

## HOPE GARDEN RULES

This document sets out the rules that govern the HOPE Garden (the “Garden”). These Rules are intended to help all our Gardeners grow fresh, healthy foods in a thriving garden, to help create a sense of community among our gardeners, and to help the Garden be a good neighbor.

HOPE Lutheran (the “Sponsor”) is a nonprofit organization that owns the land for the Garden, sponsors the garden, and administers these Rules. Every person who has a plot in the Garden (called “Gardeners”) must sign a legal agreement with Sponsor in which the Gardener agrees to comply with these Rules.

### A. ACCESS TO THE GARDEN

Season – the garden is open and accessible May – early November

Hours – Gardeners may be in the Garden from sunrise to sunset.

Parking – Gardeners may park in the church parking lot, or enter the garden in designated area provided by HOPE.

### B. GARDEN PLOTS

Use of own plot:

- Gardeners use only the plot assigned to them by the Sponsor
- Gardeners maintain their plants within their plots and trim any plants that extend into the neighboring plots or common areas.
- Gardeners may not alter the dimensions of their plots.

Plantings:

- Gardeners may plant vegetables and annual flowers
- Gardeners may not grow plants or put up structures that impeded the growth in adjacent plots.
- All gardeners must begin gardening – show evidence of being in the garden by the end of Memorial Day weekend or have contacted the volunteer coordinator and received permission to delay the start of gardening.

Supplies:

- Gardeners plan and manage of their own plots, including providing: seeds, plants, fertilizer, and tools. NO herbicides and/or pesticides that is not certified organic is allowed in the garden.

Water:

- Gardeners water their own plants
- No water available at the site.

Tools:

- Gardeners bring their own tools for gardening.
- Gardeners are responsible for any damage caused by their tools and so use tools with care
- Gardeners may NOT use tools that require gasoline, electricity, or batteries.

Plot Maintenance & Trash:

- Gardeners maintain their plots and adjacent paths in a clean and neat manner by removing weeds, overgrowth, or waste from their plot.
- Gardeners promptly harvest edible plants
- Gardeners remove; transport and dispose of their own garden reuse and weeds in the designated compost area.

- Personal trash is disposed off-site.

**Yearly Clean-up:**

- Gardeners complete an end of season clean-up on their plot by the end of October.
- All weeds and old plant material must be removed.
- No landscape fabric, plastic, cages, tools etc may be stored in the garden over winter.

**Absence:**

- Gardeners actively maintain their plot.
- An absence of > 2 week should be communicated to Sponsor. An absence > 1 month is considered abandonment and loss of the plot. Gardener is informed via email or phone of plot forfeiture.

**Personal Property:**

- Gardeners are responsible for all personal property in the plot when they are not gardening.

**C. COMMON AREAS**

- Gardeners keep common areas adjacent to their plot neat and clean.
- Damage created by weather or vandals is cleaned and tidied by gardeners.

**D. COMMUNICATION**

**Garden Management:**

- The Sponsor has complete authority to interpret the Rules and make decisions

**Communication:**

- The Sponsor designates a Volunteer Garden Coordinator

**Contact Information:**

- Gardeners inform the Volunteer Garden Coordinator of changes in their contact email and/or phone number

**Gardener Input:**

- Gardeners are encouraged to provide suggestions to the Volunteer Garden Coordinator through email.

**Spring Gardener Orientation**

- To be determined.