

Temple Terrace Community Garden Guidelines (Rev. A: 12/12/13)

Mission

The Temple Terrace Community Garden (TTCG) is a public space where members, friends, and family can come together to enjoy a safe, healthy, creative community of caring people. Gardening is fun, relaxing, and fulfilling.

Location

TTCG currently consists of three sites. Plot 1, located behind the Riverhills Elementary school (405 S. Riverhills Drive), is ready to be worked. This site consists of one large communal plot.

Plot 2, is also located in Riverhills Park. Plot 2 is located near the tennis courts, within easy walking distance of the Plot 1, and includes both individual and communal plots.

Plot 3 is located at Greco Middle School, and consists of individual and communal plots.

Benefits

TTCG began communal gardening in Plot 1 during January 2012. Individual garden sites are now available in Plot 2 and Plot 3, and new sections of the garden will be developed as groups of members sign up. Other benefits include community composting, classes on gardening, cooking, nutrition and more as requested by members, and celebrations, planting parties, harvest parties, and crop contests.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee (PC) is the elected governing body of the TTCG. The PC is responsible for all planning and governance decisions of the TTCG. More details of the PC organization can be found in the TTCG Bylaws. Please consult a member of the PC with any questions that arise.

Participation

The TTCG is a community project that welcomes everyone who is willing to participate. Thus, to ensure an atmosphere of cooperation and friendship in our garden, we ask everyone to come with an open mind and a willingness to accept all people. Full membership benefits will be extended to everyone regardless of race, color, religion, familial status, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or anything else.

Communal garden tools are provided for everyone's use. Please enjoy them and treat them with respect so that others may use them, as well. Please clean them thoroughly and return to the shed.

TTCG is eager to have children of all ages share in the community garden experience. However, we ask that parents supervise children under 15 years of age.

The TTCG is a very active organization, both in building and maintaining gardens, and in participating in community events. Please talk to a PC member if you would like to participate. We encourage members to participate in general garden maintenance and upkeep as well as special events such as seasonal openings and closings.

Membership Dues

The TTCG membership is \$25 per year, September through August. This provides you with a share in the harvest planted in the communal garden plots at all gardens. Plot rents are due September 1st.

Individual Plots

Individual sites will be allocated every September. Members are strongly encouraged to spend at least one season as a communal garden member before being allowed to become an Individual plot member.

Gardening Guidelines

The Temple Terrace Community Garden is committed to encouraging people to garden in socially and environmentally responsible ways. Diversity is encouraged. Please try to plant at least three species each season.

All plots are to be fully organic. In general, soil fertility is maintained by creating optimal conditions for soil biological activity through crop rotations and the maintenance of soil organic content. Judicious use of organic and natural mineral soil amendments may also be practiced. Application of organic fertilizer, pesticide, insecticide, herbicide and/or agricultural use chemicals shall be consistent with product label instructions and all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Integrated Pest Management and Organic Gardening are strongly encouraged. Processed mineral fertilizers may be acceptable for short-term use, ONLY with prior written permission.

Weed Control

Herbicides of any kind are prohibited in ALL plots, as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage desirable crops, drift into neighboring gardens, or persist in the soil. Hoeing, mulching, and hand weeding are acceptable alternatives.

Insect Control

Synthetic insecticides are prohibited in ALL Temple Terrace Community Garden plots. Acceptable pest control methods are crop rotation, hand picking of insect pests, introduction of predator species, companion planting, soil solarization, and biological controls (e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis*).

As a last resort, natural botanicals, like rotenone and pyrethrum (that break down quickly and do not leave harmful residues in the soil) may be used. Please consult with garden coordinators before using any biological or botanical items.

Disease Control

Most problems can be controlled maintaining healthy soil, selecting disease-resistant varieties, and removing diseased plants from the garden. Please consult with the Planning Committee if you are having any issues with diseases in your site.

Fertilizers and Soil Amendments

Commercial inorganic fertilizers (ie: 5-1-5, Miracle Grow, etc.) are not permitted. Products of plant or animal origin i.e. compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crops, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed, and commercial organic fertilizers are acceptable.

Natural mineral fertilizers, i.e. greensand, granite dust, and ground limestone are also acceptable with prior written approval. Gardeners are strongly urged to add as much organic material (i.e. compost, leaf mold, and manure) as possible to their plots to maintain soil fertility.

Prohibited Species

Temple Terrace Community Gardens cannot allow plants with the following characteristics to be grown in any of the gardens without written permission of the Planning Committee: Exotic Species; Invasive species; Illegal or dangerous plants.

Information Board

The TTCG maintains a garden website, an email notification list and a Facebook page to share information with members. We usually have a sign-in notebook with task list at the entrance of the garden to share important information. Please check the information board regularly for news and updates and make a note of the number of hours you worked that day.

Welcome to the Garden!!!!