



# MOTOR AVENUE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A Voice for Smart Growth

3751 Motor Ave #341248

Los Angeles, CA 90034

Tel (310) 202-9002

Fax (310) 202-0433

[MAIA@MotorAssociation.org](mailto:MAIA@MotorAssociation.org)

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## Motor Ave Community Garden Contract

### Introduction

Below are rules that will make this garden usable by all participants and provide many more years of gardening at this location.

- A. The Motor Avenue Improvement Association is the highest governing authority at the Motor Avenue Community Garden.
- B. Breaking any rules, terms, and conditions is cause for exclusion from the garden and loss of your plot.
  1. You will receive one verbal warning from the garden manager, Lee Wallach.
  2. If no response or correction has been made, you will receive a written warning two weeks later.
  3. In another two weeks, if no response or correction has been made, you will receive written final notification that you have forfeited your garden privileges and plot.
  4. You will be allowed to reapply for another garden plot only after one year, and only at the discretion of the garden manager.
- C. Plots reserved for non-profit/community organizations: a few plots will be reserved for school classes, teachers and selected members of the community.
  1. Community groups must comply with all the same rules and agreements as all other gardeners.

### Terms and Condition for Participation

If accepted as a gardener, I will abide by the following, terms and conditions.

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_, use this garden at the sole discretion of Motor Avenue Community Garden. I agree to abide by its policies and practices. \_\_\_\_\_(initial)
2. Use of the Motor Avenue Community Garden is contingent on the completion of all the requirements for gardeners (Attachment 1).
3. Having a plot in the community garden is also contingent in the participation in at least one parklet or school garden committee (Attachment 1)
4. The fee for the use of the garden is \$100 per plot, per year. There are no refunds.
  - a. The rate for the plot will be prorated based on full months, regardless of whatever point in the month a new gardener is added to the garden.
5. I live, work or am involved in a recognized, established organization that lies 5 miles within the radius of the garden. \_\_\_\_\_(initial)
6. Garden hours are from dawn to dusk, seven days a week except for special events.

## Plot Terms of Use and Expectations

7. My plot is ( 3 x 8 ft ). I will not expand my plot beyond this measurement or into paths or other plots.
8. I will keep all my plants within the limits of my garden plot.
  - a. I will not plant any sprawling or invasive plants that might interfere with others.
  - b. I will keep plants staked/pruned to prevent excess growth outside of plots.
  - c. I will not plant nor let plants grow higher than 6 feet tall.
9. Once I have been assigned a plot, I will cultivate and plant it within two weeks and garden year round.
  - a. My plot cannot be left fallow or unused for any period of three weeks or longer, more than one time a year.
  - b. Plots that are left fallow or unused for a period of three weeks or longer will be taken from the gardener and redistributed to another person.
10. If any plot remain available at the end of enrollment Period for new Gardeners (usually ending January 31<sup>st</sup>) and enrolled gardener may request a second plot.
  - a. Second plots will be allotted for 1 year.
  - b. Community Gardener may not have more than 2 plots in any given year.
  - c. Community organizations are limited to one plot per year, regardless of the number of plots available.
11. Edible crops will be harvested when mature to deter pests and rodents.
  - a. If I have a surplus I will share it with fellow gardeners or donate to our Farmer's Market.
  - b. I will not take any crops, plants, or flowers from another gardener's plot without explicit consent.
12. I will keep my plot, paths, and surrounding areas clean and neat.
  - a. I will completely separate my trash into three groups: 1) plant debris that includes dead plants, leaves, and other green waste plant parts; 2) rocks, stones, and asphalt; and 3) paper, plastic, cardboard, wood, metal, etc. I will put each type of trash in their designated areas, specifically for each.
  - b. Anything I bring from my home I will take back home. I will not bring any household trash and leave it/dump it at the Motor Avenue Community Garden.
13. I will water my plants according to the water-wise guidelines (Attachment 2). If I use more than the recommended amount of water, I will pay a fee each month to cover the cost of additional water.
14. I will not apply any pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers or soil supplements in my plot or any other plot without the approval of the garden manager.
15. If I now have more than one plot, I will give up my additional plots by the end of the gardening year.
16. I will not plant any illegal plants.
17. I will notify the Garden Coordinator of:
  - a. Water system leaks
  - b. missing or broken tools
  - c. accidents
  - d. vandalism
  - e. need of replacement items.

## **Rules for Behavior**

18. I will work hard to ensure that a happy, secure and enjoyable environment where all participants can garden and socialize in a neighborly manner is upheld at all times.
19. I will respect other gardeners, and will not use abusive or profane language or discriminate against others.
20. I will not take anything from the garden that not is rightfully mine, which includes but is not limited to produce, plants, tools, equipment and soil.
21. I will not smoke, use illegal drugs, or gamble in the garden. I will not come to the garden while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
22. I will not bring any kind of weapon to the garden
23. Guest and visitors, including children, may enter the garden if I accompany them. They must follow all the rules, terms, and conditions stated here. I am held accountable and solely responsible for the behavior of my guest(s).
24. I will not make duplicate keys of any locks at the garden site or give my key or lock combination to another person without the approval of the garden manager.
25. The garden manager will assign me general garden maintenance tasks each month, and I must complete them by the end of the month that I am assigned.
26. I will attend the regular garden meetings.
  - a. Missing garden club meetings frequently may result in the forfeiting of your garden plot.
27. I will not take any seedlings from the greenhouse that are not mine. I will clearly label any seedlings that I have planted with my name, the crop name and my plot number. I will ensure that the area around and inside the greenhouse remain clean.
  - a. If I am the last person at the garden, I will ensure that the greenhouse is properly closed.

## **Agreement**

28. I agree that when I am no longer member of the Motor Avenue Community Garden, I will be an upstanding community member and stay out of the garden unless signed up for volunteer work.
29. I understand and agree that none of the entities associated with the Motor Ave Community Garden, including any that are unknown to me at this time, will be held responsible for my actions associated with the garden. I therefore agree to hold harmless all of the following entities: City of Los Angeles, the Garden Committees as they are formed, my fellow gardeners, any organizations, schools or non-profits that may participate in the community plots, any visitors to the garden, professionals or volunteers involved in the maintenance of the garden, any group or anyone else associated with the garden, whether known to me or otherwise, for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the Motor Avenue Community garden, by me, my family, or any of my guests.
30. By signing below, I agree to comply with the policies, conditions, expectations and rules of the Motor Avenue Community Garden. I understand that failure to abide by these rules and practices could result in forfeiture of my garden plot or other privileges. I understand that this is a community garden and its success is based on working cooperatively.
31. I understand that, should it be necessary, this agreement may be amended and that I will receives a copy of said amendments and will be held to them.

## Commitment

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the above conditions of Motor Avenue Improvement Association in regards to the participation in the Motor Avenue Community Garden. I have received a copy for myself. I agree to comply with the conditions of this agreement.

Name of Gardener: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Email is our main source of communication, so please regularly check the listed email for information.*

Signature of Gardener: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Requirements for All Gardeners

Inability to complete all requirements will make you ineligible to have a plot in the Motor Ave. Community Garden.

- Fingerprints
- TB Tests

## Committee Information

The Motor Avenue Improvement Association runs an interconnected garden program that includes the Motor Avenue Farmers Market, 4 school gardens, two parklets and the community gardens. To ensure that all of our gardens thrive, **we require people that hold a plot at our community garden also be part of a committee for one of our other gardens.** As a member of the committee, you would help overlook the needs and maintenance of the garden, work with community members and youth and help provide advice on the future of the garden. One hour and a half per month of Committee Community Service time (per plot per year) must be given to participate in the Community Garden Program. **This is in addition to maintenance of your plot and pathways.** This will be tracked closely. Failure to complete and record these hours by the deadline will result in an invoice of \$80 per unrecorded hour. There are also specific garden work days that will be scheduled throughout the season. Each work day will be supervised by a Garden Leader.

Being part of a school garden committee also comes with some additional requirements, since you will be interacting with children and will be visiting a school.

Below, please choose which committee you would prefer to be part of:

- Palms Elementary School
- Palms Middle School
- Overland Elementary
- Pre-School
- Parklet 1 (in front of community garden)
- Parklet 2 (in front of C&M Café)
- Farmers Market
- Community Garden

## Additional Requirements for School Garden Committee Members

- School Garden Training

## **Watering Guidelines**

**Note:** Gardeners are in charge of the watering of their own plots. Please to not water excessively. Do not water other plots unless you have been given permission to do so.

### **Methods to checking if plants need water**

#### **Soil check**

Stick your fingers in the soil all the way down to your knuckle.

If the soil feels cold and sticks to your finger when you pull out your finger then watering is neither necessary nor convenient.

If the soil feels warm, dry, and does not stick to your fingers when you pull out your finger then watering is a must.

#### **Foliage check**

If plant looks droopy and light green then this could be a sign of water urgency

If plant is erect and darker green then water is not essential.

### **Methods on how to water plants**

#### **Roots absorb water, not leaves.**

When watering any plant, you want to make sure that all that water is going straight to the roots. This means avoid getting water on the plants' leaves or flowers. This will prevent bacteria, fungi, or any other organisms to grow and kill off the plant.

Also, focus on watering the trenches, since plants will expand their root systems and get the most water from those areas.

**Water around the base of the plant (3 to 6 inches radius from the base) and aim solely for the dirt, not the plant**