

# Rio Grande Community Farm micro-farm Plot Agreement and Guidelines 2022

Coordinator: Kelvin Schenk  
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In partnership with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, Rio Grande Community Farm (RGCF) serves the Albuquerque community by managing the Community Farm at the Los Poblanos Fields Open Space. The Community Farm was founded in 2000 and is located on a 132 acre parcel near 1701 Tierra Viva PI NW Albuquerque, NM 87105. Community members who wish to participate as a Farming member reserve a micro-farm spot by the year. RGCF provides regular irrigation and additional well access towers for Drip tape systems. A Farm Coordinator enforces this Farming Agreement, provides information on growing regeneratively, and offers support to farmers. Anyone participating in the Community Farm is required to read the following guidelines, complete the final two pages (Liability Waiver and Registration) and return those two pages to “RGCF, 1701 Montano Rd NW, Albuquerque NM 87105” payment will be made to Rio Grande Community Farm by check or square account. This will officially reserve your micro-farm spot for 2022, confirm that you agree to follow the guidelines in this agreement and understand the consequences of breaking those guidelines.

**2022 Annual rent: \$125 for a plot**

Rent is for the calendar year (date of payment and registration received until December 31<sup>st</sup>). The fees help maintain our infrastructure. They also cover our annual water access expenses and the Community Farm Coordinator. A Farming Membership costs your time as well—please refer to “Expectations of Farmers’”. Rent fees are non-refundable but they are transferable.

**Farmers can expect:** Access and control of ¼ acre. The flood irrigation, by the coordinator, with surface water from the Gallegos Lateral. Access to surface water is only when arranged by the Farm Coordinator and typically begins in early April and ends in October. Irrigations may be skipped or rescheduled due to significant precipitation or water curtailments by the Middle Rio Grande Water Conservancy. Well use can be arranged almost year round. It is expected you provide your own plastic mulch, irrigation supplies, compost, shovel, bucket, line weed trimmer and plants. Let the Coordinator know if you would like to join the equipment program.

**Expectations of Farmers:** Not meeting the following expectations or breaking these rules will result in a correctional process that can result in forfeiture of your micro-farm spot. See the “Farm Agreement Violation” section below. Respect the farm, other Farmers/Gardeners, and their space. Respecting your farm and the farm as a whole involves preventing: weeds from taking over/going to seed, plants from falling or growing in to other farms, and a breeding grounds for pests to exist. Common weeds that go to seed quickly on the farm are: sunflowers, morning glory

and Johnson grass. Google these or ask a fellow Farmer or the Farm Coordinator to point them out to you. Sunflowers, squash, and morning glory can all fall or grow into a neighbor's farm. They also take a lot out of the soil, please be considerate to both current and future farmers. Squash and melons are a breeding ground for Squash Bugs unless regularly attended to. If you cannot put in the time to keep these pests at bay, it is recommended you do not plant them. Harvest only from your own rows. Please notify RGCF if you suspect theft from the farm. For your safety, DO NOT be confrontational. Walk only in the furrows and clover pathways while moving through the farm. Do not walk on Rows or Beds. Stepping in planting areas can kill young plants and create compaction in planting beds because of our soil type. Other Prohibited behaviors include: smoking or illegal drug use, playing loud music, urinating or using the bathroom outside of the provided port-a-potty. Children, Pets and Visitors: Children are very welcome on the farm, but MUST be supervised at all times by an adult. Please help them show the same respect you would to the farm and other farmers (example: where to walk, proper tool handling and honoring wildlife by not handling, chasing or moving them.) Watchout For Ants! Dogs are NOT allowed in the growing areas. They can be disruptive to wildlife and spread pathogens. Your fellow farmers/gardeners should be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity. Our goal is to have a peaceful and caring atmosphere where different ideas and thoughts can be freely shared, regardless of growing experience. Any behavior outside that nature of conduct will NOT be allowed or tolerated. If anyone has an issue that they feel they cannot calmly talk about to a fellow grower, please contact RGCF for help.

**Growing Guidelines and Policies:** Farm Plots are bound on the sides by raised borders, through the middle with irrigation tube and in field A a dirt access road. Please share the work in keeping them clear of debris and heavy weed growth.

**Organic Growing Method:** Although the Community Farm is not Certified Organic, our policies largely follow and our suggested methods often exceed what Organic Certification requires. No synthesized chemical herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers allowed (this includes non-organic “miracle-gro” products). Products with a “USDA Organic” or an “OMRI” certification/label may be used. Homemade compost and vermicompost is allowed. If you are unsure whether a product is permitted, please contact the coordinator or other RGCF staff.

**Weed Control:** Roundup and other non-organic/OMRI certified herbicides are strictly prohibited. Mowing, hoeing, pulling and digging are the recommended means of control. Smothering is effective for most annual weeds—however not with the Johnsongrass that is pervasive in esequia flooded areas. The spirit of Los Poblanos Open Space is that it keeps structures to an absolute minimum, the farm coordinator will enforce that. Landscape fabric, plastic, tarps or other materials are allowed to be used in your plot but must be removed when you vacate your plot.

**General Information:** Composting is encouraged by dropping what you pull right where you pulled it, if you put in a lined cage for composting locate it at the north end of your plot so

it doesn't interfere with other farmers flood irrigation. Don't overwork the soil! It's a clay/loam and you will get more clods the more you turn it over. No planting large perennials such as trees or bushes, if it can't be taken out with a rototiller don't plant it. Practice Safety: Always Bring Drinking Water With You to The Farm! There is no source of potable water anywhere at the Open Space. Recommended parking is the dirt lot west of Alvarado Elementary School. If you have to drive onto the property park next to the wellhouse/hoophouse. This is both a Community and a Farm. Building the Community will help with growing the farm. Talking to other farmers/gardeners is a great way to learn about successful growing methods and get ideas about what to do with your plot. Your email will be shared with other farmers to allow for farm-related communication between farmers.

**Farmer Agreement Violations:** In instances of a violation of the Farm Agreement, three steps will be taken to remediate the situation. After these steps are taken, if the issues recur or are not resolved, RGCF has the authority to void the member's Farm Agreement resulting in the forfeiture of a Farmers plot and their access to the plot. Members have the right to appeal their violations and voided membership to the Board of Directors. Step 1) Farm Coordinator (or other RGCF staff) informs the member of their violation(s) of the Farm Agreement Rules in either written or verbal form. All efforts will be made in assisting the Farmer to remedy the situation and prevent further violations. Ten (10) days will be provided to correct the violation. Step 2) Upon the second incident/violation, or continued violation of the Farm Agreement Rules, the member in question will be issued a formal warning in writing, either electronic or print, from RGCF detailing the violations. More recommendations for remediating the violation(s) will be provided. Ten (10) days will be

provided to correct the violation. Step 3) Upon the third incident of rule violation, the member in question will be given a final warning. This warning will detail all violations to date, and the member will be asked to create a remediation plan within 7 days of the notice. If a remediation plan is not submitted in a timely fashion, or the member further violates their contract by straying from the remediation plan or breaking Member Agreement rules again, their plot and membership fees will be forfeited effective immediately. Further actions will be taken as necessary under legal advisement. \*NOTE: Violations, whether they are the same one repeated, or unrelated incidents, are members' own responsibilities. Any time a member violates the Member Agreement, they should expect the next disciplinary action. RGCF maintains discretion as to whether or how to respond to infractions, depending on their severity or frequency. Appeal Process: If, after the entire remediation/disciplinary protocol has been followed, and a member in question wishes to challenge the actions taken by RGCF, they may submit a letter to the Board of Directors stating their case for reconsideration or other desired resolutions. The appealing entity will be notified of their letter's receipt within 14 days from the date submitted, to be heard and deliberated at the next scheduled Board meeting. Until the Board meeting occurs and a decision is made in response to their appeal, no appealing entity may contact RGCF/OSD representatives regarding the case. If an appeal is approved, the Board of Directors, in collaboration with Open Space staff and legal advisors, will determine the appropriate resolution and necessary actions to remediate the issue. Personal Circumstances: During the course of the gardening season, it is possible to have personal circumstances come up that no longer allow you to come to the garden and tend to your plot/row(s). If that happens, please notify RGCF by e-mail at [garden@riograndefarm.org](mailto:garden@riograndefarm.org)

# 2022 RGCF Community Farm Waiver of Liability

City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Open Space Rules & Regulations RGCF upholds all City and County Open Space regulations. These regulations are important in order for RGCF to ensure farming privileges with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division.

The Open Space roads are available to the public for walking, jogging, cycling and horseback riding during the daylight hours.

Dogs and other pets must be on leash at all times and stay on the roads ONLY, not in the growing spaces.

People and their pets must not harass wildlife.

Fire arms and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Unauthorized vehicles are not permitted within the Open Space. While visiting the rest of the Farm, please stay on the roadways. Irrigation ditches are dangerous! Many ditches at the Farm are deep, with fast flowing water and slippery mud. DO NOT go in the ditches, and please keep children and pets away from the ditches.

Please respect and avoid disturbing the Farm's neighbors.

Park in Open Space designated areas only. Do NOT drive/park on Open Space roads. Rio Grande Community Farm (RGCF) manages the Community Farm at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space through a contract with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. The City does not operate or maintain the Community Farm.

1. While at the Community Garden and Los Poblanos Fields, I will adhere to City and County Open Space regulations. 2. I am physically and mentally able to perform the tasks associated with participating in the Community Garden. 3. I understand that I, in choosing to maintain City Property, do so voluntarily and with the clear understanding that there is some degree of risk of injury, illness or damages involved and that I will receive no payment, fee or remuneration from the City or RGCF for my work or materials. I assume all risk of injury, illness or damage that may arise from my participation. 4. In the event that I, my party, or members of my party suffer any injury, harm, loss, theft or damage, or suffer any other type of claimed damage arising from, or in anyway related to the operations, premises, or design of the farm, land all members of my party relinquish any and all rights, claims or causes of action I/we may have by law or statute against the City of Albuquerque or Rio Grande Community Farm including their agents, employees or volunteers. 5. I understand that, as a result of any work I do, I am not and will not be considered an employee of the City or RGCF and am not eligible for any of the insurance coverage and benefits provided to regular paid personnel of the City or RGCF including worker's compensation and all health and medical benefits. I have read and understand all the conditions and rules, as laid out in Community Garden Guidelines & Policies, and Liability Waiver that apply to being a RGCF Community Farmer. I agree to abide by all rules and conditions:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Rio Grande Community Farm 2022 Registration/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (your email with be shared with other farmers)

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Term of Agreement: \_\_\_\_\_ (current date to December 31, 2022)

Assigned Row/Plot # \_\_\_\_\_ (Leave blank if new registration)

Names of persons assisting at the garden (organizations please submit an attached list as needed): \_\_\_\_\_

Date paid \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Release: We may take pictures of the Farm from time to time for our publications and/or website. Please sign below giving RGCF permission to use any photos you may be in without further approval. Thank you!

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Keep pages 1-6 of this document for your own knowledge–Please read and understand the Farm Agreement! Mail your 1) Farm Waiver and 2)**

Farm Registration to:  
Rio Grande Community Farm  
1701 Montano Rd  
Albuquerque, NM 87105