**St. Bernard Community Garden Rules**

**START OF SEASON “PLANT BY” RULES**

**Growing season April 1-October 31**

**Planting deadline June 1**

Beds will be open for assignment as of March 1st of each year to any resident of St. Bernard on our website. Bed assignment is first come, first served (after payment). Applicants will be notified of their bed number by April 1st , and are able to start planting. Gardeners should have their assigned beds planted by June 1st deadline and keep it planted and weeded all summer long. If you decide not to plant your assigned bed you must inform a member of the board of the garden club. Beds that are unplanted by the planting deadline are assumed abandoned and will be forfeited without a refund and will be reassigned to the next person on the waiting list. If the kind of plants you are growing must be planted later, weed your bed as needed before then. You are responsible for your beds for the entire season. Keep it free of weeds and harvested through the entire season.

 **BED MAINTENANCE EXPECTATIONS**

Gardeners must maintain beds (including adjacent aisles) throughout the growing season. Gardeners who do not maintain their beds will not be eligible for a bed in the following year. You will keep weeds down and maintain the areas immediately surrounding your bed. If, for any reason (health, vacation, work pressure), you will be temporarily unable to maintain your bed, if you will be moving, taking an extended vacation, or otherwise will be unable to maintain your bed throughout the summer you must inform the board of the garden club. Abandoned beds can be reassigned mid-season. Unclaimed or neglected beds or if you abandon your garden for more than 3 weeks, without having given prior notice (i.e. of vacation, sickness, etc.) to the board the bed will be re-assigned to someone else.

There is a limit of 1 bed per household. Gardens in an uncared-for condition by July 4th will be cleared. They will be given to existing gardeners for fall planting only. They will be open for new gardeners in the following season. End of season garden cleanup must be accomplished by October 31st. At the end of the season, all dead plants and weeds should be removed, and deposited in composter. It is the responsibility of each gardener to follow Community Garden Rules and to take an active role in administering the gardens. All gardeners are required to participate in the maintenance of their garden section and the surrounding area. Gardeners understand that this is a community garden and in order for it to succeed gardener support is needed to maintain the site, manage compost, keep on top of equipment, deal with wildlife, help keep site picked up from debris, not just you own bed. Feel free to give notes on the bulletin board on the small water container for any useful hints and ideas. You are part of a community and will be expected to participate in garden activities and events like: clean-up days, and participate in the spring and fall cleanups of the garden.

**GARDENING RULES- One’s bed**

If you are not sure if something is allowed, please check with another gardener or ask a member of the board. Do not plant trees or shrubs. If it’s woody and perennial, it’s not allowed in your bed. Be respectful, tall crops (such as sunflowers and corn), structures, trees, etc… should be planted to not shade another garden. Large plants such as raspberries and corn must get the okay of a majority of gardeners at the monthly meeting.

 **WEEDS AND DISEASE**

 Gardeners agree to keep the garden free of weeds, diseased plants, insect-infested plants and over-ripe vegetables. As a community garden, please respect the surroundings and tend to your bed and help keep the area free of litter and weeds. Diseased and infected plants must be removed from the garden and disposed of properly, in the garbage container by the water container. Weeds, if removed from your bed, are to be added to the compost site. Keep your garden neatly weeded on a regular basis. Weeds may not become taller than 8 inches. Weeds are a major complaint of neighbors and other gardeners, and are the leading cause of bed forfeiture

**SOIL AMENDMENTS/REMEDIATION**

 Don’t bring in sand or gravel. These materials are difficult or impossible to remove later. You may use mulch with leaves, grass clippings, or hay to reduce water evaporation and unwanted weeds. All rocks should be removed from the garden area and piled in the area by the small water container. Wood chips will used in the public paths but not in the individual beds. Hay and straw are great mulches and may be used in the beds. Weed the path adjacent to your bed and add wood chips when necessary. Any plant that protrudes into the next bed or walk-way, may be trimmed or picked by the next bed owner. Keep interior walkways in beds free from vegetation that prevents adjacent gardeners from accessing their bed. Gardening activity and plant growth must be restricted to the gardener’s bed. This includes plants overhanging from your bed. The assigned garden lots have been established with access paths between them to provide access for all gardeners. Gardeners should respect each other’s beds. Do not place opaque structures where they will shade a neighboring bed.

 **Watering**

 Gardeners need to be diligent in shutting the water off after their use and the water containers must be shut off if you are the last one using it. The red handle must be in the off position when finished using the smaller container so we don’t lose it! The smaller rain barrels MUST be left in the off position, even if they are empty. We cannot collect rain water if faucet is left on. Gardeners must report all leaks. Gardeners will not make any permanent changes to the garden, such as adding an underground watering system or drastically changing the structure without permission from the St Bernard Garden Club. Both the access and perimeter paths must be free of garden materials and debris so as not to create a hazard nor to impede their maintenance.

 **Compost and Trash.**

 Each gardener is responsible for trash removal. Compost makes excellent mulch; the use of plastic and other non-porous materials for ground cover is prohibited. You must take responsibility for removing all refuse that is not composted. Compost and rubbish must be put in the compost bins or trash can and not left in a heap that someone else will have to clean up. Gardeners agree to keep the garden area trash-free during the growing season. There are designated trash bins and recycling collection bins for disposal of materials found & used in the garden. Trash cannot be brought from off-site. Plant material is not allowed in the trash bins unless it is diseased or infested & there is known risk of contaminating the compost pile. Gardeners are expected to put weeds on compost pile. The use of the compost bin will be discussed at a gardener meeting-workday so we all understand the best way to make it useful.

 **Other Garden Beds**

 Stay out of other people’s beds unless specifically invited. Do not plant, weed, water or harvest from any other members bed, unless you have permission by that gardener. While you may view the success of other gardeners, refrain from stepping off the access paths and into other garden beds. Gardeners have their own methods of planting, which may be damaged in the process. No gardener can give permission to anyone to go into anyone else’s bed for any reason, only the gardener who that bed is assigned to can do that.

 **Property and Tools (and Equipment)**

 Take care of tools. When you are finished with your work, return tools to the shed and lock it. Help keep the shed building safe by keeping it free of clutter. Help clean up seemingly random piles and bags of materials around the garden. I understand that the garden tools are for everyone to use and will therefore clean and return them promptly after using them. No personal power tools may be left in the shed.

**Gardeners, Family, and Friends**

 Gardeners are reminded to use good personal safety practices when visiting the garden. In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners shall treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and visitors with respect and consideration. No stealing (harvesting from others’ beds without authorization), verbal or physical harassment is allowed. Violation of this rule will result in expulsion from the garden.

 **CHILDREN**

Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied and fully supervised by an adult. Teach young children to stay on paths. Parents are encouraged to bring children to the garden and introduce them to the wonders of gardening. Please monitor their behavior and whereabouts at all times.

**PETS OR OTHER ANIMALS**

Keep pets out of beds. Keep dogs leashed and under your control at all times; clean up after pets (city ordinance). Leashes and “pick-up” is required at all times. Under no circumstances should dogs be permitted into the gardening area proper because of potential disease from dog feces.

**Miscellaneous**

 The garden is under video surveillance both day and night. There is to be no driving on the property unless approved by the garden club for the common good of the garden. Remember the needy: excess produce can be picked up at the garden and delivered to those in need. You may also wish to deliver to your favorite charity. Keep the Garden Club advised of your current address and telephone number.

 Beds can only be used for production of food, flowers, and legal plants. Growing or using illegal substances in the garden will lead to immediate expulsion with no return of bed fee. Gardeners are expected to communicate with neighboring gardeners to work out weed issues and size of plant issues. Keep the garden attractive for neighboring residents and safe for all.

**WARNINGS AND PENALTIES**

 The Consequences. If you fail to follow any of the above guidelines, you will be contacted to give you a reasonable amount of time to correct the problem. If you do not respond, your bed will be considered abandoned. Plantings will be removed from abandoned beds and the gardener will not be eligible to return the following year. All gardeners are required to keep their beds as disease and weed-free as possible. If conditions do not improve, the garden will be forfeited. At that time, it will be reassigned or tilled in. Any rules to be added or eliminated later must be passed by the majority of the participating gardeners. Complaints, policies, and mediations are the responsibility of the community garden board of directors and having final authority.

**GARDENER’S LIABILITY**

 WAIVER Rules and decisions governing the garden site will be made by the members of the community garden club at meetings.

 I agree to abide by any decisions made by the group at its meetings. Leadership and committee heads are elected at meetings of the St Bernard Garden Club on an annual basis by simple majority vote of those attending. I read and agree to abide by the above garden rules and policies and understand that failure to abide by these rules will result in forfeiture of my gardening privileges. I understand that neither the garden group nor the Village of St. Bernard are responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE GARDEN CLUB AND THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS. I understand all these rules and regulations and promise to follow them in good conscience. I understand that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the garden group and owners of the land for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests.

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