



# Gardens Network Lease Agreement

This agreement is between \_\_\_\_\_ Community Garden and Rooted WI, Inc.

Gardens Network provides leases and required general liability insurance for community gardens in Dane County for which Rooted is the appointed landlord. Rooted WI, Inc. negotiates lease and liability terms for community garden use as a non-profit advocate and does not benefit privately from contributed fees. Annual fees are collected to maintain insurance coverage that is required by City of Madison and Dane County and most land owners. Additionally, 10% of plot fees must be contributed to support a program to ensure all gardens in Madison have a minimum disposable budget per plot.

Please contact Gardens Network in case of financial inability to pay fees.

**Please sign this agreement and return with a check for \$100 plus 10% of all collected plot fees made out to Rooted no later than July 15th. Mail this form with payment to:**

Rooted  
Attn: Gardens Network  
2702 International Ln., Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53704

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Garden Leader

Date

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Garden Leader

Date

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Gardens Network Representative

Date

## GARDENS NETWORK SERVICES

The Gardens Network provides resources, support, and leadership development to community gardens throughout Dane County. Our mission is to connect people in Dane County with access to the space, education, and resources to create and sustain gardens that foster food, engagement, and equity. We envision diverse, productive, self-sustaining gardens that have strong leadership and communities connected by a shared purpose, by a sense of belonging, and by a deep socio-cultural understanding.

The Gardens Network is best equipped to work with gardens to provide targeted and efficient training, technical support, operational support, and services. Some of the gardens in our community are well established and stable, while others face more challenges. No matter where individual gardens fall on the continuum, we provide general as well as more focused support to gardens on a case by case basis in order to foster a stable and equitable network. To that end, the Gardens Network prioritizes resources to gardens needing help with sustainability, hands-on support, and leadership development. We believe that supporting community gardens contributes to a strong food system in Dane County and actively addresses food security, plus the fair and equitable distribution of healthy food in our community.

One of our primary goals is to assure community garden land security through offering lease negotiation, access to affordable liability insurance, and advocacy for sustainability, growth, and stability for community gardens into the future.

### COMMUNITY GARDEN MEMBERSHIP

**An annual contribution of 10% of plot fees is required from all gardens.** Plot fee contributions may range from \$50 -\$900, depending on garden size (number of plots) and the fees collected by the garden using the plot sliding fee scale. **These grants support the operations of the Gardens Network, detailed below.**

For gardens that need assistance with lease and liability insurance coverage through Rooted, an additional \$100 will be charged annually. Gardens will be invoiced after the month of April every year.

Gardens requesting garden design and/or garden installation coordination from the Gardens Network may be negotiated and contracted on an individual project basis.

Unfortunately, Rooted does not have the capacity to function as fiscal agent for individual gardens.

#### **Other services available include but are not limited to:**

##### Advocacy/Consultation

- Working for funding allocations in county and municipal budgets
- Fostering partnerships and leveraging resources
- Increasing/securing land, negotiating MOUs, leases, and other agreements for gardens throughout the county (supporting land tenure), and assuring liability coverage for those spaces
- Actively working to educate policy makers and support policy changes to increase food equity, food security, and land tenure in Dane County.

## Operations

- Addressing emergency garden needs.
- Assuring long term access to land (land tenure) through lease negotiations (Rooted holds lease) and liability insurance coverage (through Rooted policy)
- Information, template forms, guidelines, and other resources related to plot fees, registration, garden managements, and leadership/engagement
- Coordination with Madison Water Utility for water billing
- Coordination and distribution of in-kind donations (such as seeds, tools, plants)
- General information and samples to support grant writing, budgeting, and grant management
- Connecting volunteers/interns to gardens
- Support for garden problem-solving, counseling, liaison, negotiations

## Education/Communications

- Gardening classes/training
- Leadership development training and consultation (best practices for communications, banking, conflict resolution, annual calendar, cross-cultural and intergenerational gardening)
- Water system training
- [www.danegardens.net](http://www.danegardens.net) website
- Community Gardener Listserv
- Access to Master Gardener volunteers
- Collaboration with Garden Leaders
- Annual Gardens Network Summit
- Neighborhood/Regional cluster gatherings (mini-summits)

## Infrastructure

- Assistance with infrastructure development for site (water, fencing, etc.)
- Consultation on site adaptations (expansion, accessibility)
- Enhancements for placemaking

## Goods and Services

- Access to free seeds and plants
- Coordination of free, delivered wood chips (City of Madison)
- Reduced bulk rates for compost and marsh hay
- Gardens Network Micro-grant

## Consultation/Technical Support

- Consultation on collaborative community development (i.e., meetings with municipalities/gardeners to establish new or expanded gardens)
- Community orchards, edible landscaping, and pollinator gardens
- Food pantry gardens, plots, rows (connections to pantries)
- Placemaking - fostering connections between people and the public places they share
- Best practices consultation (no till, composting, invasive management, safety/security, etc.)