

Hopes Harvest Community Garden

Central Christian Church

1651 E. Campbell Road, Richardson, 75082

Mission Statement

To be an outreach to the community such that they have an opportunity to fellowship and share while learning about and experiencing the rewards of gardening.

Information Emails

Emails regarding various topics are emailed out at various times through the year. Please make sure to read all emails that you receive from the gardens. The email address that you should receive them from is: garden@centralrichardson.com. Please make sure this email does not go to your junk or spam folder. If you would like to receive text messages re a new email, please let me know.

Garden Waitlist/Distribution of Available Beds

When we have more applicants than beds, each existing gardener can choose one (1) new bed to add to their existing beds and each new applicant will get the option of one (1) bed. The distribution of beds will be processed in date order in which the gardeners/new applicants were placed on the waitlist. If we have more beds than gardeners/new applicants then each gardener/new applicant can choose more than one (1) bed as long as the waitlist is cleared and there are available beds. Again, this will be in the order in which the gardeners/new applicants are placed on the waitlist.

Bed Size and Costs

1. Each bed is 4' x 12' and height varies from 6" up to 24".
2. The cost for 1 bed is \$40/12 months. The 12 months run with the calendar year
3. The cost covers the use of water, fire ant suppressant, soil, compost, mulch, frame maintenance, and bench maintenance.
4. Cost will be prorated based on application date.

General Rules

1. Act in a manner considerate of the rights, needs, and safety of other gardeners and the community at large and with courtesy toward others.
2. Respect the Church property.
3. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener.
4. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and leaving the plot in a neat and weed free condition. The same goes for the adjacent paths.

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5. Be considerate of your neighbors. Do not plant sprawling crops or tall ones that might interfere with others. Harvest only from your assigned plot.
6. No stealing of anything is permitted. Should it become known that you have taken anything: vegetables, tools, hoses, plants or anything else, you will lose your plot immediately with no refund. Harvesting of crops from other garden plots without the consent of the lessee of the plot is strictly prohibited.
7. No fruit trees are permitted.
8. No illegal or invasive plants may be planted.
9. Please notify the Garden Coordinator if you are “giving up” your plot due to changes in life, such as moving, changes in work condition, etc., before the end of your “lease”. This way the plot can be cared for and potentially used by others.

Watering – This section will be updated as best practice water efficiency rules become available

1. Please conserve the use of water. Please use organic mulch such as bark mulches on top of your beds to reduce water evaporation. Mulch is provided for your use.
2. Each garden has its own spigot. Timers and soaker hoses may be used in each bed. Please set your timers to a maximum of 30 minutes per day and please check to make sure that after watering, that water is not running off the bed and into the paths. You only want to water to a max depth of 6 inches. If a major rain event occurs, please turn off all timers until such time that water is needed again. At a minimum of once per week, please check to make sure that your soaker hoses have not broken and water is being wasted.
3. If using a sprinkler, please do not set it to water outside your bed frame. That said please be mindful of time of day when watering with a sprinkler so as to avoid any unnecessary evaporation. Again, you only need to water 6 inches deep. At a minimum of once per week, please check to make sure that your hose/sprinkler has not broken and water is being wasted.
4. Gardeners should promptly notify the Garden Coordinator if they suspect that the water system has a broken pipe or leak.
5. Make sure all faucets not connected to timers are off when you leave the garden.
6. Keep hoses neatly rolled up either in your bed or on your hose hanger and out of the adjacent paths. Soaker hoses do not have to be rolled up but must remain within the bed frame
7. When temperatures are forecasted to get down in the 30's, the water will be turned off at the main valve.
8. In the event of a break in the water system, the Church will make water available by hose from the Church building during that period.
9. The Garden Coordinator will be working with a watering specialist to develop a plan for how best to water the gardens. Once that plan is developed, it will be distributed to the gardeners via email and will be incorporated into the garden rules.

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Plot Care

1. All plots will be inspected on the first Sunday of each month for compliance. Plots that are weedy, or do not meet the general guidelines, will result in notification to the Gardener that their plot is in need of attention. Failure to respond within 14 days will result in forfeiture of the plot without refund.
2. Crops should be harvested once they are mature. If you do not feel you can use all of the produce, there are many food banks and senior citizens who could use extra vegetables. Or at a minimum offer to your gardening neighbors.
3. Garden plots should be cared for at least once a week. It is the Gardener's responsibility to notify the coordinator if he or she is not able to care for the plot in any given week or will be out of town for an extended period of time. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to water and care for their plots.
4. **Maintain your half of the path around your plot regularly.** Paths should be kept free of weeds, grass, and all obstacles, including encroaching or overhanging plants that obstruct the walk way between boxes (e.g., cucumbers, squash, berry bushes). Please be respectful of the other gardeners and don't let your plants or weeds creep into the aisles or into your neighbor's plot.
5. Weed eaters are not allowed for cleaning either your bed or your half of the paths around your bed. When weed eaters are used, they spread "weed particles" around the area and tend to produce more weeds. If you are not able to pull the weeds in or around your plot, you may wish to hire somebody to do that for you. Matthew Knochenmus, who has worked in the gardens previously, is available for hire for \$10/hour. If you wish to hire Matthew, please let the garden coordinator know so we can arrange for the work to be completed asap. A form to request Matthew's assistance is attached for your use. If you choose to hire Matthew, you will need to fill out the form and remit payment to the Church office. The Church will pay Matthew.
6. The Garden Coordinator reserves the right to remove materials obstructing any public path at any time.
7. There are soil, compost, and mulch piles located near the south end of the garden. Soil is located on the east end between the gravel and the mulch. Mulch is located between soil and compost. Compost is located on the west end of the garden materials area.
8. Box or bag any trash from your plot and place it in the Church dumpster. If the dumpster is full then please place weed material in the parking space to the right of the dumpster leaving a 2-foot clearance between the weed pile and the concrete curbs.
9. There are no toilet facilities available if the Church is locked.
10. All gardening supplies, including tools, hoses, sprinklers, seeds, starter plants, and fertilizers are the responsibility of the Gardener.
11. The garden area is open dawn until dusk, seven days a week. Please be sensitive to any Church services that may be in session, i.e., Sunday morning services, weddings, funerals, etc.
12. Please park only in the marked Church parking areas. Do not use motorized vehicles in the garden area.

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13. Do not shoot at wildlife in the garden area or surrounding land.
14. Gardeners who care for vacant beds can earn one (1) month credit towards rent of your plots for each month you keep the vacant plot clean or lightly planted. For example, if you care for two (2) vacant beds for six (6) months each then you will be comped rent for one (1) year for one (1) of your beds. Gardeners will need to tell the Garden Coordinator when they “adopt” a vacant plot.

Fire Ants and Chiggers

1. Fire ant bait is being distributed in the garden paths and around the exterior of the garden as needed to control fire ant mounds. If you would like to have some, please contact either me or Ms. Sample.
2. The Garden Coordinator will also be purchasing “Come and Get It!” granules, orange oil, and dried/liquid molasses for use in the actual garden beds to help control the fire ants. Again, please contact either me or Ms. Sample to obtain these products for your use.
3. The Garden Coordinator will also be purchasing garden sulfur to use in and around the gardens to control chiggers. I have likewise asked for basically a scalping of the areas around the garden. Hopefully use of the sulfur along with the lack of vegetation around the edge of the garden will reduce or eliminate the chigger issue.

Dogs and Children

1. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times so they don't disturb other plots or injure themselves.
2. Keep dogs leashed and under your control at all times, and always clean up after them. Please do not allow dogs within any actual garden plot.

Restrictions

1. The application of herbicides (weed killers) and black plastic mulches is prohibited.
2. If a solid surface weed block/killer is to be placed in a bed, please use compostable materials that can be covered with soil or compost, such as newspaper, cardboard, or weed block. Please cover these surfaces as soon as they are placed. Please do not use old rugs or other items that may increase the rodent problem.
3. The Garden Coordinator recommends that spraying chemicals be used as a last resort. If an insect infestation or fungal problem arises and treating becomes necessary, please consider Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, using non-chemical methods first. Never spray any product on a windy day! Also please notify the Garden Coordinator and the other gardeners if you will be applying chemicals to your beds.

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Your compliance with the above regulations will help everyone have an enjoyable and prosperous garden. Failure to comply with above regulations during the season, may result in a loss of future gardening privileges. Any conflicts among gardeners will be referred by the Garden Coordinator to the Facility Manager of the Church.

I understand all these rules and regulations and promise to follow them.

Date: _____

Signature of the Gardener: _____

Printed Name of the Gardener: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Email Contact for the Gardening Coordinator: garden@centralrichardson.com

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Work Request Form

To be filled out by gardener:

Date: _____

Gardener Name: _____

Bed Number(s): _____

Type of Work Requested:

Hours of Work Requested: _____

Amount Owed: \$10 per hour

Amount Paid Cash: \$ _____

Amount Paid Check: \$ _____

Check #: _____

To be filled out by Matthew Knochenmus:

Date work started: _____

Date work completed: _____