

Summer Winter Garden Basics

Welcome to Summer-Winter Community Garden, a Keystone Community Garden and member of the Neighborhood Garden Trust (NGT). Please consult this document and the Bylaws (available online) for orientation notes.

Summer-Winter is divided into two sides: the east side and west side. Each plot will have either an “E” or “W” indicating its side.

Garden Plot Applicant/ POC

Each assigned plot must have an individual member who is responsible to ensure that all membership responsibilities are carried out. If a group will be using the plot, the responsible individual must be designated on the application form; this role cannot be transferred within the group without official written notice to the Membership Coordinator. No plot may be transferred.

Plot Maintenance Requirements (from Bylaws)

1. We participate in best practices in organic gardening. Use of hazardous herbicides, pesticides, and commercial fertilizers is permitted.
2. Plots must be clean and planted by May 15th. If not, the plot may be made available to someone else, with no refund of dues paid.
3. Weeding of the plot and adjacent paths and fences is the responsibility of the plot gardener(s). If a gardener fails to maintain the property in the opinion of the Membership Coordinators, with input from other Executive Committee members, the gardener will be informed and given two weeks to rectify the situation. If the situation is not rectified, the plot may be made available to someone else, with no refund of dues paid.
4. Gardeners must be able to foresee spending a minimum of two to three hours every week for the duration of the growing season working in and around their plots.
5. Gardeners are expected to compost or remove weeds from their own plot. Please DO NOT put weeds from your plot in the common compost bins, which are reserved for weeds from the common areas of the garden.
6. Plots must be prepared for the winter by the end of December, meaning dead plant material and stakes, etc. are removed and, ideally, a cover crop is planted.
7. No trees should be planted on individual plots.
8. Gardeners are not authorized to circumvent the application process and give away their plots.

Water

Summer Winter has two water systems from two water sources. In general, the pipes are 6-12 inches below ground on the paths, and can be easily damaged by tools. Do not use pickaxes on the paths to avoid puncturing the line. Report leaks to summerwintergarden@gmail.com.

The east side water system begins at a farmers valve on the west side. This will be open and usable during the growing season, and closed during the frost season. There are additional valves near the shed on the east side that open the remainder of the system from the farmers valve. The executive committee will open the system after danger of frost.

The west side water system begins at the Drexel University building to the north at a valve at ground level. Turning this on will turn on all water to the west side.

Compost

1. All gardeners must compost the weeds from their plot on their plot or remove. Do not discard your plot weeds in any other locations of the garden.
2. The public space compost area is under the pine tree at the southeast corner of the garden. This space is ONLY FOR WEEDS FROM PUBLIC AREAS. Do not put these weeds anywhere else.
3. The old compost space on the west side has been discontinued—do not place any weeds in this space.
4. All woody material that will not compost must be left on the chipping pile at the north side of the central path.

Public Space Etiquette

Throughout the garden there are many public areas, which include plants, fruiting trees, and garden features maintained by specific garden stewards. In both the east and west side there are ponds. On the east side there is a woodland flowering display. On the west side there is an orchard and a cooperative chicken coop. We welcome more dedicated volunteers in these public spaces, but unless you have been provided instruction by one of these dedicated garden stewards or the executive committee, please do not intervene or disturb those areas. A general rule of thumb is leave no trace on any location except your plot, this includes dumping weeds or trash, picking plants or produce, removing or installing plants and features, etc.

Orchard Etiquette

In the west side orchard, volunteers are encouraged to weed under the trees and in the general orchard areas (no permission/ instructions needed). Anyone who harvests fruit should contribute 30 minutes of time to weeding in the area before they harvest. Anyone who harvests should take only ripened fruit that has fallen off the tree. Each gardener's portion is only 3% of the harvest to allow everyone access (assuming they assist). Therefore, be considerate and only take 1-2 fruit or a few berries. When fruit is ripe, the fruit is gathered and shared by many stewards who tend the orchard all year. No one should be gathering all available fruit.

Shed Etiquette

Each garden side has a tool shed, with blue and yellow tools marked to indicate their location. The garden needs volunteers to help maintain these sheds. Do not store items in the shed, and do not use supplies in the sheds that have not been specifically designated for all gardener use—many stewards store equipment and supplies used in garden public spaces. Put tools back where you found them (or better yet, where they are SUPPOSED to go, if a previous user left them out). Lock up the shed when you are done using it, or ask others if they'd like it kept open; lock the shed if you are the last gardener

There are grills, tables, and chairs stored in the sheds and around the garden. If you use them, put them back in clean condition. Do not use grilling supplies that do not belong to you. A general rule of thumb is if you did not buy the supply, then do not use it.

Gate Etiquette

If you are the last person out of your side of the garden, confirm all of the gates are locked. When others are also in the garden, lock the gate behind you unless another gardener is also using that entrance (you can ask).

Gathering/ Social events Etiquette

We are currently following NGT Covid guidelines and requesting no social gatherings in the garden to preserve this as a socially-distanced space for our members

Summer Winter occasionally hosts events for partnering organizations. It is also a nice location for gardeners to INFORMALLY gather with friends. The executive committee must approve all events, and we notify gardeners when these events will occur. No member should occupy their plot or any public space for events with tents, sound equipment, event rental equipment, etc. No members should host publicly-advertised and open (Facebook, etc) events in the garden. If you are informally gathering in a space, be prepared to share that space with others who might also be planning to enjoy the garden.

Biolet Etiquette

The garden does have a biolet on the east side adjacent to the tool shed. Please use it sparingly. Follow the directions posted inside. Clean up messes and do not leave waste. REMOVE ALL CAPS AND LIDS BEFORE YOU GO—look and ensure you are using it correctly. No sanitary products can go in the toilet—carry out. The biolet does need emptied annually and we need volunteers for this.

Chicken Coop Cooperative

Garden members have formed a cooperative to raise chickens in a designated location for educational purposes. Do not enter the coop unless you are a member of the cooperative. Admission requires a dedicated day of the week to clean and tend the chickens and a share of all food and maintenance costs. If you are interested in joining, email Amanda at Dott0005@gmail.com. If there is a “chicken emergency” such as an escapee or some other problem, the cooperative appreciates you letting us know. You can text Amanda at 215-609-0440.