

SHELBY COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDENS

PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

Effective March 1, 2024

Email: Community.Gardens@shelbycountyttn.gov

The Committee for the Shelby County Community Gardens has formulated the following procedures and regulations which are incorporated with your application for a garden plot.

Please Note: In 2002, a decision was made by county officials to include certain plots called "Out-Parcels" which had been utilized by various individuals over the years. These parcels are now regulated by the current procedures and regulations. Persons currently using the plots are permitted to continue using the plots, provided they follow the garden rules. If a gardener no longer wishes to utilize their spot, one of the garden officials should be notified. The garden cannot be reassigned by the current user.

The Garden Committee is responsible for the operation of the gardens. Please call one of the committee members posted on the bulletin board for any problems you may have regarding the gardens. These rules are provided so that we can enjoy friendship, fellowship, and produce. Let's make an extra effort to be courteous to our neighbors.

PLOT ASSIGNMENTS

1. Returning gardeners will automatically be assigned the plot(s) they had last year provided procedures and regulations are followed or they request to change plots. (Your Pre-Reserved plot must be confirmed online during the open application process.)
2. If you desire to relinquish your plot, you can:
 - Notify a committee member in writing giving your name and plot number.
 - Send an email to: community.gardens@shelbycountyttn.gov.
 - A note with the same information may be placed in the mailbox located at the new barn.
(A plot owner cannot transfer their plot to any other person).
3. Unassigned plots will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. A few smaller plots (1/2 of the standard plot) might be available for those unable to work the standard size (100'x25') plots.
4. Seasonal gardeners should not plant until the committee has released plots for planting. As soon as spring cultivation has been completed the plots will be marked/flagged and released with a numbered white flag.
5. If a gardener plants in the wrong plot, he/she will need to remove anything planted and relinquish the plot to the gardener assigned that plot.
6. Assigned gardens not planted and/or worked **four weeks after season opening** will be reassigned. If plots appear to be unused or abandoned, they may be reassigned later in the season without further notice.

PLOT SET UP & MAINTENANCE

7. A plain white flag marks the end of your garden. Leave two (2) feet for the turnaround of tillers, etc.
8. Immediately place a sign with your name and plot number on the first row of your garden behind the white flag.
9. When planting vine crops such as cucumbers, melons, sweet potatoes and peas remember your neighbor and plant so as not to encroach on other gardens.
10. When watering, make sure that it does not overlap on to your neighbor or run on the roads. Also, watering is permissible only when you are personally in the garden.
11. Areas around compost bins must be kept clean. No grass or weeds should be allowed to grow around compost areas.
12. When using chemicals, be sure to only apply them to your garden.

ABSOLUTE DO NOTs

13. Red flags mark the roads. **DO NOT REMOVE THESE FLAGS.**
14. Do not plant in any areas other than your assigned plots. These areas have been left open for various reasons.
15. Do not throw plants, vines, stalks, etc. in the dirt roads or holes in the roads. This holds moisture and causes large mud holes.
16. No carpet, plastic or ground covering should be used in the garden as it is often not pulled up and causes damage to cultivation equipment. Please only use biodegradable products.
17. All non-year round (seasonal gardener) plots must be cleared of stakes, bottles, plastic, chairs, water hoses, wire cages, etc. before November 1st. Any items not removed from plots by the gardener will be taken to the road for pick up.
18. Do not tamper with the fence at the tree line in any way. Please do not store belongings behind the fence, attach locks, or cut the fence as doing so is considered vandalism to government property, punishable by law and automatically disqualifies you from the program.
19. Pets are not permitted in the gardens.
20. Washing of cars and trucks is not permitted.
21. **NO PRODUCE SHALL BE FOR SALE!**

MISCELLANEOUS BUT IMPORTANT

22. Roads are designed for access and parking. Please keep them open! No large trucks and trailers are allowed on the garden roads. These are not all-weather roads. **KEEP OFF WHEN WET!** Remember if it is too wet to plow, the dirt roads are too wet to drive on.
23. Any personal property used in the gardens or stored in the barn is left at the gardener's own risk.
24. Seasonal plots not cleared will not automatically be reassigned to the plot owner.
25. Children should be accompanied by adults and supervised at all times.
26. **The violation of one or more of these rules will automatically exclude you from being assigned a garden in the future.**