

LOVING GARLAND GREEN RULES FOR URBAN GARDENERS AT THE GARLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

All Loving Garland Green members and urban gardeners who wish to garden at 4022 Naaman School Road must read and agree to abide by these rules, and sign the attached agreement sheet prior to gardening at 4022 Naaman School Road.

Guiding principles: The property at 4022 Naaman School Road is city property that belongs to all residents of Garland. It is neither the private property of Loving Garland Green nor any of its members. Loving Garland Green and all the residents who garden at 4022 Naaman School Road are expected to be stewards of this property and respect this land. No concrete or other permanent structures are to be erected on this land. The general rule of thumb is to ensure that anything you put around or in your garden site is something that can be dismantled, pulled up and carted away by you in two or three hours. All gardeners agree to keep and report on their crop yields and water amounts used. Loving Garland Green will keep these records. All gardeners agree to give 50% of their produce to a local food bank or charity. All gardeners agree the garden is to be a pesticide/herbicide free zone and to follow the design principles of permaculture and organic gardening.

Since this is not a secure site, there may be issues with theft—not only from animals, but humans as well. In all honesty, many community gardens have this issue—even those with fences. Therefore it is recommended you take any gardening tools home with you when you leave. We will have signage within the garden that lets people know the food is being raised primarily for the benefit of the community. We hope they will take guidance from their conscience. Those who would like the fresh food grown by us can find it at the local food banks.

Garden Plots:

Although Loving Garland Green assists with the builds and designating the specific locations for each of these garden plots, each urban gardener is responsible for obtaining and paying for all the necessary materials to build their raised beds—including the soil. Members of Loving Garland Green will supply the mulch for the spaces between the beds, compliments the City of Garland. *Note: Later in the spring, special funds may become available to assist gardeners with these expenses. Unfortunately for now, there are none.*

1. Assignment of plots: Initially, garden plots will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis until that time when the allotted space for the garden is filled.

[Notification of the availability of these plots will be made available to the public via our website and through the Neighborhood Vitality program. This site is open to all Garland residents—regardless where they live in the city.] After the space is filled,

when a gardener leaves and plot becomes available, if more than one citizen wants a plot, a lottery will be held for it.

2. Size: All garden plots shall be no wider than 4 feet and no longer than 16 feet. While a citizen may have more than one garden plot, the total space for one citizen cannot exceed 4 feet by 16 feet. [*Exception: in the beginning when there may not be a large demand for a site, gardeners may have garden spaces that exceed 4 feet by 16 feet. However, this is with the understanding they will likely at some point have to give up the excess space they have—after the harvest of the current crop they have growing in the space.*]

3. Type of Garden Plots: Raised beds – The location of our garden was once a residential area. Thus there are patches of concrete at the site where driveways and foundations once were. Here in Garland we face somewhat of a dilemma with our gardens. On the one hand, because most of our soil is mucky clay, raised beds with amended soil is a good idea. However, because of our hot dry summers, raised beds tend to require more water and often the roots overheat. We recommend a combination of raised beds with a basin depression around the entire bed and then again around each plant in the bed—particularly for larger plants like tomatoes. And, of course, we recommend mulch over the entire bed. In addition we recommend at least two, 2-gallon ollas in each 4 x 8 foot bed, four in a 4 x 16 foot bed, and one in a 4 x 4 foot bed. This, along with the mulch and basin planting are economical ways to conserve water. Ideally, we would have drip irrigation installed, but this is likely too costly at least for our first season.

3.1 Material Used for Sides of the Raised beds: The sides of the beds can be lumber or concrete blocks or stones. Keep in mind the requirement: No concrete or mortar may be used to hold the stones or concrete blocks together and you must be able to dismantle your garden site in three hours or less and cart away all its supporting structure except for the earth. Because our garden is to be organic and a pesticide/herbicide free zone, we do not allow treated lumber to be used for the sides of the beds as these chemical leach into the soil.

*Note: **Chromated copper arsenate (CCA)** is a wood preservative that has been used for timber treatment since the mid-1930s. It is a mix of chromium, copper and arsenic formulated as oxides or salts, and is recognizable for the greenish tint it imparts to timber. CCA was invented in 1933 by Dr. Sonti Kamesam, an Indian scientist, and was awarded its first patent (British) in 1934. [WIKI]*

A number of countries have reviewed CCA during recent years and have looked at limiting the public exposure to CCA-treated timber by restricting its application in residential situations. These reviews have resulted from increasing public pressures and the possibility of CCA-treated timber posing a health hazard. In response to these pressures the preservation industry in the USA and Canada volunteered not to use CCA for the treatment of residential timber. The arsenate used in wood treatment is inorganic. Compared to organic arsenic, inorganic arsenic is much more likely to accumulate in living tissues, where it interacts with cell enzymes and impairs metabolism. Note: Organic forms of arsenic don't appear to do this, and are largely excreted before they can do us harm. [SOURCE: <http://www.finegardening.com/design/articles/pressure-treated-wood-in-beds.aspx>]

3.2 Height of Raised Bed Containment Walls: 10 to 14 inches high. Special permission may be granted to make taller beds for gardeners confined to wheelchairs. However, this permission must be obtained from Loving Garland Green prior to building the bed. [*Loving Garland Green will submit such requests to the Neighborhood Vitality Programs for final approval.*]

3.3 Decorative Embellishments to the Garden Plots – All must be no taller than 5 feet and must not pose a potential hazard to visitors. Because Loving Garland Green is a nonprofit organization and our partner, the City of Garland, is a government agency, we ask that gardeners refrain from installing any political or religious images in their gardens. We also advise that gardeners do not put anything of value in their garden plot as there is always the possibility of theft since this is not a secured site.

4. All urban gardeners agree to keep their beds weed free. Gardeners who neglect their gardens will not be able to keep their plots. They will be given a 30-day warning to clean up or vacate. Usually weeds are not a big problem with raised beds—especially when mulched. Thus, this is a rule for which there will likely be no need to reinforce.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING AN URBAN GARDENER AT 4022 NAAMAN SCHOOL ROAD

1. You must be a Garland resident. [*You do not have to be a Garland resident to be a member of Loving Garland Green, or to visit the garden, but residency in Garland is a requirement to obtain a garden plot at 4022 Naaman School Road.*]

2. You must be 18 years of age or older. [*We encourage children to garden with their parents.*]

3. You must agree to abide by the *Loving Garland Green Rules for Urban Gardeners* as stated in this document and also the **City of Garland Community Garden Program Policy and Procedure** which is available for viewing on the City of Garland's website as well as from LovingGarlandgreen.org.

If you meet the three requirements listed above and are interested in a garden plot at 4022 Naaman School Road, please contact Elizabeth Berry at 972-571-4497. I would be happy to submit your application to the appropriate officials for review.