

# **DUNAWI CREEK COMMUNITY GARDEN 2024**

## **Membership Rules, Terms, and Conditions for Participation**

### **FEES AND MEMBERSHIP AMENITIES**

Gardeners are required to pay the following annual registration fees prior to assuming responsibility for a plot at Dunawi Creek Community Garden (DCCG):

- 400 sq ft plot: \$135 (\$110 plot rental + \$25 refundable deposit)
- 200 sq ft plots: \$90 (\$65 plot rental + \$25 refundable deposit)
- 100 sq ft plot: \$75 (\$50 plot rental + \$25 refundable deposit)
- 24 sq ft Raised Bed: \$20 per plot (no deposit required)

This fee allows community gardeners to the following items:

- Access to personal community garden plot for duration of agreement (January - December)
- Access to communal berry patches, flower bed, food forest
- Access to Community Garden Shed and tools
- Water access ~ April - October
- Leaf mulch
- Donated wood chips, as available
- Administration and support from CEC Garden Manager

Fees are due upon registration. Plots are assigned on a first come first serve basis; however, returning Gardeners from the year prior are given priority and can stay in their same plots so long as they notify the Garden Manager of their intention to return by November 20th, 2024, and pay registration fees by January 8th, 2025.

All community gardeners are required to pay (or roll over) a \$25 refundable deposit as part of their annual fee. To qualify for a refund of the \$25 deposit (or to roll it over to the following year) *and secure your plot for subsequent years* the community gardener must:

- Attend a mandatory DCCG Orientation/Updates Meeting; gardeners will be contacted with available dates.
- Complete 6 hours of 'community service' at DCCG (per plot). The majority of this work shall include working as part of a garden team or attending organized work parties. A list of garden teams and alternative tasks will be given at the mandatory DCCG Orientation/Updates Meeting; Community service hours are to be completed before early December of the previous year.
- Clean up their garden plot at the end of the growing season. This means removing all spent plants, weeds, and other materials and structures, and laying down at least 4 inches of mulch (leaves provided). Additionally, all garden structures need to be completely secure or taken down. (For example, no tarps, row cover, fencing, pots, etc. blowing around.) Gardeners may leave winter harvest and/or overwintering plants in the ground.

- Gardeners planning to return the following year
  - may elect to use a different mulch so long as their garden plot soil is covered to the same degree; ie: straw, living cover crop, sheet mulch, etc. This material is NOT provided by the Garden Manager.
  - may request to have their \$25 deposit rolled over.
- Gardeners not planning to return
  - may request a refund deposit before November 20th; it will be processed and mailed out by December 20th. As an alternative, the \$25 deposit may be donated back to the CEC which would continue to support our Food for Families program providing fresh food grown at SAGE to those in need.
  - Non-returning gardeners still need to clean up their beds for winter.

Failure to complete and report community service hours or to clean up the garden plot before November 20th will result in forfeiture of one's deposit. All unclaimed deposits will be considered a donation to CEC at the year's end.

### **RULES, TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Once a plot has been assigned, gardeners must begin to cultivate and/or tend within two weeks.

Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to water their plots.

Plots must be tended year-round or put 'to bed' at the end of the growing season, or any other period of extended absence. Plots cannot be left fallow, unused, or un-mulched for any period of three weeks or longer, more than one time a year.

- If you will be away from the garden for an extended period (two weeks or longer), please arrange for a fellow gardener to care for your plot and alert the Garden Manager.

Gardeners may not expand plots beyond the assigned boundary or grow into paths or other plots. All plants must stay within the limits of the assigned garden plot. Any gardener with a wheelbarrow ought to be able to pass by your plot without obstruction.

The area around your plot, including paths and surrounding areas must be kept clean and neat.

Gardeners must remove any invasive species from their plot (including roots) upon discovery.

- Common Invasive Species are: Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus, armeniacus*), Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*).

Gardeners are asked to remove any common weed plants before they flower or go to seed. This is for the common good and peace! One abandoned plot with 100 pigweed plants making seed can inoculate an entire community garden quadrant.

- Common pesky, yet easily controlled weeds at DCCG include: Pigweed (*Amaranthus*

*spp.*), Common Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), Crab Grass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*), Dock (*Rumex spp.*), Purslane (*Calandinia ciliata*), Sow Thistle (*Sonchus spp.*), Willowherb / Fireweed (*Epilobium spp.*).

- Gardeners are also highly encouraged to remove perennial grasses from their plots; particularly Quack Grass (*Elytrigia repens*) and Couch / Scutch / Dog Grass (*Elymus repens*).
- All of these can be removed with ease once you know what they are! The sooner the better.

A limited number of tools and equipment are available for use in the community garden shed.

- Each gardener will be given the code to the lock box on the shed, which contains the key to the garden shed for access to tools and watering equipment. Gardeners will not make duplicate keys of the lock or give shed key or lock combination to another person.
- Gardeners are responsible to return the tools to the tool shed and close and lock the door when finished at the garden.
- Gardeners may not take shared tools home.
- Gardeners are expected to notify the Garden Manager of any faulty or missing equipment.
- Gardeners are expected to replace any broken handle or tool that occurred from inappropriate use.

The Corvallis Environmental Center assumes no responsibility for materials brought to the garden by individual gardeners.

If a gardener no longer wishes to maintain their garden plot, they shall alert the Garden Manager to surrender the plot. The Garden Manager will assign the plot to the next person on the waiting list. Gardeners may not reassign their plot to someone else.

Gardeners must separate all waste materials into trash, recycling, and compost material and dispose of it properly into the following areas:

- Compost piles: organic material (see signs on compost piles for further instruction)
- Yard waste bins: invasive weeds and weeds with seed heads
- Trash bins: refuse
- Recycling bins: recyclable paper, plastic, and glass
- Garden Exchange: garden materials and plant starts in USABLE condition
- Household trash may not be brought to or disposed of at the garden.

Gardeners may not erect any permanent structures (set in cement) or treated 4x4s.

Gardeners will not leave water running unattended (this includes the use of timers while absent).

Gardeners will work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.

- Gardeners will not take food, plants, or supplies from other gardeners' plots or that is not rightfully theirs.
- Gardeners' dogs must be leashed at all times or contained in your own fenced plot. They are not allowed to walk or leave waste in other plots. You are responsible for thoroughly cleaning up after your dog.
- Gardeners will respect other gardeners; Gardeners will not use abusive language or discriminate against others.

DCCG is an organic garden, and the following practices are required:

- No treated lumber
- No chemical slug bait
- Organic fertilizer and organic pest control only
- Grow sustainably: Use cover crops over winter, mulch to conserve soil moisture, rotate crops yearly, etc.

\*\*\*If you have questions about what is "organic," please check out [www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org)\*\*\*

DCCG is not a market garden; gardeners may not sell anything grown at DCCG.

Gardeners may park in the Starker Arts Park gravel parking lot. The gravel driveway past the green gate is only to be used to load and unload.

Gardeners are expected to inform the garden manager if they witness any theft, abusive situations, invasive species, synthetic pesticide/herbicide use, or any other ingress on the outlined conditions of use.

Gardeners who do not adhere to the above rules, terms and conditions may lose their garden plot and be excluded from DCCG. Prior to losing your garden plot and being excluded from the garden:

1. You will receive an initial warning from the Garden Manager.
2. If no response or correction has been made, you will receive a second notice two weeks later.
3. In another week, if no response or correction has been made, you will receive written final notification that you have forfeited your gardening privileges, plot, and plot fees. 4. You will be allowed to re-apply for another garden plot only after one year, and only at the discretion of the Garden Manager.

**Note: Discrimination, abusive language, or harassment may be cause for immediate forfeiture of access to the community garden.**

## **PLOT RENEWAL**

Current Community Gardeners are given priority to renew their plots for the following year.

To be considered for renewal, gardeners must be in compliance with all Dunawi Creek Community Garden Contract set forth in the annual agreement as well as complete the following year's

registration and pay fees before January 8th of the new year.

**DISCLAIMER**

City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation, Corvallis Environmental Center, and all project volunteers shall be held free from any liability for any personal injuries or damage to property resulting from your participation in the Community Garden.

**AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for the participation in the Dunawi Creek Community Garden.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLOT NUMBER (returning gardeners): \_\_\_\_\_