

KEEGO HARBOR COMMUNITY GARDEN

GARDEN COMMUNITY RULES AND EXPECTATIONS



2023 Season

Welcome to Keego Harbor's Community Garden,

For us all to have a wonderful season of growing food, flowers, and herbs, we have a few guidelines and expectations that are required for use of our community space.

We want our gardeners to be able to establish a thriving garden, and we also hope to create a sense of community among our gardeners.

Please read the following rules and expectations carefully, and please abide by them if you wish to continue to participate in this community-based garden program.

The Basics

- Each gardener must fill out the agreement and waiver form, which formally states that you will comply with our community expectations.
- Access to garden plots:
 - *Location:* The corner of Cass Lake Road and Pridham Street
 - *Hours:* Gardeners can access the garden from 8am to 8pm, or dawn till dusk.
 - *Season Length:* The season is open from April 29 - October 28.
 - *Cost:* The use of a garden plot for the season is \$10.
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Community Expectations

- Respect each other, the space, and all garden plots.
- Guests are more than welcome to join you, and they will be held to the same standards as are listed in this document. If a guest behaves in a manner that is not in line with the expectations and guidelines in this document, then the gardener will be held responsible for the behavior and any reparations necessary.
- We encourage young people to engage with the garden space, but we ask that they are accompanied by an adult gardener and behave respectfully towards the space and those in the garden.
- We expect gardener disputes and conflicts are mediated with kindness and respect. If there is a need for a conflict to have third-party mediation, a representative of KHPRC will work with them to find a solution.
- If there is damage due to weather or vandalism, we ask all community members to work together to care for the damage, but the KHPRC will cover the costs of damage to the property
- We ask all gardeners to provide contact information - email and phone number - so we can contact you with updates and any necessary information. We want to be sure you receive all dates, information, and events that may be occurring in the garden. We will share your contact information with other gardeners, so that we work towards building a community of gardeners.
- Please only bring pets that are friendly to people and other pets. They must be on a leash, and monitored by a gardner. You are responsible for cleaning up after your pet. If we are notified of a problem caused by your animal, we may ask you to refrain from bringing them into the garden.

Your Plot - General Expectations

- Gardeners may only use the plot assigned to them by the Keego Harbor Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Gardeners are expected to maintain their plants within their plots, and must trim or trellis any plant that may extend into another gardeners' plot.
- Gardeners must not alter the dimensions of their plot.
- Gardeners may not maintain plantings or plant supporting structures that impede the security of the garden or sunlight to other gardeners' access to sunlight by the nature of their height, material, or density.
- Garden beds must be clearly marked with gardeners' names.

Tending Your Garden

- Gardeners may plant vegetables, fruits, and flowers
- Gardeners are responsible for the planning and management of their own plots.
 - *Materials:* Gardeners are expected to use their own seeds, plants, and fertilizer not provided by Keego Harbor Parks and Recreation or gardeners collectively.
 - *Watering:* There are rain barrels available to water your plants. The cost of plot rental includes water usage from these barrels. Please be careful not to overwater your plants (it is not good for your plants or the availability of water for your co-gardeners). Also, please remember to turn off the hose.
 - *Tools:* You may bring in your own tools into the garden, but only those that are not power tools (those that require gasoline, batteries, or electricity. We are not responsible for any damage caused by or to the tools - please use them with care.
 - *Maintenance:*
 - We expect our gardeners to maintain their plots in a clean and neat fashion, and promptly remove weeds, overgrowth, or other waste from their plot.
 - We also ask gardeners to promptly harvest their edible plants - we want you to enjoy them and avoid any pests.
 - We ask you to pick up after yourself. Please remove any trash (including garden-related waste: weeds, boxes, trays, bags, packets, etc.). We want our community garden to be beautiful and welcoming, so please keep up with your garden plot.

Plot Abandonment

- Gardeners may not abandon their plots.
 - Abandonment means failing to maintain a plot for [2 weeks].
 - Long vacations or absences: If a Gardener expects to be away from the Garden for more than [2 weeks], but less than [3 months], he or she must inform Keego Harbor Parks and Recreation Commission. The gardener and KHPRC representative will then determine an alternative, such as a temporary substitute, acceptable to both.
 - Loss of Plot Due to Abandonment: gardeners who are away for more than [3 months] will lose their plots.

New to Gardening?

Here are some resources to get you started

- Keep Growing Detroit Garden Guides and Curriculum

<http://detroitagriculture.net/garden-resource-program-2/garden-guides-curriculum/>

- Michigan State University Extension Gardening in Michigan

https://www.canr.msu.edu/home_gardening/

- Michigan State Master Gardener Program

https://www.canr.msu.edu/master_gardener_volunteer_program/

- The Spruce

<https://www.thespruce.com/gardening-4127780>

- The Backyard Homestead by Carleen Madigan



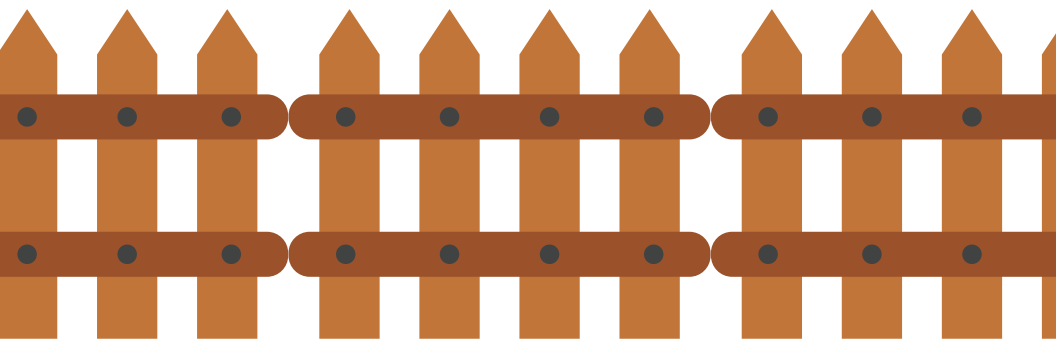
Prohibited Behaviors

- Behavior that endangers other gardeners
- Taking or using another gardener's tools, supplies, or produce without permission
- Encroaching on the garden neighbors' property
- Growing illegal plants. Gardeners may not grow any plants considered illegal under state or federal law. Gardeners may not grow *Cannabis sativa* (marijuana), whether the use of marijuana may be lawful for medical purposes under state law.
- Breaking any local, state, or federal laws
- Using alcohol or illegal drugs in the Garden
- Entering properties adjacent to the garden without explicit permission from the owners
- Starting and maintaining fires - (campfires, burning weeds, barbecue, etc.)
- Playing loud music or being particularly loud and disruptive
- Keeping and/or storing personal property on the premises



Consequences of Prohibited Behaviors

- Gardeners may lose their rights to participate in the garden if they perform any of these prohibited behaviors. If such events occur, the gardener must leave the garden by the end of garden hours on the termination day and may not re-enter without KHPRC permission.
- If a Gardener performs any of these prohibited behaviors, a representative from KHPRC will inform the gardener of the violation by sending an email to the gardener or putting a red flag on the gardener's plot to indicate that they are facing termination if they do not correct the behavior.
- When facing termination, the gardener will have one week to correct the violation. If the violation is not corrected within one week as determined by a representative from KHPRC in its discretion, the representative may, at their discretion, terminate the gardener's agreement.
- After termination, gardeners will have two weeks to harvest and clean up the plot.
- Terminated Gardeners are not entitled to any refunds or other payments from the KHPRC.
- Some heinous behaviors will result in an immediate termination, and such decisions will be made at the discretion of the KHPRC.





Rights and Requirements of Keego Harbor Parks & Recreation Commission

- The process described in this Section does not (i) limit the Sponsor's ability to enforce its rights under these Rules; (ii) limit or qualify a Gardener's obligation to comply with applicable law or the Rules; or (iii) limit the Sponsor's right to notify and/or involve government authorities as it may determine.
- The Keego Harbor Parks and Recreation Commission has complete authority to interpret the rules and expectations as well as make decisions regarding these rules and expectations and their implementation.
- Keego Harbor Parks and Recreation Commission may amend these rules and guidelines at its discretion without advance notice. We will provide all gardeners with a copy of the current rules and expectations, post a copy of the current rules and expectations at the Garden, and summarize any changes in the next annual meeting.
- Keego Harbor Parks and Recreation Commission will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition, ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a veteran.

I agree to abide by the rules and community expectations
stated in this document:

Community Gardener Signature

