



BYLAWS

OF

COMMUNITY GARDEN OF REEVES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

A NON-PROFIT 501© ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE 1: Overview

The Community Garden Bylaws are designed to facilitate the safe and enjoyable use of the garden for everyone who calls Reeves County Hospital District their healthcare facility.

Article 2: Name and Location

The name of the Community Garden shall be “Community Garden of Reeves County Hospital District”, hereinafter referred to as the “Community Garden”. The Community Garden is located on the grounds of Reeves County Hospital District, therefore subject to the non-profit status of the hospital.

Article 3: Purpose

The purpose of the Community Garden shall be to create a community facility where people can come together to grow both food and the community spirit. The main goal is to promote good nutrition, recreation, fellowship, volunteerism, the sharing of garden bounty and learning the techniques of successful gardening. The Community Garden will also add to the landscape beauty of Reeves County Hospital District, while creating an opportunity for building the Pecos community through the interaction between the hospital leadership, other interested sponsor groups and the community at large.

Article 4: Organizational Policy

The Community Garden is a non-profit organization managed by the Garden Committee. The Garden Committee shall be appointed by the hospital leadership on a voluntary basis. In addition to the appointees, a Master Gardener will periodically hold meetings and classes to help gardeners practicing the best gardening methods and getting the fruit of their labor through sustainable harvest.

Article 5: Gardeners

A gardener is any resident of Pecos and surrounding areas who has been granted rights to a particular plot or plots and who agrees to and abides by the rules and requirements of the Community Garden as defined by the Garden Committee and the present Bylaws. Anyone in the community can become a gardener, as long as plots are available, regardless of race, gender, color, religion affiliation, political views, nationality, or sexual orientation.

Article 6: Membership

Membership is available on a first-come first-serve basis. If all garden plots are occupied, prospective gardeners who have filled out a Garden Plot Application will be placed on a waiting list. When receiving a garden plot, a gardener will read, acknowledge and sign the Garden Plot Application, Waiver & Release, Rules and Regulations, and the Bylaws. In addition, the gardener will volunteer to complete work days as specified in the Rules and Regulations. There shall not be any charge or fees to obtain a garden plot since Reeves County Hospital is a non-profit organization. However, a donation of \$10.00 per growing season is suggested to help with maintaining the garden and equipment. A garden plot can be owned by one or more members, as long as they are 18 years or older and they fill out the Application with the intention of working together. Children under 18 should be with the company of an adult member.

Article 7: Rights and Responsibility

Section I: Rights of Gardeners

- A. Garden produce is the private property of the plot holder and his/or her associates. Stealing is grounds for immediate expulsion from the Community Garden.
- B. Gardeners may obtain more than one plot upon request, if there is no waiting list, and if request is approved by the Garden Committee. However, whenever a waiting list develops, gardeners with more than one plot will be required to vacate the excess plots.

- C. At the end of the season, all vacant plots shall be reassigned according to the waiting list.

Section II: Responsibilities of Gardeners

- A. All gardeners and their associates must sign a Waiver & Release of Liability Form.
- B. Gardeners shall abide by the Community Garden opening and closing times as set by the Garden Committee. The garden shall open its gate from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM in Winter and 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM in Summer.
- C. Extended family members and/or friends shall be allowed in the Community Garden, if they are with the gardener and they all sign a Waiver & Release form. In such case, the gardener is fully responsible for the actions of family and friends while in the Community Garden. They all shall adhere to all rules, regulations and bylaws.
- D. All children under the age of 15 years must be under the close supervision of their parent (s) or a responsible guardian 18 year or older at all times. Parents or legal guardians will be financially responsible for all damage caused by their children or children under their care.
- E. Gardeners are required to attend mandatory clean-up work days scheduled by the Garden Council mainly at the beginning and the end of each season. The clean-up work day is a 4 hour shift; however, each gardener is only required to be present for 2 hours to receive the credit. If a garden member is unable to attend a scheduled clean-up work day, he or she may request a make-up task to be granted by the Garden Committee.
- F. All gardeners must satisfy their seasonal clean-up duties in order to keep their plot for the upcoming season. Please note: there are 2 growing seasons in West Texas; February-July and September-December.
- G. Each gardener is responsible for keeping their plot free from overgrown or spreading weeds.
- H. Each gardener is responsible for keeping the walking paths as well as the bench areas clear of weeds, trash, and tools.
- I. Each gardener shall be responsible for keeping any of their grown plants clear from protruding or overhanging into any adjacent walking paths to their plots. Some plants will require specific construction that must be carried on by the gardener.
- J. Gardener shall use the composting bins for allowable organic materials. Trash shall be properly disposed of outside of the Community Garden.
- K. When leaving for an extended vacation, the gardener must designate someone to maintain the plot in his/her absence. The designated person shall sign the Waiver & Release and shall abide by the rules, regulations and bylaws of the Community Garden.
- L. If a gardener wants to leave the Community Garden or abandon his/her plot, he or she should notify the Garden Committee.

Article 8: Garden Plots

Two types of raised bed garden structures will be available: Regular beds for individual and/or groups of gardeners, and special raised/handicap garden beds for individuals with physical disabilities.

Article 9: Plants

A list of plants allowed in the community garden will be provided by the Master Gardener in collaboration with the Garden Committee. Invasive plants that will spread when neglected shall not be allowed in the Community Garden.

Article 10: Fertilizer and pesticides

Organic farming will be the only method used in the Community Garden. Chemical weed repellents are not allowed in the garden beds. Please refer to the lists of allowed over-the counter fertilizers and insecticides that will be provided by the Master Gardener and the Garden Committee.

Article 11: Community Tools

Community tools shall be available for all gardeners and kept in a shed within the Community Garden. After their use, tools shall be cleaned and returned to their proper places in the shed. The Garden Committee shall be responsible for the inventory and maintenance of tools and the tool shed.

Article 12: Grounds for expulsion

Any gardener found in abuse of any of the issues noted below shall receive a warning. The warning will contain instructions from the Garden Committee explaining what the gardener needs to do to maintain his or her garden. If the gardener does not comply to the warning within a certain period of time as defined by the Garden Committee, a final warning will be issued and the plot shall then be reassigned.

The grounds for expulsion shall include but not limited to the following:

1. Not following the rules, regulations and bylaws
2. Stealing from another gardener's plot
3. Setting fire in the Community Garden
4. Abandoned your garden plot for 1 month during a growing season
5. Prohibited items in the Garden (for examples alcohol, tobacco, drugs, weapons...)
6. Leaving community tools in the plot
7. Violation of the Rules by family member (s) or relatives working in your garden plot

Article 13: Amendments

These Bylaws are subject to change at any time. Amendments will be distributed to all gardeners at the season change.

I have read and will abide by the **Community Garden of Reeves County Hospital District Bylaws** and agree to submit to the actions of the Garden Committee for the well-being of all stakeholders.

I have read, affirm and/or agree to adhere to all above statements.

Signed: _____ Date _____

Printed Name: _____

Garden Committee Witness: _____ Date _____