

# THE PLOT

THE SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY GARDEN

The Plot is operated by the Salt Lake City Public Library, 210 E 400 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 | email: [theplot@slcpl.org](mailto:theplot@slcpl.org)

## Garden Guidelines and Policies (Credit:Wasatch Community Gardens)

Violating garden policies may result in loss of garden privileges and forfeiture of crops. The Salt Lake City Public Library reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to these policies at any time.

### Applying for a Garden Bed at The Plot

- Applications for The Plot Garden will be open from February 1–22. Gardeners will be informed of their status by February 26. There are 18 beds and 12 applicants will be selected. If a selected applicant is unable to maintain their plot, another applicant will be brought on.
- Gardeners who fulfill policy requirements, including plot maintenance and community behavior expectations will be invited to keep their beds the following year.

### Community Garden Involvement

- Gardeners are expected to tend personal plots and contribute two hours per month to common areas or participate in special projects that benefit the garden as a whole.
- All gardeners with email access and written English proficiency are required to be signed up to the garden's email distribution list, which is used for official notifications and garden-related discussions.
- All gardeners must maintain their plots from March until November.

### Garden Management

- The Garden Coordinator oversees garden management, but regularly seeks gardener input and participation when appropriate.
- Maintenance of the garden is the collective responsibility of all gardeners.
- Outreach activities (including public events, flyering, tabling, public speaking on behalf of the garden, and posting of signage at the garden) require pre-approval by the Garden Coordinator.

### Land Use Restrictions and Safety

- The Plot is a public space and can be accessed during the day.
- For safety reasons: exposed rebar and metal posts must be securely installed; pathways clear of tripping hazards; tools locked away; holes and construction hazards identified with colorful barriers; irrigation controls secure from public access; and a first aid kit and emergency contacts on the premises.
- Liability waivers are required for all gardeners and volunteers and must be submitted to SLCPL.
- For Health Code reasons, it is prohibited for anyone without a permit to serve prepared foods at public events. Prepared foods can be served at private events amongst gardeners.
- SLCPL and WCG are not liable for lost or stolen items of gardeners or visitors to the garden.
- Gardeners are not permitted to leave items in garden common areas without the permission of the Garden Coordinator. Any materials left in common areas of the garden, without written arrangement with the Garden Coordinator, may be assumed abandoned and disposed of by the Garden Coordinator at their discretion.
- Please alert staff to any safety issues or illegal activities that you observe at the garden.

### Gardening Organically

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- Our goal is to nurture healthy soil and environment. Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not allowed. Certified organic seeds and seedlings are encouraged, but not required.

## Water Use and Drip Irrigation

- The automatic hybrid drip/sprinkler irrigation system is generally on from May-October, weather permitting. Gardeners should not alter the system in any way. Gardeners should report problems to the Garden Coordinator and/or the irrigation stewards.
- Each gardener is responsible to know how the system works and how to make light repairs on their plot.
- Gardeners must keep drip tape in plots, laid straight, without kinks, and connected to the main water line.
- Natural mulch (straw, leaves, etc.) is recommended to conserve soil moisture, and to reduce weeds.

## Plot Maintenance

- Gardeners must control the weeds and trash in their own plots and adjacent pathways during the season. All weeds must be removed if they are growing up from the ground taller than six inches, growing along the ground longer than 12 inches, or going to seed.
- Weeds that have gone to seed, or weeds that reproduce from cuttings (eg. bindweed), are not permitted in compost piles, and should be deposited in trash or brown waste bins. Any plants added to compost bins must be chopped to 1-2 inches. Additional protocol is directed by the Garden Coordinator and compost stewards.
- Gardeners must harvest their ripe produce regularly to reduce garden pests and vandalism.
- Gardeners must maintain their plot in a safe condition.
- Perennial plantings or permanent improvements are not allowed without the permission of the Garden Coordinator.
- The Fall clean-up deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Perennials and winter crops may remain. Plots must be cleared of debris and trellising, and covered completely in mulch and/or cover crop. Trellising that is too large to transport off site may be stored on the plot in a tidy fashion. Drip tape should be laid out straight in the bed, below mulch.
- Gardeners who fail to meet plot maintenance requirements will lose their gardening privileges, as well as their place on any garden waitlists administered by SLCPL. To be considered for a new plot, they must reapply and complete a make-up activity determined by the Garden Coordinator.

## Community Behavior and Non-Discrimination

- Disrespectful or abusive language, harassment, discrimination, illegal activities, activities that endanger others, or destructive behavior (including vandalism and theft) may result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges and forfeiture of crops.
- SLCPL staff and the Garden Coordinator are available to mediate conflict between gardeners as needed.
- Gardeners may be required to meet with the Garden Coordinator to address conflict or other garden-related issues.