



2023 Steward Memberships

RCG Overview

RCG is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide infrastructure and resources to community members of all ages for growing produce in a setting that inspires camaraderie, learning, and sharing. The community garden is a one-half acre plot leased from the Town of Ridgway in Green Street Park. The RCG is led by a 7-member Board of Directors (BOD) that oversees governance, administration, finances and garden operations. The garden is dedicated to serving the Ouray County community in areas that include education, organic agriculture, healthy living, community partnerships, pride and ownership. Annually, we directly serve 90 adults and 30 children, grow produce for the Ouray County Food Pantry, support WIC families, and partner with local schools and nonprofits on service projects and programs.

Rental Memberships

Fifty low garden beds (4' x 10') and 4 waist-high beds (3' x 8') are available for rent for food production in 2023. These members pay a rental fee for each bed and are responsible for contributing at least 6 hrs. per season to cooperative garden maintenance via collective work sessions or independent tasks. These members get access to all garden tools and amenities as well as free educational workshops and various garden events.

Steward Memberships

This program extends RCG's membership base beyond active gardeners to broader participation by those who do not rent garden beds but want to participate in RCG's different programs and initiatives. These members can use amenities within the garden (except for compost), and have access to communal rhubarb and pumpkins, free educational workshops and events. Stewards pay a nominal membership fee and are responsible for contributing at least 6 hrs./year to cooperative garden maintenance via special projects or collective work sessions. Stewards can join as an individual or family every year between March - July.

Contacts

Stewardship Coordinator Jennifer Franz: (303) 598-9223, franzjfranz88@gmail.com
Membership Coordinator Chris Lance: (970) 729-1738, ChrissyLance@gmail.com

Garden Use Guidelines

1. The garden area is open dawn until dusk, seven days a week. 8pm to 8am are quiet hours. Please be respectful of fellow gardeners and neighbors. Keep noise levels to a minimum.
2. The combination to the gate lock is **2-0-1-9**. Please lock it each time you leave if you are the last person in the garden. Keep the gate locked at all times. Do not give the

combination to anyone not associated with the garden. Always keep the gate closed even when you are inside to prevent wildlife and pets from coming in!

3. The garden should be a safe space for the community, children, and other gardeners. Do not bring anything that will compromise the safety of the garden.
4. Check the Information Kiosk for information concerning the garden, collective workdays, workshops, and notices.
5. The garden welcomes families. Please make sure children are supervised at all times. Teach them respect for others' gardening areas and teach them to conserve water. You are welcome to bring friends to help you work in your garden.
6. **Dogs are not allowed in the fenced-in garden area.** Leashed pets are allowed outside the fenced-in area. Please pick up after your pets.
7. **RCG is an organic, no-till, pesticide/herbicide-free garden.** Dispose of weeds and plant material in designated compost areas. Different care must be given to weeds with seeds - bag and pack them out.
8. Please clean and return garden tools to the tool shed when finished.
9. Please **CONSERVE WATER**. The RCG is committed to efficient water use, especially in seasons of drought, in order to reduce waste, lower water costs and minimize weed proliferation. Turn off faucets when not in use, do not use garden water for water play, report leaks to one of the Coordinators.
10. If you are a Garden Steward, do not pick produce from rental plots unless given explicit permission.
11. The BOD has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions for the garden. They have the authority to resolve conflicts, refuse access or dismiss members.
12. BOD reserves the right to use chemical agents to mitigate outbreaks that pose human health risks (ex. stinging insects in the storage shed). All applications will be noticed in advance.
13. The Garden does not pay for trash or recycling pickup, so **PLEASE PACK OUT ALL OF YOUR TRASH/RECYCLING.**
14. Help your visitors understand and follow the rules of the garden.

Member Fees and Responsibilities

Steward Member Fees	\$20/year
Garden Orientation	New members need to attend an in- person or virtual garden orientation tour. You can schedule one with the Stewardship Coordinator, Jennifer Franz.
Stewardship Hours	Stewards should contribute at least 6 hrs./year to stewardship projects in the garden. These can be selected from the suggested list on the Sign Up form or organized with the Stewardship Coordinator.
Use	Stewards have access to the Kids' Area, tipi, all garden events, water and tools for garden maintenance. Stewards shall comply with all garden use guidelines.

2023 RIDGWAY COMMUNITY GARDEN STEWARDS SIGN-UP

Please complete this form and return with your payment to the RCG at the address below.

1. ABOUT YOU

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of stewards in family/group: # _____ adults and # _____ children.

2. STEWARDSHIP OPTIONS

Stewards are expected to contribute at least 6 hrs. of service per year with one or more projects. High frequency projects (ex. care of pumpkin planters) can be scheduled in collaboration with other members and will be coordinated by the Stewardship Coordinator, Jennifer Franz.

Select a project you would like to assist with:

____ Pumpkins: regularly water 4 planters, weed, cover during low temperatures (few times/week)

____ Compost: turn and build compost with coaching by Chris Lance (as needed)

____ Storage Shed: keep the shed and surrounding area tidy and organized (weekly)

____ Main Path: maintain weed and wood chip free (as needed)

____ Work Sessions: participate in collective work sessions to fulfill the 6 hrs. of service (monthly)

____ Other: can be coordinated with the Stewardship Coordinator

3. SIGNATURE

I have read and understand my responsibilities and will follow the garden use guidelines as stated in the 2023 Steward Membership Packet.

Signature

Date

4. PAYMENT: \$20/year

Make checks payable to Ridgway Community Garden and mail to:

Ridgway Community Garden
PO Box 635
Ridgway, CO 81432