

Anderson Island Historical Society

Community Garden Plot Rental Agreement for 2025

The mission of the community gardens is to serve the Anderson Island Community by providing garden plots so residents may grow and harvest organic produce and flowers in a safe, supportive and healthy environment.

Our goals are to:

- Keep the farming and gardening tradition alive at the Johnson Farm.
- Encourage sustainability by eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides, building healthy soils, and using efficient watering systems.
- Work in partnership with other members to create attractive and productive gardens.
- Increase gardening skills by learning from each other.

To have a garden at the farm, you must be a member of the Anderson Island Historical Society and a full-time island resident during the growing season. Garden rentals must be renewed annually. The annual garden fee is in addition to the Anderson Island Historical Society dues. Six hours of community work at the AIHS is also required by each person who has signed a garden contract. This can be either maintenance around the gardens, work at AIHS events or other agreed upon work at the Johnson Farm site. Special circumstances will be considered. See your garden coordinator for more information.

All gardeners must comply with the following rules and regulations, which have been approved by the Anderson Island Historical Society Board of Directors.

1. STARTING YOUR PLOT.

- RECREATIONAL USE ONLY:** Community gardens are to be used for recreational gardening and growing vegetables and flowers for family use. **Plants**, produce and flowers are not to be sold **except through** a fundraiser for AIHS.
- ADVICE AND HELP:** The Garden Committee will be happy to provide advice and assistance in establishing a new garden. Contact your Garden Coordinator.
- Keys:** You will be given a key when you are assigned a garden. Additional keys will be available for a \$5 charge.

2. GROWING ON YOUR PLOT.

- ORGANIC ONLY:** All gardeners are requested to apply organic practices. Use of herbicides, pesticides, and synthetic fertilizers are prohibited, as they are toxic to the environment. Sustainable gardening methods are required.
- WATERING:** Watering must be done by hand or with soaker hoses or other drip irrigation methods. Timers are required for soaker hoses or drip irrigation so that they are not accidentally left running. No overhead sprinklers are permitted.
- WATER SUPPLY:** If there is insufficient water to water all gardens simultaneously, the garden coordinators may assign gardeners specific watering times and/or days. Gardeners are expected to abide by these assignments.
- PRODUCE:** Do not take any produce from other gardens unless you have the other gardener's specific permission. If you wish to donate to the Garden Market, and can't be present on Saturday morning,

please email the Market Coordinator with specific information about what you are willing to donate. Volunteers will collect it from your garden using that emailed permission.

- e. **CONTAINERS:** Plants may be grown in containers, but please consider the appearance of your plot and its impact on others when doing so.

3. MAINTAINING YOUR PLOT.

- a. **WEEDS:** Weeds must be kept under control throughout the year, including the winter season. Weeds spread easily between plots, and other gardeners are affected if weeds are not controlled. Any weed control cloth used must be biodegradable or must be removed from the garden during the growing season. Mulching and cover crops are highly recommended.
- b. **WEEDS AND GARDEN DEBRIS:** Place plant debris in the trailer between the two sheds. Do not put plastic or other non-compostable materials in the trailer. Ask your Garden Coordinator where to put unwanted rocks. Dumping of any off-site household or yard waste is prohibited.
- c. **PATHS AND BORDERS:** You are responsible for maintaining to the midline any path bordering your garden and one foot beyond any fence line bordering your garden. Woodchips are available to spread on both the garden paths and along the fence line. Cardboard is recommended for use under the bark.

4. PHYSICAL GARDEN ITEMS:

- a. **GATES:** While you are in the garden, gates are to be kept closed to prevent animals from entering. Engage the lock when leaving the site.
- b. **FENCES:** Do not attach anything, including vines, to the perimeter fence or fence posts. Keep grass, weeds and tools away from all fences and keep pathways clear of weeds, waste and rocks.
- c. **HOSES:** Hoses and garden tools must be placed neatly in the garden.
- d. **BOUNDARIES:** Please do not expand your designated plot. Allow space for spreading crops. Do not let plants encroach on others' plots or onto the walkways.
- e. **GARDEN STRUCTURES:** Before any structure can be erected in a garden, a proposal must be submitted to the Garden Planning Committee for approval. Use of tires, cement, railroad ties and treated or painted lumber will not be allowed. If you erect any structures in your garden, they must be removed when you give up your garden.
- f. **LARGE PLANTS:** Trees are not permitted in the gardens. Shrubs and vines must be sited so they do not shade other gardens and must be trimmed at least annually.

5. **CHILDREN:** Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

6. **PETS:** Pets are not permitted inside garden fences. Pets in the vicinity of the gardens must be leashed and poop must be scooped and disposed of in the bins provided. Properly trained service animals are allowed in the gardens but must be on a leash.

7. GIVING UP YOUR PLOT:

- a. **NOTIFICATION:** Notify the Garden Coordinator if you decide to release your plot. There is no refund if you decide to give up your plot before the end of the season.
- b. **PLANT AND STRUCTURE REMOVAL:** Work with your Garden Coordinator to determine what to do with perennial plants, shrubs or vines. You may be required to either leave or remove them depending on the circumstances, for instance if they were there when you received your plot. Please offer to other gardeners any plants that are removed, instead of throwing them away.

8. **WARNINGS AND TERMINATION:** Any garden that has not been prepared by May 1 will be reassigned without a refund. The entire garden must be utilized. If the May 1 date causes undue hardship, gardeners in good standing may request a brief extension from their Coordinator.
 - a. Gardeners who continually fail to follow the rules will receive a written warning by mail and will have 14 days to remedy the problem. A second breach of the rules will result in termination of the contract for the plot.
 - b. Any theft or vandalism of items in the garden will result in the immediate termination of the garden contract of the responsible gardener. That gardener will not be allowed to work in another person's garden in the future.
9. **SHARING GARDENS:** Secondary gardeners are allowed, but they must be members of AIHS and sign a garden contract. If the primary gardener leaves, a secondary gardener is allowed to keep the plot if they have been the secondary gardener for at least one year.
10. **TRANSFERRING BETWEEN GARDENS:** Gardeners in good standing can ask to be put on a separate waiting list for garden transfers. They will have priority over new gardeners. Their current garden must be in good condition and ready to be reassigned within two weeks of being notified of an available garden that they wish to transfer to.
11. **RENEWAL.** Returning gardeners are allowed to retain their site if their renewal is received by February 15.
12. **COMMUNICATION.**
 - a. All garden communication and notification will be done via email, except for written warnings, which will be sent by US Mail.

13. ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND HOLD HARMLESS:

I am voluntarily participating in the Anderson Island Historical Society community garden. I understand that there are inherent risks in gardening, and hereby agree to accept any and all inherent risks of property damage, bodily injury, illness or death, either to myself, my family members and guests, except that arising from the **gross** negligence or willful misconduct of the Anderson Island Historical Society and its agents. I agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Anderson Island Historical Society, its Board Members and agents from all suits and actions, including reasonable attorneys' fees and all costs of litigation and judgment of every name and description against the Society as a result of loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of my actions or omissions for the purpose of using, visiting or working in a garden plot at the Johnson Farm.

Signed: _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____ (Home) _____ (Cell)

Email _____

If your contact information changes, notify your Garden Coordinator. You may receive periodic emails about conditions in the garden, events and educational programs.