

RULES FOR INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

There are three major purposes for the Independent Projects at OVF:

BEAUTIFICATION - small areas such as the rose beds which serve to increase the overall attractive appearance of the garden.

NOISE PROTECTION - areas that protect the garden to some extent from the traffic pollution of nearby streets.

BIODIVERSITY- native and diverse plantings are encouraged to increase habitat for beneficial plants and insects.

Being assigned an Independent Project is considered to be a privilege. This privilege comes with certain responsibilities. If you cannot meet these responsibilities you should not request an Independent Project.

1. The Independent Project must be well maintained all year and at your expense. Plants added to the Independent Project become the property of Ocean View Farms.
2. You will be awarded three (3) hours towards your community requirement for satisfactorily maintaining your independent project. Members may acquire a maximum of twelve (12) hours toward their total community requirement regardless of the number of Independent Projects maintained.
3. No vegetables or berries may be grown in the Independent Projects. Grape vines may be grown near the perimeter of plots except on the western chain link fence. Only perennial herbs are permitted such as Lemon Balm, Lavender, Sage, Oregano, Rosemary and Thyme. The "Rose" beds must be maintained as such unless an agreement to change is made with the Board of Directors.
4. The Independent Projects may **not** be used for composting or storage of personal items.
5. No additional trees may be planted or structures added without prior approval of the Independent Project Monitor together with either the Garden President or the Garden Master.
6. No trees may be removed without the approval of the Independent Project Monitor and either the Garden President or the Garden Master. They will make arrangements for the removal.
7. For Independent Projects with fruit trees, fruit shall be shared with the general membership at membership meetings. A selected or supervised work crew shall harvest the fruit prior to, or on the day of the meeting, and shall make the harvest available to the membership at the meeting. The IP holder may keep the fruit they harvest as long as at least 50% of the fruit is given to the general membership. Members will be notified before harvesting from the IP is done.
8. Under no circumstances should fruit be allowed to lie on the ground. It should either be taken to the community area if it is edible or to the compost area if rotten or damaged.
9. Pruning of trees should be discussed with the Independent Project Monitor. Members are responsible for all clean-up and removal of debris in a timely manner should the trees be pruned by the orchard committee.
10. Members must clear the weeds and maintain the pathways next to their Independent Projects
11. Only the member or associate may work in an Independent Project.

Citations will be issued by the Independent Project monitor for failure to observe the regulations, and failure to remedy the situation. Failure to correct the citation within two weeks will result in the loss of the Independent Project. Certain rule violations such as unapproved tree planting or removal, refusal to share crops; etc may result in immediate loss of the project. Citations issued by the Independent Project Monitor have the same weight as those written by Phase Representatives. Your membership in Ocean View Farms will be terminated if you receive three citations in any one year.

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT

1. You must have been a member in good standing of OVF for at least one year. Associates are not eligible for independent projects.
2. Email your Phase Representative, or put a note in their mailbox in the wheelbarrow shed indicating your interest in obtaining an IP plot. Please date all correspondence. The Phase Representative will certify the length of your membership in the garden, indicate whether or not you are a competent gardener and indicate the number of community work hours you completed in the previous year. This evaluation will be given to the Independent Project Monitor.
3. If no IP plots are available applicants will be placed on a waiting list. When a plot becomes available it will be offered to earliest applicant on the waiting list first.
4. In the event that two or more persons request the same Independent Project at the same time, the Independent Projects will be awarded based on a point system:
 - 1 point for each year of membership in OVF;
 - 2 points for each 5 community work hours performed over your minimum requirement in the previous year.
5. No member will be awarded an additional Independent Project unless there are no other members waiting to receive one.
6. No member may have more than two (2) independent projects.