



Groton Community Gardens

Rules & Regulations

I. Overview

Groton Community Gardens are intended to be a beautiful 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 a pleasant place to be and look at, for gardeners, neighbors, and the general public.
- Fairness and equity among the gardeners.

Gardening is a wonderful past time and very rewarding. Please realize the amount of time, commitment and effort that is required to keep your plot weed free, healthy and maintained takes approximately 2-3 hours weekly.

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

Individuals must be 18 years or older.

III. Plot Rental, Registration, Fees

1. **Households** may rent one (1) garden plot, unless additional plots are available for a maximum of two (2) plots per household. **If plots are still available after May 15, we are able to assign an additional plot. Please note this is just for the year. It does not automatically assign you for the same plots the following year.**
2. Garden plots are issued on a year-to-year basis, **January 1st**. At the end of season, plots must be cleared by **November 30th**. If the 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 **January 1st**. 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 renewed plots must be received no later than **January 1st**. Gardens need to be cleaned and prepared for planting **by May 15**.
4. Prospective gardeners can add their name to a waiting list. When a plot becomes available, prospective gardeners will be contacted in the order they registered. Please note this is just for the year. It does not automatically assign you for the same plots the following year.
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 limited garden tools available. 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's responsibility to keep the pathways clear of weeds.
- **If your garden is not kept up, we will notify you. 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.
- Cameras are located in the garden to prevent outsiders from taking your produce.
- Clean up plots must be done by November 30th.

If you see anything illegal happening, please contact Town Police at 860-441-6712 or text Eileen 860-625-1024 or Melissa 860-536-5682.