

Community Garden Rules and Regulations

October, 2017

1. Approved Gardeners are those individuals who have been assigned a plot by the Resident Board (as the representatives of the NRC/DPW) and have signed the license agreement, paid their garden fee in full and abide by the Community Garden Rules and Regulations and the License Agreement.
2. Gardeners must be residents or members of local non-profit organizations located in the Town of Wellesley.
3. Gardeners must ensure that their contact information is current. Contact information must include name, address, phone number and email address if available. Garden registration will be sent out by email.
4. Gardeners must park in designated parking areas.
5. Gardeners may not assign or otherwise transfer rights to use a plot or any portion of a plot to others. Gardeners assume responsibility for any person or persons assisting them with any gardening chores.
6. Gardeners may not play music at high volume.
7. Gardeners may not barbeque, grill, or light a fire unless a permit is obtained from the town of Wellesley.

PLANTING RESTRICTIONS

1. To protect the Town's water supply and the health of fellow Gardeners the use of any non-organic chemicals including fertilizers, weed killers (herbicides), pesticides, and fungicides is prohibited.
2. Gardeners are encouraged to help remove invasive plants species from the Garden area. A list of invasive plants can be found online here: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/prohibitedplantlist.htm>
Examples of invasive plantings that should be removed from Garden plot include: Garlic mustard, Tree of Heaven, Black Swallow-wort, and Japanese Knotweed.
3. Dumping or "storing" of any non-Garden related material in or outside the Garden plot is prohibited. Violators will be fined under Town By-law 49.2, Use of Public Ways and Places:
49.2. Use of Public Ways and Places. No person shall throw, place or cause to be placed in any public way or public place in the Town, any tree, bush or other planting, or any obstruction, or any garbage, fuel, building material, paper, cards, handbills, leaves, or rubbish of any kind, nor stones or rocks or other objects to act as curbing, except in such place and in such manner as shall be directed by the Selectmen and except as hereinafter provided in Section 49.2A.
4. Brambles such as raspberries, blackberries, or similar plants may not occupy more than 25% of the space, since planting a bramble patch does not constitute active gardening.
5. Although the garden is primarily intended for annual fruits and vegetables, perennials may also be planted at your own risk, realizing that individual plots are not owned, but are lent to each Gardener for a finite period of time.
6. Trees or tall plants that shade or encroach on neighboring plots or common walkways are not permitted.

MAINTENANCE

1. Each Gardener is responsible for installing a fence around his/her garden.
2. Gardeners should tend their plantings throughout the season by trimming, thinning, and harvesting as needed to keep the garden productive.
3. Gardeners are required to clear weeds or trees growing within their plot and on their fence, and keep the aisles and paths surrounding their plot free and clean of weeds, trash and other materials to ensure that the common paths are passable by others.
4. Gardeners must ensure that the garden area is neatly maintained out of respect for neighbors. Tools and other garden related items (raised beds, compost bins and cages) may be stored within the plot, if they are arranged neatly. At the end of the season, Gardeners must clear their plots of dead plants, decorations and all furnishings. Gardeners must store neatly or cover any weed control fabrics.

5. Diseased plants should be placed in a plastic bag and disposed as trash in the towns Recycling and Disposal Trash Facility (RDF).
6. Plant material generated from active gardening should only be disposed at the designated compost sites of the Garden or RDF composting area. Gardeners should not dispose weeds or other plants to the common areas or walkways.
7. Municipal water will be provided and subject to any water restrictions or bans as required by the DPW.
8. No unattended watering is permitted, including the use of timers.
9. Water in uncovered containers or any standing water, including bird baths, is not permitted for health reasons.
10. Any environmental public health issues relating to poison ivy, stinging insects or other similar issues will be addressed by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in cooperation with the Board of Health and Department of Public Works (DPW).

STRUCTURES/FURNISHINGS

1. No permanent fixtures may be installed in a plot, and no indoor-style furnishings (except as approved by the NRC/DPW).
2. Gardeners may use the wood chips that DPW provides to cover paths to control weed growth and cover muddy walkways. Newspaper or cardboard beneath wood chips is the recommended method for additional weed suppression.
3. Items NOT permitted in the plots and surrounding paths:
 - a. carpet, impermeable plastics, or other household fabrics as weed control measure.
 - b. asphalt foundations nor pavement.
 - c. Introduction of rock or gravel materials within plots or walkways.
4. Plot gates may be locked at the individual Gardeners discretion.
5. Bee Keeping. Gardeners are encouraged to place hives in inconspicuous locations as far away and a minimum of 5 feet from neighboring gardens and pathways. All beekeeping equipment, especially empty hive parts that may attract pests, should be taken offsite when not in use.

PLOT ASSIGNMENT, REVOCATION AND APPEAL PROCESS

1. Plots are reviewed each January and notifications are sent out by the end of the January.
2. Only one plot will be issued per household. A non-refundable fee is assessed to cover water and maintenance expenses. The annual fee is due 2 weeks after notification, and any plot with an unpaid fee will become available.
3. If a plot becomes available, existing Gardeners in good standing will have the option to switch plots prior to plots being assigned to the general waiting list. If more than one existing gardener would like plot, plot will be assigned by lottery.
4. At the start of the season, if there is no clear evidence of active gardening by June 1st, the Gardener will be contacted and given two weeks to respond. If no response is received, the plot will be considered abandoned.
5. A Gardener will be notified by Email and regular mail of non-compliance with the Garden Rules and Regulations and will be given a one week notice to respond to the the situation. The Gardener is responsible to contact the governing Resident Board to discuss the violations. If no improvement occurs, then the Resident Board may revoke the garden.
6. If a Garden is revoked for any reason, a Gardener may appeal the determination to the NRC. The appeal request must be received by the Resident Board within one week of the revocation. The decision of the NRC is final.
7. If a Garden is revoked, the Gardener will have one week to remove any personal items from the plot, after which the items will be removed/discarded.
8. In case of a hardship that may temporarily prevent a Gardener from addressing non-compliance issues, such as an extended vacation, illness or other unplanned emergency, the Gardener must notify the Resident Board and consideration will be given. The maximum accommodation period is one growing season.