



# **Town of Groton Community Garden**

## **Rules & Regulations**

### **I. Overview**

Groton Community Garden is 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 garden is safe.
- That the community garden is 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 Garden?**

Individuals must be 18 years or older.

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

1. Individuals may rent up to two (2) garden plots. Returning gardeners are assigned garden plots first. New gardeners receive their assigned plots beginning March 1.
2. Garden plots are issued on a year-to-year basis, from March 1st-Nov. 30th. At the end of season, plots must be cleared and left the way it was found in the spring.
3. Gardeners in good standing have the option to renew their garden plot(s) for the following year no later than February 28. Those who do not meet the registration deadline will forfeit gardening privileges and their plot will be re-assigned to a new gardener.
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. Garden Tools will be available to borrow.

## **IV. Gardener Rules**

1. 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.
2. 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. 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. You will have ten days to fix the problem. If garden is not fixed then a final warning 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.
3. All plots must be “naturally” grown. NO toxic chemicals. 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!
4. 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.
5. A water tap is located at the rear of Human Services. Water barrels are also available inside the garden and near the shed. It is the responsibility of the gardeners to keep barrels filled. Please use water cans or a bucket to water your plot. Make sure water is turned off after use.
6. If you decide not to use your plot, please contact Parks and Recreation so it may be reassigned. If plot is able to be reassigned you will receive a refund. Plots must be used by July 1<sup>st</sup> or they will be reassigned unless arrangements have been made.
7. The garden is not available for commercial use; don't sell your produce.
8. Compost bins are located at the garden. Please use as directed.
9. No pets in the garden.
10. No smoking.
11. Shoes are recommended.

If you see anything illegal happening, please contact Town Police at 441-6712.

**Groton Parks and Recreation Department**  
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