

# 2026 Sisters Community Garden Guidelines and Rules

## Plot Assignment Process

Priority for the 22 Individual Plots will be given to members who actively gardened in the 2025 season. Returning members are defined as individuals who maintained an assigned plot for the duration of the 2025 growing season, following all garden guidelines. **Applications for returning members open February 1, 2026, and must be submitted by February 28, 2026.**

If fewer than 22 applications are received from returning members by February 28, 2026, remaining plots will be offered to new applicants from the public. Public applications will be made available online starting March 1, 2026, and will be accepted until all plots are filled. All returning gardener applicants will be notified of their plot assignments by March 15, 2026.

The 2026 Sisters Community Garden at CORE has 22 available garden plots for 22 individual gardeners. Our agreement with CORE permits only 22 individuals to access the garden. Consequently, if you apply for a garden plot, you will not be permitted to share your plot with another person, as was previously done at the airport location.

## Maintenance Expectations

Each gardener must cultivate and maintain their assigned plot during the growing season. Proper maintenance includes regular weeding, watering, and harvesting. Personal tools and gardening materials are to be taken home, and the beds kept tidy. For more details, refer to the **Neglected Plot Procedure below.**

## Garden Access and Logistics

Garden hours are Tuesday-Sunday dawn to dusk, and Monday 4pm-dusk. Parking is available at the circular gravel drive or on the east side of the gardens at the CORE location, 222 N. Trinity Way. Please note, SCG members do not have access to the CORE building.

A variety of tools, wheelbarrows, and other supplies are available for member use in the shared CORE Shed. Amendments such as compost and manure will be available near the fenced area.

A note about the CORE irrigation plans:

Water will be brought inside the garden fence and will be distributed to the rows of garden beds. Garden management will set up timers to ensure that each plot will have an adequate amount of water delivered through adjustable micro-spray heads or surface drip-lines. Gardeners will have access to watering cans and hoses, if occasional hand-watering is needed. Note that SCG will be paying for our water usage, unlike our previous arrangements at the Airport.

- Each gardener is responsible for weeding the pathways and shared spaces immediately adjacent to their plot.
- Pathways are not to be used for storage.
- No modifications or attachments to the metal beds are allowed. Any alterations to plots or to the garden premises must be presented to the Garden Manager for approval, prior to making proposed changes.
- Produce is only to be harvested from your own assigned plot.
- Gardeners must supervise their children in the garden.
- No pets are allowed in the garden at any time.
- Gardeners are responsible for disposing of their trash and weeds. Please take it home or to the Fryrear Transfer Station. Only kitchen scraps and vegetable refuse may be placed in the composter; all other waste must be removed.
- At the end of the growing season, dead plants and weeds are to be removed from plots by October 15. Beyond this date, gardeners may tend living plants. However, successful “shoulder

season” gardening requires hand watering and utilizing methods of protecting plants from severe weather.

- Note that there is an adjacent garden enclosure which serves CORE clients. As guests at CORE, our intent is be supportive and respectful, and to build positive relationships with the volunteers and clientele of CORE.
- SCG is an alcohol, drug and tobacco free space.

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in loss of gardening privileges or reassignment of your plot.

## **Neglected Plot Procedure**

Our community garden is committed to supporting all gardeners in maintaining their plots. If you are experiencing challenges, please know that resources and mentor support are available to help you succeed before any formal notices are issued. We encourage open communication and are here to assist you.

1. On May 1, a notice will be sent to any gardener who has not cultivated or maintained their plot. This notice will be delivered using your preferred communication method, as specified in your application. If you are unable to care for your plot by May 15, you must contact the Membership Coordinator before this date to discuss your situation. Arrangements may include requesting an extension, arranging for a mentor or volunteer to assist, or temporarily transferring maintenance to another gardener. If no arrangements are made and the plot remains uncultivated by May 15, the garden will reassign the plot.
2. Mentor Support: If you need help with your garden plot at any time, please contact the Membership Coordinator. You will be connected with a mentor who can provide guidance, hands-on assistance, or connect you with additional resources. We encourage you to reach out as soon as you anticipate difficulty maintaining your plot.
3. On June 1, any open plot not purchased by a wait-listed or new gardener will be offered to current gardeners interested in a second plot.
4. On August 15 (or as needed), a notice will be sent to the gardener of any plot with unharvested produce. The notice will state that, unless the gardener objects, the garden will harvest and donate the produce to the Food Bank. If you wish to object to this donation, you must notify the Membership Coordinator within 5 days of receiving the notice using your preferred communication method. Your timely response will ensure your wishes are respected.

We strive to keep all gardeners informed and supported. Reminders and offers of assistance will be provided before formal notices whenever possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out for help and thank you for your commitment to our garden community.