



## WHCA COMMUNITY GARDENS AGREEMENT & GUIDELINES 2026

Welcome to the WHCA Community Gardens! Please read and review the following agreement and guidelines for the 2026 gardening season, which runs from May 1st to October 31st. By signing this agreement, you agree to comply with all the terms outlined below.

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### Garden Bed Rental Terms:

- **Seasonal Duration:** The gardening season spans from May 1st to October 31st, 2026.
  - **Garden Bed Rental:** Each household may rent one garden bed for the season. Additional plots may be purchased if available after May 1st.
  - **Membership Requirement:** A WHCA membership is required to rent a garden bed. The membership fee is \$35 plus tax (\$36.75), valid for the duration of the gardening season.
  - **Renewal & Priority:** Previous year's members in good standing (those who abided by the Garden Agreement) have the option to renew the same garden bed. To secure renewal, registration and payment must be completed by May 1st.
  - **Open Beds:** Any unassigned beds after May 1st will be offered to the public. To register, please email [admin@westhurst.com](mailto:admin@westhurst.com).
  - **Failure to Maintain Bed:** If a garden bed is not properly maintained, the gardener will lose priority for future seasons and may be removed from the garden.
  - **Garden Bed Fees:** The rental fee is \$40 plus gst. Fees are non-refundable.
  - **Agreement Signatures:** All individuals using a garden bed must be named on the signed agreement.
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### General Garden Guidelines:

- **No Trading or Subletting:** Garden beds cannot be traded, sublet, or registered in someone else's name.
- **Planting & Cleanup:** All gardens must be planted by June 15th and cleaned out by October 31st.
- **Responsibility for Supplies:** Gardeners must provide their own seeds, seedlings, tomato cages, hand tools, row covers, and crop labels.
- **Watering:** Gardeners are responsible for watering their gardens regularly.



- **Plant Restrictions:**
  - No fast-spreading plants (e.g., mint, chives, peppermint, spearmint, strawberries, raspberries unless in pots).
  - Tall flowers we would prefer to be dwarf varieties (ex. sunflowers)
- **Height Restrictions:** Please try to keep your plants under 4 feet to prevent shading neighboring gardens.
- **Trellises:** Trellises must be stable in all weather and cannot shade neighboring gardens.
- **No Permanent Structures:** The use of nails, screws, or permanent decorations is prohibited.
- **Organic Gardening:** Gardeners must adhere to organic gardening principles, avoiding chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides.
- **Waste Disposal:** Green materials must be disposed of in the designated green bin at the back of the building. All garbage should go to the black bin at the back.
- **Weed and Pest Control:** Gardeners are responsible for dealing with insect infestations and removing weeds manually to prevent the spread to other plots.
- **Garden Maintenance:** If a garden is not properly maintained (e.g., not seeded, watered, weeded, or cleaned up), it will revert to the WHCA Community Garden within 7 days of notification. Gardeners must make arrangements for their plots during absences due to vacations or illness.
- **Respect for Others:** Gardeners must respect the rights of others and avoid actions detrimental to neighboring gardens.
- **Children and Pets:**
  - Children must always be supervised.
  - Pets must be on a leash and supervised to prevent accidents or damage to garden areas.
- **Compost Sharing:** Gardeners may take only their share of compost, leaving enough for others.
- **Produce Harvesting:** Gardeners should only harvest produce or flowers from their own plots.
- **Tool Maintenance:** Gardeners are responsible for their own tools and should ensure shared tools are cleaned after use. Hoses must be coiled and stored properly.
- **Reporting Issues:** If anything breaks, or if your garden is vandalized, please email [admin@westhillhurst.com](mailto:admin@westhillhurst.com).
- **Watering and Shed Access:** Ensure water is turned off after use, and the shed is locked. The shed combination will be provided at the Spring Garden Clean-Up meeting.
- **Operating Hours:** The gardens are open daily from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. Watering is encouraged in the early morning or late afternoon.



### **Role of Gardeners:**

- **Garden Ambassadors:** Each gardener is expected to act as a "Garden Ambassador" by welcoming visitors, answering questions, and promoting the garden's mission, vision, and values.
  - **Responsibility for Guests:** Gardeners are responsible for their guests, ensuring that they follow all rules and guidelines.
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### **WHCA Staff Responsibilities:**

WHCA staff will be responsible for:

- Setting and enforcing garden guidelines, including plot renewals.
  - Managing communication with gardeners via email.
  - Organizing spring and fall clean-ups.
  - Publicizing the gardens through various channels (e.g., website, Warbler articles).
  - Mediating conflicts between gardeners.
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### **Additional Terms:**

- **Photography Consent:** By signing this agreement, you consent to the photography of yourself and your guests during garden-related events for promotional purposes.
  - **Liability Waiver:** Signing this agreement absolves the WHCA from any liability (financial or otherwise) resulting from activities related to the garden.
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**Non-compliance with the terms of this agreement may result in the voiding of this rental agreement.**

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## Agreement Acknowledgment:

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms of this Community Garden Agreement and Guidelines.

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Garden Plot:** \_\_\_\_\_