



Waterford Citizens Farm Project Community Garden Project Hess-Hathaway Park- April 2026 Policies and Planting Standards

Welcome to Waterford Citizens Farm Project Community Garden. The Citizens Farm Project seeks to educate our residents and encourage healthy local organic growing with little or none of no carbon emissions that commercial farming can produce.

As a citizen farmer, participants will be renting 10'x10' plots of land within the **Hess-Hathaway Park located at 825 S. Williams Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48327**. Policies do allow citizen farmers to retain plots from year to year when following established protocol. There is a limit of 4 plots for any gardener/household not impacted by the *grandfather clause* of 2021. Vehicles may be left outside the gate and gardeners may walk in during such times that the park is closed.

A one-time \$20.00 lifetime membership fee is assessed for new gardeners. An annual \$35.00 plot fee for Waterford residents/\$50 White Lake residents will be charged, payable to Waterford Parks and Recreation and subject to review yearly. Returning Citizen Farmers will have until **MARCH 13** to reserve their plot from the previous year. All fees are for the benefit of the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department and Hess-Hathaway Park. Upon payment, Citizen Farmers will have access to leased plots. Upon expiration or termination of a Citizen Farmer's participation in the program, any keys, program identification badges, etc. shall be returned to Hess-Hathaway Park/Waterford Parks and Recreation.

Citizen Farmers are expected to be good neighbors and shall follow all rules of conduct of the Hess-Hathaway Park Advisory Committee. Citizen Farmers shall take all reasonable steps to cooperate with each other and to resolve any disputes that may arise in a civil manner. Any complaint or issue that cannot be resolved by garden supervisors must be submitted to the Farm & Nature Center Coordinator. Matters requiring additional review will be forwarded to the Hess-Hathaway Advisory Committee for review. Growing vegetables and produce for commercial purposes is prohibited. Donations of surplus produce to food banks have routinely been organized by the farmers.

Care, planting, maintenance, and harvesting of leased plots are solely the responsibility of Citizen Farmers. Only organic material, in moderation, is allowed to enrich the soil. Materials that create or emit noxious odors are prohibited. All soil enhancers added to plots will become the property of Hess-Hathaway Farm Park once the plot lease has expired.

Raised beds: Landscape timbers (example: 4 x 4) and any other materials must be approved by the garden supervisors and Farm & Nature Center Coordinator. The material must be maintained and in good condition. For example, wood that is deteriorating must be removed or replaced. Any material placed on the ground that does not decompose must be removed by November 1st.

Toxic sprays and chemicals are not allowed. Annual flowers to border plots are allowed for aesthetic purposes and to discourage insects and wildlife destruction.

Permanent fencing: Permanent fencing is not permitted. Border fencing, with a maximum height of three feet, and trellises used for climbing plants are permitted. Both border fencing and trellises shall be removed by November 1st, unless the gardener has confirmed return for the following season. Gardeners who do not return are required to remove all temporary fencing and trellises. Fencing installed before 2026 is grandfathered, but must be removed by non-returning gardeners.

Restricted plants:

- Perennials, ground cover, ivy, and other invasive plants such as chives are not allowed.
- Marijuana and all other plants associated with drug use are prohibited.
- No toxic plants can be grown in any shared community garden plot. If you are unsure of what they are, see a garden supervisor to evaluate your selection. Our list of toxic plants will mirror the poison control center list. For example, growing poison ivy on your fence to keep neighbors out is not allowed.
- Castor Bean plants are banned.
- Plants that are considered invasive must be container-grown to prevent root contact with the ground. If any of these plants are found growing in your garden plot, you will be asked to dig them up and put them into a container. Strawberries are allowed to be soil-grown, but they must be kept trimmed.

Please see the list below, for some examples. This is not an all-inclusive list. Plants may be reviewed by our garden supervisors for suitability. If you are contemplating planting a species that may fall into a restricted category, submit your request to a garden supervisor who will share between the garden supervisors and Farm & Nature Center Coordinator so that a decision may be determined before planting.

1. Horseradish Root
 2. Any plant from the mint family, lemon balm and horehound
 3. Jerusalem Artichoke
 4. Lily of the Valley
 5. Sea Kale
 6. Sorrel
 7. Egyptian walking onions and perennial garlic
- Shrubs and small fruit trees are never allowed on your garden plot. All gardeners will be notified in real time if there are any changes to the restricted plant list during the garden season.
 - **Pets of any kind are not allowed with the exception of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.**
 - While you are welcome to leave tools in the “shed”, please note that all are welcome to use what is there.
 - Park restroom facilities are open during Park hours. A walk-through gate is available for the times the park is closed. Vehicles must be parked to the side of the driveway if you are using the walk-through for access other than during regular hours. Please park parallel to Williams Lake Road to allow for more parking spaces.

Tidy Garden Plots:

1. All flags, bags, and other creative materials used over the summer for decoration or to deter pests **MUST** be removed by November 1st.
2. Except for over-wintering vegetables, all annual plants should be cleaned out or dug out when they die. Plots will be assessed by garden supervisors and Farm & Nature Center Coordinator at the annual end-of-season walk-through.
3. Garden plots must not be used as storage plots. When harvest is completed, all garden equipment and material must be placed in designated winter storage areas.
4. Refer to the Waterford Community Garden Policies & Information flyer for additional information.
5. Gardeners who fail to follow the guidelines will forfeit their plot per the policies determined by Waterford Parks and Recreation Department.

Healthy Soil: Healthy soil grows healthy plants; therefore, the use of compost and cover crops to ‘grow’ healthy soil is a guiding principle that will be encouraged.

Fall Planting: Fall planting is permitted.

NOTE: POLICIES AND STANDARDS REVIEWED ANNUALLY AT THE SPRING MEETING:

Tuesday, April 21st, 2026, 6:00 pm, Hess-Hathaway Community Building
825 South Williams Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48327

If you would like to suggest any changes, the item will need to be submitted to Jessie Cobb, Farm & Nature Center Coordinator, jcobb@waterford.gov by April 1st to be added to the Annual Meeting agenda.

2026 Garden Rules and Regulations

The Quick Reference Guide

1. All new gardeners must be a Waterford or White Lake Township resident. Names put on the waiting list will remain there until there is an opening that has been offered.
2. Returning gardeners must renew their garden plots annually by the due date. If you move out of Waterford Township or White Lake Township, Waterford Parks and Recreation Citizen's Community Garden membership will be revoked for the next calendar year, so that Waterford and White Lake Township residents may access this opportunity. Garden plots not paid for by the deadline for returning gardeners will be offered to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis.
3. The gardener assumes all responsibility for any personal injuries, accidents and their guests.
4. All labor, plants and any material used in the garden is the sole responsibility of its owner.
5. Moving the boundary lines or planting anything outside the surveyed area is not allowed.
6. Park restroom facilities are open during park hours (there are restrooms located in the Community Building and porta-johns may be available). There is a pedestrian gate to the park for the times the park is closed. Vehicles must be parked to the side of the roadway outside the entrance gates if you are using this gate after hours.
7. Pets of any kind are not allowed with the exception of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act: *A service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability.*
8. All gardeners are expected to keep their garden fully planted, weeded and harvested.
9. There is a general compost area and any individual compost area may be forbidden if it becomes unsightly or a nuisance attraction. Please use trash barrels for all non-organic waste.
10. The garden stays open even if it floods.
11. All watering is done by hand, unattended sprinklers are not permitted, keep hoses properly secured and out of the way of mowing equipment etc.
12. Soil amendments are encouraged, ask for written guidelines. Some substances are not allowed.
13. Gardeners may bring their own tools or use the shared tools available in the shed, which is open to all gardeners.
14. Inform fellow gardeners when you are away. Unfamiliar faces working in your garden may be questioned.
15. Gardeners on vacation are not exempt from weeding, maintenance or compliance deadlines.
16. If you must give up your garden for any reason, please inform a garden supervisor and the Farm & Nature Center Coordinator, so any neglect affecting other gardeners can be addressed in a timely manner and/or plot can be reassigned.
17. Security: It is forbidden to ENTER, HARVEST OR WEED someone else's garden without their expressed permission. If you see suspicious behavior, keep watch (it may be helpful to introduce yourself) and do inform a garden supervisor.
18. Garden gate code is not to be shared with the public. It is changed annually, and the new code is given at the April Community Garden meeting and shared by garden supervisors.
19. The garden plot owner is responsible for their actions, their family members, and their guests.
20. End of the season clean-up is expected of everyone. Failure to return the garden plot to its original condition may result in penalties. Plots will be assessed by garden supervisors and Farm & Nature Center Coordinator at the annual end-of-season garden walk-through.
21. Garden supervisor(s) will work together to support gardeners by answering questions about gardening and policies. Should conflicts arise, or assistance is needed, gardeners should notify the garden supervisors. Any concern that cannot be resolved, shall be submitted to the Farm & Nature Center Coordinator by the garden supervisors. Matters requiring additional review will be forwarded to the Hess-Hathaway Park Advisory Committee.