

Provident Community Gardens Association

PCG Rules and Responsibilities

Approved by the board of directors on 5/26/21

Provident Community Garden Member:

- Loves to garden.
- Keeps quiet hours on Saturday.
- Follows the garden rules to make the garden a safe and peaceful place.
- Helps other gardeners.
- Does not waste produce grown in their garden bed.
- Understands that some who come to the garden may be hungry and can suggest places to get help and food.
- Keeps his or her garden bed and the walkways around it planted, weeded, and cared for.
- Pulls weeds and picks up loose trash.
- Uses water wisely.
- Pays the quarterly participation fee on time.
- Uses tools from the garden's sheds with care, cleans them after use, and puts them away.
- Is careful about using herbicides, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals in the garden.
- Comes to at least one (1) PCG workday and one (1) gardening class each year.
- Invites someone who loves to garden to become a PCG member.

How to join the garden

- Contact the Garden Secretary through the website.
- Schedule a visit to the garden with a Garden Leader or the Garden Secretary to choose your garden bed.
- The Garden Leader or Garden Secretary will add the bed number(s) to your application and check that you have filled out the application completely.
- Sign that you have read and agree to the Garden Information, Rules, and Responsibilities posted on the garden's website.
- Sign the Waiver of Liability.
- Sign permission to post images of you on the garden website or FB page.
- If the garden does not have a waiting list, you may sign up for more than one bed.
- Pay the one-time garden membership fee. [currently waived]
- Pay the first quarterly participation fee of \$30.00. This fee covers bed reservation, water, and garden administrative costs. Make your check or money order payable to Provident Community Garden.
- Mail your payment to: Provident Community Garden Treasurer / PO Box 80664 / Las Vegas NV 89180 or use the website to pay electronically.
- Once PCG has your completed application, membership fee, and first quarter's participation fee, the Garden Secretary will send you gate codes and other information.

Garden Membership Records and Fees

- If your contact information changes, you must let the Garden Secretary know so PCG can update its records.
- You will be billed once every 3 months for the participation fee. You may pay by personal check, money order, or pay online at the garden website. The bill is due upon receipt.
- If you do not pay the participation fee bill within ninety (90) days of receipt, the Garden Secretary will contact you by phone or at your last known mailing address in PCG records. If you do not respond or payment is not received within ninety (120) days, your membership will be referred to the Board of Directors and may be cancelled.
- Unresolved issues or disputes between gardeners will be referred to the Board of Directors for final decision.
- Please check the website for a map showing where your bed is, as well as information concerning the garden: problems, classes, information, notices, etc.

Selected Grounds for Board Cancellation of Garden Membership.

- Failure to follow garden Rules.
- Failing to pay quarterly participation fees.
- Failing to follow label instructions for safe use of commercial herbicides or insecticides.
- Using tobacco products or vaping devices in the garden.
- Possessing or using alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants in the garden.
- Cultivating illegal or unlawful plants or plants not approved by the Board of Directors.
- Selling produce grown in the garden.
- Stealing garden-owned tools or equipment.
- Harvesting produce from your neighbor's bed without permission, even if you think they are neglecting it.
- Failing to respect the garden property and work of other gardeners.

Ending Garden Membership.

- To end your membership, contact the Garden Secretary.
- If you end your membership during the growing season, Garden Leaders can harvest what you have planted so that the food does not go to waste. Otherwise, please remove all plants.
- Please remove all structures you have installed or arrange to give them to the garden. You have 14 days to remove any infrastructure. Anything left behind becomes the property of the garden.
- Irrigation materials in good condition may be donated to the garden. Contact a Garden Leader to arrange the donation. If you do not wish to donate your system, please remove it.
- You may not take any garden soil from the garden.
- After your bed is returned in good condition for another to use, the Board of Directors will decide if any advance payments may be refunded to you.

Garden Safety and Security

- Garden hours are from sunrise to sunset.
- The garden is open to members all year long.
- Garden access is limited to registered members and their accompanied guests.
- PCG observes quiet hours on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm—the hours of worship at Mountain View Church. Any noise or activity, including operating mechanized equipment, that may interfere with worship is not permitted in the garden during this time.
- Children of members are always welcome.
- Pets are not permitted in the garden.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted in the garden. Tobacco products can carry the tobacco mosaic virus. The virus is long lived and can affect tomato, pepper, muskmelon, cucumber, squash, spinach, and several ornamental plants.
- Possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages is not permitted in the garden.
- The homeless and mentally ill population in the general neighborhood around the garden has increased. If you are concerned about your safety, please call the Garden President.
- PCG has a pedestrian gate and a vehicle access gate. Both are on the north side of the property. To get to these entrances drive south through the church parking lot. You may park outside the garden near the pedestrian gate or inside the garden by using the vehicle access gate.
- The garden gates have locks. You will be given 4-digit codes to the locks. Do NOT share the lock codes with anyone who is not a garden member. The codes are changed quarterly or as needed.
- If a gate is unlocked (or a lock is missing) when you arrive and no one else is in the garden, call or send a text message to the Garden President.
- Before you begin work on your bed, please walk around the garden. Look for water problems, damage to fences, open doors to the blue garden sheds, or unlocked gates. If anything seems out of place, take photos if possible and call or send a text message to the Garden President.
- If someone you do not recognize as a garden member is present, call or text the Garden President.
- When you leave, be sure the doors to the garden sheds are locked. Lock the pedestrian and/or vehicle gates as you exit. If another gardener stays when you leave, tell the gardener you are leaving so he or she knows to lock up upon leaving.

Planting and Caring for your Garden Space. Keeping a well-maintained community garden contributes to the visual quality of the neighborhood.

- Each garden bed comes with good quality garden soil and a faucet.
- You are responsible for the beds you use, including the water that you use.
- You may not cultivate illegal or unlawful plants or plants not approved by the Board of Directors.
- You may add garden structures and art if they do not interfere with using walkways and do not shade other garden beds.
- Please keep tall plants such as corn or sunflowers at the center of your bed so they do not shade your neighbors' plants.
- Please be mindful of plants that need a lot of space such as pumpkins, melons or sweet potatoes so the walkways are passable and not a nuisance to your neighbors.

- Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw, and hay are encouraged. Woodchips in garden beds are allowed, but not encouraged because they do not break down quickly. Carpet mulch is not allowed.
- Please keep your bed and the walkways around it tidy. Remove weeds, harvest regularly from your bed, and keep vines inside your bed.
- A large dumpster for garden trash sits near the vehicle gate. Please close the dumpster lid after you add anything.
- Be kind to other gardeners by taking your garden trash to the dumpster. Please do not throw trash into another bed or onto open space in the garden. Do not leave full trash cans and buckets for someone else to empty.
- If you are having trouble keeping up your bed or need help, let us know. Other gardeners may be willing to help you out.
- Garden Leaders may contact you about the overall care of your bed, weeds, pests, or watering problems, continual problems will be referred to the Board of Directors for decision.

Garden Workdays. A community garden works best when members give extra time to its general care and maintenance.

- PCG members agree to give at least four (4) hours of service to the garden each year.
- Weed and trash removal from the garden is an ongoing project for every member. Let the Garden Secretary know when you've cleared weeds, trash, or Bermuda grass along fence lines so that we can credit your work. Be sure to wear garden gloves for protection.
- We have workdays all year long. You can help prune fruit trees and grape vines, thin excess fruit, harvest fruit for your personal use, clear inactive garden beds, care for the communal bed, or care for the demonstration garden beds.
- Workdays are announced in emails, posted on the bulletin board on one of the storage sheds, and posted to the garden's website and Facebook page. We sometimes have a shared meal as part of the workday.

Water. Garden members know that water is a precious resource in the desert and strive to make wise use of it in the garden.

- You are responsible for water use in the reserved beds you use.
- All PCG members should watch for water problems in the garden; especially in the communal garden spaces; and contact the Garden President when needed.
- The Garden Leaders take water waste seriously. They will contact you about water running into walkways between beds and will let you know if a leak or irrigation system damage resulted in turning off water to your bed.
- Continued water waste or failure to fix irrigation problems will be reported to the Board of Directors.
- Beginning January 1, 2021, an irrigation timer will be required on each bed. Members may not combine two or more beds on one timer because of a potential trip hazard between beds.
- **Soaker hoses can run for a maximum of 1 hour per day and must be attached to an irrigation timer. Soaker hoses generally put out 1 gallon per linear foot per hour.**

- Members are encouraged to protect the irrigation system and the timer located in individual beds against freezing from October through March and use Teflon tape at all connection points between faucets, timers, and hoses to prevent leaks and cracks in plastic parts. PCG can offer a class on how to set up your irrigation system.

The Garden Irrigation System and Water Emergencies

- The garden's water comes from the Mountain View School system. We pay the school for the water that we use each month.
- The PCG irrigation system consists of a standard LVWWD meter, a gate valve to shut off water to the entire garden, gate valves and battery-powered timers to control water to communal spaces (the fruit trees, grapes, and some ornamental plants, and a large communal bed)) and faucets in each garden bed. Participants add a battery-powered irrigation timer and an irrigation system to individual beds as desired.
- Learn how the irrigation system is set up BEFORE you have a water emergency. A Garden Leader can show you where everything is located.
- To close a gate valve, turn the handle clockwise until the handle is perpendicular to the water line. Please do NOT force the gate valve if it will not close completely. They tend to break.
- If the garden has NO WATER when you arrive, contact the Garden President or a Garden Leader immediately.
- For water problems in your bed or another gardener's bed:
 1. First, turn off the faucet. Do NOT turn off the irrigation clock. Contact the Garden President or a Garden Leader if you shut off water to someone else's bed.
 2. If necessary, close the gate valve for water to your area of the garden. Then contact the Garden President or a Garden Leader.
 3. If necessary, close the gate valve at the water meter. Caution: the entire garden is without water if you turn off this valve. Call the Garden President or a Garden Leader so that garden members can be notified and repairs may be made.
 - 4. Call the Garden President or a Garden Leader Immediately.**
- For water problems in the community beds, orchard, grapevines, or memorial trees:
 1. Turn off the faucet or the gate valve to the area. Do NOT turn off any irrigation timer. Contact the Garden President or a Garden Leader so repairs can be made.
 2. As a last resort, close the gate valve near the water meter. Caution: the entire garden is without water if you turn off this valve. Call the Garden President or a Garden Leader so that garden members may be notified, and repairs may be scheduled.
 - 3. Call the Garden President or a Garden Leader immediately.**

Garden Tools and Equipment. As respectful gardeners, we cherish our community tools, use them carefully, leave them better than before we used them, and put them away for safekeeping before we leave the garden.

- The garden owns some gardening equipment such as wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, and trash cans. These items are kept in or near the blue garden sheds.

- Please use each tool for its intended purpose.
- Clean tools when you are done using them. This helps prevent transmitting diseases.
- Put each tool in its proper storage slot before you leave.
- If a tool needs repair or attention, please let the Garden President or a Garden Leader know.
- Lock the sheds when you put tools or equipment away.

Weeds and Bermuda Grass. Weeds and Bermuda grass are a continual problem at PCG. They compete with other plants and can quickly become invasive. If left to go to seed, they will affect your neighbor's garden beds, and can spread to the surrounding neighborhood.

- PCG sprays an herbicide that controls Bermuda grass. If you'd like to help, let a Garden Leader know. We generally do not use other herbicides in the garden and rely on your help in controlling weeds on the property.
- Please feel free to pull weeds in walkways and open space, places where gardeners park vehicles, along fences, and under trees and vines. We have 15-gallon buckets that make easy-to-carry trash cans. We rent a large dumpster, too.
- If you are not sure if a plant is a weed, photograph it. Then send the image by text message to a Garden Leader for identification.
- PCG is next to a school playground. Many herbicides should not be used where children are often found. Many are also toxic to bees and other pollinators which are critical to a fruit orchard.
- Garden Leaders can suggest ways to control weeds that minimize using herbicides, as well as herbicide options that may be less toxic.
- If you plan to use an herbicide in your bed: read and follow the label. Don't spray when bees are active. Don't spray in breezy weather. Don't spray when the school playground is occupied.
- If a Garden Leader observes you using commercial herbicides incorrectly, spraying in conditions that will likely harm other garden plants or bees, or place school children at risk, you will be cautioned and may be referred to the Board of Directors.

Garden pests, Insects, and Diseases. Well-kept gardens are the best defense.

- **Please do NOT spray any insecticide on any communal areas (large bed, fruit trees, memorial trees, dedicated small, raised beds, or grapevines). Many insecticides cannot be safely sprayed on plants we eat and would require discarding the plants. Often insecticides are toxic to bees and other pollinators.**
- Garden Leaders use Integrated Pest Management and keep detailed written records on fruit tree and grape vine care.
- Garden Leaders can suggest ways to control pests, insects, and diseases in your garden bed that minimize or eliminate use of chemicals.

- PCG sometimes has rabbits, chipmunks, ground squirrels, rats, and birds who love ripening fruit. Please let the Garden President or a Garden Leader know if you see these garden pests so that we can set traps or protect fruit or produce.
- We have ants. Let us know where you see nests so that we can apply controls. Don't wait until they get into your garden bed to report them.
- Gambel's Quail are often on the property. They especially love garden beds with lots of hiding places and weeds that are going to seed. If they have not nested, ask about ways to exclude them from your garden bed. If you find a nest, do not disturb it.
- If a Garden Leader observes you using commercial pesticides incorrectly or in ways that are harmful to garden produce or bees and pollinators, you will be cautioned and may be referred to the Board of Directors.

Selling Produce. The garden is not available for commercial use; do not sell produce grown in the garden. (Federal law, State law, and Southern Nevada Health District Regulations may apply)

Harvesting produce from someone else's bed. You may NOT harvest anything from another garden member's bed without permission, even if you think they are neglecting it.

Garden Leaders

- A group of members called Garden Leaders are "in the garden" regularly to help other garden members with weed, pest, irrigation, or other garden problems.
- The garden is a project site for Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada, a program of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Master Gardeners who volunteer at PCG are part of the Garden Leaders team.
- Garden Leaders also help host garden celebrations and classes; they assist garden members on workdays. They choose "The Garden of the Season" and are familiar with the garden irrigation system.
- The Garden leaders manage the orchard, grape vines, ornamental trees, and communal bed.
- The schedule and contact information for Garden Leaders will be emailed to you after you join the garden. For safety reasons, the schedule is not posted on the garden website or on the PCG Facebook page
- If you'd like to join this group, ask the Garden Secretary or a Master Gardener.

Gardening Classes. PCG offers classes on good gardening practices.

- Classes are taught by gardening experts, garden members, or Master Gardeners, and are open to the public. Most classes are free of charge.
- Some of the PCG classes offered: Beginning Desert Gardening; The Cool Season Garden; The Warm Season Garden; Vegetables That Grow Well in the Mojave Desert; Growing Tomatoes; Good Bugs/Bad Bugs (Integrated Pest Management); Composting; Setting up a Watering System; Harmful Chemicals in the Garden, Fruit Tree Pruning and Care; Grape Vine Pruning and Care.
- PCG are always open to other ideas for classes.
- PCG encourages you to invite members of the public to these classes.

- Classes are announced in emails to members, posted to the garden’s website and on the PCG Facebook page, and advertised to the neighborhood.

Garden of the Season

- At the beginning of each season the Garden Leaders choose the “best” garden.
- The Garden Leaders look at use of color, overall design, as well as cleanliness and how well the garden demonstrates good garden care in the desert.
- The winner receives a \$10 credit on the next quarterly participation fee, is awarded bragging rights, is featured on the garden website, and may display the Garden of the Season sign until the next winner is chosen.
- Garden Leader beds are not considered.
- Garden members can win Garden of the Season once per calendar year.

Garden Celebrations. The garden has several picnic tables under the shade structure that are for members and are used for cookouts, classes, and meetings. We celebrate the end of the summer season and harvest.

Grants and Cooperative Purchases.

The PCG Board of Directors and affiliated organizations seeks grants for projects to improve the garden. Previous grants have been awarded to improve the garden with shade structures, fruit trees on the south end of the property, chat to control dust and materials to install a communal garden. Members of the horticulture and gardening industry have generously given “in-kind” gifts to the garden since its opening.

Provident Community Gardens Association

By: /s/ Todd Toresdahl

President

By: /s/ Judy Tobler

Secretary