

# Part I

## Friendship Evergreen Community Garden (FECG) Background, Information and User Guidelines

Version: 08/25/2020

### A: Background

The FECG is a one-acre community garden located adjacent to Friendship Village Tempe (FVT) within the City of Tempe at Ehrhardt Park. In 2016, the FVT administration began exploring the concept of constructing a community garden in Ehrhardt Park in partnership with the City of Tempe. On December 9, 2019, a formal agreement became effective.

One important condition of the agreement is that the garden include participation of gardeners from both FVT and those living in the adjacent Evergreen neighborhood. FVT contracted with Ryan Construction to develop the details of the garden plan which took place over a two-year period with formal approval December, 2019.

In March, 2019, a garden Steering Committee (SC) was formed with the purpose of coordinating the interests and expertise of all the parties into a cohesive construction plan for the garden. The SC held monthly meetings in which the Phase 1 garden plan was finalized. Construction of the garden based on the plan has now taken place.

Twenty family ground level plots and thirty-six raised plots are completed. Gardeners who are unable to use a ground level plot will be assigned a raised plot. There are three types of raised plots all of which are 30 inches above ground. Six raised plots are designed to allow conversion to wheelchair and walker access. The plots are constructed of redwood lumber.

Regarding irrigation, there is a manual control valve on the front of each plot to be used by the gardener to control the amount of water flowing to the irrigation drip lines strung across each plot. There is also a master controller that controls the frequency of water flow to all plots providing assurance that they will receive irrigation water, if required.

Light standards have been installed throughout the garden area and are timed to be on during evening hours to allow evening gardening as well as overnight security.

### B: Information and User Guidelines

#### Annual Fee

The annual fee is \$75 per contract year. For this annual fee, FECG will provide the following:

- A garden plot to grow produce or flowers for harvest by plot holder,
- A representative management structure that will be granted the authority to oversee the garden and ensure compliance with the following User Agreement Form,
- Access to water for irrigation and cleaning up,
- A secured shed for storage of personal gardening hand tools,
- Access to shared garden equipment such as shovels and shears,
- A compost station for disposal of garden wastes and production of new soil,

- A garden area with a periphery fence and 24/7 security lights and cameras,
- Educational programs to assist gardeners and stimulate new developments,
- A web site to serve as the primary informational source,
- A video conferencing system to facilitate virtual meetings,
- A part-time garden coordinator,
- Social events to celebrate our community of gardeners,
- Plenty of new friends.

## Garden Hours and Access

The garden will be open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, seven days of the week. The access code for the entrance gates will be given to gardeners upon receipt of the \$75 annual fee and signing of the Annual User Agreement Form.

## Assignment of Plots

Gardeners can indicate the type of plot they would prefer. Plots will be assigned based on availability, need and preference. A wait list for a plot will be maintained. Garden plots are assigned to one person or family only. After holding a plot for one year, gardeners will be given preference to keep the plot they have.

## Contract Year

Gardening will be year-round with the contract year starting September 15 and ending September 14 of the following year.

In the Phoenix area, gardeners typically plant for Fall/Winter beginning near October 1. Some gardeners add plants and extend into Spring/Summer beginning near May 1 of the following year. FVT will try to sponsor a start-up day event two times per contract year in the garden area during which a local market gardener will display and sell a variety of start-up plantings and seeds appropriate for the season. Gardeners are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Plots that remain unplanted for more than one month from the start of the contract year will be considered forfeited and fees will not be returned. If there are available plots, a second plot may be obtained for an additional fee of \$25.00.

## Equipment

Shared equipment must not be removed from the garden area. These items should be returned to their storage areas so others may use them. Gardeners will have assigned bins for personal gardening items in the secure storage shed.

## Use and Maintenance of Plots

Gardeners must maintain their plots and the adjacent aisles for the entire contract year. This includes planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. Gardeners who do not maintain their plots and immediate surrounding area will not be eligible for a plot the following year.

Gardeners must contact the garden coordinator for any reason that makes them unable to maintain their plots throughout the contract year. Plots abandoned for one month will be forfeited. Gardeners may not transfer or sublet a plot without approval from the garden coordinator.

At the end of the contract year, gardeners who will be extending their contracts for another year can add in new soil, tidy up current plantings and structures, and be ready for Fall/Winter plantings. Gardeners who will not be gardening another year must remove everything from the plots and have them ready for reassignment.

Gardeners must agree to garden organically without the use of any toxic chemicals. Organic definitions vary and organically labeled substances can be more toxic than synthetic substances. Use of barriers using compost and mulch are acceptable. Gardeners agree to check with the garden coordinator before applying any substances, organic or synthetic.

Gardening activity and plant growth must be restricted to the plot with no overhanging plants. Pathways are to be kept clear so as not to create a walking hazard or impede plot maintenance.

Gardeners agree to keep their plots free of decaying vegetables, disease and insect-infested plants and weeds. Affected plants must be removed from the plot, bagged and placed with trash at the compost station. Weeds cannot be taller than eight inches.

Gardeners will sort all waste from their plots and surrounding area into compost, recyclables and trash which includes bagged disease and insect-infested plants. Labeled sorting containers are at the compost station.

Some desirable plants can be invasive such as dill, fennel and mint. Please keep invasive plants one foot or more from plot boundaries or planted in containers.

### Mulch

Using mulch in your garden plot has many benefits. When organic mulches, such as compost, leaves and straw break down, they add valuable nutrients to the soil and help conserve water.

Non-biodegradable materials, such as artificial turf, carpet and stone are unsuitable.

Composting plant materials is an excellent way to reduce trash and conserve nutrients. The garden has a composting station maintained by FVT employees. This station will be the main source of additional soil requirements after going through an initial composting cycle.

### Structures

No permanent changes can be made within the garden area.

Gardeners must get approval from the garden coordinator to add non-permanent structures in the plot, such as plot shade covers, porous weed blockers, trellis structures and others. If approved, the gardener will supply the materials and make sure the structure is well anchored.

### Water Access and Usage

There is irrigation water available for all plots as described in Section A: Background. In addition, water bibs with hoses will be installed on risers throughout the garden area. Hoses

should not cross other plots and must be attended at all times. Be considerate of other gardeners waiting for hose use.

Gardeners need to be diligent about water usage and leakage into surrounding areas. Report all leaks to the garden coordinator.

### Rules

- Gardeners must abide by all City of Tempe Parks Regulations posted at the entrances to Ehrhardt Park. The use of alcohol, guns and illegal substances is specifically prohibited.
- Acting in an abusive or threatening manner will not be tolerated.
- Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied and fully supervised at all times by an adult. Adults are encouraged to introduce children to the wonders of gardening.
- Glass containers are not allowed within the garden area.
- Headphones must be used to listen to any personal device.
- Growing of illegal substances will lead to immediate expulsion with no return of fee.
- Items from garden plots may not be sold for profit. Donating excess is suggested.
- Pets are prohibited within the fenced garden area with the exception of service animals.
- Smoking, chewing tobacco and open flames are not allowed in the garden.
- All gardeners are expected to be respectful to others and to work cooperatively on solving issues. Complaints, mediations and policy interpretations are the responsibility of the FECG Management Board which has the final say.
- Ignoring a violation warning or repeating a violation will not be tolerated.

### Volunteering and Community Service

Gardeners are encouraged to work together as a group on communal aspects of the garden, especially at the beginning of planting seasons, and to share information with new gardeners.

Gardeners agree to volunteer up to two hours per month toward community gardening efforts, such as organized work sessions, planting preparations and cleanups. The focus will be on maintaining community garden areas and not just their own plot.

### Meetings, Communications and Education

Garden meetings will be held on a yet to be determined date of each month during the contract year. We will use video conferencing (Zoom) to hold meetings during the Covid-19 crisis. Gardeners are urged to attend at least two meetings per contract year.

Our garden website can be accessed at: <https://friendshipevergreen.com>. This site will be available to share garden resources, meeting minutes, photos, Q&A's, etc. All questions or suggestions intended for general distribution should be directed to the garden coordinator or communicated via the website.

Also, a bulletin board, located at the gardeners' storage shed, is available for the sharing of ideas and availability of items such as extra plants or garden tools.

Educational workshops will be held periodically. Gardeners are encouraged to research gardening techniques and to share this knowledge.