

West Mains Allotments

Welcome to your new plot at West Mains. Please find below some information about the site, communal areas, annual events and general rules from the City of Edinburgh Council. We hope you enjoy gardening your plot!

About West Mains Allotment Association Committee:

The committee currently consists of:

Rosy Naylor, chairperson - plot 57 - email rosynaylor@gmail.com

Andy Follis, secretary - plot 48a

Anne Sofie Laegran, treasurer - plot 38

Julian Bell - plot 49

Fiona Wolfenden - plot 68

Rosy also represents West Mains on the Fedaga Management Committee, as does Patrick Gibb (plot 8a) who is the current Fedaga Treasurer.

A new committee is elected each year at the AGM, usually held in the spring. New plotheolders are very welcome to join the committee.

Please come and talk to us should you have any questions about your plot. All questions of site maintenance are handled by Ian Woolard.

Communal areas:

The Cabin is available for plotheholder use. It contains facilities for making tea, a sink, and chairs. An area for the swap+share of seedlings, any excess produce is planned for the spring.

Site wheelbarrows - there are two wheelbarrows available for plotheholders use situated by the Cabin. The lock codes for these can be found inside the Cabin, on the wall to the left of the door.

Toilet:

We have an onsite toilet, the only plumbed in toilet on any Edinburgh site! This is situated opposite to the Cabin, near to the back gate entrance.

Environmentally Friendly Gardening

An emphasis on environmentally sustainable practices is encouraged across the site. Plotheholders should not use weedkillers or pesticides outwith their plots and spray drift to adjoining areas must be avoided.

Site news + communications

Site news - You will see there are two noticeboards on site which are kept up to date with the latest information, as well as a bulletin board outside the Cabin. We also have an e-newsletter (occasional) which is sent round with any relevant news - to signup please send your email to Andy Follis at westmainsallotment@gmail.com. Your email address will not be distributed to any third party.

We are also currently in the process of creating a website for the site which should be ready sometime in 2015. This will be available to view at www.westmainsallotments.org

Events: The following events are usually run each year.

Open Day each summer where we invite the public into the site and sell a range of produce, homemade cakes, preserves etc. Often this is held at the end of July. This raises funds which we put back into the site (ie general use compost, hire of skip etc).

Site Barbeque held usually at the end of the summer. This is open to plotholders and their guests.

Other General Notes:

Security: Gate keys available from Ian Woolard. Please ensure you lock the gates after entering or leaving the site. The same keys open both the top and bottom gate, as well as the Cabin.

Driving around the site:

Please only bring a car onto site for the delivery of heavy items, and drive with due care (no more than 5mph). Please remove your car from site after delivery, do not leave it there while you tend your plot. We do not want the site to become a car park!

Compost deliveries:

In 2014 we organised the delivery of bulk compost to individual plots and may continue to do so in future years. We also managed to share some free compost to each plot, depending on site funds we will look to do this again. Information about this will be available from the end of the summer with delivery in October. Or to purchase compost direct contact Caledonian Horticulture, tel 0131 339 5554 - compost made from green material collected by local authorities.

Site skip:

It is planned to have a site skip every other year on site during November, the next one being in 2016. This is for non plant material only.

Allotment water:

Site taps are turned off during the winter period, usually nov-feb, although you can find running water in the toilet and cabin at all times.

Work parties:

From time to time we will ask volunteers to help with site maintenance such as developing the cabin area, working on the pond and wildlife area, or helping out organising events. Notices about these will be put onto the noticeboards nearer the time. All help very much appreciated.

Sheds and other structures:

Usually the practice is if you inherit a plot which contains a shed or greenhouse, that you give a small donation to West Mains Allotment Association. Please contact any of the committee for more information about this. No erecting of polytunnels is currently permitted at West Mains.

Keeping the Rats away:

There are guidance notes in the noticeboard about best practices for keeping the rats away. Generally this is about minimising hiding places, harvesting ripe vegetables, keeping garden debris to a minimum, and turning your compost heap. Rats are shy and dont like to be disturbed.

Site paths:

Paths between plots are the joint responsibility of the adjoining plotholders and shall be kept trimmed and generally weed-free with a minimum width of 45cm.

Site rules:

Please see below the general site rules that the City of Edinburgh Council issues for all Edinburgh allotment sites, for your information.

1. Cultivation: 75% of the plot area should be under cultivation at any time. Plots should also be well stocked with crops in as healthy condition as possible, bearing in mind current weather and season. Unplanted areas should be reasonably free from weeds and not causing a nuisance to neighbouring plots. The soil should show evidence of being actively managed. Attention of plot-holders is drawn to the site inspection and termination procedures agreed by the Allotment Strategy Steering group.
2. Site rules: plot-holders are required to observe any rules that are particular to their allotment sites. If in doubt, plot-holders should contact their site association representative for advice.

3. Dogs: dogs may be brought on to the site but must be kept on a lead at all times and must not be allowed to become a nuisance to other plot-holders. Any fouling must be bagged and binned by the owner.
4. Livestock: the keeping of livestock, including bees, on the plot is not permitted.
5. Bonfires: generally, plant material and weeds should be composted on site. Plot-holders may burn only plant material arising from the plot itself, such as diseased plants and excessively woody material that cannot be composted. No material may be brought on to the site for burning and no synthetic materials, plastic, paper, treated woods, metals or other non-plant material may be burned. Burning synthetic material and treated wood may give rise to toxic and carcinogenic smoke. Plot-holders are required to give consideration to other plot-holders when choosing where and when to have a bonfire, and must not leave the fire unattended.
6. Trees: no trees other than fruit trees shall be cultivated or allowed to grow on the plot. If requested by the Council, the plot-holder must agree to the removal of any trees over 7.5cm diameter at breast height.
7. Other guidelines: other guidance is produced by the Council and others from time, such as advice on composting, promoting biodiversity, organic gardening etc, and the plot-holders attention is drawn to these.
8. Water conservation: plot-holders are reminded that water is not an inexhaustible supply and they should use it responsibly. Water conservation measures such as mulching are effective in reducing moisture loss and also help to control weeds.
9. Sheds, glass houses and other structures: The plot-holder is permitted to erect a wooden shed for storage of tools and materials; a glass house for cultivation of plants, fruits and vegetables; a cold frame. Plot-holders must observe Planning legislation at all times and must maintain structures in a reasonably good condition.
10. Barbed wire: plot-holders are not permitted to have or to use barbed wire on the plot. Use of barbed wire restricted to site boundary fences.
11. Personal conduct: plot-holders must not use the plot or allow the plot to be used for any illegal purpose and must be keep the peace at all times.
12. Rent: rent must be paid in full within 40 days of the date of invoice. In the event that rents remain outstanding beyond 40 days, the council reserves the right to terminate the lease.
13. Amendment of the rules: the Council, after consulting the Allotments Strategy Steering Group or other appropriate representative body, has the right to amend these rules from time to time.



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**West Mains
 Allotments**

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