

Community Garden Plot Guidelines

The Department of Parks and Recreation, Community Gardens conditions of use, guidelines, and fees are reviewed annually and are subject to change.

The Community Garden Manager can be reached at 301-627-8153 or at CommunityGardens@pgparks.com. For any emergencies contact Park Police is 301-459-9088.

Plots are limited to **1 per person and a maximum of 2 per household**. Plots are received in the current conditions. Annual tilling by M-NCPPC will not be performed. Plots are non-transferable. All plots will be surrendered back to the Department of Parks & Recreation. Fees are non-refundable.

A one-week priority window will be available for existing active permit holders to book their plot each season.

- The permit holder will have access to their plot between **March 1st and December 15th of that permitted year**.
- **By April 15th**, the garden plot should be at least 20% prepared for the season. This includes activities such as weeding, adding soil amendments, digging, planting, starting seedlings, and cultivation.
- **By June 1**, the garden plot must be fully (90 – 100%) planted for the season. During the gardening season, dead plants and those that have stopped producing should be removed. **Plots that are not active by June 1 will be forfeited.**
- **By December 15th**, gardeners must remove weeds, dead plants, and summer garden debris from plots. Perennials, fall/winter hardy vegetables, and cover crops can remain in the plot.
- Community Garden hours of operation are from dawn to dusk.
- No items shall be placed against the perimeter fence line. All personal items including tools, wheelbarrows, potted plants, and personal items, must be contained within the plot space. Items left along the perimeter fence will be discarded.
- Keep at least a 3-foot (36") clear and unobstructed path between garden plots and the perimeter fence line. The perimeter fence shall not be used as a trellis. Plants that grow into the space between your plot and fence line will be removed, mowed, or trimmed when routine maintenance occurs.
- Individual garden plots are to be used for growing vegetables and flowers for family use and not for commercial sales.
- Permit holders and accompanying gardeners are responsible for keeping garden gates closed and locked. Combinations to the garden locks shall not be shared.
- Gardeners should visit and maintain their plots at least once a week. Gardeners are responsible for cultivating, weeding, and watering their own plots and maintaining the surrounding paths. If you are out of town or on vacation for an extended period of time, please notify the Community Garden Manager.
- All gardens are subject to occasional inspections. If the garden is not in compliance with the guidelines, an email notice will be sent. One week later another inspection will be performed. If the garden is still not in compliance, the plot will be surrendered, and all fees will be forfeited.
- Fertilizers may be used on the garden plots. Organic means to control insects and diseases should first be used as necessary. As a last resort pesticides that can be commercially purchased may be used according to manufacturer's directions and with consultation with Community Garden Manager.

- Family members and visitors are welcome to the garden site. The plot holder must agree to accompany children under sixteen as guests and understand that he/she is responsible for their actions.
- Crops and structures over eight feet are not permitted due to the shadow effect they will cast on other plots.
- Biodegradable mulch is encouraged. Examples include aged compost, leaves, straw, and hay. Cardboard, carpet mulch, stone, and sod are not allowed. Black plastic or landscape fabric is permitted but must be secured.
- Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash free. This includes a 3-foot path on the sides of your plot. Wood chips will be provided for mulching your paths.
- Maintain the plot marker in excellent condition and keep it easily visible.
- No permanent structures are allowed. All temporary structures on M-NCPPC land must have written approval of the Community Garden Manager
- Gardeners agree to use their plots exclusively for agricultural purposes. This includes a prohibition on animal husbandry and the raising of any animals. Plots may not be used for the cultivation or storage of tobacco or cannabis.
- No invasive plants. Plants like mint should be grown in containers. A list of invasive plants can be found at: <http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/>
- No littering or dumping. Gardens are a carry in and carry out facility – trash free.
- For safety and health reasons, pets, smoking, alcohol, and glass containers are not allowed.
- Containers of water should have tight fitting lids or otherwise sealed from mosquitoes.
- Harvesting another plot is only allowed with explicit permission from the plot owner.
- Any conflicts among gardeners should be referred to the Community Garden Manager. If vandalism or theft occurs, notify the Community Garden Manager immediately. Help us discourage losses by talking to unfamiliar faces.