

Gladstone Community Gardening Association

45 82nd Drive, Suite 51, Gladstone, OR 97027

Garden website: www.gladstonegarden.org

contact@gladstonegarden.org

971-335-9534

Rules and Responsibilities

The Gladstone Community Gardening Association (GCGA) is a nonprofit membership organization. General management of the GCGA is conducted by the Board of Directors, who are elected as provided in Article VI of the GCGA Bylaws. Board Directors may be contacted by email at contact@gladstonegarden.org.

Our gardens are to be managed as organically as possible to provide the healthiest food for your family. Garden lots are for personal and family (non-commercial) use. Selling your produce is prohibited by the Gladstone Community Gardening Association (GCGA) Bylaws. Sharing with friends, relatives, or donations to a non-profit food bank is encouraged.

The Rules and Responsibilities below define the ethics and courtesies that must be observed by all members and their guests for the benefit of everyone. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary measures up to and including loss of membership in accordance with the provisions of Article XI Section 3 of the Association Bylaws and these Rules and Responsibilities

A. Allocation of Lots and Requirements of Membership

1. You must be 21 years of age to apply for a garden lot.
2. Each Member Household may lease one full or one half lot per growing season. ("Household" means the family or residents of an individual street address.) However, Members who had leased more than one lot prior to the 2026 growing season may continue to lease those lots in following years. If elected as a board member, a member will be eligible for a second lot (if available). Payment and deposit will be required for a second lot, and board member must serve on Board as officer or member at large for two (2) consecutive years. If Board member serves only one year, they will no longer eligible for a second lot.
3. Keep your garden member ID card with you and know your lot number(s) and nearest gate number. Do not loan, share, or copy your ID card.
4. Each member will provide their own tools, supplies, seeds, etc.
5. The majority of your lot(s) will be under cultivation starting no later than June 1.
6. Each lot must be planted and watered so that it produces a crop that will be harvested. Regular attention and cultivation must be evident.

7. Lots are to be kept in a tidy condition.
8. If you are not planning on growing fall/winter crops, your lot(s) should be cleaned up by October 31st.
9. If you decide to give up a lot or leave the garden, you must clean it up and leave it in a state you would enjoy taking over if you were new to the garden.
10. There is zero tolerance for unauthorized harvest of another member's crops by you or your guests.
11. Children must be under supervision at all times.
12. Destruction of another gardener's plants or structures is prohibited.
13. You may not sublet your lot or part of a lot to another person who is not a member.
14. You may take on a partner, but you are fully responsible for the lot. If you take on a partner for your lot, you must specify the partner as an additional gardener when applying for your lot online. If you add a partner after securing your lot, you must inform the GCGA Board of Directors by phone, text, or email, providing the partner's name and contact information.
15. The City of Gladstone owns our garden land and we lease it from them, so we must follow their rules. The City Park Rules are posted inside the park boundaries. They will be enforced by the City and the GCGA Board of Directors.
16. Parking along Dahl Park Road or anywhere inside the park except inside the garden via the inner roadway requires a daily pass or annual parking placard. It is recommended that you obtain an annual placard from the city of Gladstone. Gladstone residents may obtain an annual pass at no cost at the Gladstone City Hall. Nonresidents may purchase an annual placard for \$40.00. Details can be found on the garden website or by calling the city at 503-557-2771.
17. Smoking, vaping, and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the garden or surrounding parkland is strictly forbidden and will result in immediate loss of membership and forfeiture of your lot and dues and any produce.
18. Marijuana is not to be grown in the garden. If found, it will be removed and you will forfeit your membership.
19. The garden is open daily from one hour before sunrise through one hour after sunset. Spending the night and/or camping in the garden is strictly forbidden.
20. Feeding any wildlife in the garden (geese, squirrels, etc.) is prohibited. We don't need to encourage them!

B. General Responsibilities

1. This is an organic garden. Herbicides and pesticides such as Roundup and Sevan, are not allowed.
2. Non organic fertilizers and other soil amendments are not allowed. Natural, non-chemical organic products such as neem oil may be used to control insects and diseases.
3. All compost materials must be contained in dedicated bins (plastic, wire mesh, or other approved semi-enclosed structures) inside your lot— not loose piles on paths, to prevent pathway obstruction, grass damage, and safety hazards. Use of the community compost pile is recommended. Keep all compost piles neat.
4. Mulching with plastic or landscape fabric is not allowed.

5. Courtesy and respect for each gardener's style makes the garden a pleasant and better place. You can learn a lot from others' methods too. Share your knowledge with other gardeners. Each of us has special knowledge and talents that can help others.
6. While disagreements may happen, solve them quietly and politely or ask a Board Member to help resolve the issue.
7. Alert the Board and other gardeners to problems such as theft, disease, or pest outbreaks. Our gardens are very close to each other and problems can spread quickly without prompt action. Ask for help solving these issues; we have some very knowledgeable gardeners who are willing to assist you.
8. If you do ask for help from another member in tilling, trimming, or any other labor, please offer to compensate them appropriately.
9. If you have someone caring for your garden in your absence, provide them with written permission and inform a Board Member so they won't be asked to leave.
10. You are fully responsible for family, friends, and guests while at the garden.
11. Pipe repairs, if caused by a gardener's actions or negligence, shall be paid for by the gardener in materials and time spent for repair. Your assistance in the repair can be helpful and is encouraged.
12. When unlocking the gate to enter, roll all four dials so the combination does not show, then hang the lock in the locking hole. Be sure you lock the gate when you leave, and roll all four dials.
13. Disconnect hoses from spigots when not actively watering. Do not leave hoses in pathways.
14. Use of timers for watering is prohibited.
15. Watch your email and check the garden website and information kiosk for announcements including work party dates, special project work dates, and alerts about disease or pest occurrences with methods of control.

C. Community Work Hours

1. Each gardener is required to perform community garden work per assigned lot(s). Half lots require two (2) hours of community work during the growing season. Each full lot requires four (4) hours of community work during the growing season. One half of the work hours required per lot should be completed by June 30. In order to maintain membership status for the following year, all work hours must be completed by October 31 of the current year.
2. Work hours are completed through scheduled work parties, through board member assignments, or by following instruction posted on the garden website or kiosk. *Work hours completed on your own, outside of work parties, need to be reported by email or text (contact@gladstonegarden.org 971-335-9534. You are responsible for reporting your work hours as noted above.*
3. Any work performed in your assigned lot does not count towards work hour completion.

4. If you are not able to complete your community work hours due to extenuating circumstances, you must contact the Board of Directors (call, text or email) who may, *upon approval*, allow gardeners to make a contribution to the garden's equipment fund of \$25 per work hour owed. This will be on a case-by-case basis and only acceptable upon the approval of the Board of Directors.
5. Opportunities for work hours and volunteer service include, but are not limited to:
 - Garden work parties, which are scheduled every few weeks throughout the season, to mow/trim pathways, parking areas and along Dahl Beach Road fence line; maintain compost piles; clean up vacant lots; clear plants from the fence; and other projects as needed.
 - Equipment upkeep and maintenance.
 - Maintenance committee: We need a few volunteers for pathway repair/realignment, plumbing repairs/maintenance, work party coordinators, and special projects.
 - Delivering produce donations to food banks, from the garden collection sites.
 - Translation assistance.

D. Prohibited Crops, Materials, and Structures

1. The following crops are prohibited in the garden:
 - a. Banana
 - b. Horseradish
 - c. Fruit trees
 - d. Marijuana
 - e. Rose bushes (those planted prior to 2021 are exempt)
 - f. Field corn and other corn varieties not intended for human consumption
 - g. Any crop more than Six (6) feet tall
2. The following structures are prohibited in the garden:
 - a. Fencing exceeding Six (6) feet tall
 - b. Fencing other than plastic mesh
 - c. Fencing in colors other than neutral, green, or earth tones
 - d. Any fencing remaining between November 1 and March 1
 - e. Poles or other structural items set in concrete
 - f. Stones, boulders, and concrete slabs
 - g. Raised beds not in compliance with GCGA specifications

E. Dogs and Pets Policy

Bringing your dog or other pet into the garden is discouraged. Many gardeners who otherwise like dogs find dogs to be a distraction or a nuisance while gardening. Even well-behaved dogs may present a danger to others when they encounter rabbits, squirrels, geese and other wildlife (or other dogs) in the area. Dog waste is a serious concern when growing healthy crops.

Garden policy relating to dogs in the garden is based on the Gladstone Municipal Code (Title 6 – Dogs 6.04. Members bringing dogs into our garden must abide by the following requirements:

1. *Leash Law:* Dogs must be on a leash not more than Eight (8) feet long and kept away from another gardener's lot.
2. *License:* Dogs must be licensed and have rabies vaccination.
3. *Responsibility:* Dog owners must control their dogs at all times and dispose of their waste off site.
4. Failure to observe this dog policy is a serious violation of our Rules and Responsibilities.
5. If your dog bites another member or guest, it will be cause for immediate eviction from the garden and will be reported to the City of Gladstone and the Clackamas County enforcement agency.

F. Violations & Infractions of these Rules and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Association to maintain and enforce order in the garden on behalf of the City of Gladstone in accordance with the Association Bylaws. Members of the Board of Directors frequently tour the garden to ensure these Rules and Responsibilities are complied with by members.

Any member who witnesses what he/she deems to be an infraction or violation of these Rules and Responsibilities is encouraged to report them to a member of the Board in person, by phone, or by email. Such reported infractions and violations will be investigated by the Board and addressed in accordance with the Bylaws and these Rules and Responsibilities.

1. **Infractions.** Infractions are considered to be minor violations of these Rules and Responsibilities. When infractions are discovered, the offending Primary Member will be notified verbally and in writing of the infraction with the demand that the infraction cease or be corrected within Five (5) days. Any Member receiving Three (3) such notices in a growing season may, at the discretion of a majority of the Board of Directors, be expelled from the garden and forfeit his/her dues and any crops that remain more than Five (5) days after such third notice. At a minimum, such Member will not be allowed to renew membership for the following growing season.

The following actions and non-actions are Infractions of the Rules and Responsibilities:

- a. Use of herbicides and pesticides
- b. Mulching with plastic or landscape cloth
- c. Failure to begin cultivating a lot by June 1

- d. Failure to maintain a tidy lot
- e. Extending your lot into the pathways or allowing plants to intrude into pathways
- f. Cultivating a prohibited crop as defined in Section D(1) of these Rules
- g. Placing prohibited materials or structures in the garden
- h. Unauthorized harvesting of another member's crop
- i. Unsupervised children roaming in the garden
- j. Failure to control your dog and/or allowing a dog to be present in the garden unleashed
- k. Intentional feeding of wildlife
- l. Removing soil from the garden
- m. Use of irrigation timers
- n. Failure to disconnect hoses from spigots when not actively watering
- o. Leaving any tools, hoses, or other items in the pathways

2. Violations. Violations are serious offenses that imperil the safety of the garden property and its members and/or break City of Gladstone Park Rules. When a Violation has been discovered, the Primary Member committing such Violation shall be immediately suspended from the garden and, following the procedures set forth in Article XI, Section 3 of the Association Bylaws, may be permanently removed from the Garden.

The following actions are Violations of the Rules and Responsibilities:

- a. Destruction or theft of another gardener's plants or structures
- b. Subletting your lot or a part of your lot
- c. Smoking, vaping, consumption of alcohol
- d. Growing marijuana
- e. Harassment of a garden member or guest

G. Manage Your Garden Responsibly: Clarifications to the Rules and Responsibilities and Additional Guidance

1. Managing your Garden Lot

- a. The majority of your lot(s) will be under cultivation starting no later than June 1. Each lot must be planted and watered so that it produces a crop that will be harvested. Regular attention and cultivation must be evident.
- b. Storage of gardening materials must be neat and orderly.
- c. Various crops are not allowed in the garden because they can be invasive, noxious, illegal and harmful:

- i. banana, fruit trees,
 - ii. rose bushes planted after 2020,
 - iii. horseradish,
 - iv. Marijuana,
 - v. corn.
- d. The only corn allowed in the garden is sweet corn intended for human consumption. Corn cross-pollination is a significant concern because it can ruin the quality of sweet corn. Corn is wind-pollinated, which means that wind creates cross-pollination with other varieties of corn that is grown in our community garden.
- e. Please - no tall plants that shade a neighboring garden or large shrubs.

2. Garden Maintenance

- a. Your lot must be well maintained. If your lot becomes overgrown with weeds, you will be contacted by a Board member and be expected to clean it up within Five (5) days.
- b. Control weeds by pulling, hoeing, tilling and using approved mulch material such as straw, woodchips, and cover crop.
- c. Remove invasive weeds such as bindweed, horsetail, wild onions, celandine, etc. Plain, non-waxed cardboard, without tape, is allowed.
- d. Cover cardboard with mulch, straw, or leaves so it is not exposed and cannot blow away from your lot.
- e. Maintain good soil structure and carbon content with periodic soil renewal of organic materials such as compost or other plant or leaf materials. Cover cropping is also a means of building soil organic matter and fertility.
- f. If your garden soil has sunk well below the pathway level, it is a sign you need to add organic matter.
- g. The garden does not provide tilling services. A list of members providing tilling service is posted on the member section of the garden website.

3. Pathways & Lot Boundaries

- a. Keep bushes and vines tied back from the pathways for ease of passage.
- b. East-West pathways must be kept at least Fifty (50) inches wide.
- c. North-South pathways are Fifty (50) inches wide.
- d. Do not plant crops on the very edge of your lot. Everything grows and expands, which makes it difficult to mow and maintain the pathways.
- e. Do not extend your garden into the pathways. If you are unsure of lot lines, please ask a Board Member for help.

4. Structures

- a. Trellising for cane berries and grapes is permitted so long as the structure does not exceed Six (6) feet.
- b. Temporary plastic fencing is allowed but green, neutral, or earth tones only. (No orange.)
- c. Large plastic landscape covers, tall walls, and permanent structures are not permitted.

- d. Tents and canopies are not allowed. They can blow away or shade a neighboring garden.
- e. Do not use cement to set posts; these can cause walking, tilling, or mowing hazards.
- f. Do not use or bring stones, bricks, pavers, gravel, or any rock material into the garden.
- g. Temporary small cold frames for seedlings and temporary shade cloths are permitted for delicate plants getting started.

5. Raised Beds

Raised beds must be approved by the Board of Directors and constructed in accordance with specifications and rules posted on the garden website.

6. Water

- a. Water is provided by a well operated by the City of Gladstone. Please use water wisely; it is for watering garden lots only and may not be suitable for human consumption.
- b. Hand watering, low level sprinklers, soaker hoses, and trenches are recommended.
- c. You need to be present at the garden and responsible for your water when it is on.
- d. Automatic water timers are not permitted.
- e. Leaving faucets and hoses open and unattended, overnight or anytime you are not present at the garden, is strictly forbidden.
- f. Disconnect hoses from spigots when not in use.

7. Compost, Non-Plant Waste and Garbage

- a. Garden plant materials may be disposed of in the compost piles.
- b. Compose areas are for discarding garden plant materials ONLY. Do not discard stakes, twine or other binders, discarded gloves, plastic pots, or other non-plant materials in the compost piles.
- c. Do not bring home compost to the compost piles. You may bring compost from home for use in your own lot.
- d. Gardeners are responsible for their own refuse. Neither the City nor the GCGA provides waste disposal for non-plant materials.
- e. All non-plant materials must be disposed of by gardeners at their home, or a waste disposal site. This includes wooden stakes, cardboard, wire, burlap, compost/soil packaging, plastic tags, gloves, etc.
- f. Materials are not allowed to be taken away from the compost piles for personal garden use. The compost pile is a potential vector for plant pathogens, pest insects, and weed seeds. Use of materials from these piles risks spreading these issues to your garden as well as others.

H. Promote a Friendly, Peaceful, and Welcoming Community

Ours is the oldest and largest community garden in the Portland area and perhaps one of the largest in the United States. With more than 110 members, there are many different gardening styles and crops present, and many different

ethnic groups. Celebrate the diversity of our members and their passion for gardening.

- Get to know your neighboring gardeners and openly share your methods and styles. We have members who have been gardening here for more than 20 years. Their local and planting knowledge can be valuable to you!
- Become familiar with the garden website at www.gladstonegarden.org. Be sure you know how to access the Members Only pages of the site, where you can find member documents and answers to common questions.
- Add your photo and a brief introduction for others on your profile page; join or create groups and discussions.
- A garden map, showing lot assignments by last names, is available in the Member's Only pages of the garden website. Download and print this map to learn the names of your neighbors. You can learn more about them in the Member Directory on the garden website.
- Knowing your neighbors may help you recognize when non-members have entered the garden. Ours is a private, fenced garden, so unauthorized "visitors" should be identified and asked to leave. Report any incidents of unauthorized access to a member of the Board of Directors, or call or text the numbers listed on your garden ID card, or use the Contact link at the top of the home page of the website.
- With so many members, both new and old, and with lots close to each other, there are bound to be disagreements from time to time. Be careful to listen to your neighbors and settle any disagreements amicably.
- Plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on the first Tuesday in March. Your voice matters!
- Take time to stroll around the garden and see what your fellow gardeners are growing and perhaps gain new ideas and techniques.
- Periodically visit the garden kiosk inside the garden near the shed. Notices of work parties and other news is posted there, as is a map of the garden lots. While there, enjoy the community picnic table!
- A share table near the kiosk may often have excess seeds, starts, or produce free for the taking. You are encouraged to bring any of these items to the table to share with others.
- Visit the insectary where you'll find dozens of native pollinator-friendly plants. The insectary is along the inner drive and on the hillside where the inner drive curves.