

YEAR _____ Return Gardener? YES NO

Crawfordsville **Community Garden** Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Note: New Gardeners are limited to 1 Plot their first year

Amount Paid _____ Cash or Check # _____ Plot(s) requested _____

Suggestions or Projects you would like to help with _____



Terms of Agreement

- ❖ I have read the Community Garden Info & Rules and agree to abide by them.
- ❖ I agree to pay **\$30** for each assigned garden plot. Payment is due with application. If I take an additional plot that someone forfeits, I agree to pay the agreed upon fee for that plot before starting to work in it.
- ❖ I agree to keep my plot maintained throughout the season (May – October).
- ❖ I understand that the community garden is maintained by its gardeners. I commit to provide at least 3 hours of work during the season. Options include group work days, servicing common areas, charitable food donation plots, etc. Work days & a regular maintenance list will be posted.
- ❖ I understand that if I maintain my plot throughout the season, \$10 of my fee will be returned in November. You may also choose to donate a refund back to the Garden.
- ❖ I understand that neither the land owners, Sustainable Initiatives, fellow gardeners or the Steering Committee are responsible for my actions. I AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE LAND OWNERS AND SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS.

Name (Print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Make checks out to: Sustainable Initiatives, Inc.
Mail this page with payment to: **1304 West Wabash Ave, Crawfordsville, IN 47933**
Questions? Contact Info on Garden Rules Page 2

For Steering Committee Use

Plot Assigned _____

Remarks _____

On Waiting List

*** RETURN GARDENER APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 20 (TO KEEP SAME PLOTS) ***

Check out photos of the Community Garden at www.sustainmc.org

**** Keep Garden Info & Rules for your records ****

Community Garden Info & Rules – Page 1

1. Gardeners may begin working in their plots after 1) application with full payment is received 2) the gardener has received a confirmation of their plot assignment 3) the soil is ready.
2. The Garden Season is “officially open” after the last freeze and the soil has been tilled. This is usually in early May as weather permits. There is no fixed calendar date as tilling is subject to weather conditions. Gardeners will be notified when the garden is ready for planting.
3. Plots will be assigned on first come/first serve basis with a preference allowed for return gardeners in good standing. A waiting list is maintained if the garden becomes full.
4. **Return gardeners: You must apply each year!** An email reminder will be sent to gardeners in good standing before the regular application season begins. If no application WITH payment is received by **MARCH 20** those plots will be made available to others.
5. If after submitting an application you decide to not use your plot, you must contact Sustainable Initiatives by **MAY 15** to receive a refund. **No refunds after this date.**
6. Annual flowers are welcome! Please do not plant perennial flowers, herbs, or vegetables, including: mint, catnip, Jerusalem artichoke, comfrey, raspberries, asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish, etc. If you have any questions about unacceptable plants, just ask.
7. Keep tall plants such as corn or sunflowers from shading your neighbor’s plants. Keep trailing vines out of neighboring plots. **Harvest produce in a timely manner.** Trading is always fun!
8. Regarding chemicals: No herbicides (weed killers) may be used by gardeners. Please use organic pesticides such as BT, Neem Oil or Insecticidal Soap. Be friendly to beneficial insects!
9. Biodegradable materials such as compost, manure, leaves, grass clippings and straw are encouraged in plots. Wood chips are for mulching the center aisle and outside perimeter only. Black plastic or fabric is okay as long as it is removed by the e/o the season.
10. Guests are very welcome in the community garden! Remind them to respect individual gardens. Children should be discouraged from roaming on the Smith’s property. No pets please.
11. Each gardener is responsible for maintaining one-half of the space between plots - **keep boundaries weeded.** Each gardener is responsible for laying wood chip mulch (provided free) to one-half of the main aisle in front of their plot & keeping that area weeded throughout the season.
12. **The Community Garden emphasizes “Community” – everyone is expected to help keep the garden successful and looking nice.** As such, gardeners commit to assist with **a few hours of maintenance** each season - Perimeter upkeep, general trimming, weeding/mulching common areas, donation plots and/or helping on Group Work Days. A maintenance list will be posted. We operate on the Honor System – trusting that everyone will help pitch in & do their share.
13. WATER: Use communal water tank in a conservative and considerate way. Do not attach extra hoses to spigot.

-OVER-



Community Garden Rules - Page 2

14. Please leave plot flag markers up throughout the garden season.
15. Don't pick produce from a neighbor's garden without permission - even if you think it's been neglected.
16. Generally **visit your plot at least once a week** during the season to keep it in good shape. You'll be surprised how quickly produce can ripen during peak times and how fast weeds can establish!
17. The **Garden Steering Committee** resolves issues and provides oversight.
18. The Steering Committee will periodically inspect plots for neglect. If your plot is becoming overgrown with weeds, you will receive **ONE** warning and a reasonable deadline to clean it up. If there is no evidence of a timely and conscientious response, the plot will be declared "inactive" and you will lose your partial refund and opportunity to return in future years. Any remaining produce will be donated to a local food pantry and the plot will be tilled.
19. If you are unable to care for your plot because of illness or other serious reason, contact the Garden Steering Committee as soon as possible. See below for contact info.
20. A gardener may be declined from returning the following year if:
 - The Steering Committee must **repeat warnings** in a season to clean up a plot, even if the gardener cleaned it on the first warning
 - There is established evidence of disregard for other garden rules
21. A refuse pile (The Heap) is set up for garden debris - use this designated area. Remove as much soil as possible from root material when pulling up plants. Don't throw garden stones over the fence as these may damage mower blades.
22. Return garden tools and carts to the storage area when you are finished. Tilt up wheelbarrows and carts to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Lock the Gate & Shed Door when you leave.
23. **Plots must be cleaned up by OCTOBER 31.** Any plot that is abandoned or not in compliance with clean-up expectations will result in loss of refund and the opportunity to return in future years. **Plots cleared earlier in the season should be revisited** to make sure that weeds have not re-established or you may lose your refund.
24. The Steering Committee will contact you in November. If you are a gardener in good standing, you'll receive a partial fee refund of \$10 and opportunity for first plot selection the following year.
25. Garden Rules are subject to change from year to year as we grow in the experience of how to make the Community Garden enjoyable and successful.

Let's work together to grow a Community Garden to be proud of!

Feel free to offer your suggestions and ideas.
Contact property owner Susan Smith or SI president Sue Lucas
Susan Smith – 225.8222
Sue Lucas – 376.6832
longview7@sbcglobal.net

Visit our website for more info on Sustainable Initiatives www.sustainmc.org