

# • THE HARVEST AT FRISCO COMMONS •

## GROUND RULES

*Gardeners must read and understand this document prior to leasing a Garden Box online.  
Frisco residents and organizations may lease Garden Boxes at [PlayFrisco.org/TheHarvest](https://PlayFrisco.org/TheHarvest).*

### 1. **PLAY GENEROUSLY: Share the harvest.**

- Continuously produce vegetables/fruits (if planted), companion plants and/or flowers by succession planting, weeding weekly, adding nutrients to the soil with compost and using proper watering techniques.
- Continuously harvest vegetables/fruits (if planted) from leased Garden Box. Viable produce should never spoil in a Garden Box when it can nourish someone who needs it.
- Grow crops for personal consumption or donation only. Crops cultivated in The Harvest at Frisco Commons, a community space, are not for commercial purposes and may not be sold.
- Donate surplus produce to the Frisco Family Services Market (9085 Dogwood Street in downtown Frisco). [FFS facility hours and donation drop-off procedures are subject to change.](#) Visit [FriscoFamilyServices.org](https://FriscoFamilyServices.org), call the FFS Market at 972-335-9495, or [contact FFS online](#) to learn more.

### 2. **PLAY SAFELY: Prevent accidents, injuries, and damage.**

- See **Gardening Safety Sheet** (important safety tips for before, during and after working in the garden).
- Park vehicles in designated parking lots only at Frisco Commons Park or The Grove at Frisco Commons. For safety reasons, unauthorized motor vehicles are not permitted to drive on sidewalks or grassy areas at Frisco Commons Park.
- Gardeners, guests of Gardeners, youth participants or pets shall not cause damage or waste to the premises and shall not do or bring onto the premises anything which in any way conflicts with the law, ordinance, rule, or regulation.
  - ❖ Children under the age of 17 are welcome inside the garden but must always be supervised by an adult. Any youth brought to the garden by a Gardener are the sole responsibility of the Gardener. Gardeners shall be responsible for any accident, injury, loss, cost, or damage to/loss of property owned by the Gardener or another person because of youth participation under the Gardener's supervision.
  - ❖ Pets are welcome in the garden but should always be leashed and supervised. Gardeners shall be responsible for any accident, injury, loss, cost, or damage caused by a pet under the Gardener's supervision. All pet waste must be removed and disposed of immediately and correctly (bagged and placed in the trash). Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and should never be composted or recycled.
- When help is needed:
  - ❖ If an accident or injury occurs within the garden space that requires emergency medical attention, Gardeners should call 911.
  - ❖ If illegal activity is in-progress within the garden space (i.e. theft, vandalism, assault) and there is an immediate threat to human health and safety or property, Gardeners should call 911.
  - ❖ To report suspicious behavior when there is no immediate threat, Gardeners should call the City of Frisco Police Department at 972-292-6010.

### **3. PLAY ORGANICALLY: Choose organic, environmentally friendly gardening methods.**

- Gardeners may plant edible crops, flowering plants to attract pollinators, or a combination of both.
- Choose varieties of vegetable and flower seeds that are native or well-adapted to the North Texas climate.
- *Companion plantings* are recommended (i.e. marigolds, citronella, nasturtium and catnip are preferred flowering plants that may help protect your skin and crops from insects).
- Strive to learn and use only organic gardening methods to produce nutritious vegetables, while also promoting more disease-resistant and pest-free plants.
- The application of chemical fertilizers, herbicides (weed killers) or pesticides (insect killers) by Gardeners to areas inside of and/or near Garden Boxes is PROHIBITED. Use of natural, organic fertilizer like compost and integrated pest management (IPM) practices are required in lieu of synthetic chemicals, to minimize potential risks to people and the environment. Use of commercially available products labeled as “natural” and/or “organic” are subject to approval by the City of Frisco. Gardeners may email product name and a photo (including content label) to [NaturalResources@FriscoTexas.gov](mailto:NaturalResources@FriscoTexas.gov) for review.
- Seasonal application of mulch is recommended to deter weeds and retain moisture in the soil. Only plant-based mulches are permitted for use in Garden Boxes (i.e. native hardwood mulch, shredded leaves, etc.). Synthetic mulches (i.e. plastic, rubber, etc.) are not permitted. *The engineered wood fiber on the ground surrounding the Garden Boxes is not intended for use inside the Garden Boxes.*

### **4. PLAY CONSCIENTIOUSLY: Care for Frisco’s community garden.**

- Never grow poisonous plants or those considered to be illegal under state or federal law (no exceptions).
- Gardeners should keep weeds down in their own leased Garden Box(es) and help maintain the pathways immediately surrounding their box(es).
- Gardeners should not place any plant material into the trash cans at the Community Garden. Gardeners should pile this material in a single location beside their Garden Box for collection by City of Frisco. City staff will collect this material and transport it to a larger composting facility on a regular basis.
- Never add excrement/feces of any kind (pet or human) to compost or Garden Boxes. The presence of pet (or human) excrement is PROHIBITED in the compost area or any Garden Box as it can transmit disease to both animals and humans. (Past experiences have shown that this rule needs to be very clearly spelled out.)
- Keep the garden area and Frisco Commons Park free of litter, alcohol, and drugs of any kind. All trash must be deposited into trash cans in the Community Garden or taken offsite and disposed of properly when Gardeners leave the garden. Remember: *Leave no trace. Pack it in, pack it out.*
- Gardeners may not alter any permanent structure within the garden space, including Garden Boxes. No painting, staining or decoration of the Garden Box or any other surfaces are permitted.
- Studies have shown that community gardening spaces that appear well-cared for are less likely to fall victim to acts of vandalism. Thus, the consistent aesthetic appearance of the garden is a priority. All Garden Box additions must be tasteful and family appropriate. Signage may be displayed in a Garden Box but must be no larger than 8”x11”. The City of Frisco reserves the right to disapprove and request removal of any signage at any time and for any reason. Any signage installed by a Gardener for personal gain, commercial advertising purposes, and/or political messaging of any kind are not permitted. The community garden is not an appropriate space for this.

## **5. PLAY RESPECTFULLY: Care for the garden community.**

- Be civil, cooperative, and kind. Respectful Gardeners are a powerful model for others.
- Do not work in or harvest produce from another Gardener's box unless you have permission from that Gardener or have been assigned to do so by the City of Frisco.
- Gardeners should be mindful of plants that are considered invasive or fast spreading, as they may create problems for other Gardeners. Examples of these plants are bamboo, Bermuda grass, ivy, mint, morning glory, nutgrass, and sunflowers.
- Respect neighboring plots by restricting your plantings to your own Garden Box. Gardeners will keep an eye on creeping vines and realize that tall crops and trellises can cast shade on other Garden Boxes, reducing productivity. Gardeners may not plant trees, including fruit trees, in Garden Boxes.
- Gardeners shall refrain from smoking, using tobacco products or vaping within the garden space.
- With the COVID-19 pandemic and others' personal space boundaries in mind, please stay 6 feet away from other Gardeners/garden visitors if they are not part of your own family unit. Masks are not required when working outdoors, but at least 6 feet of space is recommended.
- Gardeners shall not use radios or other mobile sound devices to project amplified music in the community garden space unless other Gardeners or park visitors are not present. If possible, Gardeners should use personal headphones or earbuds.
- Gardeners should first attempt to resolve issues directly and respectfully with other Gardeners. If both parties are unable to resolve an issue on their own, the City of Frisco may then intervene. All garden complaints should be written and directed to the City of Frisco at [NaturalResources@FriscoTexas.gov](mailto:NaturalResources@FriscoTexas.gov). The City of Frisco reserves the right to render a final decision concerning any dispute relating to The Harvest at Frisco Commons, garden Rules and/or Gardener participation.

## **6. PLAY NATURALLY: Conserve natural resources and be mindful of nature.**

- Gardeners may hand-water only, using a watering can or a hose with shut-off nozzle attached (REQUIRED). Gardeners may not waste water by leaving hydrants open with hoses running. Gardeners must remain in the garden while watering, at their Garden Box. Gardeners must remove hoses and turn off hydrants completely before leaving the garden.
- The Harvest at Frisco Commons is in an outdoor community space that we share with non-human living things, including species that are considered both beneficial and detrimental to gardening. Gardeners shall not intentionally harm or kill any birds, amphibians, reptiles, or mammals, nor lay out any deterrents, poisons, or traps for wildlife. This behavior violates the Garden Box Lease Agreement (and is in some cases, illegal) and may result in early Lease Termination or further legal action.
  - ❖ Emergency animal concerns should be reported by dialing 911.
  - ❖ For all other non-emergency reports, contact Frisco Animal Services via Police Dispatch at 972-292-6010.
  - ❖ For specific wildlife questions, Gardeners may call Animal Services 972-292-5303.
  - ❖ Additional educational resources on Urban Wildlife are available online from [Animal Services](#) and [Play Frisco's Natural Resources Division](#).