometimes taking care of yourself, others, and the Garden, takes a little extra effort!

REPORT THEFT VANDALISM, AND UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES TO GARDEN LEADERS AND THE POLICE. TAKE PICTURES OF THE PROBLEM AND, IF YOU SAFELY CAN, INCLUDE THE INDIVIDUALS CAUSING THE PROBLEM. IF possible, get the vehicle license Plate #. The more people who are looking out for the garden and talking about what’s going on, the more success you’ll have at being safe and curbing unwanted activities.

What should I do if I am threatened or harassed in the garden? Leave the garden immediately and get to a safe place. This is a community garden. Other gardeners are neighbors. There should be no harassment, threats, verbal abuse, or acts of violence by any person against any other person. Such acts should be reported to a garden committee member. If it is an emergency, call 911.

Community Garden Job Descriptions

The who and what makes our garden tick

Garden coordinators: Primary contacts for the garden. These folks coordinate and facilitate all garden activities and meetings. They recruit gardeners for various jobs and provide leadership and guidance for gardeners and volunteer positions. They identify and recruit new Garden Team members. GARY(lead), DAN (admin), JEANETTE (Grants writer)

Plot coordinator: Organizes spring registration, makes plot assignments and garden maps, collects gardener applications, and manages the waiting list. Creates spreadsheet or other files for gardener contact information. DAN

Grounds crew: Maintains the garden's common areas. Mows grass, clears pathways, and removes trash. GARY and garden volunteers.

Water Tanks Fill Crew: Keeps Water Tanks full!

Maintenance crew: Maintains tools, equipment, hoses, and raised beds. GARY

Supply crew: Maintains supplies of common garden materials such as compost, mulch, tools, water and hoses. GARY

Composting crew: Maintains and oversees the composting and compost bins. Provides gardeners with clear composting instructions via signs, verbal communication, workshops, emails, or memos.

Events crew: Coordinates regular and special garden events including work parties, neighborhood parties, and educational workshops.

Treasurer: Collects plot fees, maintains garden accounts, writes checks. DAN, COSLC TREASURER and COSLC ACCOUNTANT

Communications crew: Revises and assembles the Gardener's Welcome Packet with the leadership team. Writes and distributes garden newsletter or blog. Communicates with gardeners through email, phone calls, or mailings about garden news, meetings, and events. Maintains garden bulletin board. DAN and Garden Committee

Outreach and community relations Maintains positive relations with neighbors. Ensures that neighbors are involved in and supportive of the garden. Coordinates social events for neighbors and gardeners with the events crew. MEMBERS OF THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

Monitors: ALL OF THE GARDENERS!

Leadership team: Gary Matthews (Chair) alias Mr Green Jeans, Dan Gullickson (Admin Assistant), Jeanette Morton (Grants Writer), Jessica Morrison (COSLC Board President) and four members at large: Terri Brown, Sharon Holland, Brigitte Lacouture, Jeralyn Phifer, plus ex-officio Pastor Anna Silco

Gardener Guidelines

1. Access to the Garden is from mid-April or whenever the snow melts and the ground dries out until the end of September **(dates to be set annually by the committee)**. An annual fee of \$15.00 per bed will be charged to help pay for the RENT-A-CAN. Beds will be assigned on a first-come -- first-served basis. Priority will be given to existing, in-good standing gardeners.
2. Garden gates should be locked unless one or more gardeners are in the garden area. The garden should never be left unlocked if no gardeners are present. The Lock combination will be available once the gardener has completed their registration. Gardeners should park in the church parking lot or in the driveway along the north side of the fence. Please speak with the garden coordinator if you need to park closer to the entrance for mobility reasons.
3. Gardeners may plant annual vegetables, herbs and flowers to be consumed at home or to be shared or donated. Hemp, marijuana, illegal plants, or any plants listed on the State of Alaska's noxious weed list may not be planted
4. Plants, temporary covers, or towers may not exceed 4 feet in height so as not to shadow neighboring beds or obstruct garden pathways. Small, semi-portable structures may be used for warming soil, starting seeds, and growing vegetables. Contact the Garden Lead if you need to exceed the height limit.
5. Use only fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide, and fungicide products approved for organic use. COSLC provides each gardener with a bag of organic fertilizer. Information on organic gardening methods is available through the UAF Cooperative Extension Service. To learn more visit <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/>
6. Gardeners should have their beds fully planted by the third week of June and remove all vegetation and debris by September 30th or the agreed closure date with prior approval from the Garden Lead.
7. A limited supply of tools are available but Gardeners should plan to provide their own gardening tools and take them home when finished for the day. The Garden will provide watering supplies!
8. Gardeners may use the city water provided in the tanks at the site. We have a capacity of 900 gallons. Please use the provided watering cans (2 sizes), and wagons to haul the cans. Return the cans and wagons to the tank "farm" as soon as you are done using them. Keep the trays of the wagons at an angle to limit stagnant water and mosquitoes.

Use the hose that is attached to the faucet, and make sure it is turned off. Last year we had several “draining the tank” episodes, which soaked the grounds and required a Water Tank Crew member to come and refill the tanks.

9. Gardeners may use the benches and picnic tables supplied in the garden when available.

10. Please keep the garden area free of litter and weeds. Place all trash in the provided trash container **and place plant debris in the provided compost container.** Gardeners must maintain their beds, keeping them weed-free and cared for. If a bed appears abandoned, we will contact the gardener and if necessary it may be reassigned to someone else.

11. Please be respectful of fellow gardeners and the garden’s neighbors by not disturbing neighbors, and by using shared space appropriately. If you wish to listen to the radio or other audio devices, please use earphones. Do not harvest others’ beds without the permission of the gardener.

12. Without exception, animals are not allowed inside the garden-fenced area.

13. Children must be supervised at all times.

14. A RENT-A-CAN (porta-potty) that is ADA approved will be provided for the convenience of the gardeners. Your Garden Rental Fee helps pay for the porta-potty rental/maintenance fee. It is serviced every other week; please help keep it clean and use it responsibly.

15. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Garden Coordinator by emailing: garden@coslc.ws or by leaving a message at the Church office (907) 345-3858. **If you have an immediate need, contact GARY (907-443-4298), or DAN (907-388-8193)**

16. All gardeners are encouraged to sign up for one of the garden jobs/crews. Please contact the garden co-leaders for more information.

17. Garden meetings and work parties are scheduled throughout the season. Please plan to attend to get to know your fellow gardeners and help with garden upkeep and special projects.

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about how the garden operates will arise throughout the year. Questions can be directed to the garden co-leaders or other crew leaders at garden@coslc.ws or (907) 345-3858 to leave a message.

What kinds of tools, equipment, and supplies are available in the garden? A bag of organic fertilizer and a minimal assortment of shovels & rakes plus the water wagons, water cans, and a wheel Barrel.

Can I leave a sprinkler or soaker hose “on” if I am not in the garden? NO! Watering cans are provided for gardeners to use. The garden features two elevated 450-gallon water tanks with a short hoses to fill watering cans. Private hoses may not be used. The water tank will be “topped off” regularly. Gardeners should contact a garden committee member if the water level in the tanks is low. There will be a sign posted with emergency contact numbers.

What do I have to do to stay in good standing with the garden? Keep your plot maintained, cleaned up, and follow the guidelines on pages 8-10.

Can I bring fruit and vegetable scraps from home to compost in the bins in the garden? Not at this time. This will be available in the future when we get special bins.

How are bed sizes determined? Most of the beds are standard-sized raised beds. A few Elevated beds are for the use of gardeners with mobility issues who have difficulty bending over. There are 5 beds specifically designed and placed for tall plants such as Sunflowers, Pole Peas and Beans, etc.

How many plots can I get? Usually, a maximum of two beds may be reserved at the time of registration. If you are a returning gardener, your extra beds will be classified as “pending” and pending beds may be assigned to new gardeners, if we run short of beds (we are trying to encourage more involvement). if you would like additional beds, you will be added to a wait list.

Is this an organic garden? YES. COSLC furnishes an Organic Fertilizer Packet for each Garden Bed. These will be distributed when we officially open.

Paul and Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden Application/Agreement (2024)

This form must be completed in its entirety.

- Newsletters are sent by email. Please list an email you check regularly. If you do not have email make sure your mailing address is readable!
- COSLC will keep an eye out for problems in the garden. If we discover lack of maintenance, vandalism, insects, plant wilt, mold or other plant diseases, we will contact you. If you notice a problem, please contact Gary Matthews or Dan Gullickson with the bed number. All beds have a number engraved on a small wood plaque attached to a metal post.
- You are the Primary Gardener. The Alternate Gardener must be someone YOU can ask to take care of your garden if you are out of town or become sick, injured, etc. If there is a problem with your bed and we cannot reach you, then we will contact your alternate. **If we cannot reach you or your alternate, we may consider your garden abandoned and it will be reclaimed and reassigned to someone on the waitlist to maintain and harvest.**

On the following form, COSLC COMMUNITY GARDEN refers to the PAUL AND RUTH LEMP MEMORIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN. COSLC refers to Christ our Savior Lutheran Church.

COSLC Community Garden Application/Agreement (2024)

I wish to reserve a raised garden bed for an annual fee of \$15.00 per bed. I understand that I will be able to reserve my bed(s) for the next season, (2025) **assuming my performance has been satisfactory**. If additional beds are not available, my name will be placed on a waiting list.

I have read and understand the guidelines for the COSLC Community Garden and agree to abide by them. I also understand that failure to abide by the guidelines may result in the immediate revocation of the use of the COSLC Community Garden, forfeiture of any plants, and future use of the garden.

COSLC will not be responsible for personal injury incurred by any gardener or person accompanying the gardener, including children, when using the garden area and surrounding area. Nor will the church assume responsibility for any theft, loss, or destruction of any property owned by the gardener.

By signing this agreement, I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless COSLC, its employees, members, council members, and the Paul and Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden Committee and volunteers, from any claims or liabilities arising from the negligent or intentional misconduct of myself, my family members, or persons accompanying me while I use the garden or surrounding COSLC property.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please Print:

Primary Gardener _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ OK to text Email _____

Alternate Gardener (person who takes care of your bed if you are unable to do so)

Name _____

Phone _____ OK to text Email _____

___ I request an elevated bed due to mobility issues, if available.

___ Please wait list me for additional garden beds, if available. Total number of beds requested: _____

Please make payment via check to **COSLC Community Garden**

RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

attn: COSLC Community Garden

1612 Oceanview Drive

Anchorage, Alaska 99515

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Bed # (s) Assigned _____ **Amount Due \$** _____

Paid by Check # _____ **Paid by Cash** _____