



## The Prairie State College Community Garden

Garden plots are available to purchase for the 2016 growing season. The fee is \$25 per plot. Plots are 4'W X 8'L. Please contact Alessandra Kummelehne at [akummelehne@prairiestate.edu](mailto:akummelehne@prairiestate.edu) or 708-709-3764 to reserve your plot. Payment is due with your completed contract and waiver of liability. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

The Prairie State College Sustainability Coordinator oversees the community garden. Upon receiving payment for your 2016 garden plot, Prairie State College will provide access to:

1. A pre-assigned plot(s)
2. Water
3. Tools
4. Mulch and compost (if available)
5. Gardening information (i.e. fact sheets and guides)

Seeds and plants may be donated to Prairie State College at various points in the season. Should this occur, gardeners will be notified and donations will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

Prairie State College is not responsible for any vandalism or theft of garden plots. You will also be required to sign a waiver of liability prior to planting your garden.

### Gardener Responsibilities

Upon purchasing a garden plot, you agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. Introduce yourself to your neighbors. Remember it's a community.
2. Plots will be planted with fruits, vegetables, herbs and/or flowering plants.
3. Plots will be tended for on a regular basis. This includes watering, weeding and harvesting. **Note:** To conserve water, turn off hose when not in use. Do not water during peak daylight hours. Try to water early morning or late afternoon/early evening.
4. Plots should be maintained to their boundaries. Please do not expand your plot. Avoid planting vines such as pumpkins, watermelons, and other fruits and vegetables that may be seen as an intrusion on other plots.
5. Maintain a neat garden space. Please pick up and remove litter if/when you see it. Do not leave tools in the pathways. Please ensure that any structures in your plot are safe and do not shade your neighbor's plots.
6. Tools are available for your use. Tools should be handled with care and returned to the shed after each use. Tools will not be replenished throughout the season and are to be shared among all gardeners. Please be considerate to your neighbors. Tools should be rinsed/cleaned after each use. The padlock combination for the shed is will be provided when payment for plot(s) is received.
7. Prairie State College is a chemical free garden. Only natural pest deterrents maybe used. Please contact the garden manager for more information and alternatives.
8. Gardeners who abandon their plot will be contacted twice. After that, remaining harvests will be donated to Respond Now.
9. Plots must be cleared and winterized by October 1, 2017, unless prior permission is granted, or the garden season is otherwise extended.
10. Parking is available in Parking Lot E. See campus map at: <http://prairiestate.edu/Assets/Global/pdf/campusMap.pdf>.

### Neighborliness

- Do not enter or pick vegetables from someone else's garden, even if you think the plot is abandoned or neglected.
- Garden carts and community tools should not be removed from the gardens. Return these items to the shed as soon as you are finished using them. Do not keep community tools in your garden plot.
- Tall plantings should not be placed where they will shade neighboring plots.
- Please bring all garbage home with you. We have a compost bin for biodegradable materials and plants.

**Weeds**

- All weeds should be composted in the garden compost pile.
- Weeds must be kept under control.

**Organic Gardening**

- All fertilizers used must be made from manure or other plant or animal waste. Any pesticides used must be approved for organic production. If in doubt about any material, e-mail a garden manager.

**Prohibited/Strongly discouraged Plants and Other Items**

- Viney plants are strongly discouraged. Please avoid planting the following, comfrey, annual artemisia, or mint, trees and perennials.

**Hours of Operation and Safety**

- The Prairie State College community garden is open 7 days a week, Sunday-Saturday, from dawn until dusk.
- Prairie State College has a full time police and campus safety department and patrols the area for your safety and the safety of our campus. Police and/or campus safety patrol the area 24 hours/day.
- There is a 24-hour emergency call box located by the garden. When the emergency call button is pressed, you will be connected to Campus Police.
- Should you encounter any problems in which you need to get in touch with police or campus safety, you may dial 708-709-7777 from your cell phone. Should it be a medical and/or immediate emergency, please dial 911.

- I understand it is my responsibility to care for and tend to my plot. \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)
- I understand if I fail to tend to my plot, it will be turned over to Prairie State College. \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)
- I understand Prairie State College is not responsible for theft or vandalism to my plot. \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)
- I understand Prairie State College has a full time police and campus safety department and they are here for my safety. I understand I may be asked for identification while tending to my plot and I agree to comply. \_\_\_\_ (initial)

*I have read and understood all other terms and conditions outlined in this agreement. I understand that organic methods are enforced and I should limit my use of harmful chemicals. I understand if my plot is deemed abandoned, it will be relinquished to Prairie State College with remaining harvests donated to Respond Now (or other not-for-profit organization).*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

Contact Information (Please type or print clearly)

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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