



COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

The 13th Street Community Park & Garden strives to provide a shared space where neighbors can come together to grow, learn, and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. As a garden plot member, you are an important part of the environment and community we strive to achieve. So that everyone can garden and enjoy the space in the best manner possible, we ask that you follow and respect the following guidelines:

- ❖ The community gardens are an **organic** space, meaning no synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides can be used in or around the gardening area. Please check with your local garden store, the 13th Street Community Park & Garden website, or neighboring gardeners for organic means of dealing with gardening problems and for additional resources on organic gardening principles and practices. If you have a question as to whether a particular product or practice can be used, please contact the Garden Coordinator.
- ❖ Individual garden plots are to be used for growing vegetables and flowers for personal or family use and not for commercial sale.
- ❖ Plots are non-transferable. Unless renewed, all plots will be surrendered back to the Community Garden once a gardener's one-year plot assignment term is complete or should the gardener choose not to continue with the garden plot's use before the one-year term is complete.
- ❖ Gardeners **MUST** participate in at least **THREE (3) Beautification Days** for the 13th Street Park & Garden. These occur on the second Sunday of every month during the gardening season.
- ❖ All garden plot fees are non-refundable.
- ❖ Plots are received in their current conditions. Annual tilling and soil conditioning will not be performed by anyone other than the individual gardener. Again, soil conditioning must follow organic principles.
- ❖ Gardeners are responsible for cultivating, weeding, and watering their own plots and maintaining the surround paths. Gardeners should visit and maintain their plots once a week. If you will be out of town or on vacation please arrange to have a fellow gardener or member of your household to watch over your space.

- ❖ Plots must be cleared of all growing season debris by March 15th of each year.
- ❖ All gardens are subject to occasional inspections, to ensure that guidelines are being followed. If the garden is found to not be in compliance with the guidelines, an email notice will be sent. Two weeks 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.
- ❖ If the plot is not being actively gardened by **May 15**, the gardener will be notified and asked to relinquish his/her plot for the remainder of the growing season and the dues will be forfeited.
- ❖ Children are a wonderful addition to the garden and we encourage them. However supervision is important at all times and the adult responsible for bringing the child(ren) onto the garden and park premises assumes all liability for ensuring that child(ren) are supervised and safe.
- ❖ When watering and if other gardeners are waiting, please limit watering to 10 minutes. The gardener **MUST** be present when watering. Do not leave the water unattended. Sprinklers are not allowed. All hoses must be returned as found.
- ❖ Crops and structures over six feet are not allowed due to the shadow effect they will cast on neighbors' plots.
- ❖ Biodegradable mulch is encouraged. Examples include aged compost, leaves, straw, and hay. Carpet mulch, stone, and sod are not allowed. Black or red plastic is allowed, but must be secured.
- ❖ Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash free. This includes the mulched path next to your plot.
- ❖ No permanent structures are allowed.
- ❖ No pets are allowed in the gardening space.
- ❖ No invasive plants. Plants like mint, should be grown in containers. A list of invasive plants can be found at: <https://doee.dc.gov/page/invasive-plants-district>
- ❖ No littering or dumping. The compost bins are for plant waste only. No dumping kitchen scraps or garbage.
- ❖ No disrespectful behavior such as alcohol consumption, smoking, loud music, etc.
- ❖ No unauthorized expansion of your plot.
- ❖ No taking food from plots other than yours.

- ❖ No unauthorized barbeques or cook-outs in the park or garden area.
- ❖ The Community Garden is designated a non-smoking area.
- ❖ Gardeners who have not returned signed Indemnity and Liability Waiver Garden Plot Guidelines Acknowledgement forms and paid the annual usage fee (where applicable) by May 1st of the garden year will forfeit their plot assignment. This plot will then go to the next person on the wait list.
- ❖ Violation of these guidelines will lead to potential plot use termination and fee forfeiture. If plot-use termination occurs, gardener will be given two-weeks notice before termination of plot use and fee forfeiture.

Guidelines are subject to review and change. If changes to the guidelines occur, notification will be provided. If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please contact our Garden Coordinator or our a member of our Board of Directors.

When you have finished reading these guidelines, please sign the attached Garden Plot Guidelines Acknowledgement and return it to the Garden Coordinator. You keep the Guidelines for your records. Please do not hesitate to ask questions before signing and returning the acknowledgement form. Thank you.