

First Fruits Community Garden Lake Washington United Methodist Church

Mission and Purpose: To give individuals and families the opportunity to:

- Grow their own vegetables and flowers using organic practices
 - Extend their food purchasing dollar and improve nutrition
 - Provide fresh produce for the Kirkland/Northshore Hopelink food bank
 - Nurture and develop a sense of community and sharing
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Garden Guidelines

1. The suggested annual donation is \$35 per plot (4'x 8'x 1') to cover water costs. If the \$35 donation is a hardship, please contribute what you can. Larger donations are more than welcome too.
2. LWUMC will provide the beds, access to water and one wheelbarrow. Gardeners will provide their own tools and plants. Your tools cannot be left on site. While gardening, please be sure to use and place your tools with your safety and the safety of other gardeners in mind.
3. Plot preparation is the responsibility of its designated user. Gardeners are encouraged to enrich their plot's soil. Due to the plots' proximity to the church and playground, no products with a noticeable unpleasant odor may be used. Specifically, only composted manure can be used, and only if used in combination with other compost and no odor is detectable.
4. The use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, etc) is NOT allowed in or around the garden. Organic gardening practices should be followed, but LWUMC cannot guarantee that the plots are strictly organic.
5. Plant only vegetables, herbs and flowers. No trees or shrubs allowed. Plants of an invasive nature or those on the noxious weed list are not allowed; go to <http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious> for more information
6. Gardeners agree to donate at least 10% of their harvest to Hopelink. This is the Biblical first fruit tithe. Take your donation to Hopelink, have it weighed and ask for a receipt. Please submit a copy of your receipt to First Fruits Community Garden church mailbox, so we are able to gauge how effective this program is as a means of supporting the food bank. Hopelink website is www.hope-link.org What you grow may only be donated, not sold.
7. Occasionally there will be projects/tasks/work parties to benefit the the garden as a whole. As a member of First Fruits Garden Community you

will be notified and asked to participate in at least one job or project per season.

8. Application deadline for plot allocation is March 1st. (See attached Application Form) The first year (2011), church members will have first priority on plots with any remaining plots distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. In subsequent years, priority will be given to returning gardeners, provided they have followed these guidelines and re-apply by the deadline.
9. Plots will be allocated yearly and will be assigned by March 15th. Plot agreements run for one season. Clean-up must be completed by the first weekend in November (see below for definition of clean-up). Gardeners who wish to garden beyond November must contact LWUMC First Fruits Garden Team.
10. Neglected plots, either not started by Earth Day, April 22, or untended for more than 4 weeks (overgrown weeds, unwatered, unharvested) will be re-assigned at the discretion of the LWUMC First Fruits Garden Team, after attempting to notify the assigned gardener. Any gardener who needs to relinquish their plot should notify the LWUMC First Fruits Garden Team by letter or email. Gardeners may not "give" their plot to someone else, as plots will be given to the next individual or family on the waiting list.
11. Gardeners must be on site to water. Good watering practices, such as early morning/late evening watering and watering from below will minimize water waste. Water is a precious gift. We need to be good stewards of it. When finished watering, please roll up the hose at the faucet area.
12. Be a good garden "neighbor". Greet and get to know your garden neighbors. Respect adjacent plots by eliminating weeds before they go to seed. Don't plant tall plants in a location that will shade your neighbor's garden excessively. Don't work anyone else's plot without permission, even if you intend to be helpful. The grass paths around the plots will be mowed by the church, so please keep paths clear of all debris at all times.
13. Trellis and wire cages may be used, but no permanent structures may be placed in or around your plot. Tires may not be used. Containers of standing water may not be used as they are a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
14. Smoking and chewing tobacco are not allowed within 40 ft. of the garden. Pets, drugs, (including alcohol), radios, boom boxes and fires are not allowed.

- 15.** Children under the age of 12 may not be in the garden without the immediate supervision of their parent or guardian.
- 16.** 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 and gardens either mulched with leaves or planted with a winter cover crop. Put weeds and dead plant material into the church compost bin. Left over, spoiled vegetables are to be placed in the Waste Management Food Composting bins, by the kitchen's back door. Diseased plants, seedy or invasive weeds should be bagged up and disposed of in your own home garbage so as not to contaminate the community garden.
- 17.** LWUMC will not guarantee against vandalism or theft. Notify the Kirkland Police @ 911 if you witness damage or theft.
- 18.** As a member of First Fruits Community Garden you pledge to abide by the above guidelines. Failure to do so may result in the loss of your gardening plot for the current season and/or future seasons.