

Rio Grande Farm Park
2017 Commercial Garden Plot Agreement and Waiver

COMMERCIAL GARDENER AUTHORIZATION & RESPONSIBILITIES

The following guidelines outline the management and allowable uses of the Rio Grande Farm Park (RGFP) garden plots during the 2017 growing season, relevant up to December 31, 2017. These guidelines have been established by the RGFP Farm Manager and serve as an agreement between the RGFP and each household associated with a garden plot. A maximum of 30 garden plots will be offered to the local community on the basis of one (1) plot per household in 2017, with a designated number of 20 plots for the local Mayan community. All garden plots will be assigned by the RGFP Farm Manager and all participants should anticipate that future plot assignments will need to be coordinated with Farm Manager as well. Any extra garden plots will be assigned through a lottery system for those wishing to access additional land for food production.

This agreement serves to outline garden expectations and upon agreement and authorization, gives each household permission to make use of a garden site this year.

With your signature below, you as a participant gardener and your household agree to the following:

1. Each commercial garden participant is required to pay a fee of \$50 per quarter-acre (or \$200 for an acre) plot. These fees must be paid by cash or check signed to the Rio Grande Farm Park. If paying by cash, participants should make sure the money goes directly to the RGFP Director, Julie Mordecai.
2. Each household, or his/her designee, will be asked to volunteer to work for a total of six (6) hours on manager-assigned projects at the RGFP, which are to be completed by close of the garden season. In the event that an additional plot is gained via lottery, the household awarded additional land agrees to volunteer for an additional six (6) hours on manager-assigned projects at the RGFP.
3. All garden participants must work with the RGFP Farm Manager to ensure compliance with organic gardening practices. No synthetic chemicals including herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers are allowed. All materials placed on or into the soil must be approved by the RGFP Farm Manager, including: seeds, amendments, manure, compost, mulch, etc. Any additions to soil will be communicated to Farm Manager so they may be recorded.
4. Participant gardeners will be responsible for monitoring and controlling weeds and pests on their plots in coordination with the RGFP Farm Manager.
5. Garden plot produce is for home use, unless otherwise authorized by the RGFP Farm Manager.
6. Garden Plot holders will not plant or grow any illegal or regulated crops such as hemp/marijuana, or invasive plants or trees including any plant listed on the Federal Noxious Weed list. After one attempt to notify the participant gardener(s), the RGFP Farm Manager will arrange for removal and disposal of such plants.
7. Any issues regarding garden plots are to be communicated to the Farm Manager, including dissatisfaction with plot assignment, or decision to give up garden plot. Untended garden plots may result in loss of assigned garden plot.
8. Garden users are to abide by direction from RGFP Farm Manager on recommendations for successful crop location, selection, rotation, etc., and are to work with Farm Manager to ensure a balanced cultivation of soil & garden space.

9. Seasonal and temporary gardening structures such as trellises are allowed if they do not shade or encroach upon neighboring plots. All structures should be removed by the end of the growing season and are not to be left in the garden over the winter.
10. The planting of cover crops will be implemented in the garden. Garden participants may choose to plant supplied seed themselves on their garden plot at any time during garden season, or will otherwise be planted by the RGFP Farm Manager by the end of the growing season, which will be determined by weather and frost dates. By this time, garden participants must have fall harvest and plot cleanup completed.
11. Garden users may use their own small hand tools for gardening. Any shared tools supplied by the RGFP are to be used with care, returned to proper storage, and are not to be taken off the land. Larger implements including tillers, tractors and all power equipment will be managed by the RGFP and are to be used only with permission and at the direction of the Farm Manager. Any equipment in need of maintenance or repair is to be brought to the attention of the Farm Manager.
12. Garden users must maintain their plot to be trash-free and as clean as possible.

WAIVER & RELEASE

1. I understand, accept, and assume the risks associated with participation in any and all activities at the RGFP as a garden participant and a representative of my household. I assume the responsibility of conducting myself in a civil manner that is mutually beneficial to all participants, and agree to refrain from unacceptable conduct including: vandalism of tools or garden sites, or any other unacceptable or offensive behavior.
2. I assume full responsibility for any injuries which may occur to me, members of my household, or guests, and hereby hold the RGFP harmless and fully discharge and release the RGFP and all its associated parties from any claims.
3. In the event that a dispute arises between any associated parties, and if a resolution of the dispute is not reached by these parties, the RGFP committee or its designee' is authorized to make a final decision regarding any of the matters in the dispute that impact RGFP operations or activities.

Print First and Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and responsibilities through 2017 as stated in the Gardener Authorization & Responsibilities and Waiver & Release:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

REQUIRED QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please describe the following inputs you need to be successful:
 - a. Training:

 - b. Equipment:

 - c. Other:

2. Relative to educational training provided by the program:
 - a. What is your experience with farming or marketing?

 - b. What types of educational trainings would you find most useful?

 - c. Are you ready to begin in January 2017 with trainings?

 - d. Do you have any weekly meetings/conflicts? If so, what night are they?

 - e. Can you commit to one all-day Saturday training in February?

3. Relative to educational needs, rank these topics from most important (#1) to least important (#11):
 - a. _____ Business Planning
 - b. _____ Pests and Weeds
 - c. _____ Post-Harvest Handling
 - d. _____ Irrigation
 - e. _____ Marketing
 - f. _____ Branding: Name and Label Development
 - g. _____ Crop Planning
 - h. _____ Transplants
 - i. _____ Soils/Soil Fertility
 - j. _____ Recordkeeping

4. What size of plot are you requesting? (Plots are rented out by 1/4 of an acre)

5. Would you like to connect with the Valley Roots Food Hub or the Alamosa Farmers' Market in order to sell your produce this growing season? If so, what type of assistance would you like to make this a smooth and successful connection?