



Willing Hands Gleaning and Gardening

Keeping wholesome food from going to waste and delivering it to our neighbors in need



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Information for New Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in being a volunteer with Willing Hands. We look forward to meeting you. By volunteering with Willing Hands, you are agreeing to the [Terms of Participation](#). Here is other helpful information.

First, COVID-19 UPDATED PROTOCOLS - please read [here](#).

Next, registration (for Gleaning AND Garden volunteers)

Everyone who attends a glean or garden work session must first be registered as a volunteer. Registration includes providing your contact information, accepting the terms of participation and the volunteer liability waiver, and allows us to keep you posted about schedule changes. Once you are registered, you are eligible to sign up for gleans and garden work sessions, and you don't have to register again.

Go to the [Volunteer](#) page to register or update your registration if any of your contact information changes.

Find out about gleaning and garden opportunities

Gleans and garden sessions are found on our [Gleans Calendar](#) page. Gleaning volunteers must sign up for individual gleans. Often, we find out about crop donations on very short notice, and will send email notification if so, but it is also good to check the Gleans page regularly for opportunities.

Garden volunteers should also sign up for work sessions, which tend to be regular throughout the season. We try to send weekly updates to the schedule by email during the gleaning/growing season. For more information email Sara@willinghands.org

Sign up for a glean or garden session

Open gleans and gardening sessions are posted on the Gleans page. To sign up, click on the glean link in the calendar, review the information about that glean that appears under the calendar, click the sign up button, and then type in your name on the signup page. You must type your name exactly as you did when you first registered, so we can match your record in our database.

Please cancel if you can't make it!

If your schedule changes, please cancel so someone else can take your spot. The email you receive when you sign up will include a link where you can cancel. Your courtesy will also help us schedule the right number of volunteers for the available produce.

Weather policy: when a garden session or glean is canceled for inclement weather

Our basic policy is that if you can hear thunder, no matter how distant, we will not garden or glean. You can generally assume we will keep our plans to garden or glean even in light rain. However, if there is a forecast that is definitive for heavy rain or worse during garden or gleaning hours, we will NOT be in the fields. Garden & Gleaning coordinators will do their best to send out an email an hour and a half before meet time to cancel if radar or other info makes it clear that the session is a non-starter. But even if we have not sent it, and you hear thunder, or if there is heavy rain, please use best judgement and stay home!

When you arrive to a glean

Please review COVID-19 UPDATED PROTOCOLS [here](#).

When you arrive, Willing Hands Gleaning volunteers will show you where to park and help you check in. We'll provide a brief orientation with helpful tips and information about the property.

What should I bring with me for gleaning and gardening?

Bring water to drink, and please try to take care of bathroom needs before arriving. At some glean sites, a mobile restroom may be available, but there are also locations with few options. If specific tools would be helpful for a glean you will see that on the email announcement, but usually just your "willing hands" are needed!

What should I wear for gleaning and gardening?

We suggest sunblock, gloves, a long-sleeved T-shirt, comfortable closed-toe shoes and a hat.

Who should I contact if I have other questions?

Sara Cavin is the staff contact for most gleaning and gardening questions [Email Sara](#) and refer to [FAQ](#) pages for answers to some commonly asked questions. Carolyn Frye is our volunteer Gleaning leader, email: gleaning@willinghands.org, and Bartlett Leber is our volunteer Garden leader, email: garden@willinghands.org. We are always happy to help!

Those are the basics. We hope to see you soon at one of the gleans or in the garden!

