

Hillsboro Community Gardens Information and Guidelines





CITY OF HILLSBORO Parks & Recreation



Hillsboro Parks & Recreation supports two community garden sites in partnership with Calvary Lutheran and Sunrise Churches. Community gardens provide an opportunity for residents to grow food and ornamental crops, and enjoy the exercise, relaxation and educational benefits of gardening. Gardens promote sustainability and community building.

To create a garden is to search for a better world. In our effort to improve on nature, we are guided by a vision of paradise. Whether the result is a horticultural masterpiece or only a modest vegetable patch, it is based on the expectation of a glorious future. This hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening.

Marina Schinz

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Calvary Lutheran and Sunrise Churches. Additional support has been given to the gardens by the ELCA Oregon Synod Endowment Fund, Hillsboro Water Department, Master Gardeners of Washington County, SOLV, Miller Education Center, local Boy Scouts, and many other individuals and groups. Thank you to everyone who has helped to create these community gardens!

Table of Contents

Welcome	2
Growing season timeline.....	3
Who can garden & how do I get a plot?.....	3
Being a community gardener	4
Gardening hours	4
Garden parking	4
Gardener information	4
Plot renewal.....	5
No refunds.....	5
How many plots can a gardener have?.....	5
Vacations or absences	5
Spring preparations and planting	6
Summer planting and growing.....	6
Fall harvest and clean-up	6
Mulching.....	6
Pathways.....	6
Definition of a “working garden”	7
What is appropriate to grow?	7
Weeds and plot upkeep	7
Natural gardening encouraged	7
Gardening courtesy & communication.....	8
Theft and vandalism	8
Water availability.....	9
Garden debris	9
Barbecuing and picnics	10
Children in the gardens.....	10
Dogs in gardens.....	10
Smoking	10
Garbage	10
Rodents, other animals, and fences	10
The role of the Garden Manager.....	11
Questions?.....	11
Registration Form.....	12
Waiver.....	13
Calvary plot map	14
Sonrise Plot Map	15
Map and directions to Calvary	16
Map and directions to Sonrise	17

Hillsboro Community Gardens

Welcome

The City of Hillsboro began a community garden program in 2006. Community Gardens are now available for public use on various properties. Policies and rules are in place to help this venture be successful for everyone: the gardeners, the neighbors, the churches and the City.

The goals of the community garden are simple:

- Opportunity: Provide a place for local residents to grow food and ornamental crops, and enjoy the exercise, relaxation and educational benefits of gardening.
- Stewardship: Promote sustainability, natural gardening and wise use of land.
- Social Interaction: Promote community building and social interaction.

Our program is likely to evolve over time, and it is possible our rules may evolve as well. As a participating gardener, you can help guide the future of community gardening in Hillsboro.



Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community. When people plant corn they are saying, let's stay here. And by their connection to the land, they are connected to one another.

Anne Raver

Growing Season Timeline

Gardening can begin as early as February and gardeners are expected to make use of their plots by May. Some gardens might be reserved with the best of intentions, but end up not being planted. Unfortunately, if your garden is not started by May, it will likely be reassigned to a gardener on the waiting list. If for any reason it is not possible to start your garden by then, please contact the Garden Manager to discuss alternative options.

January	Returning gardener deadline to submit registration for priority plot renewal
February	Open registration begins
February -March	Garden kick-off meeting
March – April	Spring clean-up time – Schedule work party
May	Gardens must be in the “getting started” phase Water available
June	Gardens must be in the “planting” phase
October	Fall clean-up Water turned off
November	Mulch or cover crop installed
December	Garden renewal registration begins

Who can garden & how do I get a plot?

Registration for garden plots is through Hillsboro Parks & Recreation. Because of the limited number of plots available, registration is limited to Hillsboro residents only. In accordance with the church request, a small number of plots are reserved for low-income persons and church plots. Raised bed gardens are intended for elderly or mobility impaired persons. Only registered gardeners may use the garden plots.

Gardeners must register and pay for a plot in person (4400 NW 229th Ave.) or over the phone (503-681-6120). All gardeners are required to sign a use agreement waiver.



Garden Plot Sizes & Fees

20' x 20'	\$50/year	15' x 20'	\$40/year
10' x 20'	\$30/year	10' x 10'	\$25/year
20' x 20' shade plots	\$25/year	4' x 12' raised bed	\$20/year

Being a community gardener

Each gardener is part of a community of gardeners and needs to work with others in relative harmony in order to make a positive gardening experience for everyone. The gardeners are responsible not just for their plot, but for the pathways surrounding their plot, and for helping the garden area as a whole.

Gardening can be a compelling co-operative activity. Your best harvest may be the pleasure you get from working with family and friends. There's never a shortage of things to do, no limit to the lessons that can be learned, especially for children, and there's always plenty of credit to go around, even for the mistakes.

Steven Wilson



Gardening hours

Gardening hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. or dusk, whichever comes earlier. The use of power equipment is restricted to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Garden parking

Parking at the church is available except at the following times at **Sonrise Church**:

Sunday - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

During these times, gardeners are encouraged to utilize street parking. Please, no parking at the school during weekdays when school is in session. Parking at the school is available in the evenings, summer, and on no-school days.

There are no set parking times at **Calvary Lutheran Church**.

Gardener information

Plots are not transferable without the permission of the City. Gardeners are responsible for keeping addresses and phone numbers current with the Parks Office. If, for any reason, you need to relinquish your space, call the City at 503-681-6120.

Plot renewal

Existing gardeners have the first opportunity to renew plots before garden registration opens to the public. Existing gardeners will typically keep the plot they are currently gardening in, however, if they request a different plot (larger, sunnier, etc.) and it becomes available, it will be assigned on a first come first serve basis in reference to the waiting list.

No refunds

The garden registration fee you pay only partially covers the costs of operating the Community Garden Program. If you give up your garden plot after you have registered, or if you fail to maintain your plot and it is transferred to another gardener, **your plot fee will not be refunded.**

How many plots can a gardener have?

Because our garden is so small, we are limiting gardens to one plot per gardener or gardening family. If there are unassigned plots after May 1st, gardeners can register for additional plots for the current growing season; however, the additional plots will return to the "new gardener" pool the following year.

Vacation or absences

Please arrange for others to help care for your garden if you are away on vacation, ill, or not able to make it do the garden for multiple days. Offer to donate surplus produce to the food pantry or other gardeners. Unattended gardens or accumulations of unpicked produce is wasteful and unsightly. Utilize the garden bulletin board or garden neighbors as needed.



*One of the most delightful things
about a garden is the anticipation
it provides.*

W. E. Johns

Spring preparations and planting

By May, your garden should be in the “getting started” stage. This deadline is to motivate gardeners to show that they are going to utilize the garden plot, and not waste it. Some garden plots are reserved with the best of intentions, but end up not being planted. If you haven’t started preparations by this date, there is probably someone on the waiting list who would be willing to take over your plot. The minimum requirements of “getting started” include:

- Weeding and planning;
- Working the soil in preparation for planting;
- Pathway clean-up.



Summer planting and growing

By June, there should be substantial progress towards a productive garden and signs of gardening activity, which includes:



- At least half of the plot worked and planted;
- Consistent removal of weeds;
- Some established plants being cared for;
- Continued pathway maintenance.

Fall harvest and clean-up

Annual crops should be harvested and plants cleaned up and composted. Garden plots should be cover-cropped, and/or have mulched placed around perennial plants by November. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation can provide leaves onsite for gardeners that wish to use leaves as a cover crop.

Mulching

Mulching is an effective method to save water and improve garden soil. Gardeners are encouraged to use organic mulch. Newspaper is **not** allowed as a mulching agent/weed barrier.

Pathways

The City does not mow or provide regular upkeep of the pathways or other common areas at the Community Gardens. Rather, each gardener is responsible for keeping the surrounding pathways weeded and well tended. Your garden space may stop at the edge of your plot—but your responsibility includes the pathways surrounding your garden. From time to time, the gardeners may organize work parties to replenish chips in the pathways or perform other communal tasks.

Everything you plant must remain within the perimeters of the designated plots, allowing adequate space for growth and keeping pathways clear. Allow for access within your own plot.

Definition of a “working garden”

Gardeners are responsible for keeping garden plots maintained, planted or mulched, and kept within its boundaries. Plots may not be consistently weedy, untended or filled with debris. Gardeners are expected to spend at least two hours per week, on average during the growing season, tending the plot.



What is appropriate to grow?

Vegetables, herbs, flowers and small fruit plants for home consumption and donation are appropriate. No large structures, trees, or large collection of non-plant items are allowed. Crops must be legal and for personal use or donation. Do not allow your plants to shade an adjoining garden or encroach on the pathway.

Weeds and plot upkeep

Weeds affect other gardeners and it is important to keep a tidy plot. If a medical, personal, or other reason arises that does not allow you to tend to your plot, please let the garden manager know and arrangements can be made to assist you. If a plot begins to be overtaken by weeds and appears abandoned, a warning will be issued by the garden manager. If the plot remains abandoned after two warnings, it will be assigned to a gardener on the waiting list and no refund will be issued.

Natural gardening encouraged

Use of herbicides and/or weed killers is not allowed. Use of chemicals or propellants banned by the federal, state, or local government shall be grounds for forfeiture of the privilege to use the Community Garden. Gardeners are encouraged to use natural gardening techniques. Free brochures are available with suggestions for natural gardening techniques. Chemical fertilizers (such as those commercially produced) are permitted.

Gardeners can work with each other and the garden manager to offer garden classes on a variety of gardening topics in conjunction with the Master Gardeners and other experts. Some of these may be held at the church. If there is a topic you would like to see covered in the class, contact the Garden Manager.

Gardening courtesy & communication

One of the main goals of community gardening is to work together or next to each other in relative harmony. Please be courteous in all interactions, and work to resolve any disagreements.

- Keep weeds under control so they don't spread to neighboring plots.
- If you want music, use a personal sound system with headphones; others enjoy the quiet of the garden.
- Help maintain community and shared areas of the garden, including pathways.
- Pick only your own crops unless requested by another gardener.
- Water only your own plot and don't leave water running for extended time.
- Harvest ripe produce on a daily basis.
- Make friends with other gardeners and neighbors.
- Report any problems to the Garden Manager.

Contact the Garden Manager or Volunteer Services Coordinator for guideline clarifications or plot delineation. The Garden Manager will check plots regularly to encourage productive use by participants.

Theft and vandalism

Any gardener reported for taking vegetables, flowers or supplies from another's plot without permission may have their garden privileges revoked.

If you catch someone "in the act" of stealing or vandalizing, gather all of the information that can. Types of useful information includes: description of clothes, shoes, car (make/model/license plate number/ bumpersticker), hair color, tattoos, etc. Call 9-1-1 with such details if you are calling during the incident. Call the non-emergency number, 503-629-0111, if you call after the incident. The more garden theft/vandalism reports there are, the more police presence there will be at the gardens. Do not report thefts to the Garden Manager or Volunteer Services Coordinator, although you can notify them once the police have been called. In addition, never do anything in these situations that you do not feel comfortable doing.

To make a report to the police, you will need to know the following information:

- **Sonrise Church** address: 6701 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, OR 97124
- **Calvary Church** address: 937 NE Jackson School Rd. Hillsboro, OR 97124
- Caller information: Name/address/phone number/birthday
- Detailed list of what is missing or what was vandalized
- Suspect and vehicle description, if known

It is only when you start a garden—probably after age fifty—that you realize something important happens every day.

Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

Water availability

Water in the gardens is available from May – October. Garden registration fees are used to pay for water use. Water service requires the use of a “water key”, which is available for purchase at most home improvement stores. Surplus water keys may be placed in the garden tool shed and are to be returned after each use. There is roughly one water source for every four garden plots. Please be courteous to neighbors by taking turns watering.



Gardeners must be present to water at all times. Various methods of irrigation can be used; however, gardeners must be courteous to their neighbor and avoid over watering. Irrigation timers to regulate watering are not permitted.

The Hillsboro Water Department graciously donates materials and supplies to support conserving water in the gardens each year. Compost, rain gauges, and aqua spikes are often made available at no cost for gardeners to use throughout the season to help save water. We encourage watering before 10:00 am and after 6:00 pm.

If you are going on vacation or will not be able to tend to your plot for a period of time, please use the “water me” signs located in the garden tool shed. This will help keep your produce healthy while you are absent.

Garden debris

Gardeners are encouraged to handle garden debris with on site composting within their garden plot; some people may choose to use a compost bin such as the Earth Machine. On-site composting is limited to compostable materials produced at the community garden site or your personal residence; use of compost materials from businesses is not allowed.

Throughout the year, Parks and Recreation will provide a drop box for collecting garden debris to take off-site for composting. Gardeners will be given notice of when the box will be available; it is expected that this will be dropped off on a Thursday and picked up on a Monday to increase availability. On-site compost piles will accrue compost in between drop box availability; gardeners that contribute to the garden compost pile are responsible for moving the pile into the drop box when it is placed on-site. Contact the garden manager to request drop box or to get the drop box schedule.

Hillsboro Garbage & Cornelius Disposal have graciously provided compost bins at all garden sites that available on a first come first served basis. They are dumped biweekly.

Barbecuing and picnics

Barbecuing is not permitted in the garden; gardeners are encouraged to bring snacks or lunches and picnic in community areas. Church sponsored barbecues or garden potlucks may be scheduled during the gardening season.

Children in the gardens

Children are encouraged to garden with their parents, but they must stay on the paths of their assigned garden without going through the plots of other gardeners.

Dogs in the gardens

Well behaved dogs are allowed to visit the gardens with their owners. Dogs must be on a leash at all times and owners must clean up after their pets. Dogs are only allowed at their owners plot and must stay out of surrounding plots.

Smoking

Smoking is **not** permitted in the garden area as wood chip paths/mulch materials could be flammable.

Garbage

There is no garbage service at the Community Garden. Please keep trash and litter cleared from your plot and take it home for disposal.

Rodents, other animals and fences

Because rodents and other animals may be prevalent in the nearby natural areas, it will be the responsibility of the individual gardener to control these pests within their own garden space. Non-permanent fencing is allowed, but may not cross garden pathways.



There is great pleasure in working in the soil, apart from the ownership of it. The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world.

Charles Dudley Warner, 1870

The role of the Garden Manager

As part of our goal to create a sense of community, we are encouraging periodic meetings of the gardeners. A volunteer garden manager is elected or reinstated at the first garden meeting. The garden manager will serve as a contact point for the gardeners, church and city representatives and enforce garden guidelines. Other roles of the garden manager include:

- Keep track of plots that are used well or are neglected/abandoned, and report these to Hillsboro Parks & Recreation.
- Work with gardeners to organize and lead garden meetings, demonstrations and other events.
- Schedule work parties to complete ongoing maintenance needs in plots and shared areas. Work may include compost work, planting, mulching or pathway maintenance.
- Help to resolve conflicts regarding site issues such as rule breaking, pathway lines, gardening relationships, water time and use, etc.
- Maintain communication with gardeners, church and city representatives.
- Periodically meet with representatives of the church and Hillsboro Parks & Recreation to discuss and resolve garden issues on a timely basis.

The first gardener meeting will be announced in February. Meetings will be held in the Church or gardens, depending on weather and time of year. The appointed Garden Manger will schedule, plan, and run the garden meetings.



*A garden is a public service
and having one a public duty.
It is a man's contribution to the
community.*

Richardson Wright,
Truly Rural, 1922



Questions?

Please contact Hillsboro Parks & Recreation at 503-681-6120 if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the garden program.



Hillsboro Community Gardens Registration Form

 I am a Returning Gardener.

 I am a New Gardener.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Plot Selection:

Returning Gardeners

 Same plot as last year. Plot # _____

 I would like a different plot if available.

New Gardener

 I will take any plot available.

 I request specific plot # _____

Garden:

 Calvary

 Sunrise

Garden Fees:

20' x 20' plot \$50 15' x 20' plot \$40

10' x 20' plot \$30 20' x 20' shade plot \$25

10' x 10' plot \$25 4' x 12' plot \$20

Church Plot Free

Garden Rules Acknowledgement:

I have read and understand the Hillsboro Community Garden Rules and Regulations in the Garden Manual and agree to follow them, knowing that non-compliance could result in immediate loss of my plot **without a refund**.

Signature: _____ Date: _____





Community Garden Waiver and Release for Participants

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

Important Notice: Participation in the Program shall be at each participant’s own risk. Any and all claims for injury or damages shall be waived as a condition to participation. To the greatest extent allowed by law, even if a waiver is not signed, participation shall be considered to be an agreement to assume all risk and to hold the church and the City of Hillsboro completely harmless therefrom. No security is provided at the Community Garden or within the Program area. Parents shall be responsible for watching their children at all times.

I, the undersigned, agree to release, absolve, hold harmless, and indemnify the City of Hillsboro and Sonrise Church, Calvary Lutheran Church, and their respective officers, agents and employees, volunteers and assigns, from and against all damages, claims, demands, suits, and/or actions resulting from my occupancy and/or use of the Community Gardens property; such damages may include, but are not limited to, damage or loss of property or physical injury or death to myself or to any person. I assume all risks and hazards for myself and for any minor children in my custody incidental to the conduct of this activity including but not limited to the risk of physical injury attendant there with. I understand there is no insurance coverage provided for this activity and further understand the acquisition of insurance is my personal responsibility.

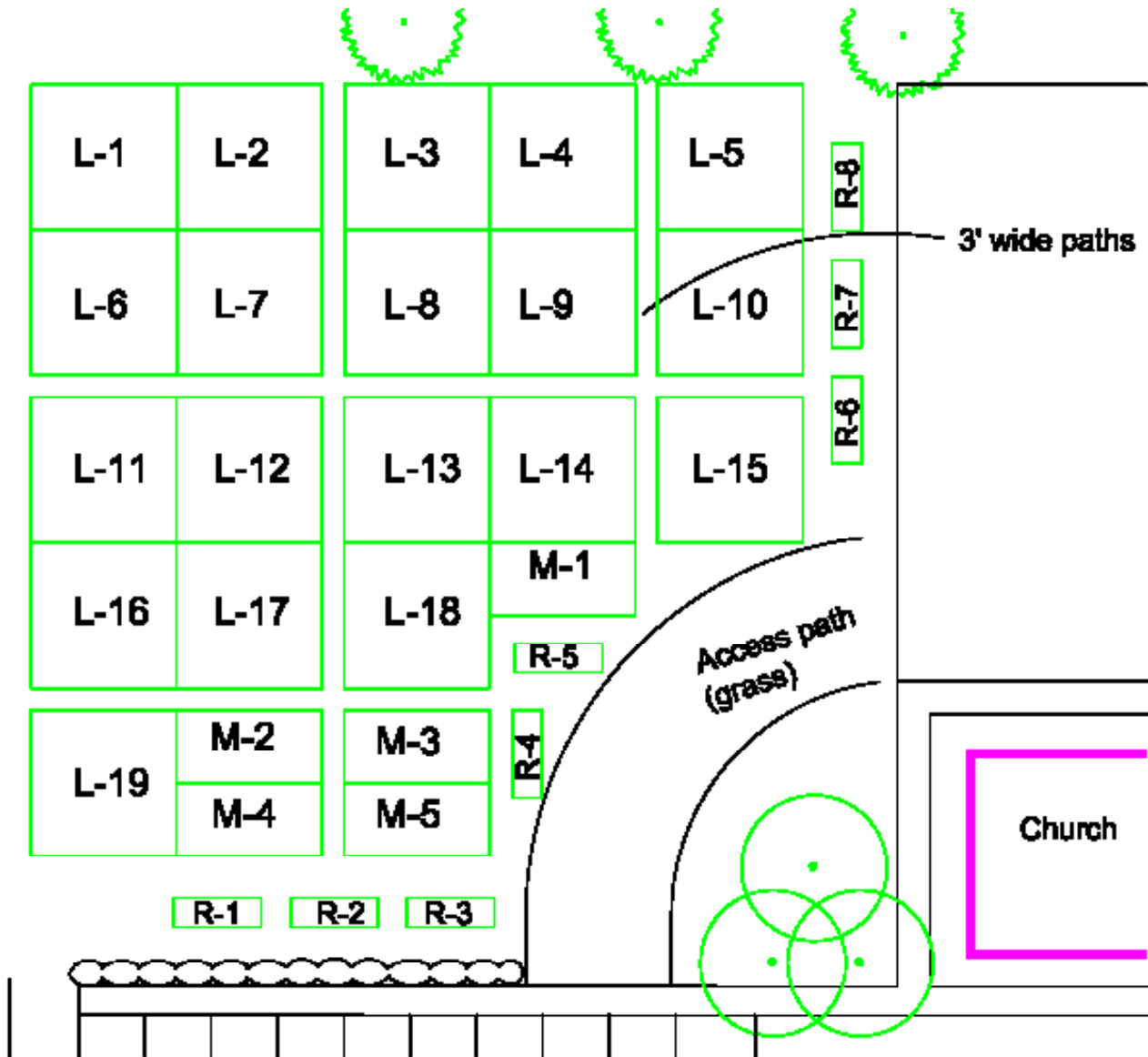
I understand that the playgrounds at Sonrise Church and Calvary Lutheran Church are designed for children between the ages of 3 and 8 years old, and that adult supervision is required at all times. I agree that users assume all risks. I understand that play equipment should be used in accordance with its designed use, such as no climbing on top of the crawl through tubes.

I agree to act in a safe, prudent and responsible manner at all times while using the Community Garden and I agree to be respectful of other users and their property.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Calvary Lutheran Community Garden Plot Layout



Calvary Lutheran Church Community Gardens

937 NE Jackson School Road
Hillsboro, OR 97124

A partnership between the City of Hillsboro & Calvary Lutheran Church.

Sonrise Community Garden Plot Layout



Sonrise Church Community Gardens

6701 NE Campus Way
Hillsboro, OR 97124

A partnership between the City of Hillsboro & Sonrise Church.

Map and Directions

Calvary Lutheran Church Community Gardens
937 NE Jackson School Rd.
Hillsboro, OR 97124



From Cornell Rd:

Turn West onto NE Arrington Rd.

Turn South onto Jackson School Rd.

Calvary Lutheran Church is right next to Hamby Park (.1 miles)

From First Ave:

Turn East onto Grant St.

Turn North onto 5th Ave.

5th Ave. changes into Jackson School Rd.

Calvary Lutheran Church is on the left (.2 miles)

Map and Directions

Hillsboro Community Gardens

Sonrise Church

6701 NE Campus Way

Hillsboro, OR 97124



From Cornell Road:

Turn South onto NW 231st Ave.

Turn West on NE Campus Way

Sonrise Church is between Sonrise Church & Quatama Elementary School

City of Hillsboro
Parks & Recreation
4400 NW 229th Ave.
Hillsboro, OR 97124
503-681-6120

