

## COMMUNITY GARDENER AGREEMENT (2025)

### Rules, Terms, and Conditions for Participation

#### ORGANIZATION

##### *Name & Location*

Calumet Community Garden  
~415 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Calumet, MI 49913  
Located north of Jayne's L&L Bar

##### *Mailing Address*

Calumet Community Garden c/o  
Main Street Calumet, Inc  
PO Box 188  
Calumet, MI 49913

##### *Purpose Statement*

The Calumet Community Garden provides area residents the opportunity to grow healthy, affordable, fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs for their households. It also serves to beautify the downtown environment, create positive interactions and provide a location for food education and socializing!

##### *Group Values & Operating Principles*

We encourage people to take responsibility for the care of their environment, community, and personal health. We work together as equals with openness, honesty, and compassion.

#### GOVERNANCE

The Garden Coordination Committee is responsible for overseeing all organizational and operational activities at the Calumet Community Garden. Committee members agree to work on a volunteer basis in a democratic and equitable manner. The property is owned by the Village of Calumet and water for the gardens is paid for the Village of Calumet Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Bed fees are collected by the DDA to offset the costs of water and maintenance.

Garden coordinator contact information:

Leah Polzien  
(906)337-6246  
Leah@mainstreetcalumet.com

## **PLOTS**

The garden accommodates 16 individual plots (See Appendix B for plot layout.) The plots are located in approximately 18-inch tall raised beds with wooden sides. The beds are about 1 foot deep and are 4'x8' in size. A gardener may rent up to three plots per year. The annual plot fee for a single plot is \$20, plus 8 volunteer hours per household per season.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

There are 3 plots available for the 2025 season.

If all plots are occupied your name will be added to a waiting list in order of application. Village of Calumet residents have priority over non-Calumet residents when accepting new members. Current members that apply for a year's leave of absence will be placed at the top of the waiting list for the following year.

Membership is indefinite as long as you abide by the rules, terms, and conditions stated below for the participation in the Calumet Community Garden, however this Community Gardener Agreement needs to be renewed annually. Breaking any rules, terms, and conditions is cause for exclusion from the garden and loss of your plot, and will be addressed in the following manner by the Garden Coordination Committee:

1. You will receive one verbal warning from the Garden Coordination Committee.
2. If no response or correction has been made, you will receive written notice two weeks later.
3. In another week, if no response or correction has been made, you will receive written final notification that you have forfeited your gardening privileges and plot(s).
4. You will be allowed to reapply for another garden plot after one year at the discretion of the Garden Coordination Committee.

## **RULES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION**

*As a community gardener, I will abide by the following rules, terms, and conditions:*

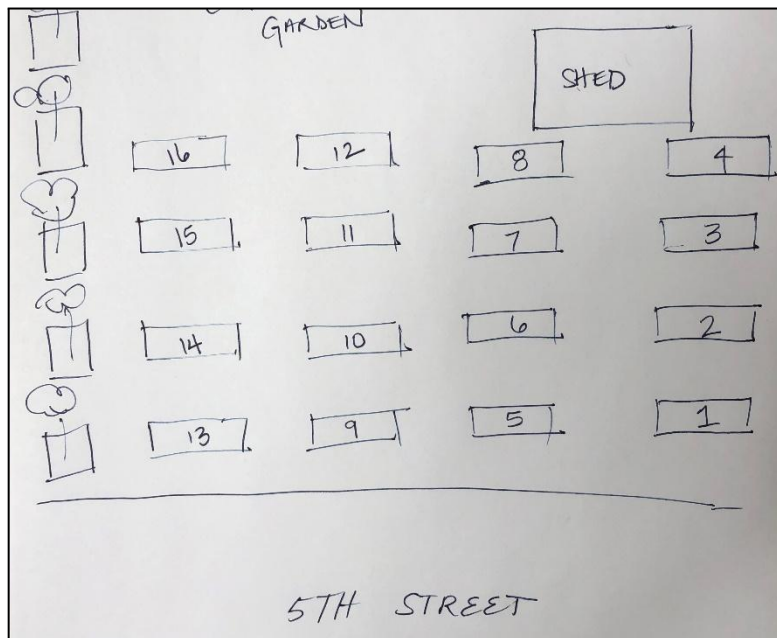
1. I use this garden at the sole discretion of Calumet Community Garden.
2. I agree to pay the annual fee for use of the garden at a rate of \$20.00 for a single plot and a rate of \$20 for additional plots, and contribute 8 volunteer hours per household per season. **The annual fee is due on or before May 31st.** There are no refunds.
3. I will have no more than three plots in the Calumet Community Garden. If I adopt an abandoned plot during the season, I will relinquish it the following year.
4. I will have something planted in the garden by June 15th (although gardeners are encouraged to plant cold climate appropriate crops as soon as the soil can be worked in the Spring). My plot cannot be left uncultivated or unused for any period of three weeks or longer. If I must abandon my plot for any reason, I will notify a Garden Coordinator.
5. At the end of the growing season (by October 31), I will clean-up my plot(s) and prepare them for winter as specified by the Garden Coordination Committee.

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6. I will not expand my plot beyond its measurement or into paths or other plots. I will keep all my plants within the limits of my garden plot and I will plant tall crops only where they will not shade neighboring plots.
7. I understand perennials and invasive species are not allowed in my plot, with the exception of herbs which must be removed at the end of the season. I will not plant in the designated perennial areas of the garden without permission of the Garden Coordination Committee.
8. I will keep my plot, paths, and surrounding areas clean and neat. Any non-compostable items I bring to the garden, I will remove from the site when they are no longer in use. I will not use tires, railway ties, rebar, treated lumber or other materials that may leach toxic chemicals into the garden.
9. I will use gardening practices that support healthy soil life.
10. I WILL NOT use any herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers made from synthetic chemicals in the garden under any circumstances.
  - a. Rotenone, pyrethrin, and Safer Soap are discouraged, but allowed in special circumstances with permission of the Garden Coordination Committee, and when used according to label directions.
  - b. Slug bait is permitted with organic materials only (i.e. beer, sugar/yeast/water solutions).
1. I will be responsible for watering my own plot. I will turn off the water and return hoses and other watering devices to their proper place before I leave the garden. I will avoid wasting water.
2. I will use the tool shed for community garden purposes only. I will only use my own tools or tools marked for communal use. I will put away tools and lock the shed each time I leave the garden.
3. I will use the compost system in accordance with the posted compost guidelines.
4. I agree to contribute a minimum of 8 volunteer hours per season toward community gardening efforts that I am responsible for fulfilling. I am responsible for recording my hours on the Volunteer Log posted in the garden shed. Tasks may include:
  - a. Ongoing development of the garden
  - b. Recurring maintenance tasks assigned by the Garden Coordination Committee. This may include, but is not limited to: weeding, communal planting/harvesting, composting, fence work, tool shed cleaning, and watering of communal growing areas.

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- c. Spring setup and Fall cleanup of the garden.
  - d. Organizational tasks such as community outreach, fundraising, and Committee work.
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- 5. I will complete the garden orientation training and attend garden membership meetings.
  - 6. I will not take food or plants from other gardeners' plots, unless given permission by the plot's user. I will not take anything from the garden that is not rightfully mine.
  - 7. For overall health and safety—and to protect the garden—domestic animals are not allowed in the garden at any time.
  - 8. I will not make duplicate keys of any locks at the garden or give my key or lock combination to another person.
  - 9. I will respect other gardeners, and I will not use abusive or profane language or discriminate against others. I will contact the Garden Coordination Committee if a problem with a fellow gardener remains unresolved.
  - 10. I will work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.
  - 11. I understand that neither the Calumet Community Garden nor owners of the land (the Village of Calumet) are responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS CALUMET COMMUNITY GARDEN, MAIN STREET CALUMET, INC AND THE VILLAGE OF CALUMET FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS.



**Calumet Community  
Garden Plot Map**

Gardeners will be assigned  
plot numbers as shown on  
this map.

**COMMITMENT**

*I have read, understand and accept the rules, terms and conditions stated in the Community Gardener Agreement for the participation in the Calumet Community Garden.*

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Gardener