

**St. Mark Community Garden  
Guidelines  
2109 College Street SE  
Lacey, Washington 98503**

**Garden Coordinator: Gail Frare 360-870-6267  
[gatofrare@comcast.net](mailto:gatofrare@comcast.net)**

St. Mark Community Garden consists of a 1-acre garden grown for the Thurston County Food Bank, and 46 raised beds that are open to community members that have no garden space of their own. The Food Bank garden labor comes from church members and community gardeners that adopt raised beds for their own private use (in other words, YOU!) Unless you have a physical limitation, you will be approved to adopt a bed if you agree to volunteer 10 hours over the period May 1 – September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have a physical limitation that prevents you from volunteering but still want to utilize a bed please talk to the Garden Coordinator who can waive the requirement.

**Please note: *We have 2-hour work parties every other week on Saturday mornings beginning in May that continue through September. You may also come Monday – Friday mornings during the summer and work under the direction of the church member present.***

Garden Guidelines

1. Unless physically unable and approved by the garden coordinator, gardeners will be expected to perform 10 (ten) hours of volunteer time.
2. We are eager to have children participate in the garden experience and ask that parents always supervise their children when in the garden.
3. Plot users promise to maintain their beds throughout the growing season. This means that it is weeded, and produce is harvested when ripe.
4. Your plot may be amended with organic fertilizer.
5. You may top off your beds with the garden soil available near the raised beds.
6. You may use organic pesticides or herbicides but please use judiciously – even vinegar can ruin your soil pH.
7. **Planting restrictions: No sunflowers or other tall plants as they shade other's beds.**
  - **No herbs in the garden – You can help yourself to our shared herb garden.**

- **Please no pumpkins in the raised beds as there is not enough room – we will have an area to plant pumpkins – just ask.**

8. Please keep your plants growing within your beds and not impede the walkways around the garden. Stake up your plants so they do not fall over into the walkways.

9. If you need to abandon your plot, please contact Gail Frare, garden coordinator at 360-870-6267 or [gatofrare@comcast.net](mailto:gatofrare@comcast.net) so that your bed can be reassigned.

10. If it appears that a plot has been abandoned without notification, an effort will be made to contact the gardener and if unsuccessful, the plot may be reassigned.

11. If you will be gone on vacation for a period of time and want your produce harvested for the TCFB, email the garden coordinator.

12. If produce looks over-ripe, volunteers may elect to harvest the crop for the Thurston County Food Bank. **If you do not want your crops gleaned place a sign in your bed stating “No Gleaning”.**

13. All weeds and plant material must be discarded on the north or south sides of the beds. There are wheelbarrows available.

**14. YOU DO NOT NEED TO WATER YOUR PLANTS** other than when planting and then watering them in. Automatic watering is provided. If you think your plants are too dry, notify the garden coordinator. This is the most ignored rule in the garden and is costly to the church so please abide by the rule.

15. If you notice anything in the garden that needs to be fixed (broken hose nozzles, unusual accumulations of water or leaks, garden plots extremely dry, etc.) please email or call the Garden Coordinator.

16. Please keep the walkway around your bed free of weeds.

17. At the end of the growing season you are responsible for cleaning out your plot.

St. Mark Church and the Community Garden is not responsible for any accidents in the garden and you must agree to hold harmless the garden group and owners of the land from any liability, damage, loss, or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the garden by yourself or any of your guests.

Please email the Garden Coordinator at [gatofrare@comcast.net](mailto:gatofrare@comcast.net) and acknowledge that you have read these guidelines and will abide by them, or print this off, sign, and send to the church office at St. Mark Lutheran Church 2109 College St SE. Lacey, WA 98503