

S.C.C.L. COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB (CGC)

General Policies/Procedures and Rules Approved February '24 by CGC Board

The purpose of the Club is to promote good fellowship, heighten knowledge and enjoyment of gardening activities and to practice sound environmental procedures.

All garden plots belong to the SCCL HOA and are managed by the Officers of the SCCL Community Garden Club. There are two (2) sets of garden plots; one at Riverbend and the other at Waters Edge. Each area has a shed with tools and some basic supplies which is managed by the CGC.

A household is defined as a street address within SCCL, regardless of the number of club members that reside there. When plots are given up by the assigned household, for whatever reason, the plot reverts directly back to the SCCL Community Garden Club. The assignment, or reassignment, of any plot can only be done by the SCCL Community Garden Club and no household-to-household transfers are allowed. No monetary or other form of compensation will be given for a lot that is vacated. No compensation between members is permitted for a plot transferred. Failure to comply with these policies and guidelines can cause the household/gardener to lose their gardening privileges. The Garden Club Officers reserve the right to make necessary amendments to the rules in the future.

We require all residents who wish to be assigned a garden plot to go to the SCCL Carolina Lakes website, sign on to the Community Garden Club web site, and "Join" the SCCL Community Garden Club and request a garden plot. "Joining" the club is the best way to keep updated on events and gardening information and meeting notes. One does not have to lease a garden plot in the community gardens of the SCCL Community Garden Club to "Join" and attend the Club Meetings as a non-voting guest. Once assigned a garden plot you become a voting member of the Club.

ABANDONED/NEGLECTED PLOTS:

Failure to maintain your assigned plot and the surrounding aisles in accordance with the rules and policies of the club can result in the recall of your plot and loss of gardening privileges for 12 months. (See the Procedures for recall of neglected or abandoned plots in the Club's website in the Library section.)

FEES:

First time gardeners who are assigned a garden plot will be charged an initial 1st year fee for use of the plot. Renewal fees for subsequent years are usually one-half the initial fee. Fees will be decided by the CGC officers and included in the yearly budget. This plot fee is non-refundable and covers the period from January 1st to December 31st. There will be no pro-rating for a partial year. However, dues for new members who are assigned a plot in the fourth quarter will be good for the following year.

The Club reserves the right to assess future fees for specific projects, subject to a majority vote of the membership at the Club's annual meeting.

GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES:

Be considerate of your neighbors. Please stay within the boundaries of your plot. Do not allow your plants to expand into the aisles and plots of other gardeners. Do not plant tall or sprawling crops (such as corn or pumpkins) where they will shade or crowd your neighbor's garden. **DO NOT PLANT WOODY PERENNIALS OR FRUIT BEARING SHRUBS/VINES** as they are hard to remove once you are gone and can encroach on the surrounding aisles. (NOTE: If you already have such plants growing in your garden you are grandfathered in, but you must control them to the confines of your plot. Be aware you are responsible for their removal when you give up your plot.) Keep your plot and the surrounding pathways open, clean, and neat and free of weeds, pests, disease, lumber, and gardening equipment. Harvest only from your assigned plot unless authorized by the plot owner. Do not perform any garden jobs in a neighboring plot, even as a favor, without first getting permission.

MAINTAINING YOUR PLOT:

We encourage organic gardening, based on building a healthy soil through composting and good stewardship that protects our soil, air, water, and biological diversity. Hand pulling and mulching are the preferred method for weed control, as are the use of biological control methods for pest/fungus such as soap sprays and Neem Oil. Non-organic garden products are limited to fertilizers such as 10-10-10 and soluble 15-30-15 (such as Miracle-Gro) and pest/weed control products rated "Caution" (such as Severin and Roundup) used sparingly according to manufacturer's directions. For your safety and the safety of others, do not spray on windy days. **More dangerous products rated "Warning or Danger" and systemic pesticides of any type are not allowed.**

We encourage the use of compost to keep soil fertile. (The Fox Hole is a good source.) Please note that there is no common composting area available in either garden. Weeds and garden refuse should be removed promptly and disposed of at home. **COMPOSTING** within the confines of your plot is allowed but must be done in a completely enclosed container or buried to minimize pest attraction.

NOTE: Garden repairs and modifications: All repairs and modifications done by the gardener must be pre-approved by the Garden Manager. The Club will reimburse for wood and screws used to repair the boundary wall (Note: Forms for reimbursements for garden wall repair are found in the Club website Library). All other modifications require prior approval of the design by the garden manager before work commences and are at the expense of the gardener.

TOOLS:

There are tools in the garden shed for use by the gardeners. Please make sure the door to the shed is always closed and locked when you leave. Clean and return all the tools to the shed when leaving the garden. These tools are for use in the Club managed community gardens only. Do not remove tools from this area.

WATERING:

Unattended watering is not permitted. Make sure all faucets are off and nozzles are removed when you leave the garden. Keep hoses neatly rolled up near the water spigot. Please conserve water. Follow wise watering practices and mulch with leaves, straw, etc., to reduce water evaporation. No timed devices or sprinkler systems are allowed. Do not flood pathways or neighboring plots. It may become necessary to water by bucket or sprinkling can if a drought emergency is declared by the Lancaster County Water and Sewer District.

WORKDAYS: Several times a year the Garden Manager will call for workdays to cleanup, repair, rebuild plots, clean out the tool sheds, spread mulch, etc. Gardeners are expected to participate to the best of their ability. Your officers and garden managers “thank you” for stepping up and doing your part to keep the gardens presentable and safe.

YEARLY RENEWALS:

Households/gardeners are required to re-register for their plots yearly. When gardeners register for a plot, they agree to abide by these Garden General Policies and Rules and will be asked to sign an agreement to abide by these policies and guidelines. Assuming all guidelines and conditions have been met, current gardeners will be allowed to keep their plot when renewing their agreement in subsequent years. Signed “renewal agreements” must be received by January 1st of each year. (Note: 2nd plots are subject to different renewal dates. See Policies and Procedures for Second Garden Plot Assignments and Renewals.) After that date, plots will become open to those on a waiting list. If you do not wish to continue gardening, notify a Garden Club Officer so that your plot may be assigned to someone else. You may not transfer or sub-lease your plot to someone else.

APPENDIX A (aka Short and Sweet Garden Rules)

- ☐ Garden gates should not be left open and unattended. Be sure to secure all gates and the shed when done.
- ☐ All faucets off and nozzles removed when done watering.
- ☐ NO PETS allowed in the community garden area.
- ☐ Resident guests and non-resident visitors may enter the garden only if a Club member accompanies them and they must follow all rules and conditions stated here. You will be solely responsible for the behavior of your guests.
- ☐ You are not to duplicate keys or give lock codes for the sheds to anyone who is not authorized to enter the gardens.
- ☐ THERE IS NO SMOKING allowed in the garden area.
- ☐ Do not grow any illegal plants as defined by State and Federal law.
- ☐ Do not leave trash or debris in the garden. There are no trash barrels or trash pickup in the garden areas. Gardeners must take all trash with them when they leave the garden and dispose of it properly.
- ☐ If you notice damage to the facilities, vandalism, or theft please notify a Garden Club Officer or the front desk at the Lake House immediately.
- ☐ Annual flowers in your assigned plot are welcomed and, in fact, are encouraged but, long term perennials, such as roses or berry bushes are now banned. If you currently have such in your garden it is the responsibility to remove them and clean up a plot when it is returned to the Garden Club.
- ☐ Requests for reimbursement for Club related expenses must be accompanied by a properly filled out "Community Garden Club Expense Receipt Form" which requires the approval of two (the treasurer and one additional board member) officers before it can be paid. Forms are available on the Club website Library.