

CITY OF BOLIVAR COMMUNITY GARDEN

By-Laws

Article I. Name and Purpose

The name of this organization shall be called City of Bolivar Community Garden. The garden is located at the Pleasant Run Creek Park at 100 Stevens Road in Bolivar, Tennessee.

The purpose of the garden is to increase community involvement in neighborhood improvement efforts through gardening, educational workshops, and access to healthy foods.

This is a community-led garden working in conjunction with the City of Bolivar Parks and Recreation Department.

Article II. Volunteers

Anyone shall be able to volunteer if they have signed and agreed to the bylaws and commit to at least 2 hours during open garden hours per month.

Open hours for the garden shall run from April 1 through December 31 of each year, but volunteers may join at any time during the year.

Volunteers are invited to attend all garden meetings (see Article VI) and agree to join the gardens' Facebook, which will include garden updates, scheduling notices, etc.

The garden offers two types of volunteering: General and Private-bed

1. General Volunteering

- General volunteering is open to all.
- General members have access to all the benefits of the garden, such as composting, workshops, and volunteer opportunities.
- General volunteers must commit to 2 hours of volunteer work per month during garden open hours and during the garden season. Volunteers are responsible for switching with another volunteer if unable to complete their scheduled volunteer hours. However, each volunteer must still fulfill a total of 2 hours per month.
- Volunteers must comply with all garden bylaws and sign a volunteer application.

2. Private-bed Volunteers

- Private-bed volunteering is limited.

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- Private-bed volunteers have access to all the benefits of the garden—such as composting, workshops, and contributing to the design and organization of the garden—in addition to receiving a private bed for their own use.
- Private-bed volunteers must commit to maintaining one’s own private bed (see article III) in addition to general maintenance of the common area (see article IV).
- Private bed volunteers will receive a key to the garden and the combination to the shed.
- Private-bed members must commit to 2 hours per month of volunteer work during garden open hours and during growing season to help with the general upkeep of the garden (not including time spent on own private bed).
- Private-bed volunteers must comply with all garden bylaws and sign a private-bed volunteer application.
- Failure to fulfill any part of this commitment will result in the loss of the private bed.

Article III. Private Garden Beds

- Individual garden beds will be assigned in the early spring by the Garden Coordinator and are based on availability and garden participation. Returning volunteers are given first priority.
- Permanent beds must be used for growing produce and edible plants, as well as flowering plants.
- Individual garden beds must be planted by May 1st and maintained through the entire growing season. Any individual bed left unattended or not properly maintained for a month or more will be turned over to the Coordinators for reassignment.
- Private bed volunteers are responsible for switching with another volunteer if unable to complete their scheduled volunteer hours. However, each volunteer must still fulfill a total of 2 hours per month.
- If private bed volunteers (per household) fail to meet their 2 scheduled hours of service per month, and/or fail twice to find a replacement they will be forced to forfeit their bed. One warning will be issued after one month of neglected responsibilities. If the volunteer still takes no action within two weeks after this warning, his/her private bed will be revoked.

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- No volunteers shall take any plants or produce from an individual's bed without the permission of the bed holder. Beds will be adequately marked by the Garden Coordinator.
- Should there be more demand for private beds than there are available beds, there will be a waiting list and beds will be assigned when/if they open up during the season. Volunteers on the waiting list are invited to use the shared community beds for the growing of produce.
- The Garden Coordinator reserves the right to bypass the waitlist for those who meet the following criteria:
 - Taken extra initiative in the garden, whether it be on special projects or overall garden maintenance and care.
 - Been a regular and frequent volunteer at the garden.

Article IV. Common Areas

Communal beds will be available for the growing of edible plants. All community volunteers are allowed to plant and harvest produce from the communal beds. One of these beds is reserved for children only and two high raised beds will be reserved for the elderly and disabled only.

Small, annual plantings may be sewn in communal areas by garden members, using their best judgment and with the understanding that the planting is not permanent. Garden volunteers should place a sign in the planting area stating what they planted. This will prevent the plants from being weeded, planted over or otherwise immediately destroyed. Plants sown in the communal areas are just that: communal. Any garden member may harvest a modest number of flowers or other plant life cultivated in communal parts of the garden.

Golden Rule of Communal Gardening: If you aren't sure what a certain plant is or what it requires, please ask a Garden Coordinator before you pull it out/prune it/move it.

The Garden Coordinators will have an annual garden maintenance plan that takes into account the common areas of the garden, existing and proposed projects, and projects in design and/or construction. These maintenance activities will be divided into large and small tasks. The large tasks will be assigned to garden workdays. The small tasks will be posted on the bulletin board and on the inside of the shed door, and garden members and volunteers should check this list of small tasks during open hours and other times that they are in the garden.

Article V. Garden Policies

- Open Hours - Each member shall sign up and maintain 2 open hours per month throughout the season. It is the responsibility of each member to find a replacement if they are unable to perform their open hours. Failure to maintain open hours is grounds for volunteer termination.
- Organic Gardening - No pesticide, herbicides or non-organic fertilizers may be used in the garden. No treated wood may be used for garden beds. We use only organic growing practices.
- Composting - the garden has a public composting area. All volunteers are encouraged to compost kitchen scraps and yard waste materials. Please follow the guidelines posted in the composting area.
- Children - Toddlers and very young children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Children up to ages 15 must be accompanied by an adult when gardening.
- Animals - Pets are not allowed in the City of Bolivar Community Garden unless they are on a leash. If a pet is disturbing the garden or endangering plants in any way, the pet's owner will be asked to take the pet outside the garden. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after pets.
- Alcohol - Alcohol is prohibited inside the garden.
- Smoking - Smoking is prohibited inside the garden.
- Probation & Termination - Failure to comply with all garden bylaws is grounds for probation. The Garden Coordinator, in accordance with the seriousness of the offense, will determine the volunteer status. Ability to volunteer at the garden may be terminated for serious offenses.
- End of Season - All individual beds must be cleared of old plants at the end of the season and either mulched or planted with cover crop. All volunteers are expected to assist with 'closing' the garden by cleaning equipment, storing items and removing waste at the end of season workday.
- Gatherings - Active volunteers in good standing are welcome to use the garden for small gatherings upon approval by the Garden Coordinator. Volunteers holding large gatherings (20-30 people) must be scheduled in advance with the Garden Coordinator.
- Grievances - All grievances are to be brought to the Garden Coordinator. If the Garden Coordinator cannot come to a resolution, they may take the concern to

the City of Bolivar Parks & Recreation Director.

Article VI. Meetings of Volunteers

A garden meeting will be held three times per garden season during garden open hours. At this time, volunteers can bring their concerns or ideas before the Garden Coordinator. Every volunteer will be able to vote on issues brought forth during the meetings. Meeting dates and times will be posted on Facebook and the garden information board one month in advance by the Garden Coordinator.

If ideas or concerns arise from a volunteer, that volunteer may take the idea or concern to the Garden Coordinator for consideration.

Article VII. Amendments

These bylaws and the rules and regulations of the City of Bolivar Community Garden may be changed with approval from the Bolivar Parks & Recreation Director. All changes will be communicated via Facebook and posted on the garden information board.