



## **Groton Community Gardens**

### **Rules & Regulations**

#### **I. Overview**

Groton Community Gardens are intended to be a beautiful, safe, and peaceful place for individuals to cultivate flowers and vegetables. The following set of rules and regulations have been designed to ensure:

- That the community gardens are safe.
- That the community gardens are a pleasant place to be and look at, for gardeners, neighbors, and the general public.
- Fairness and equity among the gardeners.

#### **II. Who can rent a plot in the Community Gardens?**

Individuals must be 18 years or older.

#### **III. Plot Rental, Registration, Fees**

1. Individuals may rent up to one (1) garden plot, unless plots are available, or unless grandfathered in with past plots. If plots are available after April 1 a gardener can request additional plots.
2. Garden plots are issued on a year-to-year basis, March 15<sup>th</sup>. At the end of season, plots must be cleared by Nov. 30. If plot is renewed, fences can remain in place.
3. Gardeners in good standing have the option to renew their garden plot(s) for the following year no later than March 15. Those who do not meet the registration deadline may forfeit gardening privileges and their plot will be re-assigned to a new gardener. Payment for plots must be done no later than **March 15**.
4. If there are no vacant garden plots, prospective gardeners can add their name to a waiting list. When a plot becomes available, prospective gardeners will be contacted in order they registered.
5. Gardeners who relinquish their plot may not directly transfer the plot to another gardener.
6. Plots are open daily from sunrise to sunset.
7. There are some garden tools will be available to borrow but since we have had issues with tools disappearing, it is recommended you bring your own small shovels, spray nozzles and/or watering can.

#### **IV. Gardener Rules**

- The Groton Parks & Recreation Department has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions based on the interest of the whole garden. They have authority to resolve conflicts, including refusing a plot to a gardener or dismissing current gardeners.
- Gardens and surrounding walkways must be kept free of weeds. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot and surrounding pathways. Watering, weeding harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are the responsibility of the gardener. It is the plot renter responsibility to keep the pathways clear of weeds.
- **If you are unable to care for your plot for a time because of illness or vacation, ask a fellow gardener or the Parks and Recreation Department for help with weeding and harvesting. If your garden is not kept up you will receive a warning flag (yellow flag). The yellow flag you will have ten days to fix the problem. If garden is not fixed then a final warning (red flag) will be issued. If the problem is not resolved in five days then garden is turned over to the Community Garden. No refunds will be given.**
- All plots must be “naturally” grown. **NO toxic chemicals or pesticides.** Natural pest management and fertilizer may be used. For example: neem oil, horticulture oil, insecticidal soap, compost, aged manure, composting teas, IF IN QUESTION ASK!
- You must not practice any horticultural techniques that will affect adjacent plots including shading another plot or planting of invasive species. **Example: Mints, strawberries, etc. No sunflowers due to the fact they block the sun on adjacent plots.**
- A water tap is located at both sites. Make sure water is turned off after use.
- The garden is not available for commercial use; don't sell your produce.
- No dogs/pets in the garden, no smoking. Shoes are recommended.
- If your plot is in the Noank Garden, please be conscious of the fact that the garden is located within a neighborhood and we share the area with the residents of Noank. This means keeping space clean, noise at an acceptable level and following all other garden rules.
- Lock combo is 5680
- Cameras are located in the garden to prevent outsiders from taking your produce.
- Clean up plots must be done by end of November.

If you see anything illegal happening, please contact Town Police at 860-441-6712 or text Eileen 860-625-1024 or Beth 860-910-5404