

Peace Community Garden Agreement

20 Northdale Blvd. Coon Rapids MN 55448

Welcome to the Peace Community Garden! We are thrilled to have your participation in enriching our community as we grow together. The purpose of this agreement is to help the season run smoothly.

I. PURPOSE—The purpose of this agreement is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party. This agreement is intended to ensure a safe, all-inclusive garden that is open to everyone in our community.

II. BACKGROUND—Peace Lutheran Church's Peace Community Garden is coordinated with voluntary help by We All Need Food and Water, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES—This agreement between you (community gardeners), Peace Lutheran Church, and We All Need Food and Water is meant to serve as a guiding document.

A. Peace Community Garden (owned by Peace Lutheran Church) commits to providing:

1. garden plots that are open to the public with the purpose of serving community members in most need first
2. plot markers to identify each gardener's plot(s).
3. adequate irrigation. If gardeners require extra watering, they will need to do it themselves. A hose will be provided for shared use.
4. tool shed with some tools to be used and returned during tool shed posted operating hours.

B. Community Gardeners Expectations

1. Gardeners are expected to be neighborly and courteous to one another. If conflicts occur, it is expected that they are solved in a calm and diplomatic way. At no time should anyone feel unsafe or unwelcome in the garden. If inappropriate behavior routinely occurs, a representative from Peace Lutheran Church (such as an employee or a Peace Community Garden Board member, or a representative from We All Need Food and Water) may terminate your agreement at any time.
2. No weapons, tobacco use, illegal drug use, or alcohol is permitted in the Peace Garden.
3. The main entrance to the garden is from the Peace Lutheran parking lot, on the north end of the garden. Vehicles are permitted to drive on the service road if hauling heavy equipment or if mobility is limited. Please note that no vehicles may enter or exit onto Butternut Street NW (near the KinderCare) at the southern end of the garden. It is recommended to park in the Peace Lutheran Church parking lot rather than on Butternut Street.
4. Gardeners are in charge of planting, tending, and harvesting their own plots. If assistance is desired or required, please reach out to Anoka County Master Gardener volunteers or Dawn Pape with We All Need Food and Water.

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5. Only legal plants are allowed to be grown. Illegal plants include:
 - a. Noxious weeds are plants regulated as a Prohibited or Restricted Noxious Weed under the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's noxious weed law. A list of these plants can be found at <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list>).
 - b. Invasive species are non-native species that: (1) causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; or (2) threatens or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state. A helpful booklet to identify these plants is at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf>
 - c. Marijuana
 - d. Imported seeds (for example, seeds from a family member that haven't gone through customs or been approved by the Department of Agriculture)
6. Pulled weeds must be placed in the large compost bins at the south end of the garden near Butternut Street NW.
7. At the end of the growing season, gardeners must pull out the vegetation to minimize disease and pests from overwintering on site. Failure to do so may result in not being invited to garden the following season.
8. Although the soil was amended with topsoil and compost several years ago, the native soils are very sandy. Adding additional organic matter, such as peat moss or compost, is encouraged to hold in the soil moisture and add nutrients.
9. Since most people will be growing food in the Peace Community Garden, herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides, which are the last steps in IPM, are strongly discouraged. If you do use a chemical (other than fertilizer), please contact the gardeners around you to let them know and put up a sign advising others what was used and when it was used. Gardeners will be expected to follow "integrative pest management" (IPM) strategies. IPM is a pest management strategy that uses the least harmful practice to people and the environment to control a problem. IPM emphasizes:
 - keeping pests from becoming a problem,
 - using science-based guidelines, or thresholds, to determine when pests need to be managed
 - using a variety of research-based pest management options (e.g., biological control, mechanical control, chemical control)
 - minimizing human health, environmental, and economic risk when making pest management decisions
 - Learn more about IPM at <https://www2.ipm.ucanr.edu/What-is-IPM/>

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10. We want this area to look beautiful and uncluttered so we not allowing any colorful fencing. The City of Coon Rapids doesn't allow any fencing over four feet. Garden supports (such as tomato cages and bean poles) are fine as well as short rabbit fencing.
11. Rows will be marked by wooden stakes and there will be paths between gardens, so fences will not be needed.
12. Unless an area is marked as "public welcome," it will be assumed that others will refrain from tending and harvesting other gardeners' rows.
13. If you no longer wish to continue gardening at the site, please let We All Need Food and Water know by emailing, texting, or calling dawn@weallneedfoodandwater.org, 651-485-5171) so another gardener can be found to use the plot.

C. We All Need Food and Water commits to:

1. Assisting community gardeners by providing educational opportunities, tools, help (as much as staffing resources allow) to make each gardener successful. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Dawn Pape from We All Need Food and Water by emailing, texting, or calling (dawn@weallneedfoodandwater.org, 651-485-5171)

IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

1. The Peace Community Garden and We All Need Food and Water are not responsible for injury that might occur on the grounds or due to gardening.
2. The Peace Community Garden and We All Need Food and Water are not responsible for lost or stolen items on the site. This includes potentially stolen produce.
3. Participation of the gardeners and volunteers in the Peace Community Garden outlined in this agreement is completely voluntary.
4. Gardeners should not tend or harvest other gardeners' plots unless specifically requested to do so.
5. All parties will be responsible for communication that would modify the terms and conditions of this agreement.
6. If gardeners do not behave in a neighborly way, they may be asked to stop gardening in the garden.
7. No weapons, tobacco use, illegal drug use, or alcohol is permitted on the Peace Lutheran premises.
8. This agreement is only for 2022.
9. Garden plots are not guaranteed from year to year.