

Governance

The Lexington Community Garden is a volunteer activity overseen by a three-member Board.

There are two general membership meetings each year. The Spring Meeting is typically in early May. The Fall Meeting is typically at the end of September or early October, and is often combined with a picnic.

Board members are elected at the general membership Fall Meeting.

All communications about the Community Garden, including dates of meetings, are sent via e-mail.

Membership Rules and Regulations

1. Membership is open to residents or property owners within the 48450 zipcode on a first-come basis.
2. Each gardener must complete the **Application form, Release of all Claims form, submit payment and be assigned a specific garden** before any work in the garden can begin.
3. Garden plots that have been assigned but not prepped by June 1 will be forfeited unless the member has informed the Board of extenuating circumstances. Any such plots will be reassigned. This is to prevent gardens from going unused during the growing season.
4. Each member is required to participate in some capacity (e.g., come to the community garden workdays, help plan events, help out on special projects).
5. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of his/her garden plot.
6. Garden plots must be maintained weed-free.
7. Gardeners are responsible for maintaining the half of the path around their plots. Paths must be free of all weeds and obstacles.
8. Garden corner stakes must remain in place
9. Gardens are to be maintained following organic methods. The application of synthetic herbicides (weed killers) and fungicides is prohibited. Fertilizers labeled "for use in organic gardens" are permitted.
10. Put only compostable materials in the compost.
11. Gardeners are responsible for clearing their plots of all crop debris and trace of weeds by the 15th of November.
12. A yearly membership fee must be paid before a garden plot can be assigned. This fee goes towards expenses of the community garden.
13. Members in good standing have priority for retaining their garden plots for the following year if they have paid their dues by the first of December prior to the new gardening year.
14. Garden plots cannot be transferred or sublet by the individual members.
15. Gardeners may harvest flowers and vegetables only from their own gardens.
16. Garden season begins in the spring when the ground is thawed and dry enough to work.
17. The Community Garden has some tools stored in the shed, and these are for the use of all members.
18. Members should not store any of their own tools or garden equipment / supplies in the shed.
19. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times. They must not be allowed to trespass into other people's plots.

20. No pets are allowed within the fenced in area.

Consequences of Rule Violations

The cooperation of all gardeners is needed to ensure that the Community Garden runs smoothly. Failure to comply with the letter and spirit of the rules will result in garden plot forfeiture and loss of membership; all fees are forfeit.

We have found that the two biggest areas of non-compliance are (1) failure to maintain gardens weed free and (2) failure to participate in some capacity. Please pay special attention to these two things so that the Community Garden runs smoothly and the board members do not have to micro-manage gardeners.

General Policy on Multiple Gardens

1. When there are vacant garden plots, the Lexington Community Garden Board encourages members to take on additional plots rather than let them lay fallow.
2. The Board maintains a waiting list for people who would like an additional garden. The list is maintained by the Contact Person named in the "Information Packet" on the Village website.
3. Members interested in an additional plot should get on the waiting list before the May general membership meeting – we don't keep additional plots "just in case" or reassign plots after that meeting.
4. Priority for additional plots will be given to those members who (a) participate on workdays and (b) maintain their gardens and the paths around them.
5. Members who have additional garden plots and continue to satisfy point (4) above have the option to retain them in the subsequent year.
6. Members who have more than one plot are invited, but not required, to pay an additional \$25 for that plot
7. At time of the May meeting, if there is more demand for additional garden plots than are available we will ask members who have additional garden plots and **do not** continue to satisfy point (4) to relinquish them.