Riverbend Community Garden

Volunteer Handbook

Everything you need for your first season: who we are, how a work day runs, and how to stay safe among the beds and the tools.

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1 Welcome to the garden

Our story

The garden began in 2014 on a strip of railway land nobody wanted. Twelve neighbours cleared it in a summer; today it has forty raised beds, an orchard of heritage apples and a pond that frogs found before we did.

Who does what

Bed holders tend their own plot. Volunteers look after the shared spaces: paths, compost, the orchard and the polytunnel. The steering group of five meets on the first Monday of each month and its notes go on the shed door.

2 A work day

Signing in and the job board

Work days run from ten until one on Saturdays. Sign the book in the shed, then take a card from the job board; each card says what to do, which tools to use and who to ask.

Compost and watering rotas

The three compost bays are turned in order, left to right, every second week. In dry spells the watering rota covers evenings; swap a slot on the board rather than leaving it empty.

3 Safety and tools

Tool shed rules

Clean tools before they go back, blades down and handles out. Power tools are for trained volunteers only; ask a steering group member before using the strimmer.

First aid and emergencies

The first-aid box hangs inside the shed door. Report every injury, however small, in the accident book. In an emergency call for help first, then send someone to meet the ambulance at the main gate.