
Light of Christ Community Garden

Principles of Organization, Construction and Distribution

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Table of Contents

Overview	4
Garden Basic Operational Principles	4
Architecture and Design Principles	5
Principles of Design	5
Elements of Design.....	5
Principles for Financial Management.....	6
Principles for Building, Construction and Maintenance	7
Principles for Volunteer Activities	7
Principles for Planting, Cultivation, Harvest and Distribution.....	8

Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide clear guidelines for the design and operation of the Light of Christ Community Garden.

Garden Basic Operational Principles

- Participants will act in accordance of the Christian principles of charity, tolerance, and encouragement to one another
- A community collective garden, owned by The Light of Christ Church, that follows the premise of “all for one harvest, one harvest for all” where everyone contributes their efforts to one large garden from which everyone shares the harvest as distribution to needful persons of the community
- A community project founded on the common good which embraces diversity. All who desire to be a part of this work are welcome, regardless of religious preference, ethnicity, age, or abilities
- The design and operation of the garden will provide accommodations for individuals with physical other personal challenges
- Participation in the Light of Christ Community Garden Project is a privilege
- Participants are valued and treated with dignity and respect
- Organic gardening methods are to be used to provide a healthy food source
- Recycling and the use of recycled and/or renewable products is emphasized
- The garden will have minimal impact to the environment and be a positive compliment to the neighborhood
- Project will be operated on a “pay as you go” principle, paying with funds that are currently available rather than borrowed; the project not incur debt
- Food and produce is distributed free of charge through groups sanctioned by the Light of Christ Community Garden Project
- The Light of Christ Community Garden project is affiliated with and embraces the Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation Principles and Guidelines

Architecture and Design Principles

Principles of Design

- Modeled after the Federal Way Community Gardens “English Garden” design
- Earth friendly techniques and materials, i.e. the use of goods and services, to inflict minimal harm on the environment
- Compliant with regulations and permit requirements
- Raised bed design for vegetables
- Gardens should have higher beds for physically challenged individuals as well as low and narrow areas for children.
- Design should incorporate elements of flower gardens that are pleasing to see and smell. Also include elements for sound such as fountain(s), wind chimes, etc.
- Inclusive design for various physical challenges for accessibility, construction, planting, maintenance, harvest and distribution
- Main paths should be of a hardened surface for walkers, and wide enough for wheel chairs and power scooters
- Use existing facilities, e.g. house & shed where possible
- Plan for limited parking and place to pick up produce, i.e. truck lane
- The design will incorporate security features
- The design should be adequate, affordable, pleasing to the senses and promote concept of building in stages as funds and resources are available
- Garden designed to limit water runoff from property

Elements of Design

- The placement and design will not interfere with current Light of Christ signage
- Retain house and shed; maintain area for small trailer parking
- Provide for Honey and Mason Bee areas
- Efficient Irrigation System
- Rain Gardens as required
- Composting Station

- Security provisions such as fences, ditches, moats, gates, thorny plants
- Plans for a “Vandals” garden
- Provisions for extending rest areas into woods with picnic tables, etc.
- Path leading from garden, through woods to church
- Information kiosk
- Wash and food prep station; access for vehicle / small truck
- Limited parking area
- Benches on which to rest and enjoy the gardens
- Green house area and cold frames for starting plants

Principles for Financial Management

- This is a nonprofit activity operated exclusively for exempt purposes and will act in accordance with U.S. Government regulations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- The project will not incur debt. There is no authority to borrow or enter into agreements regarding future payment of monies not yet received
- The project books are open for examination by request and subject to annual audit
- A project goal is to tithe to the Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation to help “seed” other projects
- Community participation is a focus activity, therefore it is encouraged that no more that 15% of garden funding comes from any one source
- Each contribution is valued, acknowledged and recognized.

Principles for Building, Construction and Maintenance

- Construction and Maintenance activities should seek to minimize environmental impact
- Reuse and recycle
- Be a good neighbor
 - Limit runoff from property
 - Keep site clean, contain trash and debris
 - Be sensitive to the noise from power tools, limiting use until after 7:00 AM on weekdays and after 9:00 AM on weekends
- Use renewable or recycled products where feasible
- Proper disposal of waste
- Provide a safe work environment at all times
- In case of emergency, a first aid kit and a person with a cell phone should be onsite for general work parties
- The site address is posted on the information kiosk

Principles for Volunteer Activities

- Every volunteer is valued, treated with dignity and respect; given meaningful assignments in accordance with their skills and desire to participate
- Designated leaders will be easily identifiable and onsite for activities
- Each workday should begin with an introduction and recognition of volunteers, an overview of the daily objectives, a safety briefing and a daily devotion
- Volunteers and staff are expected to be respectful and tolerant of others at all times
- The use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products is prohibited within the garden, outbuildings and wooded areas leading to the Light of Christ Church

Principles for Planting, Cultivation, Harvest and Distribution

- Plants are to be cultivated without the use of chemicals and pest control will be achieved using organic strategies
- A philosophy that stresses increasing the natural health of the soil, choosing appropriate plants that are suited to our area, and working with nature to produce a healthy and productive garden
- Soil health is to be maintained by regular addition of organic matter, plant diversity, crop rotation and regular mulching
- Distribution of garden produce will be through groups and community activities approved by the Light of Christ Community Garden Project
- Garden excess will be contributed to local food banks or similar community outreach programs