

2018 Community Garden Guidelines

The Sioux Falls Community Garden program was designed for people like you—renters without access to land, or homeowners with too-small or too-shady yards. There are no income requirements. Scholarships are available if the \$15 garden fee is prohibitive. Please note that the community gardens application form can be picked up at the Sioux Falls Health Department at 521 N. Main Avenue or downloaded from www.livewellsiouxfalls.org under the “Eat Well” page starting January 2, 2018.

Garden Details:

- **Deadline.** 2018 plot registration applications may be submitted starting January 2, 2018. **Applications must be received by February 10, 2018.** Garden placement is on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to people who successfully gardened in the Sioux Falls Community Garden program last year. **Please note that ALL gardeners will be required to attend one gardening class; details will be included with your plot confirmation.**
- **Fees.** The garden season fee pays for water bills, plowing/tilling expenses, and future garden investments. The season fee for all garden sites is **\$15.**
- **Flowers.** Make it beautiful—your garden plot **MUST** include **at least** one row of annual, blooming flowers.
- **Forfeiture.** You will forfeit your plot if you fail to maintain your plot or to follow these rules.
- **Garden Agreement.** If you are selected to be a community gardener, you have committed to maintaining your plot for the **ENTIRE** growing season. You must plant by May 31 and must clean out your plot by **October 15.**
- **Cleanup. EVERYTHING** (plants, fencing, supports, etc.) must be removed on October 15.
- **Neighborliness.** The garden is a community. Be considerate. If you can help your neighbor, please do so. If you have a question, ask your neighbor or the garden coordinator at 605-782-3290.
- **Notification.** Gardeners, whose applications have been approved, will receive notification with an invoice for the season garden fee by March 10, 2018. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of their status by April 14, 2018. **Please keep this document for your reference.**
- **Prohibitions.** Perennial plants, trees, building materials, **CARPET** and **ORANGE PLASTIC FENCING** (black or green is ok) are **not** allowed in the community gardens.
- **Soil Condition.** You are encouraged to make soil improvements to your plot using organic materials such as untreated lawn clippings and compost. Your plants are only as good as your soil.
- **Tilling.** This project is done by volunteers, not City employees. Plots will be tilled and ready to plant as soon as possible; we will try to have tilling and staking done as soon as the spring weather permits. The Community Garden coordinator will be contacting you when the garden is available after tilling and staking are done. You can also drive by to see if plots are staked. The coordinator can be reached by email at siouxfalls.center@sdstate.edu or by phone at 605-782-3290.
- **Trash Removal.** Anything you bring into the garden, you are expected to carry out; the gardens **do not** have access to a dumpster. If you weed, bring the weeds home to your trash can. If you use landscape fabric, please secure with lawn staples to prevent it from flying away. Securing goes for milk jugs and other plant supports, too.
- **Watering.** Conservation is required, city watering rules must be followed AND garden water stays at the garden (this water is NOT for your personal use).
- **Weed Control.** This is YOUR garden so you are responsible for grass and weed control in your plot and aisles around your plot (weed each of your plot's 4 sides) because a weeded plot is a happy plot. We are moving toward an organic garden; commercial herbicides and pesticides are **NOT** allowed. If in doubt, please call or email the coordinator.

The Sioux Falls Community Garden is a cooperative effort involving the Minnehaha County Master Gardeners, South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service, City of Sioux Falls, and a dedicated group of volunteers, including more than 200 individual gardeners.

South Dakota State University, South Dakota counties, and USDA cooperating. South Dakota State University adheres to AA/EEO guidelines in offering educational programs and services.