

# Who is Loving Garland Green?

We are a dynamic group of people who are dedicated to increasing the number of urban gardens in Garland. We have joined together to form a nonprofit organization. Membership in our organization is open to the public as are our meetings and related documents. There are limitless ways to increase the number of urban gardens in a community. Here are just a few of the ways that we are currently exploring:

1) **Members of Loving Garland Green are the official stewards of the first community garden in Garland located on City Property.** On April 12, we installed a four by seven foot square foot garden at this site of approximately 17,000 square feet.

Since that time, we have added over 35 garden plots to the area.

2) Members of Loving Garland Green are working and partnering with several nonprofits in Garland on various projects--all focused on our central mission which is to increase the number of urban gardens in Garland Texas. Regardless our many and varied projects, we keep them all to our central focus which is to increase the number of urban gardens in our community.

3) We began our first membership drive in August to get out in the community and let **people know who we are.** We hope to have at least 36 members by December 31 of this year. We know that by increasing our membership we will move faster to achieving our goal of a community of 50,000 urban gardens.

To understand how we connect with our community read more . . .

With over 80 percent of the American population living in metropolitan centers, urban farming has the ability to dramatically enhance economic growth, increase food quality, and build healthier communities. We in Garland are lucky to have a mayor who understands the value of urban gardens.

The economic benefits realized through urban farming are localized, thus keeping dollars circulating through the community. These urban farms also have a fantastic <u>return on investment</u>, with every \$1 invested in a community garden generating \$6 worth of vegetables.

We hope you will join us in increasing the ways we can love Garland Green and grow our local economy.

Our core belief is that by increasing the number of gardeners in our community, we will enrich and grow our local economy and increase the food security for all our citizens.

There are 10 million acres of front and back yards in the USA. That's enough to produce 43.5 million tons of food. Eighty percent of the people in the USA live in cities, but less than two percent of the food consumed there is grown locally.\* Members of Loving Garland Green want to change that ratio.

We meet Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 at 216 East Kingsbridge Drive. Our meetings are open to the public, but we do ask that you call 972-571-4497 prior to attending as this is a private home. Our membership is open to anyone interested who lives in the DFW area.

\*Statistics from Sustainable America.

Documents with Rules Regarding Garden Plots at the Garland Community Garden:

Loving Garland Green (LGG) Rules for Urban Gardeners. [Note: this draft is subject to approval by members and may accordingly be modified.]

The second document explains what the City of Garland expects of folks who garden at 4022 Naaman School Road. <u>COG Garden Policy and Procedure</u>.

#### Membership Requirements for Loving Garland Green

Loving Garland Green is a member-directed nonprofit. We have three classes of members: Officers of the Board of Directors; Members of the Board of Directors; and Members-at-Large. All three classes of members have one vote. We have four officers and three members of the board--all of whom are elected by the members.

Any person 18 years of age or older who is interested in urban gardening may join Loving Garland Green. It is not a requirement that you live in Garland. \* The first step to membership is to publicly declare your desire to become a member in person at a meeting. Your declaration will be duly noted by the Secretary and recorded as part of our formal meeting notes and you will be welcomed as an official member of Loving Garland Green.

Membership entitles you to vote on issues before our member-directed nonprofit; to be nominated as an officer or member of the board; and to serve on one of our various committees; however, in order to vote, all members must have attended at least three meetings within the past two months prior to the vote.

\*However, it is a requirement that members live within Garland City limits in order to be assigned stewardship of a garden plot at 4022 Naaman School Road. If you live in an adjoining municipality and would like to garden at the Garland Community Garden, arrangements may be made for you to share ownership of a plot with a member who is a Garland resident. However, it is the Garland resident who is person officially responsible for that garden plot.

## **Our Guiding Principles**

- Permaculture design principles work best.
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- Local urban agriculture creates jobs.
- Neighbors working together can accomplish just about anything.
- Increased availability of healthy food increases prosperity for all citizens.
- Inclusive standards, diversity, and openness work well for plants and organizations.
- Education by example is a direct path to knowledge.
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#### • What grows well in Garland?

• This section includes links to detailed descriptions of gardening experiences that members of Loving Garland Green have had with growing various crops. Expect more to come.

Growing Grapes in Garland

### Packet of Materials for Another Urban Garden Program

How much will it cost to have Another Urban Garden Installed?

Another Urban Garden Handout

Vegetable Garden Planting Guide

Crop Record Sheets

Composting

Seed Saving

Planning Grid for Your Garden

**Release of Liability Form** 

Note: City Licensed Area Agreement to be posted here also.