

Falls Creek Ranch Garden

Spring 2022

Purpose:

The purpose of the FCR Garden is to provide a centralized, environmentally efficient, wildlife resistant garden to interested FCR residents. The garden enhances our community, particularly because home gardening is difficult in FCR due to wildlife and water concerns. Additionally, the garden creates a peaceful, quiet space for neighbors to cultivate gardening knowledge and share the work and rewards of growing food. Thereby, the garden increases the sense of community among neighbors.

General Information:

1. The garden is managed by a garden chairperson (or co-chairs), who may change from time to time. However, the garden group enjoys and encourages input from all garden members to further its goals.
2. "Garden members" are those that have paid a pre-set fee to tend their own plot for the duration of the entire growing season. Garden members should be present in FCR for the majority of the growing season (early spring to late fall).
3. Fees, other income, and expenses are handled by garden member volunteers. Currently, a bank account for the FCR Garden is held at Alpine Bank. An agreed-upon fee is collected prior to the growing season for common expenses and improvements. Other fees may be assessed from time to time as needs arise.
4. The garden space is limited due to physical constraints, as well as water availability. When the garden membership is full, a wait list will be created.
5. If extra plots are available, they may be planted as "common plots." These plots are tended by all members, and the plots' harvest is available to all members.
6. Excess produce may be offered to FCR residents or the greater community.
7. Community events may be held from time to time at the garden.
8. ALL persons use the garden year-round at their own risk and agree to hold FCR harmless for any accident or injury resulting from that use. No supervision is provided, beyond the sharing of basic garden information. The use of personal protective equipment such as sturdy boots or shoes, gloves, eye protection, and shovels or other tools in excellent condition is strongly recommended.

Guidelines:

Please note: These are some basic guidelines and not an exhaustive list.

9. Garden members are fully responsible for cleaning up their plot in a timely manner after the growing season is done. A fall work day is always planned for this purpose.
10. The garden is intended to be as "organic" as possible.
11. The garden is located on FCR private property and is for the exclusive use of FCR residents.
12. Water is to be conserved as much as possible. Gardening methods (such as raised beds and row covers) are encouraged to ensure efficient water use.

13. Work days are scheduled from time to time. All garden members are expected to participate or, if not available, accept assignments from the garden chairperson or designee.
14. Common tools, hoses, etc., are to be neatly returned to their storage areas.
15. Garden members that are parents are responsible for their children at all times.
NOTE: Use of the garden by FCR children is strongly encouraged.
16. At the end of the season, if a freeze is forecast and a plot has unpicked fruit, the plot may be made available for community gleaning to reduce waste.
17. All personal items (including tools, hoses, vegetable markers, ties, plastics, buckets, and watering cans), must be removed from the garden at the end of the growing season.
18. Garden members are required to assist with the maintenance of common spaces (in addition to their personal plots). Maintenance activities include weeding, trimming branches, watering, etc. Common spaces include common plots and all garden areas outside of personal plots. Members are expected to commit to common maintenance activities for 30 minutes to one hour per week during the growing season.
19. Gates must be closed when leaving.
20. Cars must park in designated areas. As on other common property areas, identification (such as an FCR sticker or guest tag) is required for all vehicles parked at the garden.
21. Day guests must be accompanied to the garden by their FCR resident host. Residents are responsible for ensuring that their guests are aware of and adhere to garden guidelines.
22. Drones, smoking, loud music, etc., are not allowed in the garden area. To ensure others' peaceful enjoyment of the garden, garden users are asked to use quiet voices, even when using a cell phone; they should consider excusing themselves, or kindly asking others to excuse themselves, to complete phone calls.
23. Weapons are not allowed at the garden and surrounding areas.
24. Residents that are not garden members are welcome to wander through the garden and smell the flowers. However, they may not harvest any flowers or vegetables without the expressed permission of individual plot owners. They are asked to respect the work that goes into the garden when visiting it.
25. Gardeners and visitors are asked to walk, carpool, or ride their bikes when possible. Be considerate of neighbors.
26. Residents planning to tour the garden with groups of guests should contact the garden chairperson in advance.
27. If people in or around the garden area are suspected of trespassing, residents are asked to contact FCR security and the garden chairperson to handle the concern.
28. In general, dogs are not allowed in the garden and must be under physical or voice control at all times. Currently, there are no dog waste bag dispensers provided. All people with dogs must pick up after their dog immediately and pack it out with you for proper disposal.

References: <https://extension.missouri.edu/mp906>

Reviewed by the Garden Members in February, 2022

Approved, FCR Board of Directors, March, 2022