

2025 Markesan Community Gardens Rules, Expectations, and Release of Claims

The City Council has established rules and expectations for the Markesan Community Gardens. All volunteer Markesan Community Gardeners are committed to abiding by these rules and expectations in order to create a safe and functional garden space; foster cooperative and friendly relationships with garden and community neighbors; and maintain the privilege of gardening in the Markesan Community Gardens.

Markesan Community Gardeners agree to act respectfully and with kindness towards everyone who requests space in the garden and its neighbors. If conflicts arise, gardeners are encouraged to seek peaceful resolution directly with one another and, if necessary, reach out to the City Clerk's Office.

The Markesan Gardens are not strictly organic; however, gardeners are expected to practice organic gardening practices to grow vegetables and other plants in their garden. Gardeners may not use herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, and/or chemical fertilizers except those that are consistent with organic gardening best practices. Do not use rugs, tarps, plastic film, or woven synthetic mulch (commonly known as landscape cloth) because it can be a nuisance as it degrades over time.

Gardeners must maintain their garden plot in a manner that limits the spread of weeds and pest plants to other garden plots and to areas surrounding the community gardens. Wood chips, secured and covered newspaper or cardboard, and straw/hay are acceptable mulches for weed control.

Gardeners may start clearing debris, preparing beds and start weeding no sooner than April 15th. Community Gardeners are expected to keep weeds down from spring to fall - this includes cutting, pulling, or otherwise controlling weeds before they go to seed or spread rhizomes. Weeds affect the productivity of your garden and impact neighboring gardens as weeds spread by seed or underground.

Prepare plots for winter each year by removing dead plant materials, plant cages, and tools. Low fencing, tomato cages, and other trip hazards that may be obscured by snow must be removed at the end of each year. Keep your plot free of garbage, inorganic waste, excess organic wastes, and unsafe or untidy materials, including glass.

Everyone named as a Markesan Community gardener is jointly responsible for the upkeep of the entire plot. All gardeners must be identified at the time of garden signup each year. Each gardener must provide complete contact information including mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

The City Director of Public Works will monitor plots for weeds, usage, and maintenance throughout the gardening season and has full authority to have violators removed from the garden. Markesan Community Gardeners can appeal decisions and actions of the Public Works Director to the Public Property Committee for consideration.

No trespassing on adjacent properties when walking to and from the garden.

No vehicles are allowed on the garden property with the exception of those authorized to bring water. Please contact the Public Works Director for instructions on using the garden water system. Requests for water are to be made through the Clerk's office.

Harvest your ripe vegetables! If you have more than you can use, produce can be dropped off at the Markesan food pantry at City Hall and will distribute it to families in need.

Markesan Community Gardens: Release of All Claims

I, the undersigned, want to voluntarily participate in the Markesan Community Gardens and as a condition of being allowed to participate, I agree to the following statements.

I am duly aware of the risks and hazards that may arise through participation in the Markesan Community Gardens, and assume any expenses and liabilities I incur in the event of an accident, illness or other incapacity.

In consideration of being granted the opportunity to participate in the Markesan Community Gardens, I, for myself, my executors, administrators, agents and assigns do hereby release and forever discharge the City of Markesan, volunteers, and other gardeners from all claims of damages, demands, and any actions whatsoever, including those based on negligence, in any manner arising out of my participation in this activity.

I understand that this Release means that, among other things, I am giving up my right to sue for any such losses, damages, injury or costs that I may incur.

I represent and certify that my true age is at least 18 years old. I have read this entire Release of Claims and the Rules and Expectations. I fully understand them and agree to be legally bound by them.

Signer: _____ Date Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Email/Phone: _____