



## **Howard Finn Community Garden Rules**

Thank you for your interest in joining the Howard Finn Community Garden! The Community Garden consists of 33 plots that are available for lease by households, communal and educational plots, shared fruit trees, and native plants. The garden is a shared space and so it is important that everyone agrees to these rules for how to maintain the garden and its shared areas as well as cultivate positive relationships between community members. Gardening here is a privilege and we expect you to respect the land, your fellow gardeners, and our neighbors. These garden rules will be reviewed every 12 months to ensure that they reflect the specific needs of the garden.

### **Garden Hours, Maintenance, and Tools**

- Gardeners may access the garden from sunrise to sundown daily, year-round. Gardeners are responsible for locking the gate behind them. Keys and combinations are strictly for personal use and must not be shared with others.
- Gardeners must tend their plot within 15 days of the plot being assigned. They must garden year-round.
- If gardeners are unable to tend the plot due to illness or traveling, they must arrange for someone else to tend the plot and notify the Garden Leadership Team.
- Gardeners must keep their plot, paths, and surrounding areas around their plot clean and free of trash, weeds, and debris. They must keep the plot free of weeds, pests, and diseases. Because of the communal nature of a community garden, this is necessary to control against invasions of the whole garden.
- Plot boundaries are clearly defined and plants must remain within the boundaries of each plot. Gardeners may not plant trees in their plots or any plants higher than 4 feet.
- Gardeners must not apply any pesticides, insecticides or herbicides in the garden without approval from the Garden Leadership team. Organic gardening promotes the health of our produce, soil, and fellow gardeners.
- Gardeners will not cultivate any plants that are illegal.
- Gardeners are responsible for taking any trash or recyclables that belong to them out of the garden.
- Tools must be returned to their proper location after use to keep the garden and tool sheds in a neat condition. Gardeners are responsible for locking the tool sheds. If a tool is missing, damaged or broken, inform a member of the Garden Leadership Team immediately. Gardeners may be held responsible for damaged or broken items or equipment and they may not be replaced if missing or broken.
- Please conserve water and use a trigger-operated nozzle on the hose as required by California law. Notify the Garden Leadership Team of any leaks. Maintain your raised bed to conserve water.
- Leave all hoses coiled near the water spigots.
- Gardeners are required to contribute a minimum of two volunteer hours each month to maintain the communal areas of the garden.

## **Plot Assignments and Gardener Meetings**

- Plots are assigned based on the date and time of receipt of the plot application. Only one plot will be assigned per household.
- The plot fee is \$150 per year, due at the annual renewal meeting each spring (April). The plot fee will be reassessed after 12 months to ensure that it covers the cost of the water bills and basic garden maintenance.
- The first payment of \$150 must accompany the application. Payment can be made by check or cash. A receipt will be issued for any payment made.
- Plots are assigned for a 12-month period. Renewal is not automatic and is based on gardeners' following the rules. After a plot has been renewed two times, it may be given to someone on the garden waitlist.
- Fees will not be refunded.
- If all plots have been assigned, an applicant will be placed on a waitlist. The Garden Leadership Team will maintain this waitlist.
- Gardeners are required to attend quarterly meetings in August, November, February and May.

## **Mutual Respect**

- Gardeners must not take food, plants or materials from other gardeners' plots.
- Gardeners must not water, weed or cultivate other gardeners' plots without express permission from that plot's main gardener.
- Gardeners must not use abusive or profane language or discriminate against others for any reason including but not limited to: age, race, religion, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation or ability.
- Gardeners' guests and visitors may enter the garden only if accompanied by the main gardener. Guests and visitors must follow all rules, terms, and conditions stated here.
- All children under 18 years must be supervised by a responsible adult.
- Alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are prohibited in the garden. Anyone found to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will forfeit his or her gardening rights.
- Appropriate gardening clothing shall be worn at all times (no bathing suits or states of undress).
- Possession of dangerous chemicals, harmful substances, and firearms is prohibited at all times.
- Pets are not allowed in the garden.
- Community events may only be held in the garden with the permission of the Garden Leadership Team.
- Headphones must be used if playing music in the garden, except for at a community event with the permission of the Garden Leadership Team.
- Gardeners may not collect money or organize raffles without the permission of the Garden Leadership Team.

## **Safety**

- Please report any accidents or vandalism promptly to a member of the Garden Leadership Team.
- In case of fire or other emergency please call 911.
- For city services call 3-1-1

## **Consequences for Violating the Garden Rules**

- Gardeners may be asked to leave the garden for violating the stated rules, neglecting to maintain their plot, or harassment, discrimination, physical or verbal abuse of any party affiliated with the garden
- Removal from the garden will follow:
  - For the first incident, a documented verbal warning made in a one-on-one meeting
  - For the second incident, a written warning
  - In the event of a third incident, a gardener will be asked to leave the garden
- Upon dismissal, dues will not be returned. You may take plants from the plot and it is expected it will be left as it was found.