

STMA Community Garden Guidelines 2024

Garden Assignments: Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Friday, March 1 through Friday, March 29, 2024.

- Preference will be given to residents of the Cities of St. Michael and Albertville.
- Returning gardeners who complete their registrations by the deadline of Friday, March 31, will receive preference for garden plots.
- Applications are available online or in person at St. Michael City Hall and will be accepted *in person or by US Mail* on or after Friday, March 1, 2024. Available plots fill quickly, so in-person application is recommended.

Plot Size/Number of Garden Plots: 32 plots measuring 15'x15' will be available. Up to six larger plots of approximately 32' x15' will also be available. Gardeners will be responsible for actively maintaining (2 or 3 times per week) their plot **as well as the surrounding wood chip paths**, keeping them free of weeds, trash, and pests and actively maintaining all garden space.

Garden Fees: Season fees for the garden will be \$25 for the small plots and \$50 for the large plots. *All Gardeners must submit a separate \$25 deposit, in the form of a check in a sealed envelope with the gardener's name printed on the outside.* This deposit will be kept secure at St. Michael City Hall and will be returned at the end of the season to everyone who adequately maintains their plot.

Sharing a Plot: Two households may share a plot. However, a full application and parking waiver is required from **everyone** using the gardens. Fee may be split or paid by one household.

Garden Cancellations: If you decide not to use your garden plot, please immediately contact the City of St. Michael at (763) 416-7907. If your garden plot is reassigned, your fee will be refunded. No refunds are given after June 7, 2024.

Garden News and Information: E-mail is the preferred method of communication for all important garden information (deadlines, events, etc) from Grow It STMA. If you prefer to be contacted by phone, please indicate that on your application.

Parking: Parking is available **ONLY** in the parking lot of the JATC Technical School. Gardeners are required to sign a parking waiver and submit it along with their garden application. **NO PARKING will be available on the street or in the Community Garden field.**

Areas Surrounding the Community Gardens are actively farmed. **DO NOT** trespass into these areas.

Water: Water will be supplied by the City of St. Michael through several water spigots. Hoses are allowed, but gardeners must be **VERY CAREFUL** while dragging hoses to ensure that the hose does not crush neighboring gardens. **NO UNATTENDED WATERING IS ALLOWED.**

Garbage: Waste receptacles will be supplied by the City of St. Michael. Please do your part to keep the community garden clean.

Composting: Communal composting sites are provided at either end of the gardens. **DO NOT compost produce or weeds that are diseased or infested with pests.**

Safety and Courtesy: Each gardener is asked to be respectful of other gardens and gardeners. Do not allow vine crops to extend beyond the boundaries of your plot. Please keep all public pathways clean. Return hoses and other garden tools or supplies in a uniform manner. Children must be supervised. **Pets are not allowed.** Be respectful of the growing practices of your neighbor.

Traps and Critters: No traps will be allowed. If there is a problem with critters and varmints, please contact the STMA Gardener Volunteer immediately.

Fencing: Deer, rabbits, or other animals could become a problem and gardeners are allowed to erect temporary fences around their own plots to keep animals away from the gardens. All fences, stakes, and other equipment must be removed from the garden site by October 13. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of your \$25 deposit.

Organic vs. Non-Organic Practices: Each gardener is allowed his or her own growing practices, though non-chemical (organic) inputs are encouraged. Please respect your neighbor's choice. Weeds should be pulled on a weekly basis to ensure that weeds are not allowed to re-seed. Mulching is a good way to control both weeds and to retain soil moisture. Gardeners are allowed and encouraged to apply mulch materials to their garden plots. **DO NOT apply herbicides or pesticides to another gardener's plot.** Concerns about maintenance of other gardeners' plot should be addressed directly to that gardener or to the Grow It STMA Volunteer.

Garden Neglect and Weed Control: Each gardener is responsible for weeding and maintenance of his or her plot. Applicants are advised that in order to adequately control weeds, a minimum of 2-3 visits to the garden are necessary. If a garden has not been planted by June 9th and the gardener has not made previous provisions with Grow It STMA, his or her plot will be reassigned.

Gardeners not performing necessary maintenance will receive a reminder by e-mail or telephone and asked to rectify the situation within one week. Further non-compliance will result in the garden being mowed. The offending gardener will forfeit his or her \$25 deposit and lose gardening privileges for the following year.

Policing and Vandalism: The City of St. Michael will not police the community garden space and cannot prevent vandalism or theft. Gardeners who leave tools or supplies in the Community Gardens do so at their own risk. Gardeners are asked to immediately report suspicious behavior

or loitering at the Community Garden site to the City of St. Michael and/or the Community Garden Coordinator.

City Inspections: The City of St. Michael holds all rights to inspect gardens for compliance with Community Garden Guidelines and to take appropriate action to rectify the situation.

The STMA Community Gardens are a project of the City of St. Michael in cooperation with the STMA School District. The gardens are coordinated by volunteers. Questions about the STMA Community Gardens should be directed to (763) 416-7917 or e-mail GrowItSTMA@gmail.com.