2026 Grow to Share - Community Garden - Expectations

Mission: to cultivate healthy food and sustainable lifestyles in collaboration with local organizations.

Vision: to be an inclusive model of sustainable gardening for personal and planetary well-being.

The Community Garden provides community members a place to grow food for their personal use in a healthy and safe environment. All gardeners must be respectful of each other and use shared resources responsibly. Below are the expectations for 2026 gardeners. If you have questions, please email growtoshare@gmail.com

Everyone Pitch in:

- Gardeners are expected to help with the overall upkeep of the land. Opportunities to volunteer will be shared via email and Facebook. It is required that gardeners honor the payment/volunteer commitment that they choose when registering for the season.

Be respectful:

- **of fellow gardens**
  - Be careful when moving hoses to avoid damage to other's plots.
  - Never pick from someone else's plot.
  - Avoid shading neighbors plots or allowing your plants to encroach on your neighbor's plot.
  - Keep the paths surrounding your garden clear of weeds.
- **of all**
  - All tobacco products including electronic cigarettes are prohibited on Grow to Share property.
  - Keep pets leashed and out of other's plots. Clean up after them.
  - Children are welcome with proper supervision.
- **of the land**
  - **Do not drive beyond the parking area without permission from Grow to Share.**
  - Properly dispose of any trash.
  - Keep borders and pathways clear of tools and debris.
  - Only natural, biodegradable weed barriers may be used. Examples: leaves, newspaper, cardboard, straw. **Avoid use of plastic and synthetic landscape fabric, as these contribute to microplastic contamination.**
  - **The use of inorganic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers is strictly prohibited.** Any commercial products used at the garden must be be certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute and have the following seal:

- **of our host (City of River Falls Parks Department)**
  - Respect all park rules and hours of operation (see rfcity.org)

- Food grown at Grow Your Own is for your personal use or donation to recipient organizations. **Growing food for commercial sale is prohibited.**

Use of Shared Resources

Straw

- Straw may be available to gardeners, in moderation (half of a straw bail per plot) unless informed otherwise via email.

Water

- Unattended watering is not allowed.
- Use care when moving hoses around to avoid damage to other plots.
- Properly return hoses with nozzles to holders attached to the wooden poles.

Tools

- Basic tools will be provided in the smaller of the two sheds. You will be provided the code to access the shed.
- Clean and return any tools to the shed when you are finished.
- Wheel barrows & a wagon are also available for use. Clean & return them to proper location after use.

Wood Chip Mulch

- **Only to be used in the aisles of the main Sharing Garden & as an option in the Community Long-term beds, NOT in regular community garden plots.**

End of Season Clean-up

October 31st is the deadline for having your plots cleaned-up at the end of the season. Any exceptions should be worked out by emailing growtoshare@gmail.com. Failure to clean-up properly may impact a gardener's ability to return the following season. It may also result in a fine up to $50/plot for additional work.

With GTS's move to DeSanctis Park, this is will be our last growing season at Hoffman Park. All plots must be free of garden plants, fences, trellises, and the like. All gardened areas must be sown with grass seed or a pollinator friendly lawn mix (preferred). Please seed your own plot. Volunteers will be needed to remove fences from Sharing Gardens and to seed them with the lawn seed. Volunteers will also be needed to take down sheds and move equipment to our new location.

Grow to Share reserves the right to harvest from and/or remove gardens that are deemed neglected, abandoned, or otherwise operating inconsistently with these expectations. Where appropriate, an email warning will be provided giving 10 days to rectify the situation.

Liability Statement:

By registering online and accepting a plot assignment, you agree that you have read and agree to this document, and understand that failure to meet these expectations will result in loss of gardening privileges and potential monetary fines. You agree to hold harmless the Grow to Share organization, employee(s), volunteers, and its Board members for any liability, damage, loss, injury or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden space by you or any guests.