



## Santa Monica Community Gardens Good Neighbor Policy



Approved: September 9, 2008

The dictionary defines COMMUNITY as a social group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respects from the larger society within which it exists. We encourage each of you to get to know your Community Garden neighbors and communicate in a positive manner together to resolve mutual concerns. The Community Gardens are becoming more visible to the larger community of the City of Santa Monica. In these days of growing concerns about food safety and the diminishing open space, one of the goals of the Community Gardens Advisory Committee is to promote the need for more community gardens within the City. We must be aware of our impact on the surrounding neighborhood and strive to maintain gardens that our local community wants to support.

The Community Gardens Advisory Committee has recommended the following guidelines to be good neighbors to the local community.

- Perimeter gardens along the exterior fences must be weeded outside the fence that borders the sidewalk.
- Look at your garden from all sides, particularly if you were to view it from the sidewalk or parking lot. Does it look attractive? Please store tools and materials away from the fence.
- Prevent the development of potential rabbit and rodent habitat by avoiding the creation of plant material piles and stacks of wood.
- Harvest vegetables when ripe. Food that is rotting in the garden will attract all types of critters. You may harvest and deliver it to the Westside Food Bank, they will gladly accept it.
- Hoses are to be kept off the plants at all times. Water spigots are now on both sides of the path, usually one for every two gardens. Shut off hose at handle, as well as at the splitter shutoff, or the pressure could force a leak. Report leaks to City's Community Gardens Supervisor promptly.
- Weed along the boundaries of your garden, being aware that the wind will blow weed seeds into your neighbor's plot.
- Smoking is prohibited in the two park garden sites; Park Drive and Euclid Park. At Main Street, please be aware of your neighbors and keep your smoke away from them. Of course, you should dispose of your butts mindfully.

- Pets must be on leashes at all times. Keep your pet within the boundaries of your own garden.
- Green waste must be disposed into the designated dumpster. Please keep lids closed to avoid contamination with trash.
- Southern California is in a drought. Water rationing may be coming. Please be water wise. Deep watering, once a week, will save you time and water. Your plants will grow deeper roots, the better to withstand the scorching heat of the summer. Mulching around your plants with alfalfa will save water, keep the ground moist longer, keep the soil cooler, and eventually decompose and enrich your soil.
- Remove plants you no longer want in your garden. We encourage you to share unwanted plants and seeds with your neighbors
- Recycle empty pots on Main in the barrel west of the dumpsters.
- Send all notices for the bulletin boards to the Community Programs office for posting. [communityprograms@smgov.net](mailto:communityprograms@smgov.net)