

Proposal for SoMa Community Garden Rules

SoMa Community Garden Presentation to SoMa Homeowners Association Board of Directors Fall 2018

A. The SoMa Community Garden

The community garden, which is located between 11th and 12th just south of Mayberry Plaza, has been in existence since 2007. The garden is on 3 tiers. The top two tiers are divided into 15 raised beds (approximately 4' x 8') that are designated as individual, privately held, plots. The bottom tier is designated as the community tier and is planted by the community tier committee (to be appointed annually at the spring meeting) and tended by all members of the garden committee.

B. The Garden Committee

1. All gardeners in good standing are members of the garden committee.
2. The fee is \$30 a year per plot. The funds are used for the purchase of community plants, community hardware, upkeep of the gardens, and on other projects as approved by the garden committee.

C. Garden Use

1. All garden use is restricted to SoMa residents only.
2. The individual plots are privately held and gardened, and are for the exclusive use of the person(s) assigned the plot for the season.
3. Each spring gardens shall be planted by Memorial Day. Failure to plant violates community garden protocol and said garden can be immediately reassigned.
4. The HA provides a dumpster in the fall (generally the first part of November) to be used in the clean-up. Gardens shall be cleaned up in the fall by the time the dumpster is removed. Fall clean-up includes the removal of all lighting, structures, decorations and debris from the garden. Fall preparation and spring disease control should also be addressed at this time.
5. Gardens will be planted with vegetables, perennials, annuals, flowers, herbs, of varieties not detrimental to the general health and welfare of the gardens. Plantings are restricted to products legal to grow in Nebraska. In years of disease or infestation concerns (i.e., Japanese Beetles or powdery mildew), some plants may need to be removed, restricted, or totally prohibited.
6. Only organic products shall be used in the garden.

7. Gardeners are responsible for the planting, clean up, maintenance, care, disease control, and watering of the individual plot. If Gardeners have questions about plants a good source is the Douglas/Sarpy Extension Office 402-444-7804 or extension.unl.edu.

D. Garden Assignments

1. Each household can only be assigned one plot.
2. Only residents of SoMa may request a garden plot. Gardens will be assigned on a first come first served basis.
3. Assigned plots will remain with the resident until relinquished, revoked or when the person is no longer a resident.
4. When the garden plots are fully assigned for the upcoming year, additional names will be placed on a waiting list in the order requested.
5. In the spring, if gardens are available, they will be assigned in the order that the garden was requested. If a potential gardener on the waiting list does not take the garden plot when offered, the name will be removed from the list.
6. Failure to maintain a garden plot will result in forfeiture of the garden.
7. Some gardeners who have assigned plots may agree to share space with new gardeners on the waiting list. Those gardeners on the waiting list and sharing plots do not lose their place on the waiting list as plots become available.

E. Garden Wine Nights

The Garden Committee sponsors weekly Garden Wine Nights during the summer months. Each member of the Garden Committee is asked to host one Garden Wine Night a year. The hosting duties are to show up at the garden at 7:00 p.m. and welcome the attendees. Some gardeners choose to provide snacks but, it is not a requirement. The attendees are asked to bring their own beverage. It is the responsibility of the Wine Night host(s) to also care for the community garden area during their week of hosting (Wednesday host night through Tuesday of the following week). Duties include, but are not limited to, weeding, watering, sweeping, litter, etc. Gardeners missing the opportunity to host a week may be assigned a "maintenance week" sometime during the spring, summer or fall.

If you have any additional questions about the SoMa Community Garden please contact:
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