



P. O. Box 9668, South Laguna CA 92652

SOUTH LAGUNA COMMUNITY GARDEN PARK (Garden/SLCGP) RESPONSIBILITIES AND RULES
October, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Inspired by Ali Taghavi who pioneered a garden at our present site from 2002 to 2004, the South Laguna Civic Association (SLCA) in 2009 started our community garden with the permission of the owner at that time. In 2013 the property was sold to a two new owners residing in Saudi Arabia.

The Garden is a project of SLCA, which operates the Garden, has filed the appropriate documents with the City, obtained and paid for the required insurance for operation of the Garden, and arranged for water to be supplied by South Coast Water District (SCWD). SLCA and the Garden are obligated to comply with the conditions that are part of these agreements, policies and permits. Therefore we require that Garden participants assist in making the Garden safe and compatible with the neighborhood by respecting the rules listed below. This year the Garden is transitioning to being managed by a non-profit public benefit corporation, South Laguna Community Garden Park (SLCGP), still affiliated with SLCA. Fiscal sponsor is the Laguna Beach Community Foundation.

The rules were written in the spirit of goodwill and with the intent of carrying out the purposes of the Garden. Every effort has been made to ensure that the rules are clear, reasonable, fair and enforceable.

MISSION

The purpose of the Garden is to produce vegetables and flowers for our families, to learn and teach organic garden methods and sustainable practices, to bring our community together and to create a project in which our community as a whole can participate. We strive to unify our community, foster fellowship and create a sense of camaraderie and helpfulness among neighbors. We also hope to develop interest in community gardens that will sustain the Garden. Through the example of our garden success and garden outreach programs we encourage establishment of other gardens in the area.

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in the South Laguna Community Garden is welcome to apply to become a Member. There are four types of membership as listed below. All payments are made to the South Laguna Civic Association.

1. Supporting Members provide support for garden activities. Supporting Membership requires a \$25 annual membership fee. Additional donations are welcome.

2. Friends of the Garden are Members who wish to make in-kind donations and annual financial contributions of \$100 or more, as well as participate in garden activities.

3. Garden Plot Members ("Gardeners") garden in Plots (raised planting beds) with fees as listed below:

Initial Fee: Gardeners make a one-time payment of \$200 to cover infrastructure costs, including landscaping and garden improvements that have been made by SLCA and Gardeners in prior years.

Annual fees: for Plots will be determined each year and will be a minimum of \$100. These payments are due by September 30 of each year, the annual renewal date.

The Initial Fee and Annual Fees are nonrefundable. Annual fees may be increased due to high water usage or increased costs of water, insurance and Garden maintenance. Any increase will be discussed and presented to all Gardeners at a meeting, by mail or email.

4. Children's Garden Members join together to make plot payments (Infrastructure and annual fees) and garden in children's garden plots as part of organized educational programs. All families in Children's Garden programs complete and sign required membership forms. A Children's Garden organizer for each Children's Garden plot will be responsible paying fees and organizing activities.

SLCA Membership: All Members of the Garden are encouraged to join SLCA. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals and \$45 for families.

Becoming a Gardener: Anyone wishing to be added to the waiting list must submit a completed Garden Application Form. Representatives of SLCA/SLCGP will interview applicants and assign Plots to qualifying gardeners. Priority for assigning Plots will be given to Friends of the Garden, Supporting Members, SLCA members, residents of Laguna Beach, and those who help with garden activities. Subject to demand there is a limit of one Plot per family.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Since this is a community project all Members are expected to work together to help with Garden construction, planting and growing projects, and in presenting programs to educate and involve youth and the wider community in gardening and sustainability projects.
2. All Members agree to the Responsibilities and Rules when signing the Garden Application Form.
3. Each of the Garden's 52 Plots is the responsibility of the assigned Garden Member.
4. The areas surrounding the plots including the shed, border plantings and common gardens are the responsibility of all Members to be cared for together. Each Gardener and Member agrees to participate in Group Gardening--general work projects and clean ups that are required to maintain or improve the overall condition of the Garden.
5. Gardeners are also responsible for dismantling or moving the Garden if and when the Garden use of the property is terminated.
6. Garden activities are directed by the Garden Board (GB), who are chosen at the annual meeting by Garden Members with the approval of the SLCA Board. GB members shall select officers of the GB as needed. GB members may appoint additional members to the GB as needed during the course of the year, in compliance with the by-laws of the SLCGP.

RULES

Permitted and Non-Permitted Items and Activities

1. No tobacco or drugs are allowed in the Garden and the growing of illegal substances is prohibited. Alcohol is not allowed except for special events with the permission of the GB.

2. Access to the Garden is only permitted from sunrise to sunset.
3. Children must be supervised by an adult. Monitor children's use of hoses and assure that all watering devices are turned off upon leaving the Garden.
4. Pets are allowed if accompanied by the owner and dogs must be on a leash. Pet owners must pick up after their pets and keep them from damaging Plots or annoying neighbors and other Gardeners.
5. No commercial or political advertising is allowed in the garden. Notices and newsletters regarding community activities and garden suggestions are encouraged on the bulletin boards provided.
6. Members must be respectful of other Plots, Gardeners and neighbors. Loud noise or music that might disturb others, including other gardeners and neighbors, is prohibited.

Maintaining Plots

1. Upon receiving an assignment of a Plot, Gardeners must begin work within 14 days and completely plant the plot within 21 days. Gardeners are expected to keep plots planted and well tended at all times.
2. No non-organic chemical insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, or weed repellants may be used in the Garden.
3. Each Gardener is responsible for keeping his or her Plot and the walkways surrounding his or her Plot free of weeds, trash, garden materials and supplies. Supplies and tools are to be stored in the Garden shed.
4. No structures other than temporary plant supports are allowed on the Plots without permission from the GB, so as not to infringe on other Gardeners' space, sun or access.
5. Before a Gardener plants a tall crop that may restrict sunlight to a neighboring Plot, the Gardener wishing to plant such crop must obtain permission from the neighboring Gardeners and the GB.
6. Invasive plants such as bamboo, horsetail fern, pampas grass etc. are not permitted in the Garden and night shade is not permitted in the Plots or pathways. The GB shall determine whether a plant is invasive.
7. Plots are for the seasonal planting of vegetables and flowers. Trees are not permitted in the Plots. Mint is allowed in the Garden, but it must be planted in a container.
8. Harvest all ripe produce on a regular basis. Share surplus produce with other Gardeners or alert the GB that produce is available for donation to the needy. If there is no change or response to GB after 3 days of initial notice, GB may harvest ripe produce to prevent its going to waste.)
9. Gardeners shall only harvest crops from their own Plot, unless given permission by another Gardener.
10. The City of Laguna Beach and SCWD have each emphasized that we are in a drought period and water must be conserved. Therefore, we must use water wisely and sparingly. Since water is a shared resource in this Garden, Gardeners may not use automatic timers for watering. Manual

drip systems may be installed for individual Plots so long as they do not prevent other Gardeners from watering in a timely fashion and watering is done in compliance with SCWD rationing policies. It is permissible to water any day of the week using a bucket or a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

11. Plots must at all times be in a safe condition or the GB has the right to rectify the situation immediately at the Gardener's expense. If the GB has to rectify the unsafe condition a second time the Gardener will relinquish his or her Plot.
12. Each Member is responsible for the removal of his or her own trash and plant materials.
13. If a Gardener will be on vacation or unable to maintain his or her Plot due to illness, the Gardener must arrange with another Member to maintain his or her Plot or the Gardener must notify the GB.

Maintaining the Garden Park

1. A minimum of two-half work days (8 hours total) is required annually of each Gardener to maintain the common areas. This includes general work projects, clean up, pruning, planting and maintenance of garden infrastructure. Failure to participate in maintaining and improving the overall condition of the Garden will result in loss of eligibility to renew the Gardener's Plot.
2. Trees and/or shrubs in the borders and other common areas may not be damaged. Pruning shall be approved by the GB in advance.

Status of Plots and Use of the Garden

1. Plots are assigned for one year, from October 1 to September 30, and may be renewed annually with permission of the GB. Multiple Gardeners may share a single Plot, but each Gardener must register for the Plot and by signing the application agrees to comply with these Responsibilities and Rules.
2. Gardeners may neither sell nor sublease Plots. If a Gardener is terminating his or her use of the Plot, the Plot will be assigned to another Member on the waiting list by the GB. Except in the case of garden closing, upon termination of use of a Plot, the box and soil must remain in the Garden. At the end of a Gardener's assigned period of use of a Garden Plot, the Gardener will ensure that the Plot and surrounding areas are neat and in good order for the next user of the Plot.
3. If a Gardener or his or her Plot is in violation of the rules or is untended, the GB will notify the Gardener, and if the situation is not corrected within 14 days, the Gardener will relinquish his or her Plot.
4. Members agree to vacate the Garden when permission to use the property is revoked. Upon closure of the Garden the Gardeners will ensure that the Plot and surrounding areas are left cleared and clean and all Members will assist in the dismantling and/or moving of the garden.

Liability

1. Neither the SLCA, SLCGP, the GB, the Laguna Beach Community Foundation nor the property owner is responsible for vandalism to any Plot or personal property of the Members. Each Member hereby agrees to hold the SLCA, SLCGP, the GB, the Laguna Beach Community Foundation and the property owner harmless from any and all liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the Garden by the Member or any of his or her guests.