



Welcome new & returning members to our 14th season of community gardening!

Whitefish Community Garden Membership Agreement + Garden Guidelines:

The primary goal of these guidelines is to ensure an enjoyable gardening experience for all members.

All gardeners are expected to observe our gardening community rules.

Website: www.whitefishcommunitygarden.com Email: Whitefishcommunitygarden2@gmail.com

To renew your 2022 bed, send contract + \$60.00 fee NO LATER THAN February 15 – no exceptions or delays. You're receiving this document with ample time to return- new members will be assigned an available bed on February 16. The 2023 \$60.00 fee includes water, utilities, manure, wood chips, tools & garden maintenance. Complete this member agreement & mail with \$60.00 fee made payable to Whitefish Community Garden PO Box 5415, Whitefish, MT 59937 no later than February 15. Having an earlier due date allows current + new members to have time to order seeds & supplies before gardening season as many places sell out of seeds in March. Typically members can plant cold weather crops at the end of March/early April.

All members are required to fulfill a minimum of 6 hours of community garden work outside their own bed. Your required 6 hours can be spread throughout the season. This season we are returning to a log-in book this year for community hours. Log your hours in the book in the shed:

Shared beds we all care for: asparagus, blueberries, flowers, herbs, strawberries + the orchard. Check if these areas need weeding and/or watering.

Food Bank beds: help our team plant, tend & harvest these beds. Members are needed for harvest mid-June through mid-September. Check the whiteboard posted at the shed for info on watering/tending updates. For more info email Wendy at Caraboo728@gmail.com. Too much of something? Can't harvest before it bolts? Contribute to the weekly harvest by responding to our email. We will *gently pick* as directed.

You are important to keeping WCG productive. Attend work days & complete a task on the "to do" list. Anytime you see something that needs doing, please do it!

If, prior to or during the garden season you decide that you can no longer maintain your bed please give immediate notice to Whitefishcommunitygarden2@gmail.com. The bed will be reassigned. **No refunds after May 15.**

Opening Day info will be emailed + posted on our sign board & website. It's typically around 4/24, but you can work in your bed once soil is warm enough for spring crops. Opening day is a community day to prepare to open.

New members will be contacted by the membership team when their bed is assigned & by the orientation team to schedule an orientation. New member orientation is mandatory.

Garden beds must be planted by June 7: on June 8 members with unplanted beds will be contacted by a board member to inquire if assistance is needed or if the bed should be reassigned.

Carry in/carry out policy: gardeners are responsible for taking all personal + gardening materials offsite for disposal in their personal garbage. This includes diseased plant materials or noxious weeds - **DO NOT** put diseased or pest infested materials into our compost bins! Please do not overload our garbage with your debris: bring bags for your garden waste. This 1 garbage can is for small trash items only and no heavy soil. Member volunteers do the carryout.

Gardeners are responsible for the care of their bed + weeding & chipping pathways surrounding their bed. Respect adjacent gardeners by pulling weeds before they seed & spread. Keep pathways clear of vining veggies & personal items. Allow space for adjacent gardeners, hoses & wheelbarrow/tool access.

Need help caring for your bed while away or cannot get to the garden? Post a sign in your bed with dates you need help, ask a neighboring member, or contact a board member (see list in shed or on website).

Trellis & sculptures: any tall crops, trellises or sculptures must be planted/installed in a way that does not shade another garden bed. Ask a board member if you're not sure of your installation – take a look at our typical “straight” trellises on the north ends of beds. They are effective + don't shade adjacent beds.

Practice smart watering: especially during the hottest & driest months, it's good for your plants & our watering system to water smartly, either in morning or late afternoon/early evening. During the hottest part of the day the water evaporates quickly. Watering the soil – not the leaves of plants – moistens the soil & gets water to the roots.

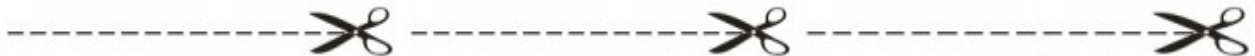
- *Make sure the gate closes when you leave! 2022 had an open gate & damage was evident in many beds.**
- *Do not tug on the hoses to extend them to your bed: this weakens the wood post, spigot & attachments.**
- *Turn off the water + water wand lever + coil hose after watering.**
- *We're an organic garden community:** please practice only organic growing practices.
- *Park on the pavement, not on the grass.**
- *Bring your home compost to our bins, but no meat or dairy! Our new policy is no eggshells – they were not crushed prior to adding to the bins & many large pieces of eggshell end up in garden beds. They do not decompose fast enough to be integrated into the compost.**
- * Gardeners are expected to clean/rinse all tools before replacing where they came from.** Do not keep tools from the shed in your bed – these tools are for every member to use. Do not take tools from the garden – we lost about 10 buckets in 2022 due to removal from WCG.

End of season work day info will be emailed + posted on website. This is usually mid-October.

End of season practices: gardeners are expected to clean their bed by removing all material by 10/15 except for over-winter crops (garlic, carrots, etc.). After 10/15 vegetables left in beds may be harvested by volunteers & donated to the local food bank + the bed may be reassigned the following year.

CURRENT GARDENERS: SEND CONTRACT + \$60 CHECK TO “WHITEFISH COMMUNITY GARDEN” NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15 TO PO BOX 5415, WHITEFISH MT 59937.

NEW GARDENERS: AS SOON AS YOU'RE ASSIGNED A BED, MAIL THIS FORM + \$60 CHECK TO PO BOX 5415, WHITEFISH MT 59937. YOU WILL BE CONTACTED REGARDING MANDATORY NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION.



2022 bed number if applicable: _____

Gardener name(s): _____

Gardener mailing address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Save the dates!

February 16

Sat 4/22 + Sun 4/23

Membership agreement & fee deadline to keep your 2022 bed – no extensions.

Opening weekend from 11-2 to get the garden ready to grow by completing chores on our “to do” list (if date changes email will be sent).

Sat 10/14 + Sun 10/15

End of season workday from 11-2 to get the garden read to over-winter by completing chores on our “to do” list (if date changes email will be sent).

WHITEFISH COMMUNITY GARDEN BED MAINTENANCE POLICY

WCG IS AN ORGANIC COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Every gardener is expected to follow this practice.
- Only organic fertilizers and pest control products may be used.

MAINTENANCE

Gardeners are expected to maintain their garden in reasonable condition & be respectful of fellow gardeners by:

- Planning the garden to allow ample room for growth. Plants that spread (zucchini, etc) should not be planted too close to bed borders to prevent straying from assigned bed. Keep vines & stray plants out of neighboring plots, pathways & mowing areas. Mower is not responsible for plants in greenways.
- Tall plants should not shade neighbors' plants.
- Visit your garden at least 2x week.
- Be a good neighbor and introduce yourself to your fellow gardeners. We are a community!
- Notify us if you need help or will be away from your garden due to vacation or illness. (whitefishcommunitygarden2@gmail.com).
- Weeds should never be allowed to go to seed because they compete with other plants & quickly become invasive, adversely affecting neighboring plots.
- Reasonable Condition is defined as: keeping weeds under control (can be distinguished from plants) and plants are regularly watered and tended.
- Crops must be harvested once they mature. Harvesting your crops on a regular basis produces more harvest + helps deter theft. Keep plot free of overripe, spoiling vegetables to minimize attracting pests and disease.
- Large, woody plants & all others that have reached the end of their productive life must be removed or mulched to prevent the spread of disease. Cut to a diameter no larger than a pencil for composting.
- For pest or disease infested plants, bring a bag from home & take the debris to your home garbage. We do not have garbage pickup & this becomes too much for our volunteer.

SPRING + FALL CLEAN UP

- All gardeners are expected to participate in the opening weekend to get the garden ready to grow – if unavailable, take care of a chore on the to-do list the week prior.
- Gardeners are responsible for cleaning their plots at season's end
- Beds must be cleared of all plant materials (with the exception of winter crops ie garlic, cover crops) vegetables, non-plant materials i.e. fences, decorative ornaments *by October 15.*
- Failure to clean up your bed properly will result in rejection of the next year's application.
- Bed must be neat, free of debris & trash.
- Carry in, carry out! At the end of season, gardeners are expected to bring their own trash bags to carry out debris. There will be no room in the compost bins at the end of season.
- All gardeners are expected to participate in the end of season community clean up.

COMPOST BINS

- Your compost from home is welcome! No meat, dairy or eggshells. No diseased plants - bag & discard in home trash, not the garden's trash.
- Knock off as much dirt as possible from weeds & plant materials prior to placement in compost bin.
- Cut down large, woody plants into smaller pieces or they will not compost!

ABANDONED BED PROCESS

A bed will be deemed abandoned if any of the following are evident:

- No evidence of planting by *June 10th.*
- No evidence of or minimal garden maintenance.
- Bed is weedy with no signs of planting.
- Weeds have gone to seed.
- Gardener has not responded to email(s) from WCG.
- Harvest is rotting on the vine.

Gardener will receive an email. If email is not responded to within 3 days, 1 phone call will be made.

If there is no bed improvement within 7 days of WCG contacting gardener, bed will be deemed abandoned and reassigned immediately to a wait listed applicant by the WCG Membership Coordinator. No exceptions. No refunds.