KANSAS CITY
COMMUNITY GARDENS

KCCG Rent-a-Plot Plot Gardens: Community Values and Expectations
2027 Gardening Season

KCCG is committed to making our rental plot gardens available as a welcoming, safe and affordable space for gardeners. To accomplish this, we need the help of each member of our gardening community. By renting space in the garden, you agree to the following values and expectations:

Value #1: The garden is a welcoming and inclusive place for all gardeners.

To accomplish this, KCCG commits to:

- Provide welcome and orientation meetings each spring, where gardeners can meet one another and learn about opportunities and expectations for the year.
- Respond promptly to any concerns about bullying or harassment in the garden.

Gardeners will commit to:

- Prior to gardening, attend an annual orientation meeting or contact KCCG staff for a one-on-one orientation.
- Respect fellow gardeners and refrain from interfering in others plots.
- Get to know your neighbors, share knowledge and lend a hand when needed!

Value #2: We are good stewards of natural and financial resources.

KCCG will provide:

- Water for the garden (included in your annual rental fee)
- Periodic soil and compost top-offs: We rotate this funding between gardens; most gardens will receive top-offs and amendments every 3-8 years as conditions necessitate and funding is available.

- Low-cost bagged compost and straw, which can be purchased for use as soil amendments and mulch at KCCG headquarters
- Organic pesticides, which can be safely used without harm to bees and beneficial insects (low-cost products can be purchased at the KCCG headquarters)
- Tilling for ground plots (prior to opening and after closing each season)
- Educational workshops and a monthly newsletter just for rental plot gardeners, with guidance on sustainable garden practices and helpful tips

Gardeners will commit to:

- **Turn off the water at both the faucet and hydrant after watering and roll up hoses. Report any leaks promptly.**
- Take care not to remove excess soil when weeding. Add soil amendments (ex. bagged compost, grass clippings, leaves) to your bed or plot as needed.
- Using only insecticides and fungicides on the approved list. **Sevin and Eight insecticides, as well as all herbicides (chemical weed killers/preventatives) are prohibited in the garden.**
- Manage your garden in a manner that does not create challenges for your neighbors or the maintenance of the garden:
    - Ensure that your plot or bed is planted and maintained throughout the season, so weeds do not take over, go to seed and spread.
    - Plant tall crops (such as corn) in the center to avoid shading neighbors.
    - Stay within your assigned space – don't dig in aisles or neighboring plots.
    - Contact staff if you are unable to tend your plot at any point during the year.
    - Remove all non-plant items (e.g. cages, stakes, weed barrier) from ground plots at the end of the season. **Failure to do so will result in a $25 removal fee.** Trellises and stakes may be laid down in raised beds over the winter.
- Keep shared spaces clean:
    - All plant debris should be placed in the designated compost area.
    - Remove all trash from your garden space. Most gardens do not have trash cans – you will need to take it home with you.
    - **Leave a 1 ½ foot walking path on all sides of your garden so that everyone can access their space.**
    - Carry any rocks to the end of the aisle and place in a neat pile. Please do not throw or leave rocks in the aisles – this damages mowing equipment.

Value #3: The garden is a safe and secure space for all gardeners.

To accomplish this, KCCG will:

- Provide gated, keyed access to the garden.
- Respond promptly to any concerns or incidents regarding safety or vandalism.

Gardens will commit to:

- Lock the gate behind you upon entry and exit
- Supervise all guests
- For safety, avoid working in the garden between sundown and sunup
- Report theft or vandalism immediately – you are our best eyes and ears!
- Refrain from picking produce or plants from other gardeners' beds and plots.
- Understand that any confirmed incidents of theft, vandalism or other destructive behaviors will result in immediate dismissal from the garden.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Meyer, Director of Facilities and Rental Plot Gardens at rentalplot@kccg.org or 816-931-3877 X311.