

**SAMPLE COMMUNITY GARDEN CONTRACT**  
**Rules, Terms, and Conditions for Participation**

**May 2013**

The following sample community garden contract is provided to assist community garden organizations with developing guidelines and rules that will encourage gardener behaviors which are desirable for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the community garden. Some may be more relevant to vegetable gardens than to community flower gardens or demonstration gardens. Garden organizations are encouraged to develop their own contract, guidelines and rules

**Introduction**

---

The (Organization Name) is the governing authority at the (Garden Name) Community Garden located in (Park Name).

Non-compliance with the rules, terms, and conditions is cause for exclusion from the garden and loss of your plot.

1. You will receive one verbal warning from the garden coordinator.
2. If no response or correction has been made, you will receive written notice two weeks later.
3. In another two weeks, if no response or correction has been made, you will receive written final notification that you have forfeited your gardening privileges and plot.
4. You will be allowed to reapply for another garden plot only after one year, and only at the discretion of the garden coordinator.

**Rules, Terms, and Conditions for Participation**

---

As a member of the (Garden Name) I agree to abide by the following rules, terms, and conditions:

1. I use this garden at the sole discretion of (Garden Name) Community Garden. I agree to abide by its policies and practices.
2. The fee for the use of the garden is (\$00.00) per plot, per year (January 1 – December 31), due on or before (January 1). Fee for half a year after (beginning July 1 or later) is (\$00.00). There are no refunds.
3. Once I have been assigned a plot, I will cultivate and plant it within two weeks. I will garden year round. My plot cannot be left fallow or unused for any period of three weeks or longer, more than one time a year.
4. My plot is number (insert plot number) and is (00 x 00) feet. I will not expand my plot beyond this measurement or into paths or other plots. I will keep all my plants within the limits of my garden plot and will not allow any plants to grow more than six feet high. I must keep my plot free of weeds, pests and diseases.
5. I will keep my plot, paths, and surrounding areas clean and neat. I will completely separate my trash into three groups: 1) dead plants, leaves, and other green waste plant parts; 2) rocks, stones, and inorganic materials; and 3) paper, plastic, cardboard, wood, metal, and other recyclables. I will put each type of trash only in the areas designated specifically for

## Sample Community Garden Contract

Page 2 of 2

- each. Anything I bring from my home I will take back home. I will not bring household trash and leave it at the (Garden Name) Community Garden.
6. If I must abandon my plot for any reason, I will notify the garden coordinator.
  7. I will not plant any illegal plant. I will not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, use illegal drugs, or gamble in the garden. I will not come to the garden while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. I will not bring weapons or pets or other animals to the garden.
  8. Guests and visitors, including children, may enter the garden only if I accompany them. They must follow all rules, terms, and conditions stated here. I will supervise my children at all times when they are in the garden. I am solely responsible for the behavior of my guests.
  9. The garden coordinator will assign me general garden maintenance, education and outreach tasks each month, and I must complete them by the end of the month that I am assigned them.
  10. I will water my plot according to water-wise guidelines.
  11. I will attend the regular garden organization meetings. If workshops are offered, I will attend at least one on each of the following topics: soil preparation and maintenance, watering the vegetable garden, and pest and disease control.
  12. I will not apply any pesticides in the garden.
  13. I will not make duplicate keys of any locks at the garden or give my key or lock combination to another person.
  14. I will not take food or plants from other gardeners' plots. I will not take anything from the garden that is not rightfully mine.
  15. I will respect other gardeners, and I will not use abusive or profane language or discriminate against others.
  16. I will work to keep the garden a secure and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.

### Commitment

---

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for the participation in the (Garden Name) Community Garden.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gardener

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Garden Manager