



# LUSCHER FARM COMMUNITY GARDEN 2026 PROGRAM & GUIDELINE AGREEMENT

## Gardening Protocols

**Due to massive demand there is only 1 garden plot allowed per household.**

**Invasive Plants and Weeds-** Planting cannabis is not allowed. Please remove weeds before seeds form to prevent spreading throughout the plots. Invasive plants such as fennel, Jerusalem artichokes, morning glories, cane berries, mint, mullein, or any plants that have invasive growth habits should not be planted.

**Organic Only-** Pesticides (herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) that are made from synthetic materials are not allowed in the gardens. Chemical fertilizers and non-organic slug bait are not permitted. Only materials labeled organic are allowed.

**Pathways-** The pathways surrounding your plot 2 feet in each direction are your responsibility, and should be tended regularly. This does not count towards volunteer hours for the year. Keep your pathways weed-and-plant-free and provide a thick layer of bark chips. Pathways must also be free from obstacles such as tools and benches.

**Wildlife in the Gardens-** Trapping of animals, rodents, and insects is not permitted. Gardeners are permitted to deter pests within their plot with organic methods. Ground-nesting birds are protected by federal law and their nests must not be disturbed. Contact the garden coordinator if you have birds nesting in your plot.

**Bird Netting-** Bird netting is not allowed in the gardens. Please use an ultra-fine mesh or insect fabric to protect your plants.

**Shading Others-** Plan your garden in such a way that your neighbors will receive sunshine. Sheds aren't permitted. You may need to place trellises, garden art, and tall plants like corn, sunflowers, and pole beans in the center of your plot. Fruit trees must be in a moveable pot.

**Hoses and Watering-** Gardeners supply and maintain hoses. Hoses must be buried if they cross pathways. Your hose must be stowed, coiled or buried when not in use. Faucet knobs cannot be locked, zip tied, or inaccessible in any way. Gardeners who have installed a timed watering system must install a splitter and share the faucet. Irrigation systems should be monitored for leaks. Timed systems should be set to water before 10am or after 6pm. Bury hoses on automatic systems so no one trips over them. **To comply with State Water Use mandates, water is turned off September 30-April 1.**



**Tool Shed and Tool Maintenance-** Luscher Farm supplies tools for shared daily use such as shovels, hoes, and wheelbarrows but no hand tools. Please return tools/wheelbarrows to one of the tool sheds after using them. Keep the tool sheds tidy and the tools cleaned and ready for others to use. Community gardeners are not allowed the use of power tools without special permission.

**Disposal of Weeds and Trash-** There are two communal landscape waste areas. The dumpster on site is for farmhouse and city staff only unless with permission. Please plan to pack out all trash accumulated during your visit including empty soil bags, plant pots, broken trellises, old hoses, etc.

### Gardener Expectations and Compliance

**Community Garden Volunteer Hours-** Plot holders are required to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours per year on farm projects to remain in good-standing. This work is meant to help maintain the common areas and enhance community connections. Service hours must be completed before November 1<sup>st</sup>. Any projects apart from the regularly scheduled work days must be pre-approved by staff. Please do not complete your hours as you see fit without approval. Incomplete volunteer hours may roll over for 1 year only and are due by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. If you complete more than 4 hours per season the extra hours do not accumulate towards future volunteer commitments. Non-compliance may lead to revocation of community gardening privileges.

**Respecting Others-** Wandering through or picking from a plot not assigned to you is not okay. Please respect other's rights to garden as desired, even when a garden appears to be neglected. Watering cans, sticks, and tools, etc. in another's garden should not be used without permission.

**Transferring plots-** Garden plots are assigned to one person (primary gardener) and are not transferable unless to a co-gardener of 2 or more seasons. All co-gardeners must officially register through our registration system and agree to comply with this agreement. Others gardeners may garden at your plot with your permission, but payment of fees, cleanup and other duties at your plot is the responsibility of the primary gardener. No sub-leasing of plots is permitted.

**Compliance-** Staff regularly monitors plots throughout the year. When a garden is non-compliant, notification is sent describing the problem. Action is required by a specified date. We are happy to work with gardeners to ensure positive outcomes and can grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis. A gardener who receives three written notices must vacate the plot and the plot will be reassigned without a refund. The City of Lake Oswego reserves the right to reassign plots at its own discretion.



## Safety and Communication

**Closely Supervise Your Children-** Luscher provides a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about gardening and be part of a special community. Please share these rules with your children. Do not allow children to wander alone and pick things from the plots of others.

**Pets-** With the exception of service animals, pets are not permitted in any of the garden areas (community gardens, demonstration gardens, Rogerson Clematis Garden). Please do not plan on keeping your pet in your car while you garden, animals should be left at home.

**Driving Safely-** Posted speed is 5 miles per hour. Parking can be tight when there is a lot of activity going on, so park in a way that allows room for others. DO NOT drive beyond the parking area. Please make note of dates where walk-in use only is permitted, and park off-site as requested.

**Garden Safety-** Luscher Farm is a public space with access for all. While we are taking steps to reduce garden theft plots and sheds are not monitored 24 hours. Luscher Farm is not liable for lost or stolen items. We recommend you take necessary precautions such as labeling personal items with your name or plot number.

**Communication-** Communication is key and we will be communicating with you primarily through e-mail. Please let us know if you change your e-mail address. If you do not respond to email when asked to, your plot may be reassigned. Please let the garden coordinator know if you have questions or concerns about the community garden program guidelines. Gardeners are expected to use courteous and respectful language in all communications.

## Timeline

**Garden Hours-** Luscher Farm is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Planting schedule-** Your plot must be cleared of weeds and at least 50% planted by May 15<sup>th</sup>, and actively gardened throughout the season.

**Fall Cleanup-** Have your plot weed free, planted and/or covered for winter by November 15<sup>th</sup>. If you decide that you will not be continuing, please let the Garden Coordinator know. Before vacating your plot, remove personal items and vegetation. Once your plot is reassigned, you may not return and claim items as yours.

**To comply with State Water-Use mandates, water is turned off September 30-April 30.**

Thank you for your efforts in adhering to the terms of this agreement and making Luscher Farm a great place to garden. Questions? Please contact Colette Rowe, Community Garden Coordinator or Izzy Sigrist, Farm Coordinator ([LuscherFarmInfo@lakeoswego.city](mailto:LuscherFarmInfo@lakeoswego.city)).