



Lake Highlands Community Garden 2021 Gardener's Agreement

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *"The mission of Dallas Is Gardening Inc., dba Lake Highlands Community Garden, is to strengthen and support organic community food gardening efforts through the promotion of sustainable practices, responsible environmental stewardship, education, and community service."*

Responsibilities, Rules and Expectations

1.1 General

- a. Attendance at Annual Meeting, signing LHCG Gardener's Agreement and paying annual dues is mandatory.
- b. As part of our community, every gardener is requested to sign up for one LHCG Community Service interest at the beginning of each year and participate throughout the year.
- c. Community Days will be held three Saturdays during the year when all gardeners meet to collectively work on garden wide improvements. Alternative community service days may be available for gardeners who have conflicts. Gardeners who participate will be refunded \$30 per Community Service Day.
- d. Respect other's gardens. Please do not pick crops or use other's tools without permission.
- e. In an emergency: If borrowing a neighbor's hose, return it as it was found and shut off water properly.
- f. Please return LHCG tools and wheelbarrows properly after use.
- g. Limit of two plots per household.
- h. We encourage personal donations of excess produce to our Donation Garden efforts.

1.2 Planting/Growing

- a. Upon signing an agreement work will begin in the plot within two weeks.
- b. Produce must be grown for 3 calendar quarters. Please notify a Board member if you plan to be inactive for a quarter. A cover crop should be used if not actively growing.
- c. Keep all plants from encroachment on other garden plots, walk-ways and remove rotting produce and weeds.
- d. Plants allowed to become infested with diseases, aphids, squash bugs and other insects without treatment will harm the entire community garden. Please ask the Board if you are having issues.
- e. This is an Organic garden. Chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are not allowed.
- f. Gardening for commercial purposes is prohibited.

1.3 Prohibited Plants and Conditions: If in question, ask a board member

- a. Illegal plants in plots.
- b. Poisonous plants in plots if eaten raw, e.g., purple hyacinth bean.
- c. Invasive plants in plots (*See TxInvasives.org*); plants that have been problems in the past at LHCG: **Lemon cucumber b) Morning Glory vines c) Bamboo d) Mint (container only). e) Nutgrass f) Wild Blackberry g) Cypress vine h) Wild sunflowers i) Larkspur j) Bermuda grass k) Amaranth**
- d. Trees of any kind in plots.
- e. Plantings of any kind outside of plots including potted plants.
- f. Flowers/plants not for human consumption as a primary crop, e.g., gourds. However, marigolds, citronella, nasturtium and catnip are among the preferred flowering plants that will protect your skin and your vegetables from insects. **No plot may have more than one quarter planted with flowers.** Our primary mission is to grow "food for human consumption."

1.4 Plot Maintenance

- a. Wood boards/replacing boards are the gardener's responsibility. If you need help, please ask the Board.
- b. Water valves must be turned off properly to avoid leaks, first at faucet and then at valve site.
- c. Any water leaks need to be reported immediately to the Board.
- d. Hoop/coverings exceeding 4 feet in height above soil surface are not allowed by City of Dallas Code Compliance.
- e. Permanent improvements to plots will become the property of Dallas Is Gardening Inc. (LHCG)
- f. Board approved mechanical timers are allowed. Please submit a photo of the timer and plot number to the Board to become approved. Programmable timers are not allowed due to overwater issues.
- g. The surrounding areas of plot should be weeded, kept free of tools and general debris and maintained with wood chips on a continual basis.

1.5 Safety

- a. Every gardener is responsible for their actions in the garden and the actions of any guest. Every gardener is responsible for the supervision and safety of children, guests or pets. Dallas law requires dogs to be on a leash. Pets are not allowed in plots and cleaning up after dogs is the responsibility of the owner.
- b. The garden is a natural environment. Bee stings, insect bites and contact with poison ivy is possible.
- c. Proper shoes and clothing to avoid harm is encouraged for gardeners and guests.

Non-compliance, Notices and Relinquishment of Plots

2.1 Non-Compliance/Abandonment

- a. Abandonment is defined as:
No activity for a continuous four-week period
- b. Non-Compliance is defined as
Lack of adherence to above Responsibilities, Rules and Expectations including proper maintenance: watering, board maintenance, prohibited planting, & gardener conduct
- c. Plot surveys by the Board of Directors will be made quarterly

2.2 Notices/Action regarding non-compliance or abandonment

- a. First Notice – Email will be issued to registered plot holder identifying infraction. A response from gardener is required within 3 days.
- b. Second Notice – Email will be issued to registered plot holder. A response from gardener is required within 3 days unless notified of illness or need for extension.
- c. Third Notice/Relinquishing of plot – Formal letter will be emailed to plot holder. LHCG Board of Directors will vote at the next meeting to re-claim the plot for non-compliance or abandonment. No fee will be issued.
- d. A gardener who accumulates more than three non-compliance/abandonment situations during the year will be cause for non-renewal of plot rental for the next year.

2.3 Voluntary Relinquishment of Plots

- a. Plots may be voluntarily relinquished by holders at any time. The beginning of planting seasons is a good time for plot holders to decide whether changes in their lives require discontinuing gardening at LHCG. An early decision is thoughtful of persons on our Wait List who want to garden an available plot as soon as possible. Gardeners who voluntarily relinquish their plots may request a pro-rata refund on their plot and service fees, if their gardens are in good standing.

Dallas is Gardening, Inc. does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, disbursement of garden plots, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our garden, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors and clients.