

## Policy for Usage of Flag Rock Village Community Gardens

### Introduction

The Flag Rock Village community gardens are a valuable community resource designed to provide residents with a space to cultivate and nurture plants, promote sustainability, and foster a sense of community engagement. This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures for the usage of the community garden and aims to ensure fair and equitable access to all participants.

### Eligibility and Registration

2.1. Eligibility: The community garden is open to all residents of Flag Rock Village who are interested in gardening.

2.2. Registration Process: The office will send out questionnaires to all tenants in the springtime to determine what residents want to obtain a plot in the community gardens. Plots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to availability. Preference will be to prior registrars. Depending on the responses, residents might have to share gardens.

### Garden Maintenance

3.1. Plot Responsibility: Each plot holder is responsible for maintaining their assigned plot throughout the gardening season. This includes regular weeding, watering, and general upkeep to ensure a healthy and visually appealing garden environment.

3.2. Organic Gardening: The community garden promotes organic gardening practices. The use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, or synthetic fertilizers is strictly prohibited. Participants are encouraged to explore environmentally friendly alternatives and utilize compost and other organic materials. Weeds are not compost.

3.3. Pest and Disease Management: Participants are responsible for managing pests and diseases within their individual plots. In case of severe infestations or diseases that could affect neighboring plots, participants must promptly report the issue to the GBHA office for guidance and assistance.

3.4. Common Area Maintenance: The community garden includes common areas such as pathways, gathering spaces, and shared tools. All participants are expected to help maintain these areas by keeping them clean, organized, and free of any hazards.

### Garden Etiquette and Conduct

4.1. Respect for Others: Participants must treat fellow gardeners with respect and courtesy. Any form of discrimination, harassment, or offensive behavior will not be tolerated and is a tenant lease violation. This also may result in immediate suspension or revocation of garden privileges.

4.2. Communication: Clear and open communication is essential for a harmonious garden community. Participants are encouraged to communicate and collaborate with fellow gardeners, sharing knowledge, experiences, and resources to enhance the collective gardening experience.

4.3. Garden to Table: As a community, the GBHA encourages Flag Rock Village tenants to gather for a feast on the bounty that is collectively grown. The GBHA also encourages garden meetings through the Local Tenants Organization (LTO) to discuss important updates, address concerns, and foster a sense of community.

#### Sustainability and Environmental Considerations

5.1. Water Conservation: Participants are expected to use water responsibly and efficiently. Overwatering or leaving water running unattended is strongly discouraged. Rainwater harvesting and utilizing drip irrigation systems are encouraged to minimize water waste.

5.2. Composting: Composting is an integral part of sustainable gardening. Participants are encouraged to compost their garden waste, such as plant trimmings, leaves, and other organic materials, in designated compost bins provided by the community garden.

5.3. Conservation of Resources: Participants should make efforts to minimize waste, recycle materials when possible, and use sustainable practices such as mulching, companion planting, and crop rotation to improve soil health and reduce the need for external inputs.

#### Garden Security and Access

6.1. Access Hours: The community garden will be used during daylight hours Spring to late Fall. Participants must abide by daylight hours and refrain from accessing the garden outside of the specified times.

6.2. Security Measures: Participants are responsible for the security of their personal belongings and garden tools. Any suspicious activity or security concerns should be reported immediately to the office.

6.3. Visitor Policy: Participants are allowed to bring guests or visitors to the garden, but they are responsible for their actions and must ensure compliance with the community garden policy. Visitors may not use tools or materials from the garden without prior approval from the office.

#### Policy Violations and Consequences

7.1. Policy Violations: Any violation of the community garden policy outlined in this document may result in disciplinary action, including verbal warnings, temporary suspension, or permanent removal from the community garden, depending on the severity and frequency of the offense.

7.2. Dispute Resolution: In the event of conflicts or disputes between participants, efforts will be made to resolve the issue through a conference with the GBHA Executive Director.

#### Policy Review and Amendments

This policy will be periodically reviewed by the GBHA Board of Commissioners to ensure its effectiveness and relevance to the needs of the community garden. Amendments may be proposed by participants or initiated by the GBHA administration. Tenants will be informed of any policy changes and given an opportunity to provide feedback before the amendments are implemented.

By adhering to this policy, tenant participants contribute to creating a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive community garden that benefits all residents. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a harmonious garden environment.

Please sign below to indicate your understanding and agreement to the policy:

[Participant's Name]

[Date]

[Community Garden Coordinator's Name]

[Date]

Approved July 6, 2023