



## **ST. ANDREW COMMUNITY GARDEN**

### **2024 PLOT APPLICATION**



#### **The Mission**

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church provides the use of its property for the Community Garden as part of its mission to serve our community. Through tilling the soil, we develop a deeper relationship with our Creator as we grow healthy fruits and vegetables to share with our families and friends. Through the Mission Garden, we distribute organic produce to members of the community who do not have access to, or cannot afford, healthy food.

#### **Concept of Organization and Operation**

The Community Garden is composed of a Plot Garden, a Mission Garden, a Green House, an Orchard, and an Apiary. A Labyrinth is located adjacent to these properties.

The garden is managed by a Garden Committee composed of volunteer gardeners. At least one member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church will participate in the committee to serve as a liaison. The Committee is structured to cover the various components and activities of the garden.

The Garden Committee is responsible for establishing and enforcing policies for the rental and assignment of plots and the conduct of all garden operations. A gardener who fails to follow established policies may have their plot rental agreement terminated or be denied rental in the future.

Applications for plot rental are open to any member of the community. In applying they agree to participate in cultivation of the Mission Garden as well as common tasks associated with maintaining plots. Gardeners will be assigned specific garden responsibilities.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church reserves the right to oversee the property including approving or prohibiting activities.

### **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

#### **Gardeners agree to:**

- Attend an orientation session at the beginning of each year. Plots will not be assigned until an orientation session is attended.
- Be assigned a maximum of four plots. Returning gardeners may be assigned their same plots the following year.
- Maintain communications with garden leaders by reading emails or making other arrangements to receive timely phone calls or printed mail.
- Participate in the upkeep and operation of the Community Garden and the Mission Garden. This includes accepting and completing specific responsibilities and participating in Spring and Fall workdays. Gardeners with 1-2 plots will accept one assignment, and gardeners with 3-4 plots must accept two assignments.
- Maintain their plot by weeding and other maintenance, including clearing, removing weeds from the paths adjacent to their plot, removing weeds and seed heads from self-seeding plants such as larkspur, calendula, dill, chives, and any other type of plant designated by the Garden Committee.

- Clear their plots at the end of the growing season and remove buckets, trellises, cages, and other loose items.
- Not allow plants to grow into the pathways or neighboring plots.
- Not use inorganic pesticides or fertilizers nor plant genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- Notify the Plot Garden manager if they cannot maintain or must neglect or abandon a plot for any reason.
- Not allow tall crops to shade a neighbor's plot, block sprinklers, or otherwise negatively impact plant growth. Plants, tomato cages, and any other structures may not exceed 4 ft. in height.
- Not store unused items in or around plots such as buckets, wood, metal, or plastic.
- Not modify plot boundaries or build structures on the plot without approval from the Garden Committee. Raised beds should not be higher than 12 inches.
- Only harvest produce from their own plot unless given permission by a fellow gardener.
- Not adjust the watering system sprinklers or controller.
- Not disturb others by playing radios or other music devices near the garden or labyrinth when others are present.
- Not bring pets into the garden and respect the garden as a smoke-free area.
- Follow these policies, understanding that failure to do so may result in rental termination and/or denial of application the following year.

Date Received (office use only): \_\_\_\_\_

**2024 APPLICATION FORM**

Gardener Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

*The primary method of contacting gardeners is through email. We expect you to check your email frequently for garden updates and information. If you are unable to use email and need to be contacted by phone, please check the following box.*

*I do not use email and need to be contacted by phone.*

Number of Plots Desired: *(Plots are 8' x 8' and are laid out in blocks of four with paths in between. A maximum of four plots are allowed per individual/family)*

Number of plots \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all applicable boxes:

- I am a returning gardener from 2023.
- I am a beginning gardener and would like to have the support of a mentor.
- I have physical disabilities or limitations that will limit my ability to assist with the Mission Garden.
- I have read and agree to abide by the policies of the St. Andrew Community Garden.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

**Please retain the first pages of this application  
as a reminder of our mission, policies, and guidelines.**

**Attach or include your payment with this application form and deliver it to:**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
180 24<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Billings, MT 59102  
(406) 656-9256**