

RGCF Membership Application

(Please print your information.)

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Levels and Benefits: (check the level you want)

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership – 2 free Maze tickets | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardener Membership – 2 free Maze tickets,
plus a row in the Community Garden* | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership – 4 free Maze tickets,
plus a row in the Community Garden* | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership -- Lifetime Members
will receive free Maze admission and a garden row
in the Community Garden* as long as you want them. | \$1,000.00 |

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

*Garden rows dependent on availability. Once all rows are taken we start a waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis. Rows continue each year as long as your membership is current.

Please complete and mail with your check to:
Rio Grande Community Farm
6804 4th St. NW #114
Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87107
www.riograndefarm.org
Questions? E-mail us at: info@riograndefarm.org

Thank you! Welcome to the Farm!



Rio Grande
Community Farm

A donor funded 501(c) 3 non-profit

Rio Grande Community Farm
6804 4th St. NW #114
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Office (505) 345-4580
www.riograndefarm.org

Garden Coordinator: Marika Ray
garden@riograndefarm.org 994-9521

Community Garden Row Agreement 2010

Revised: February 9, 2010

In partnership with the City of ABQ, Open Space Division, Rio Grande Community Farm (RGCF) manages the organic Community Garden at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space. The Garden includes the Albuquerque Area Extension Master Gardener Millennium Demonstration Garden. Directly north of the Community Garden is the Alvarado Elementary School Wildlife Garden, a special collaboration between Rio Grande Community Farm and Alvarado Elementary School, now in its tenth year. The Alvarado Garden encourages children to learn ecological principles and develop English, Science and Math skills while planting and tending crops for wildlife.

Farm members who wish to participate in the Garden reserve rows by the year. RGCF provides weekly ditch irrigation and some tools, seeds and compost. Food grown may be for personal consumption or may be donated to others in the community, usually through food banks. RGCF will provide some information to help gardeners grow organically. Master Gardeners can be available Wednesday mornings during the growing season as an information resource and may offer talks to groups who tour the garden (advance notice is requested).

After reading the following guidelines, please complete the final page (Liability Waiver and Registration) and return it to the Farm address above with payment made to Rio Grande Community Farm. This will officially reserve your row/s for 2009/2010.

Community Garden Guidelines and Policies

1. Membership Fees: Membership fees help support community garden maintenance and operations as well as other RGCF programs and services. Membership fees are non-refundable.

Individuals: A garden row is a benefit to all RGCF members starting at the Family level membership of \$35.00. If additional rows are available they may be purchased for \$25.00 each (limited to 4 total rows).

Organizations: Organizations may participate under the same fee structure, but do not receive individual membership benefits, such as free Maize Maze passes, which are given to individual members.

Gift Memberships: A gardener level membership may be given to other person(s) but the person receiving the gift MUST be the person to read and sign the garden waiver and provide BOTH phone and e-mail contact information and comply with the garden policies.

2. Rows: Each row measures approximately 2' x 80' of growing space. On both sides of the row are common area irrigation channels, called furrows. No water flow obstructions should be placed in the common areas. All furrows must remain free of weeds and debris during the growing season. If weeds and/or debris are not removed, the gardener(s) will be contacted and have seven (7) days to remedy the situation or irrigation will be stopped on their rows until remedied. If after 3 notices and no action is taken, the row(s) will be forfeited. Trees, shrubs, vines, creeping plants or sunflowers are NOT allowed to be planted. If they are, they MUST be removed. **Any crops you grow are NOT allowed to be sold.**

3. Organic Methods: All gardeners must use organic growing methods -- no chemical pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides are allowed. Plus, [non genetically modified organism \(non-GMO\) seeds](#), organic seeds or heirloom seeds should be the ONLY type used to grow crops. If you have questions please talk with the Garden Coordinator. Also, gardeners may not plant anything illegal.

Because we have had numerous insect infestations and plant diseases lately, each member will need to turn in a map of your garden row(s) to the Garden Coordinator by May 15. Part of the reason we are having those insect and disease problems are that we are not rotating crops and may be planting the same things in the same areas over and over, which leads precisely to those problems. Members also need to start using 3 inches or more organic amendments or planting cover crops to fertilize the rows in the fall and winter. By rotating areas within the rows for growing plants and adding a richer and denser array of organic amendments, these problems can be abated. We need to start keeping records and making those available in the future to all members and future members so that the community garden is more productive.

4. Row Maintenance: You are responsible for the care of your own row AND the path area by your row. Please do not let any of your plants or structures escape your area or intrude upon your neighbors' furrows or rows! This means you need to keep your furrows clear of weeds and debris (as stated above) and your rows generally maintained and tended to. Use of landscape cloth or organic mulch for areas that you are not actively gardening is highly encouraged. If your area is not maintained adequately, you will be notified by the Garden Coordinator. You will have seven (7) days to remedy the situation or irrigation privileges will be stopped until remedied. After three notices, unresolved *problem WILL result in forfeiture of your garden rows.*

5. Pest Management: Growing produce using organic methods requires committing to regular and frequent manual or organic pest, disease and virus control. Some types of plants that require continued and frequent pest controls are beans and squash. You need to either hand-pick the bugs, their larvae and eggs daily or use some kind of organic insecticidal soap, like Safer's. (Tip: Sometimes you can pay kids to remove them for a penny a bug). Tomatoes and peppers are susceptible to wilt and viruses like curly-top and must be pulled as soon as any sign of it appears to prevent spreading it throughout the garden. If you do not wish to commit to the regular and frequent control these types of plants require, you should choose other types of crops to plant. **It is recommended not to grow tomatoes, squash and beans for 2010 season.** For more info on organic methods of pest control, do your own research or go to: <http://www.organicgardenpests.com/>. Please work with your neighbors and consider their needs, too, before you plant.

6. Community Area Maintenance: All community garden members will be required to do **two hours each month** of community garden work to keep the common areas in good shape. There will be a list of pre-committed tasks (which will rotate between members) put up inside the tool shed with a sign off sheet. These tasks will be completed and checked on by the Garden Coordinator twice a month and will be kept in your record. Please plan to attend community garden task training when scheduled. We have very limited storage space, so please do not store any personal items in the community areas or tool shed. *You are responsible for checking your e-mails at least twice a week.*

7. Community Garden Behavior: Please make sure NEVER to walk on rows, only in furrows. We are a "community" garden where everyone, including volunteers and guests, should ALWAYS be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity. Our goal is to have a peaceful and caring atmosphere where ideas and thoughts can be freely shared, regardless of gardening experience. Any behavior outside that nature of conduct will NOT be allowed or tolerated. If anyone has an issue that they feel they cannot calmly talk about to a fellow gardener, they can seek out an RGCF staff member for advice or help. Or just e-mail garden@riograndefarm.org for suggestions.

8. Irrigation: RGCF will irrigate the garden weekly (usually Wednesdays) from mid March to mid or late October. It is your responsibility to insure your row is properly irrigated and doesn't have blocks from weeds or debris or leaks from low spots in your rows. It is also your responsibility to repair low spots in your row.

You are also responsible for keeping weeds and weed piles from collecting around the irrigation pipe. Make sure you leave 3 feet of clear space on both sides of the pipe. Tarps, heavy plastic or weed block should be used on the garden side. But it is still your responsibility to keep the weeds pulled should they sprout through any weed barriers. When you weed, put your weeds in either the compost bins or the marked "Diseased and Weeds with Seed Head" containers.

If possible, come to the garden during irrigation hours to see how the water is flowing. The volunteer irrigators are in charge of irrigation. If you want to irrigate your row(s) outside the normal irrigating sequence, you MUST first get verbal permission *each time* from the irrigating volunteers and find a way to visually mark your rows for them so they can easily see where your rows are. You can do this by putting tape on the irrigation pipe at your row location. It's also good to plant just before irrigation so it's less muddy. **IMPORTANT:** All orange irrigation gates should be closed when not irrigating.

You MUST keep your weeds pulled near the pipe and in your rows and furrows or you will be given a notice to remedy the situation. You will have seven (7) days to remedy the situation or irrigation privileges will be stopped until remedied. After three notices, unresolved *problem WILL result in forfeiture of your garden rows.* Make sure that you NEVER walk, sit, stand or roll equipment over the irrigation pipe. That pipe is the lifeline of the garden.

9. Netting/Fencing: Many gardeners like to use netting or fencing to grow peas, beans and similar plants. If you use these materials, it is important to raise them at least 3 inches above the soil on your row. We have snakes, lizards and other small wildlife that do natural garden pest control in the community garden and we need to make it safe for them to travel throughout the garden. If you do not abide by the 3-inch rule, your netting/fencing will be removed.

10. Children: Children are very welcome at the Garden, but MUST be supervised at all times by an adult. Please teach your children "Garden Etiquette" -- walking in furrows NOT on the rows, proper tool handling, and respecting all

gardeners, garden rows and surrounding areas. Also instruct them to honor wildlife by not handling, chasing or moving them.

11. Pets: Pets are NOT allowed in the community garden area. Their feces and urination can cause problems. Please also inform visitors that PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED for health reasons.

12. Tools: Some tools are available for your use at the garden. The tool closet lock combination is available from the Garden Coordinator. The combination is not to be shared with non-members. Each time you use the tool shed, it is your responsibility to lock it even if others are there. Make sure you know how to lock it securely and scramble the dials so no tools are stolen. Please do not take any tools off site. Return all tools cleaned and in good working order to the tool closet when done. There are wire brushes and scrapers to clean tools. ***If a tool is broken or not functioning well please leave a note on it and inform the Garden Coordinator immediately.*** Please keep the tool closet tidy at all times!

13. Signage, Tool and Equipment Maintenance Fee: We need to put up several permanent signs in the garden to provide information to members and non-members. Also since some tools have recently been stolen because the door to the tool shed was not properly locked, there will be a \$7.00 per member yearly fee, which will be due upon member sign-up or membership renewal. That will cover the replacement of tools and provide some funds to keep the mower, ditch water pump and rototiller in good working condition.

14. Compost: Place only unwanted or decaying plants here. Diseased plants MUST be put in separate containers provided by each compost area. If the diseased/seed head containers are full, empty them on the south field past the garden or haul your own plants down to that area where they can dry out completely and be plowed under later. DO NOT put the following items in the compost bins: landscape cloth, plastic containers, netting, fencing or other non-plant items. Those can be put in the black plastic bags in the shade structure. Please do not disturb, harm or handle any wildlife around compost bins.

15. Personal Circumstances: During the course of the gardening season, it is possible to have personal circumstances come up that no longer allow you to come to the garden and tend to your row(s). If that happens, please notify the Garden Coordinator A.S.A.P. by e-mail at garden@riograndefarm.org.

16. Group Visits: Contact the Garden Coordinator if your group would like a tour.

17. Harvest: Please harvest only from your own rows. Notify the Garden Coordinator if you suspect non-gardeners are stealing food. For your safety, DO NOT confront people yourself!

18. Community Events and Tasks: RGCF will coordinate Community Garden work days, events and educational activities. You're encouraged to attend – they're fun!

19. Bringing visitors to the garden: Any time you bring family or friends to the garden who have never been there before, make sure that they understand that they can walk only in the furrows and never on top of the rows. Also make sure they never sit, stand, walk on or roll equipment over the irrigation pipe. Also explain that if they use tools, they need to be cleaned and returned to the tool shed. Please do not share the shed combination with non-members but make sure they know that the shed should be locked properly before leaving.

City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Open Space Rules & Regulations

RGCF upholds all City and County Open Space regulations. These regulations are important in order for RGCF to maintain farming privileges with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division.

- The Open Space roads are available to the public for walking, jogging, cycling and horseback riding during the daylight hours.
- Dogs and other pets must be on leash at all times and stay on the roads ONLY, not in the garden.
- People and their pets must not harass wildlife.
- Firearms and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Unauthorized vehicles are not permitted within the Open Space.
- While visiting the rest of the Farm, please stay on the roadways.
- Irrigation ditches are dangerous! Many ditches at the Farm are deep, with fast flowing water and slippery mud. DO NOT go in the ditches, and please keep children and pets away from the ditches.
- Please respect and avoid disturbing the Farm's neighbors.
- Park in Open Space designated areas only. Do NOT drive/park on Open Space roads.

Thank you for your support!

RGCF Garden Waiver of Liability and Registration/Renewal

Rio Grande Community Farm (RGCF) manages the Community Garden at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space through a contract with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. The City does not operate or maintain the Community Garden. By signing your name below you acknowledge that you have read and agree to the following:

- 1) While at the Community Garden and Los Poblanos Fields, I will adhere to City and County Open Space regulations.
- 2) I am physically and mentally able to perform the tasks associated with participating in the Community Garden.
- 3) I understand that I, in choosing to maintain City Property, do so voluntarily and with the clear understanding that there is some degree of risk of injury, illness or damages involved and that I will receive no payment, fee or remuneration from the City or RGCF for my work or materials. I assume all risk of injury, illness or damage that may arise from my participation.
- 4) In the event that I, my party, or members of my party suffer any injury, harm, loss, theft or damage, or suffer any other type of claimed damage arising from, or in any way related to the operations, premises, or design of the garden, I and all members of my party relinquish any and all rights, claims or causes of action I/we may have by law or statute against the City of Albuquerque or Rio Grande Community Farm including their agents, employees or volunteers.
- 5) I understand that, as a result of any work I do, I am not and will not be considered an employee of the City or RGCF, and am not eligible for any of the insurance coverage and benefits provided to regular paid personnel of the City or RGCF, including worker's compensation and all health and medical benefits.

Your signature is a contract in support of the Community Garden Guidelines & Policies, and Liability Waiver, and acknowledges that you agree to them and to explain them to any visitors & helpers that assist you at the Community Garden.

Sign _____ **Print** _____ **Date** _____

Registration: (please complete and print legibly)

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Place of Employment _____ Work Phone _____

Membership Level: () Family-\$35 () Supporter-\$50 () Patron-\$75 () Other \$ _____

Organization: () \$35 Organization name _____

Number of additional rows requested _____ (\$25/additional row)

() Add \$7 per year fee for Signage, Tool and Equipment Maintenance if you have garden rows.

Total enclosed \$ _____ (check or money order only please) Check # _____

Make payable to: Rio Grande Community Farm or RGCF

Names of persons assisting at the garden (organizations please submit an attached list as needed):



We may take pictures of the Garden from time to time for our publications and/or website. Please sign below giving RGCF permission to use any photos you may be in without further approval. Thank you!

Sign _____