



Green Village Initiative

## Volunteer Guidelines

JUNE 2022

Thank you for volunteering with Green Village Initiative (GVI)! Our volunteer days are open to anyone and everyone! We require a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, and an interest in learning about food justice, farming, and gardening.

Please print out and distribute this document and the Volunteer Waiver form to your group. If any volunteer or visitor does not wish to appear in GVI photos, they must inform the GVI representative on the volunteer day.

### General Guidelines for Green Village Initiative Volunteers

- **Beware of beehives.** We ask that any volunteer with a bee allergy always carry an epi-pen with them.
- **Volunteers with allergies** please inform staff of any allergies.
- **Dress appropriately,** plan ahead and dress for the weather. We ask that all volunteers wear close-toed shoes.
- **Bring a refillable water bottle, extra sunscreen, and food**
- **1 adult chaperone for every 5 youth under the age of 18.** Children under 18 must always be supervised by a chaperone while on our farm.
- **Follow the instructions of the GVI team** for safety and productivity reasons. Please follow all instructions given to you by a GVI team member.
- **Limit distractions.** We ask for your undivided attention. Listening is a matter of safety: the GVI Team needs to be able to call out to volunteers and workers if there's an emergency.
- **No electronic devices.** Please leave all electronics silenced and away.
- **Respect your fellow volunteers:** We have a 0-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination against any person; anyone participating in any discriminatory act based on a person's race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, income, and other differences will be immediately asked to leave and banned from all GVI properties.
- **Keep valuables at home:** GVI is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- **Respect the site and the community:** Please pick up after yourself and do not litter. Use tools appropriately, clean them, sanitize them, and put them away when finished.
- **Monitor your body's needs:** take plenty of breaks, and drink lots of water. Let the staff know of any pre-existing conditions before starting your volunteer day.

### Safety During COVID-19

We have established social distancing, mask-wearing, tool sanitization, and other safety measures in response to COVID-19. Please follow all instructions that are posted at our sites and communicated to you by the GVI team.

### Volunteering at Reservoir Community Farm

We host volunteers at our urban farm, Reservoir Community Farm, on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from April 15th to November 1st. Reservoir Community Farm is located at 1469 Reservoir Avenue with parking and the entrance on Yaremich Drive.

We request that you schedule your volunteer day with us in advance by emailing [info@gogvi.org](mailto:info@gogvi.org). For groups of 3 or more, or to volunteer on a day Tuesday through Friday, **we require scheduling at least 2**

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Green Village Initiative is a non-profit organization whose mission is to grow food, knowledge, leadership and community through urban gardening and farming, to create a more just food system in Bridgeport.



**weeks in advance.**

Volunteer tasks at the farm include weeding, trash pick-up, planting, turning beds, and additional gardening projects. Skills that are particularly helpful on the farm include farming/gardening experience, landscaping, carpentry, crafts/painting, ability to lift heavy objects, and experience using power tools.

### **Volunteering at Community & School Gardens**

Green Village Initiative manages 12 community gardens and supports many school gardens in Bridgeport. Each site is unique. If you have scheduled a group in advance, we may select a community garden or school garden for your volunteer day. We will send specific information about your volunteer location before your scheduled volunteer day.

#### **Volunteer tasks at garden sites include:**

- Building new garden beds.
- Filling beds with soil via shovels and wheelbarrows.
- Spreading wood chips throughout walkways.
- Weeding beds and walkways.
- Trash pick-up.
- Additional gardening.
- Site beautification projects.

Skills that are particularly helpful in gardens include lifting and moving heavy loads, carpentry, and experience using power tools, weeding, and pruning.

Volunteer activities at these sites are based on on-site needs and determined in coordination with the Community Garden Captain or School Garden Champion.

**Your help is invaluable to urban agriculture and food justice in Bridgeport. Please let us know if you have any questions: [info@gogvi.org](mailto:info@gogvi.org) or 203-612-4107**