

2026 Guidelines - Harrisburg Community Garden

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[Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [TikTok](#)

Mission: Create and maintain a community garden space where neighbors come together to grow vegetables, flowers and herbs while sharing techniques to promote a sustainable, local food system. The community garden and its members foster community building, healthy eating and collaboration of ideas while accepting and celebrating diversity.

Governing Authority: Harrisburg Community Garden Team

Garden Team Captains:

- Garden team captains will meet and orient new gardeners if possible.
- Garden team captains are the first point of contact for complaints or issues, questions, comments, suggestions.
- Garden team captains will inform gardeners if their plot(s) are excessively weedy. Two weeks notice will then be given to the gardener to clean the plot(s).
- Garden team captains will assist in reminding gardeners of the need to pay plot fees.
- Garden team captains are: Lisa - Fennel, Thyme Shannon - Sage, Basil Lindsey - Chive Anna – Mint, Dill

Garden Applicant: If accepted as a gardener, I will abide by the following rules, terms, and conditions.

Plot fees, plot management, and pathways:

- I will take possession of my plot once the Community Garden Application is approved and the annual fee is paid.
- The annual fees are as follows: 4'x8' = \$50, 4'x12' = \$75, 10'x10' = \$100. The fee for the use of this garden is as chosen on your application. There are no refunds.
 - Rental Period is March 1st, 2026-February 29th, 2027. Payment is due on or before March 1st, 2026.
- Renewal forms will be emailed/sent to current gardeners by February 1st. Gardeners will pay the annual renewal fee by March 1st in order to secure their plot for that year. If payment is not received by the deadline, the plot will be reassigned.
- Once I have been assigned a plot, I will begin managing my plot and surrounding pathways within 30 days. Tilling, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and the cleaning of each plot is the sole responsibility of the assigned gardener.
- I will not expand my plot size. I will keep my plot free of weeds, pests and diseases. I am responsible for maintaining the 3 foot pathways surrounding my plot (ex: weed-eating around raised bed).
- I will assist with maintenance and weeding of Common Areas such as pathways, entrances, parking area and pollinator flower beds.
- Plant materials removed from your garden plot can be placed on the curb in a separate pile by the street for the city to pick up.
- I will not make duplicate keys of any locks or give my key or lock combination to others.
- If I am no longer able to participate in the community garden, I will contact the Harrisburg Community Garden Team so the plot can be reassigned. I will clean the plot before vacating.

Water hoses, spigots, tools:

- Hoses and spray nozzles will be provided by the Harrisburg Community Garden Team.
- During the growing season, I will ensure the garden hoses are stored near the frost free water spigot and in a manner to avoid kinks in the hose. I will turn off the spigot when I am finished watering.
- The irrigation system will be drained and shutdown for winter between December 1st and March 1st to avoid damage from frozen pipes. All hoses will be secured in the storage shed and the water meter locked.
- Tools are the responsibility of each gardener. Community tools are available for use in the shed. Please return them to the shed after each use.
- Any tools I bring from my home, I will take back home or store in the storage shed at my own risk. If you decide to leave your personal tools in the storage shed, label them with your name.
- Any repairs to garden infrastructure (fencing, water system) are the responsibility of the Harrisburg Community Garden Team. Please promptly notify the Garden Team of any issues. Repairs will be made in a timely manner to prevent any inconvenience to gardeners.

Water, pesticides, mulches, trash, plants

- I will water my plot according to water-wise guideline [Water Conservation Guidelines](#).



- We need pollinators: Any pesticides used in the garden must be labeled for edible crops. Nothing beyond a “Caution” signal word is to be used. It is much better to practice good habits such as early weeding and environmentally friendly soap-type sprays
- Composting: No open composting inside or outside the fence. Open composting encourages mice, rats, and more.
- I will remove all trash and other materials from the garden/compost areas on a regular basis and take to the curb.
- I will harvest only from my plot unless I have explicit permission from another gardener.
- I will only use garden decorations and structures which enhance the community garden.
- I will utilize pathways for observing other gardens.
- I will keep all plants within plot boundaries.
- I will not use plastic mulches or synthetic pesticides.
- I will not plant any poisonous or illegal plants.
- I will not dump trash/refuse outside of the designated areas.
- I will not plant excessively tall, sprawling or invasive plants.

Garden meetings and garden workdays:

I will attend the Annual Harrisburg Community Garden Meeting - Saturday, March 1, 2026 at 10:00am to kickoff the year, review guidelines and events for the year, answer any questions you may have. We will meet at the Garden. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the Harrisburg Presbyterian Church.

- I will participate in mandatory garden workdays on ...
 - Saturday, April 4, 2026 at 10:00 am
 - Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 10:00 am
 - Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 10:00 am
 - Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 10:00 am
- I will make a concerted effort to attend at least 2 of the regularly scheduled workdays.

Guests, children, pets, vandalism and courtesy:

- Children and guests are welcomed and encouraged to learn in the garden.
- My guests/children will follow the Harrisburg Community Garden Guidelines and I am solely responsible for their behavior.
- I will respect other gardeners and I will not use abusive/profane language or discriminate against others.
- I will not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, use illegal drugs or gamble in the garden.
- I will not come to the garden while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Dogs and other pets are allowed within the fenced garden area but **must be on a leash**. All animal excrement must be removed from the garden before leaving the premises. Service animals are permitted as required by law
- The Garden Team cannot guarantee protection against vandalism or theft. Any vandalism or theft should be reported to the Garden Management Team and the Cabarrus County Sheriff office when appropriate.
- I forfeit my right to sue the owner of the property.

Commitment and Remediation Process:

To ensure our community garden remains a positive and thriving space for everyone, this document sets forth our shared guidelines and expectations. By participating, all members agree to uphold these standards and work together to resolve any issues that may arise.

Breaking any rules, terms, or conditions, may result in exclusion from the garden and loss of your plot.

The Garden Team reserves the right to expedite this process in cases of serious or repeated violations. Serious violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Theft or intentional damage to garden property or another member's plot
- Physical violence or threats of violence toward any person associated with the garden
- Harassment, bullying, or discriminatory behavior
- Bringing weapons or illegal substances onto garden premises
- Consistent neglect of your plot
- Vandalism or misuse of water hoses, shared tools, or equipment
- Unsafe use of chemicals or fire hazards

If exclusion occurs, you may be eligible to re-apply for a garden plot after one year, at the Garden Team's discretion.

Remediation Process:

1. You will receive an initial warning from the Garden Team—delivered by email, phone, or text. All warnings will be documented.
2. If corrective action—such as addressing the issue, apologizing, or attending a meeting—is not taken within two weeks, a second warning will be issued.

3. If the issue remains unresolved after another two weeks, you will receive final notification that your garden plot and privileges have been forfeited.
4. Upon receiving final notification, you are responsible for cleaning out your plot and removing all personal items within a time frame directed by the Garden Team.

If you wish to dispute a warning or exclusion, please contact the Garden Team in writing so your concerns can be reviewed.

We welcome ongoing feedback about our processes, and encourage members to voice any concerns or suggestions for improvement.

My Pledge:

I pledge to help keep the community garden a happy, safe, and welcoming place where everyone can garden and socialize with kindness and respect. I will do my part to support others, care for shared spaces, and uphold the values of our community.

Name:

Date:



HARRISBURG
COMMUNITY GARDEN