**Garden Rental Plot Guidelines & Agreement (2015)**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of The Community’s Garden is to showcase the connection between a community’s well-being and nature. The Garden will be a laboratory for learning that will provide access to gardening, a place for healing and camaraderie, an opportunity for education and a way for the community to work together to be good stewards of our land.

**Purpose of The Community’s Garden rental plots:** Provide garden plots for households or groups to grow food.

 **Keep your plot clean.**

I am responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of my garden plot. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance is my responsibility. Place all garden waste into compost area for pick up. Remove stones from plots and place along the fence line of the far west path of the garden. If my plot is not maintained and is excessively weedy, I understand I will be given 1 week’s written notice to clean it up. After the expiration of one week’s time, if the plot is still not maintained, viable produce will be donated to a local food pantry and the plot will be mowed over. No compensation or refunds will be granted for losses of crops or rental fee. I will keep trash and litter out of the plot, pathways and garden. If I find unwanted nonorganic materials I will remove them and deposit them in my own home trash/recycling. Whatever nonorganic material I bring in, I will take out.

**Participate in spring set up and fall cleanups.**

I will start preparing my garden plot by June 30 and keep it planted all summer long. I am responsible for clearing my garden plot of what I put into it. This includes stakes, plastic fencing, etc as well as all plant material, either when my plants are no longer viable or by Nov. 15. The plot will be left as I found it in the spring. Plots will be tilled annually and, depending on conditions of the season this may occur in the spring or fall. On Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 5:30 pm we will host an annual potluck and harvest celebration. Please plan to attend. Compost areas are available for depositing spent plants. If I must abandon my plot for any reason, I will notify, in writing, The Community’s Garden Administrators at PO Box 14, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235.

**Become oriented to the garden and its rules.**

I will attend a garden orientation. I will pay a fee of $40 to help offset a portion of garden expenses. After attending the orientation, paying the plot fee and allowing time for tilling/amending, I will be able to plant in my garden plot (all renters will be notified via email when plots are ready for planting). If there are more plot requests than plots to garden in, garden plots will be awarded by a lottery system. Preference for next year's plots will be given to the current year's participants first.

Water is available for irrigation only, please do not drink the water from irrigation source. Hoses may be attached to water spigots but remove hose right after use from water source and store it offsite or coiled up in your plot. When moving hoses to desired water area: keep the hose on paths, paying particular attention to the corner posts to guide the hose and keeping it clear of damaging others’ plants. Perennials are not allowed. Use “Approved Materials List” for products to use at the garden, as well as mulching and path options.

**Be considerate of your neighbors.** Plant tall crops only where they will not shade neighboring plants; plants should be <36” and when they have the potential to be tall, they should be planted in the middle of the plot – planted north to south. Discourage theft by harvesting crops promptly. Garden during the natural light hours of the day - from dawn to dusk. Just like in any community setting, children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised. Pets are not allowed in the garden. I will pick only my own crops unless given permission by another plot user.

**Be responsible.** I understand that I am responsible for my own actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless The Community’s Garden organizers, owners and lease holders of the land from any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests. A subcommittee comprised of gardeners, community partners and The Community’s Garden Board Members is responsible for ensuring that the rules are followed at all times. If you have questions about the garden or gardening please contact Jenny Spude at the UW-Extension office at 920 746-5994, jennifer.spude@ces.uwex.edu or John Meredith at LAKESHORES landscape & design, 920 743-6005, identity@wildblue.net .

In exchange for the ability to use a community garden plot I, the undersigned Community Gardener, agree as follows:

1. To pay The Community’s Garden Plot User Fee.
2. To abide by The Community’s Garden Guidelines, listed above. The Garden Guidelines are incorporated into this agreement as if fully set forth herein.
3. **INDEMNIFICATION.** Gardeners agree to hold harmless Ministry Door County Medical Center, The Community’s Garden board members, officers, agents, employees, assigns, volunteers, and other like persons from any liability, damages, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of The Community’s Garden by the Gardener.

a Community Gardener’s use of the Community’S Garden may be terminated under this Agreement immediately upon violation of any of the terms of the Agreement or the Garden guidelines referenced in NUMBER 2 ABOVE.

By signing this agreement, I am acknowledging I have:

1. Read and understand this Agreement and its terms;
2. Received, read and understand the Garden Guidelines; and
3. Freely, voluntarily and knowingly entered into this Agreement.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please Print: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Address)

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (phone) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(email)

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*For The Community’s Garden Administrative use only:*

*Attended 2015 Garden Orientation: April 13 or 15 (circle which attended)*

*Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*PLOT NUMBER ISSUED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*