

Governing Policies for the USC Salkehatchie Campus Community Garden.

Small groups of students, staff, or faculty can apply together as a group to adopt a full garden bed or one half of a bed by filling out an application. The minimum group size is two people. All members of the group will need to sign a **liability waiver**. Each group will need to appoint a **main contact person** that will be responsible for filling out the application and receiving emails from the garden committee.

Costs

There is no cost for adoption. The beds, along with basic garden tools, are provided free of charge. The beds already contain quality garden soil complete with fertilizer. A hose with a spray nozzle is located at the garden site for watering your crops.

Groups must purchase their own plants, which are available ready for planting at several farm and garden stores around town. Some plants can be grown straight from seeds placed directly into the beds. We recommend that groups start seeds in small trays and then transplant the seedlings into the garden beds. There is a place in the science building set aside for this purpose. (Lighted Bench outside Room 120.)

Responsibilities

Once you have been assigned a garden bed, the members of your group are completely responsible for

- The care of your plants and the appearance of the bed
- Weeding and maintaining your bed
- Watering your plants during dry spells
- Removing any dead plants or rotting vegetables.

A wheel barrow is available to help you with these tasks.

Assistance and Information

If you need some assistance, access the **Carolina Community Garden Resource Guide** on the webpage. It contains a chart showing suitable crops and planting dates for the coastal plain. You can also make an appointment with Dr. Martha McKevelin, the Chair of the garden committee.

Oversight and “Ownership”

Garden Committee members will ensure that each bed is properly maintained and cared for. If you need to do some weeding, watering, or replanting, your group will be

contacted by email to inform you. The committee exercises this reminder as a courtesy; it is in no way responsible for reminding you to look after your investment.

If the condition of your bed does not improve after two contact emails,

- Your bed will be reassigned to the next group on the waiting list.
- Both groups will be sent an email documenting the change in garden bed “ownership”.
- Once you have been informed that your group’s bed has been reassigned, please do not have any further contact with the garden bed including the harvesting of any remaining produce.

We urge all gardeners to maintain their garden beds and avoid this shift in ownership from occurring.

Groups cannot give their beds to another group because there may be some other group on the waiting list. The contact person of a group should officially give up the bed and then the other group would need to fill out the adoption application and be put on the waiting list if there is one. However, your group could always allow new members to join as long as the original contact person remains in charge of the group.

Produce

Each group will decide how the produce from their bed is to be used. It is the group’s responsibility to harvest the produce and distribute it accordingly. Hopefully that will include taking it home and sharing it with your family and friends. If a group is adopting a bed as part of a community service project, the group may need to carefully document all hours spent caring for the garden as well as the distribution of the produce to receive community service credit. Please discuss this with your faculty advisor.

Duration

A successful gardening group can maintain a bed for as long as they want provided there is no other group on the waiting list. If there is another group waiting, then each adoption will be limited to one semester. If at any time, a group wants to officially give up an adopted bed, this may be done by contacting Dr. Martha McKevlin via email.

Although currently the campus community garden is governed by a committee made up of faculty and staff, we would like to see enough student interest in the community garden that students would request to form a club that would become responsible for the over-sight and decision making for the campus garden. The club would still have a faculty advisor, Dr. Martha McKevlin, but would be responsible for any changes to policy or to initiate adding additional beds to the garden, including starting a garden on west campus.

Application for Adopting a Garden Bed in the USC Campus Community Garden

Date of Application_____

Name of Group_____

Contact person_____

Email address _____

Phone number_____

Other group members_____

Request for: Full bed_____ Half-bed_____

Request for: Fall Semester_____ Spring Semester_____

Will your group be planting seeds or seedlings? (circle)

Does your group want to start your own seedlings for transplanting from seeds using the facilities in the science building? Yes No Don't know yet. (circle)

Will your group need some extra help getting started? Yes No

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the USC Campus Community Garden Policies. I understand that my group is responsible for maintaining the health and appearance of our adopted bed and that the governing committee can remove the bed from our care after two notifications via email. I also acknowledge that our group can give up the bed at any time whereas it will then be made available to the next group on the waiting list.

Signature_____ Date_____

Please return this application to Dr. Martha McKevlin in the science building office 121A.

Dr. McKevlin will contact you as soon as possible and assign a bed to your group or place you on a waiting list. Once your bed has been assigned you may begin planting.