



# BAUUC COMMUNITY GARDEN

Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church  
17503 El Camino Real, Houston Texas 77058  
281-488-2001    [www.bauucgarden.org](http://www.bauucgarden.org)



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of the garden?

The BAUUC Community Garden has these primary goals:

- Provide garden space for families to grow their own food.
- Strengthen the community between the BAUUC congregation and the local neighborhoods.
- Provide an opportunity for BAUUC members and friends to directly engage and serve the local population despite potential differences in backgrounds, cultures and languages.

### How is the garden funded?

The garden is funded through direct donations from BAUUC members and friends, grants and contributions from the local community. There is no expectation that BAUUC will fund the construction or maintenance of the garden from the church's pledged operating income. Additional funding will come from Legacy Plot contributions and monthly allotment fees. To make a financial or in-kind donation to the BAUUC Community Garden, contact the BAUUC Garden Administrator for further information.

### What is an allotment?

In the BAUUC Community Garden, each participant gardener, family or organization “owns” an allotment – a 4-ft x 20-ft or 4-ft x 10-ft garden bed (plot) in which they can grow and harvest produce for themselves.

There are two kinds of allotments:

1. *Neighborhood Plots* – These plots will be built using donated funds and are designated for use by neighborhood low-income families or by BAUUC members and friends at the discretion of the Garden Administrator. There is no up-front fee for the allotment, but a monthly allotment fee may be required.
2. *Legacy Plots* – These allotments will be periodically made available to BAUUC members and friends who are willing to make a contribution to cover the material cost for installing the plot. When the contributing family no longer wishes to use or maintain the plot, the allotment will be made available to families as a Neighborhood Plot. A monthly allotment fee may be required.

### How much does it cost?

Donated funds and materials will be used specifically to build garden plots for use by low-income families from the local neighborhood. Members and friends of the church may be required to make a contribution to cover the cost of materials for their allotments. There will be a small monthly “allotment fee” to cover the cost of water and other supplies. Garden fees may be waived for specific allotment owners at the discretion of the Garden Administrator. Monthly allotment fees are due on the first day of the month or can be paid annually in lump sum. Payments can be made in the church office. Checks should be made out to “Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church” with “Community Garden” and the gardener’s name and allotment number (if assigned) in the Memo section. As of February 2016, the contribution for a Legacy Plot is \$50 per year for a 4x20-ft plot or \$30 per year for a 4x10-ft plot. Or the allotment fee can be paid monthly at \$5 per month.

### How do I sign up for a garden plot?

“Neighborhood plots” will be made available to local low-income families on a first-come basis. “Legacy plots” will be for BAUUC members and friends who make the required contribution. A simple application form (available at the end of this FAQ) is required from each family prior to receiving an allotment. If a plot is not available, applicants will be put on a waiting list maintained by the Garden Administrator.

**What can I grow in my allotment? Who's responsible for garden maintenance?**

Allotment owners may choose any legal plant to grow and harvest in their allotments. It is expected that most plantings will consist of annual and short-lived perennial vegetables, fruits, herbs and ornamentals. Trees and shrubs should not be planted in the allotments. Please note, tending to your plot, weeding & general cleaning of the area surrounding your plot is the responsibility of the allotment owner. Please move weeds & discarded plant material to the composting area. Grass mowing will be provided by garden or BAUUC staff.

**What resources, tools and materials are provided?**

The BAUUC Community Garden will make a selection of gardening resources available on the BAUUC Garden Blog Website (<http://bauucgarden.org/>). Common garden tools (shovels, hoes, water hoses, etc.) will be stored in the garden for use by allotment owners. Other materials (compost, seeds, fertilizer, seedlings, etc.) may periodically be made available to gardeners at low or no cost.

**May I use herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers in my allotment?**

The BAUUC Community Garden has adopted **ORGANIC** methods and techniques for producing healthy fruits and vegetables. Synthetic fertilizers are discouraged.

The use of chemical (synthetic) herbicides and pesticides in the garden is restricted and the use of any control techniques that may affect nearby allotments or native plantings should be avoided. Please notify the garden staff of serious or wide-spread pest and disease problems. Organic ant control (orange oil solution) may be found near plot 16. Directions for its use will be available in the white plastic storage bucket.

**Is there a bathroom (or phone) nearby?**

The BAUUC Community Garden is located at Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church. The building facilities are available Monday through Friday during business hours, 9 am – 4 pm. Building access may be limited during services or special events.

**Who's who?**

The BAUUC Community Garden currently has four assigned staff and volunteer roles:

1. Garden Administrator – Nathan Veatch (church staff)
2. Project Coordinator – George Becker (volunteer)
3. Community Liaison – Open (volunteer)
4. BAUUC Garden Blog Moderator – Emily Savino (volunteer)

**Why aren't there more rules?**

Once the allotments are assigned, the garden members who are assigned to their respective allotments will work with the Garden Administrator to develop and implement additional operational and management guidelines as needed.

Some of the questions that may be addressed are:

- What are the specific garden rules?
- What do I do when I have a problem?

**I have more questions. Who do I talk to?**

Please contact the garden administrator for more information:

**[www.bauucgarden.org](http://www.bauucgarden.org)**  
[info@bauucgarden.org](mailto:info@bauucgarden.org)

(281) 488-2001

# BAUUC COMMUNITY GARDEN

## Allotment Application

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Emergency Contact:

Phone:

Names of gardeners in household (list ages of children under 18):

- I agree to pay the annual fee of **\$50/yr** for 4X20 ft plot, **\$30/yr** for 4X10 ft plot by March 15th of the current year. Or I will pay a monthly allotment fee of **\$5.00** by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of every month. If I cannot pay, I will contact the Garden Administrator to make alternate arrangements.
- I agree to maintain my allotment and help maintain the pathways and common areas of the garden. I will not plant illegal or invasive plants. I will not pick other gardeners' crops without permission.
- I agree to observe any posted irrigation schedules and water only on assigned days.
- I agree to be responsible for the supervision of children and guests I bring to the garden.
- I understand that if I do not keep my allotment maintained or if I violate the garden rules, my allotment may be forfeited and reassigned to another gardener at the discretion of the Garden Administrator.
- I understand that neither the BAUUC Community Garden nor Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church are responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE BAUUC COMMUNITY GARDEN AND BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS.

*No alcohol, drugs or firearms are allowed in the BAUUC Community Garden. The garden is open only during daylight hours.*

Signature:

Printed Name:

Date:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Size: ☐ 4x20 ☐ 4x10

☐ Legacy Plot ☐ Fee Paid

☐ Donation Plot - FREE

☐ Assigned Allotment: \_\_\_\_\_