

La Salle Community Garden Rules (2026) and Application

The following rules have been established for the 2026 growing season by La Salle Retreat Center. We, as the community, have a responsibility to keep our community garden managed effectively. The community garden is a privilege, and everything works more smoothly when all gardeners are involved in its overall upkeep. Please also remember to treat your fellow gardeners as you would like to be treated. By signing the Community Garden Application, you acknowledge as a participating gardener responsibility for the following:

1. Gardeners must have their plot planted by June 1, or the plot will be forfeited and reassigned (gardener will lose the clean-up deposit).
2. The community garden is a “community” responsibility. Gardeners will participate in volunteer tasks such as weeding common areas and caring for the community herb garden/pollinator area by providing a minimum of 2 hours per month (May - November). Failure to contribute your hours will result in the loss of gardening privileges and your clean-up deposit.
3. All gardeners **MUST** attend the garden meeting on **Saturday, April 11 at 9:00 am** to get row assignment(s), review garden rules, and meet all gardeners.
4. Keep your plants inside your row. Leave an open path of at least 1 foot between rows. The objective is to create a path that both members and neighbors can access the entire row length.
5. Keep your row and the adjoining pathways weeded and cleared of spoiled fruits.
6. La Salle Community Garden is an organic garden. This is defined as plants and foods that are grown without synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or hormones.
7. Notify La Salle staff as you identify pests or other issues in your row. We need to work together to “squash” the issue before it spreads throughout the garden.
8. Plant tall plants and vines in places where they will not interfere with your neighbor’s plot and will not attach to our perimeter fence where the weight of the vine could damage it.
9. Planting illegal plants is prohibited.
10. At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly. If your garden is not cleaned-up by **11/28/2026**, you could lose your gardening privileges for the next season and your clean-up deposit of \$35.
11. Each gardener is responsible for their seeds and/or plants in their row.
12. Do not apply anything or pick anything from another person's plot without their explicit approval.
13. Do not leave the water on unattended (overnight watering or unattended watering is not allowed).
14. When finished gardening for the day, please roll up the hose, return tools to the shed and ensure the garden gate is securely closed.
15. Power tools can **ONLY** be used by authorized La Salle employees (except tillers).
16. Smoking and chewing tobacco is not allowed.
17. Pets, drugs, alcohol, loud radios, and fires are not allowed.
18. Supervise children in the garden.
19. For your safety, only garden during daylight hours.

20. Report theft, vandalism, and unusual activities to the staff of La Salle Retreat Center.
21. Get approval from La Salle staff before erecting a fence or other structure(s) in your row.
22. Do not add anything to the compost piles in the garden area. Dispose of your own spoiled fruit and trash off property because it does attract unwanted animals in the garden!
23. Use common courtesy, be considerate of your gardening neighbors and enjoy.

Complaints and Violations

1.) Complaints, policies, mediations, and enforcement are the responsibility of the staff (listed below) of La Salle Retreat Center.

2.) If you fail to follow the garden rules or choose to forfeit your row, you will be given 5 (five) days notice to maintain/clean up your plot. After this time, your plot will be reassigned and the gardener will lose his/her clean-up deposit.

La Salle Staff - 636-938-5374 (staff can pick up voicemails and emails at all times)

La Salle staff is responsible for enforcing the garden rules, communication, decisions regarding membership, scheduling and facilitating the garden education events.

- Michelle Cook (President of La Salle Retreat Center)
- Steve Doyle (Director of Facilities)

Successful Community Gardening

The following tips are intended to help ensure your success at the garden.

This is nature and there is only so much we can control! We will always try our best to control/eliminate pests. It's very helpful to be aware of the issues early on before it is out of control.

Plan to visit your garden once or twice a week during the growing season. Make a schedule with yourself or other gardeners. Write it in your calendar. Post a colorful reminder on the fridge. Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door, it's sometimes easy to forget that there is weeding, watering, staking or harvesting to do.

Make sure you have the correct tools! LaSalle will provide; Fenced area to protect crops, wood chips for pathways, hoses, hose nozzles, water, a limited selection and number of shared tools, and instructional information. Bring your own favorite tools, bags for trash and spoiled fruit, plants and seeds.

Make friends with other gardeners. Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource at your garden. Pick their brains for gardening tips. Visit their plots to see how they stake their tomatoes or trellis their beans.

Community gardens don't manage themselves. They require a fair amount of work. By pitching in, you'll be supporting the garden as a whole and ensuring that the work is spread among many people.

Grow more than you need.

Educate yourself. Check out books from the library. Attend classes. Become a Master Gardener (<http://mg.missouri.edu>). There's always something to learn about gardening. The more you learn, the more success you'll have.

La Salle Retreat Center Community Garden Application

Plot space is not guaranteed until the signed application, plot fee, and clean up deposit are received and approved.

All information will be kept confidential and is for our own office use only.
Signing this application means you have read and agree to abide by the 2026 Garden Rules.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell phone: () _____

Email address: _____

Please explain any medical conditions (allergies, etc.) that we should be aware of:

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: () _____

Did you have a plot in our garden last year? (circle one) YES NO

Number of plots desired: (circle one) 1 2 (each 40'x3' plot is \$50 per year) Plots will be assigned on March 15 in the order that paid applications were received. List in order your first 5 choices of plot numbers if available (see diagram below. W = water faucet)

A plot fee of \$50 is required before each plot can be assigned. This fee will go toward expenses of the community garden (water bills, pest control, community tools, etc.).

A clean-up deposit of \$35 per plot is required before the plot can be assigned. The clean-up deposit will be returned in the fall after you have removed all of your plants and cleaned your plot by November 28. If you had plot(s) in 2025, you can roll your deposit to 2026.

Please mark three areas that you would be interested in volunteering with during the season. Each gardener is expected to help 2 hours monthly during the season (May-November) with general chores.

- Site maintenance
- Assigning plots
- Path maintenance
- Construction projects
- Watering
- Planting/weeding community herb garden
- Planting/weeding flower gardens
- Fall cleanup
- Composting
- Social events

I have read the Community Garden Rules and understand that failure to meet the guidelines will result in loss of cleanup deposit fees and gardening privileges.

Signature _____

Date _____