

# MIDLAND HEALTH COMMUNITY GARDEN SITE RULES



Midland Health Community Garden is underwritten by Midland Memorial Hospital and is located on their West Campus grounds. We have an obligation to MMH, our fellow members, and the community to remain active gardeners as described in these Site Rules.

## I. PLOTS

A standard plot measures 5' x 13'. The location of each plot is specified on the site map.

Each Midland residential address may be assigned only one plot.

The first name to appear on the gardener application is considered the "Primary Plot Holder". All members listed on the gardener application are collectively and individually bound by the contract.

### A. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is defined in Article II of the Bylaws.

Annual membership fee is \$32. Initial fees for new gardeners are payable on a seasonal basis at one-half the annual fee (\$16).

If a member voluntarily withdraws from the garden, the Membership and Plots Coordinator must be notified and the plot must be cleared and left in good condition for reassignment.

All members, by participating in this community garden, grant Midland Memorial Hospital the right to use, reproduce, assign and/or distribute photographs, films, videotapes, and sound recordings of themselves for use in materials MMH creates.

Returned check fee: \$30.00

### B. WORK DAYS AND CLASSES

Each primary plot holder must attend a minimum of 8 monthly garden work days annually, approximately 16 hours as well as two Permian Basin Master Gardener classes of their choice, annually. Failure to complete these requirements may negatively impact their garden membership renewal.

Employees unable to attend the Saturday work days may work at the garden when they have the opportunity. It is the responsibility of the member to record and submit service hours to the Membership and Plots Coordinator using the Google Form which can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/MHCGservicehours>

Maintenance of pathways and common areas constitutes service hours. The Coordinator may determine other qualifying activities as he or she sees fit.



### C. PLOT COMPLIANCE

Garden plots will be inspected every two weeks for compliance to the Site Rules. Plot compliance includes:

- Harvesting vegetables and/or fruits regularly
- Pulling weeds from in and around the plot
- Removing plants at the end of their productive life
- Not allowing plants to grow more than six feet tall
- Maintaining the pathway and areas around the plot

Members are expected to garden at all times of the year. Each gardener may only leave their plot unattended for a maximum of two weeks, twice per year. The Membership and Plots Coordinator must be notified ahead of time and prior arrangements must be made with another gardener to maintain the plot.

Procedure for when a plot is out of compliance:

- Membership and Plots Coordinator will send an official notice of non-compliance by email and USPS to the member.
- The member will have 14 days from the date of mailing of the official non-compliance notice to bring the plot into compliance.
- Non-compliance at the end of the 14-day period will result in the termination of garden membership.
- If the plot is not in compliance at the end of the 14-day period, the plot will be available for reassignment to another member. Any produce, plants, equipment, tools or other items left on the plot or in their storage crate shall be considered abandoned.

Repeated documented instances of non-compliance as defined by twice in one season or three times one year will be grounds for termination of garden membership.

Gardeners who are non-compliant will not be allowed to use compost from the compost pile until their plot is brought back into compliance.

### D. GARDEN RULES

No trees, large cacti, or illegal plants may be planted.

Smoking, chewing tobacco, and e-cigarettes are prohibited. Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus is a tobacco-free campus. Tobacco also carries the mosaic virus which is deadly to some plants.

The entire garden including common areas and plots are to be kept free of litter including cans, bottles, buckets, boxes and other materials not part of gardening activities.

Only organic soil amendments, nutrients, and insect controls are to be used in the garden. A list of safe-to-use products is posted in the storage shed for all gardeners to refer to. When in doubt about a product or method, check with the Membership and Plots Coordinator.



Gardeners may only harvest from their own plot, unless given written permission by another plot holder. Gardeners who are unable to harvest should notify the Membership and Plots Coordinator who will harvest and donate the produce to a local non-profit.

Plots may not have any permanent structures. Temporary structures, such as trellises, caging and stakes shall not cross into or shade another plot and should not exceed five feet tall.

Garden hoses on the site belong to the garden. Repairs and replacements are the responsibility of the members using them.

Tools in the storage shed may only be used for the purpose for which they were intended and may not be removed from the garden area. Tools must be cleaned after use and returned to their proper place in the shed. Any broken or damaged tools should be reported to the Membership and Plots Coordinator.

Water must be used responsibly and unattended watering is not allowed. Soaker hoses may be used but may not be left unattended. No timers or sprinklers are allowed.

The faucet for the sink must be turned off and the bucket located under the sink must be emptied after each use.

Gardeners shall refrain from using tires or any structure that retains water. Standing water attracts mosquitos and other pests.

Pets must be leashed at all times. Pet owners must clean up after their pets.

Children are welcome to visit the garden must be accompanied by an adult over 18 years of age. It is the gardeners' responsibility to keep the children focused on garden activities and they shall not trespass or disturb other garden plots.

Gardeners must follow the compost guidelines on what to add to the compost pile and when the finished compost can be used. Non-compliant gardeners will not be allowed to use compost from the pile until their plot is brought back into compliance.

No alcohol or illegal substances may be consumed on the entire site. Gardeners are not allowed to visit the garden while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

No weapons or glass containers are allowed on the entire site.

In order to maintain a non-profit status, no garden member may sell what he or she grows at Midland Health Community Garden.

Gardeners shall not discriminate or use abusive or profane language while at the garden. Music with abusive or profane language is also prohibited.



#### E. GARDENER CONTACT INFORMATION

Gardeners are responsible for maintaining their current email and physical address on file with the Membership and Plots Coordinator.

#### F. GARDENER NOTIFICATION

Any notice required by these Site Rules may be sent by email to the email address on file. Official notification of nonpayment of dues, plot non-compliance or other items relating to termination of membership may be given by email to the address on file with a request of receipt within seven days. If acknowledgment is not received, notice shall be resent by USPS mail to the mailing address on file.

### II. COMMON AREAS

A common area is defined as any area of the garden not assigned to a member. This includes the compost pile, storage shed, bricked area and pathways. All members are responsible for the maintenance of these areas.

### III. SECURITY

The garden is open from sunrise to sundown seven days a week.

Each gardener will be given a key to unlock the gates and storage shed. Both gates are to remain locked at all times. If you are the last one in the garden, you are expected to lock the tool shed and gates.

If you garden after dark or before dawn, please use caution and lock the gate behind you. Please also be aware you could be questioned by the police at these times.