



# West Reading Community Garden 2021 Season

## Our Mission:

To create a space where neighbors can connect with one another in a hands-on, peaceful, and respectful environment around the activity of growing produce. In the process of tending to vegetables, fruits, and other plants, the West Reading Community Garden group seeks to educate community members about gardening and the nutritional value of fresh produce, and strengthen bonds among community members through inclusive community activities.

**Gardener Registration** – Gardener registration is our favorite time of year! We’re excited to meet and work with you in the coming season so be sure to review these important process details. If you have any questions, get in touch!

**Wait List** – West Reading Community Garden maintains a wait list for new gardeners that are unable to reserve a plot, and returning gardeners who want more space than they now have. Because life circumstances change, we do not carry this list forward from year to year. **If you are interested in a different plot or more space, please tell us each year when you register.**

## Please Select a Registration Option:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Veggie Picker** – Allows access to West Reading Community Garden grounds and the ground amenities (i.e.: picnic table and benches). A Veggie Picker would be allowed access to harvest vegetables from the designated Borough plots which will include Cherry Tomatoes, beans, a variety of peppers and Loofa plants. A Veggie Picker may also register time for personal/private event such as birthday parties or lunch/dinner dates.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Green Thumb** – A Green Thumb member would receive a personal garden plot, have access to the West Reading Community Garden grounds and amenities and the ability to register for personal/private events. A Green Thumb member would also have access to pick vegetables from the designated Borough plots.

**A registration fee of \$25 for a Veggie Picker Member is required to gain access to the garden area.**

**A registration fee of \$35 for a Green Thumb Member is required before a plot can be assigned.**

These fees will go toward expenses of the West Reading Community Garden. There are no refunds.

**Gardener Application Form** – Please complete the form below to apply for a West Reading Community Garden individual plot. We will do our best to assign you to the garden plot of your choice.

**The application will not be processed until payment is received.**

**Terms** – This is an application, not a registration. Unless you are a returning gardener applying for the same plot you gardened last year, this application does not guarantee you a garden plot. We typically begin assigning plots to new gardeners after March 15<sup>th</sup> on a first come first serve basis and by availability at your preferred site(s).

**If we are unable to confirm a plot for you, your application fee will be refunded.**

## Gardener Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Did you have a garden plot with the West Reading Community Garden last year? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what # \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want the same garden plot this year? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

## Rules & Responsibilities:

1. The annual gardening season is April through November. Gardening hours are 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2. Plots that have not been worked by June 1<sup>st</sup> or are overgrown with weeds will be reassigned or reclaimed by the Borough.
3. The plot must be cleaned and vacated by November 30<sup>th</sup>. This includes removing all plant material, plant supports, etc. Fencing, stakes, and trellis materials should be stored at the member's residence when possible (*please see Garden Shed below*).
4. Maintenance of your plot and the area surrounding your plot is required on a regular basis.
5. If for any reason you will be unable to maintain your plot (i.e.: health, vacation, work pressure, moving, etc.), please inform the Garden Manager.
6. Perennial woody plants such as raspberries or trees are not to be planted in the garden plots. However, perennial non-woody plants such as rhubarb, strawberries and asparagus are allowed. Only plant these if you intend to rent the same plot in subsequent seasons.
7. To reduce water evaporation and unwanted weeds, gardeners are encouraged to mulch with leaves, grass clippings, bark mulch or other organic materials. Use of newspapers is not permitted.
8. Gardeners are requested to conserve water. Please water plots according to the water-wise guidelines. Always turn off the main hose stanchion, empty and wind up the hose when finished watering. Overnight or unattended watering is prohibited. Gardeners should report all leaks to the Garden Manager.
9. Prevent mowing hazards by not placing rocks in the pathways or grassy areas.
10. Each gardener is responsible to remove their own trash from the garden area.
11. Gardeners agree to volunteer time toward West Reading Community Gardening efforts by helping during work parties or helping to maintain the community area of the garden. Work parties will be scheduled throughout the gardening season.
12. Gardeners will not enter, plant, weed, water or harvest from any other members plot unless specifically invited by the gardener who rents the plot. Please be careful to keep hoses on the path and not in other gardener's plots.
13. Garden Shed: The garden shed is a community space, please be aware that any personal tools stored in the shed are available for other gardeners to use. If you do not wish that your tools be used by other gardeners, do not store them in the shed. Clean all tools after use and return them to the shed. If any equipment needs to be repaired, please notify the Garden Manager. The shed door must be locked before you leave the garden.
14. All power equipment may be operated only by those over 16 years of age.
15. Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied and supervised by an adult.
16. Gardeners agree not to bring pets to the garden.
17. Each raised garden plot measures 4' x 10'. Plots may not be expanded beyond this measurement or into other plots or walking paths. All plants within the limits of the plot must be kept free of weeds, pests, and diseases. Members are expected to prune and harvest their plants as necessary. Weed vegetation, scrap plant material, and over-ripe fruits and vegetables should be discarded in the appropriate disposal receptacle.
18. Members are encouraged to share surplus crops with Bethany Lutheran Church Food Pantry at 336 Franklin Street, West Reading. Food Pantry distribution is held on the third Wednesday of every month from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Greater Berks Food Bank delivers items to the Bethany Lutheran Church Food Pantry on the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. For pantries in need of donations, please contact the Greater Berks Food Bank at 610-926-5802.
19. The lock combinations may not be shared with non-members. Remember to lock the garden shed and the gates when leaving the West Reading Community Garden.
20. Only organic substances may be used in the garden. Synthetic herbicides, pesticides, weed, and plant killers are not permitted anywhere in the West Reading Community Garden. This rule is non-negotiable. When in doubt, please contact the Garden Manager prior to use.

21. Illegal plants, weapons, and use of illegal drugs are prohibited in the West Reading Community Garden.
22. Guests may enter the garden when accompanied by a member or official volunteer. Guests must follow all rules and regulations. Members are solely responsible for the behavior of their guests.
23. Respect other gardeners, and do not use abusive or profane language or discriminate against others.

*The goal of the West Reading West Reading Community Garden is to work together to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully and in a neighborly manner.*

**Violations of Rules & Regulations**

The West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation and the Community Garden Manager are the highest governing authority in the West Reading Community Garden. Violation of any rules and responsibilities and/or terms of this agreement is cause for action, up to and including exclusion from the West Reading Community Garden and forfeiture of your plot(s).

1. First Violation: Notification of infraction via email with expectation of resolution within one week.
2. Second Violation: Notification via email on continued infraction with expectation of resolution within three days.
3. If infractions are not corrected as outlined above, the appropriate measures will be taken as follows:
  - If the infraction involves weed control or plant overgrowth of the garden plot, the plot will be sprayed with herbicide and the plot covered with a tarp.
  - If the infraction involves paths which are not properly maintained, the Garden Manager will spray the paths with an herbicide.

Any of the above infractions which are not corrected after two violation notices, or gardeners that have received multiple violation notices will result in the loss of the gardener’s plot and the gardener will not be allowed to rent a plot in future years without input from the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation and approval of the Garden Manager.

**Liability Release**

1. I am duly aware of the risks and hazards that may arise through participation in the West Reading Community Garden and assume any expenses and liabilities I incur in the event of an accident, illness, or other incapacity. If I have had any questions about the West Reading Community Garden, its nature, risks or hazards, I have contacted the Garden Manager and discussed those concerns to my satisfaction.
2. In consideration of being granted the opportunity to participate in the West Reading Community Garden, I, for myself, my executors, administrators, agents, and assigns do hereby release and forever discharge the West Reading Borough, West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation, Garden Manager, volunteers, other gardeners, and the cooperating landowner from all claims of damages, demands, and any actions whatsoever, including those based on negligence, in any manner arising out of my participation in this activity. I understand that this release means that, among other things, I am giving up my right to sue for any such losses, damages, injury, or costs that I may incur.

**Agreement**

I represent and certify that I am at least 18 years old and that I have read and understand the rules and responsibilities, liability release, and agreement outlined in this application and accept these for participation in the West Reading Community Garden.

**Signed:** [Gardener] \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Approved: [Garden Manager] \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plot Assignment:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_