



ROCKY HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES

This document sets out the rules that govern the Rocky Hill Community Garden (The Garden). These rules are intended to help all our gardeners grow fresh, healthy food in a thriving organic garden, to help create a sense of community among our gardeners, and to help the Garden to be a good neighbor. The Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department administers these rules. Every person who has a plot must sign a Gardener Agreement in which the gardener agrees to comply with these rules.

A. ACCESS TO THE GARDEN

Season: The Garden is open and accessible from May 15th to October 31st

Hours: Gardeners may be in the Garden from dawn to dusk

B. GARDEN PLOTS

Use of Own Plot: Gardeners may use only the plots assigned to them. Gardeners will maintain their plants within their plots and will trim any plants that extend into neighboring plots or into common areas. Gardeners may not alter the dimensions of their plot.

Plantings: Gardeners may plant vegetables, fruits and flowers. Tall plants such as corn or sunflowers should not be planted at the edge of a plot, due to the fact that they shade an adjacent garden.

What is Prohibited?

- No fencing of any kind around the perimeter of your garden plot (other than string)
- No metal of any type (with exception of wire tomato cages and metal trellises) which must be removed at the end of the season
- Beekeeping Equipment
- Herbicides / Pesticides / Fungicides – Organic Treatments only. Use of compost, Organic mulch and weeding is always acceptable
- Standing water in buckets
- Poisonous or illegal plants as determined by the CT Poison Control Center and considered illegal under state or federal law are prohibited. This includes Cannabis Sativa (marijuana)
- Invasive Plants as determined by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council
- Personal property – Gardeners may not keep any personal property on their plots or in the Garden when they are not in the Garden
- Access to the stream and active crop farming fields across the stream

What is allowed?

- Single string around the perimeter of the plot
- Plastic or fabric ground covering (must be removed at the end of the season)

- Wire Tomato cages and metal trellises
- Netting
- Bamboo or wood stakes

Plot Maintenance and Trash: Gardeners will maintain their plots and adjacent paths in a clean and neat fashion, promptly removing any weeds, diseased plants, overgrowth or other wastes from their plot. Gardeners will promptly harvest edible plants. Gardeners are responsible for hauling and disposing of their own trash such as weeds, boxes, trays, bags, packets and similar items. Gardeners will perform a yearly clean-up on their plots at the end of the season. Plots are to be cleared of any weed block, pins, stakes, sticks, plastic by October 31st. All residue of, including but not limited to; tomatoes, potatoes, peppers or eggplants must be removed and may be placed in the compost pile on site. The Garden is a carry in and carry out facility – Trash free.

Tools: Gardeners may bring their own tools into the garden to use in their plots, but they cannot store any tools in the garden. Gardeners may not use any power tools, such as those that require gasoline, batteries or electricity.

Water: Gardeners are to bring their own water

C. Conduct: Gardeners are expected to be civil, honest and cooperative in dealing with Garden neighbors, other gardeners and guests of other gardeners.

The following are prohibited:

- Smoking, vaping, illegal drugs or Alcohol Consumption. Gardeners may not come into the Garden while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Animals – dogs, cats, etc.
- Unsupervised Children. Children are welcome in the Garden but must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times
- Any bullying or inappropriate conduct (words, name calling, touching, etc.) Please keep the Garden a happy, secure and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.
- Plants considered illegal under state or federal law are prohibited. This includes Cannabis Sativa (marijuana)
- No fires or cooking. Gardeners may not start or maintain a campfire, burn weeds or use a barbecue grill.
- No loud music. Gardeners may not play music or the radio loud enough to be a nuisance to other gardeners
- No sales. The Garden is for personal, noncommercial use only; gardeners may not sell any produce or flowers grown in the Garden

D. Problems

Dispute Resolution. Gardeners will raise with the Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department any disputes about the Garden or with fellow gardeners. The Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department will have the power to hear these disputes and will resolve them in the best interests of the Garden.

Gardeners may lose their rights to participate in the Garden if they fail to comply with any of these rules. If a gardener does any of the following:

- Endangers other gardeners, neighbors or other individuals;
- Takes or uses another gardener's tools, supplies or produce without permission;
- Encroaches on garden neighbor's property;
- Grows illegal plants
- Uses alcohol or illegal drugs in the garden
- Erects, builds or place any permanent improvement or personal property on the land
- Leaves, deposits, dumps or throws any litter, trash, garbage or rubbish other than in a designated receptacle
- Creates a nuisance detrimental to health, morals, safety, convenience or welfare of other persons
- Plants in an unused plot without the Town's permission
- Sets a fire for any purpose
- Violates any Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department rules

then the Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department may, at its sole discretion, terminate immediately the gardener's right to participate in the Garden. If that occurs the gardener must leave the garden by the end of hours on the termination day and may not reenter without The Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department's permission.

If a gardener violates any of these rules other than those listed in the prior paragraph, The Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department will inform gardener of the violation by sending an email to the gardener or by placing a red flag on the gardener's plot. Gardener will have one week to correct the violation. If the violation is not corrected within one week as determined by the Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department in its sole discretion, the Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department may terminate the gardener's agreement. After termination, gardener will have two weeks to harvest and clean up the plot. Terminated gardeners are not entitled to any refunds or other payments.

The process described in this section does not (i) limit the Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department's ability to enforce its rights under these rules; (ii) limit or qualify a gardener's obligation to comply with applicable law or the rules, or (iii) limit the Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation Department's rights to notify and / or involve government authorities as it may determine.

Gardeners, under no circumstances will be entitled, directly or indirectly, to any refunds, any direct, incidental, consequential, punitive, or other damages, any other forms of compensation from the Town, or to obtain an injunction, specific performance, or other equitable remedy, as a consequence of termination from participation in the Garden.