

2025 St. John Community Garden Rules

St. John Community Garden is a community of gardeners, working together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendliness so that each gardener can be successful year after year.

I. Garden ownership and governance

1. The garden is owned and managed by St. John Lutheran Church. All gardeners are expected to abide by all town of Grafton ordinances. These rules include, but are not limited to, the prohibition of all firearms and consumption of alcoholic beverages while on the premises.
2. Garden box fees, donations, and other revenues shall be paid to St. John Lutheran Church.

II. Membership agreement and plot fees

1. St. John Garden Advisory Board may remove gardeners and reassign their boxes for non-compliance with the rules stated herein.
2. Box fee will be \$25 per season for ALL gardeners regardless of residency.
3. St. John Garden Advisory Board will assign boxes.
4. Due to the seasonal nature of gardening and the complexities associated with record keeping, registration, fee processing, and maintenance of the property, community garden box fees are **non-refundable**.

III. Registration

1. Priority registration for gardeners from the previous year who are in good standing with garden rules and maintenance, will begin on or around February 15th each year.
2. Registration for all other gardeners will begin on or around March 1st.
3. Gardeners will receive access to the garden shortly after registration. All boxes must be cleared and made ready for winter by October 31st unless they have requested and been given permission for winter gardening in which case boxes must be cleared and made ready for winter by December 31st.
4. Winter gardening is allowed for plants such as root vegetables, brussels sprouts, etc., but the harvesting of such plants must be completed by December 31st of each year. Notification of winter gardening is required by email: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com or phone: 262 377-0410

IV. General use of the site

1. Parking on the grass is not allowed at any time and on the driveway adjacent to the garden site ONLY for loading/unloading.
2. Gardeners must keep walking paths clear of obstructions for pedestrians and mowers. NO watering cans or other gardening tools shall be placed outside of the garden box.
3. Water for the gardens will be turned on in May and turned off in November. Exact dates may vary in years with unusually mild or severe weather conditions, or due to other factors. You must stay while watering – no sprinklers – and you must rewind the hose after use.
4. For the safety of all gardeners, dogs are not allowed on St. John property.
5. To maintain a clean, attractive site, please place all trash and recyclables in the labeled cans provided.
6. The shed must be locked by the last person to leave the garden. All gardeners will be given the combination to the lock and it will be changed every year.
7. The gardens are not monitored or staffed other than during church office hours of 9 am – noon Monday through Friday.

8. There is no access to the restrooms in the building other than during church office hours of 9 am – noon Monday through Friday.
9. Do not trap vertebrate animals (squirrels, rabbits, etc.) or feed animals, with the exception of beneficial wildlife, such as pollinators, that feed naturally on garden plants.
10. The tools and equipment in the shed are the property of St. John Lutheran Church and are provided for use by all gardeners and must be returned after use. Do not borrow or take another gardener’s tools, crops, or other property without that person’s permission.
11. St. John Lutheran Church is not responsible for lost, stolen or discarded personal property items brought to or left upon the garden site.
12. **Anyone observing theft or vandalism should directly call the Ozaukee County Sheriff Department at 262 284-7172 to report non-emergency incidents. We encourage you to file a report with the department should any major vandalism occur.**

V. Use of boxes

1. Each box is 2’ x 8’. Gardeners shall not plant or place anything outside of the box.
2. Gardeners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their own garden box. Watering weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of each gardener. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to weed/water their gardens, but will be questioned if neglect is noticed.
3. Each garden box must be turned over and planting ready by June 1st to eliminate initial weeds and old growth. During the season, gardens must be worked, maintained and crops must be harvested in a timely manner. If not properly prepared, the garden owner will be given notice to complete proper care by June 10th. If the garden remains unworked by June 20th, the box will be forfeited and assigned to another person desiring another box for a fee of \$15.
4. Gardeners may not grow crops that will create excessive shade on the neighboring gardens. The amount of shade cast on a neighboring garden depends on which side of a box has tall plants. We offer this guideline: Plant crops that are taller than you in the middle, not along the edge.
5. Gardeners may not allow weeds to go to seed or to spread by rhizomes or other means to other gardens. Gardeners who allow their garden to become weedy will be given notice to comply within 7 days. If after 7 days, they will receive a second notice for work to be completed within 3 additional days, after which their box will be forfeited if the weeds are not promptly controlled. If any boxes are forfeited, other gardeners can request to take them over at NO charge.
6. St. John Community Garden is not an “organic” garden, but it is a “natural” garden where the use of chemicals is strictly regulated. Herbicides and dusts, except for diatomaceous earth, are prohibited. Chemical pesticides (including fungicides, herbicide weed killers, and insecticides) are prohibited. Only organic practices and materials may be used. Gardeners are strongly encouraged to use mulch of weed-free types only.
7. Any plant species that is listed as Prohibited or Restricted under Wisconsin NR 40 (Invasive Species Classification) is banned from the garden, as are mint, borage, and trees or shrubs that grow taller than four feet in personal boxes. For additional details about NR40, please see: Chapter NR 40 Wisconsin Invasive Species Rule.

I understand and will adhere to the rules printed here. _____ Print Name

_____ Signature _____ Date