

## **City of Oronoco**



### ***Community Garden Guidelines & Policy Agreement***

Oronoco Community Garden is in Oronoco, Minnesota and managed by the City of Oronoco. In the spirit of the community garden movement, it is our wish to offer this green space as an educational component to promote natural and organic gardening practices. We'd like to welcome you and thank you for your interest in the garden! We look forward to growing with you. In order to obtain a plot, members must agree to the requirements below:

1. The garden plots will be available by May 1, depending on weather and soil conditions. DO NOT call before this time. You will be sent a notice of when the plots are available. After May 1 – email [rruhe@oronoco.com](mailto:rruhe@oronoco.com) to inquire about plot readiness or with any questions.
2. The community garden is intended for the use of growing vegetables, fruit, flowers, and herbs by the residents of the City of Oronoco.
3. A non-refundable, nontransferable annual membership fee is required for each plot, limit one plot per address. Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis with residents/property owners. Oronoco residents/property owners pay annual fees to cover use of land and when available, compost and mulch. Sign up by filling out the form and returning to City Hall. If you receive a plot for the growing season, you should pay your membership fee by June 1 to City Hall.
4. Plot members will incur some personal expenses for their choice of seeds, plants, amendments, tools, etc.
5. Since the success of the garden depends upon the support of its gardeners, each plot member(s) must be willing to participate in at least 12 hours of community garden service a year for cleaning and general upkeep. This may be less. Further information will be shared when available.
6. During the year, you will be responsible for keeping your plot planted, watered, harvested, weeded/mulched, staked/pruned to prevent excess growth outside of plots, cleared of any dying or dead plants, and any other garden-related maintenance, as all of these provide for a neat, attractive, cared-for appearance in the garden plot areas.
7. Please do not harvest, water, or tend to another plot member's garden unless given permission. For example, if another plot member goes on vacation and asks you to do so, this would be acceptable in order to prevent their plot from being reclaimed.
8. If your plot goes unattended for more than 2 continuous weeks of time, you will be notified by phone and/or email. You will have 1 week to resolve the situation. City of Oronoco will reclaim the plot. No refunds will be given. The City reserves the right to give the plot to the next person on the waiting list.

9. Since weed seeds germinate and spread quickly, we ask that you be diligent in keeping your plot weed free. Remove and dispose of weeds properly in the appropriate designated place. Spray chemical herbicides are prohibited in this garden. You may use dust or pelleted pesticides.
10. All ground will be tilled before plots are assigned. There are two types of plots being offered this first year, to help gauge interest and practicality:
  - a. **No-Till Plots.**
    - i. Returning members will be given the same plot each year that they successfully apply for membership before the yearly registration deadline.
    - ii. Members may create permanent beds and need not remove structures for group tilling in fall. Further tilling will not be provided for this area unless a plot is returned and is reassigned to someone else.
  - b. **Till Plots.**
    - i. In the till area, plot members may use structures which should be removed at the end of the season. Fencing must be removed. Failure to do so will result in it being removed for you so that tilling can be done; we do not assure the return of structures and fencing we must remove.
    - ii. Tilling will happen in at the end of the Gardening Season, October 15, to help with weed control and to prepare the soil. All crops must be harvested by this date or they will be destroyed.
11. Water conservation will be practiced whenever possible by mulching beds to hold moisture.
12. For the consideration, enjoyment, and safety of others in the garden, we ask that members be mindful of where tall crops are planted in plots to prevent shading neighboring gardens; recoil/remove/return hoses from pathways for safety; place trash and unwanted plant materials in their designated areas. Smoking, chewing tobacco and alcoholic beverages are not allowed. Children 12 years and younger must be accompanied and supervised by an adult in the garden. Keep pets out of the garden area, and keep loud noise to a minimum.
13. Rules and policies are subject to change at any time. The Parks & Trails Committee enforces these rules and policies and handles any disputes.
14. The Parks and Trails Committee reserve the right to revoke plot membership and access for a failure to comply with the above-stated rules.

Please consider donating to the food shelf should you find that you have an overabundance of garden produce.

**City of Oronoco  
Community Garden Agreement**



By signing below, I agree to comply with the policies and guidelines. I understand that failure to abide by these guidelines and policies could result in forfeiture of my garden plot or other privileges. I understand this is a community garden and commit to its success by supporting and working with my fellow gardeners. I also understand and acknowledge that neither the Park & Trails Committee nor the City of Oronoco can warrant the viability or performance of my crops or plantings. Further, I understand and acknowledge that in the case of damage or destruction to any part of the garden and/or plots, the City of Oronoco is not obligated to restore or to refund any membership fees or incurred costs. No insurance or guaranty is being provided for crops or plantings. Please make a copy of this agreement and keep for your records. If you have any concerns, questions or comments, please contact: [rrohe@oronoco.com](mailto:rrohe@oronoco.com).

Circle your choice. Medium (10' x 10'), fee = \$15

Large (20 'x 20'), fee = \$20

If you plan to use your plot next year, do you wish to have your plot tilled the following Spring? \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please understand that e-mail is the primary form of communication used. Please ensure we have the best e-mail address for contacting you.

*City of Oronoco Staff Only*

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee Pd \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Int. \_\_\_\_\_