

Ridgefield Park Community Garden Rules

All participants in the Ridgefield Park community gardens are required to abide by the following rules.

Purpose:

The purpose of these rules is to ensure all participating gardeners have the opportunity for a positive gardening experience. Garden plots are an asset to the community and all plots are to be used in a productive and environmentally sound manner.

Gardens:

The community gardens are Village owned property designated as park land. Gardeners are permitted to use the land at the permission of the Village.

Oversight:

The gardens are the responsibility of the Ridgefield Park Green Team. The day to day operation and oversight of the gardens shall be managed by the garden oversight committee, a subcommittee of the Green Team, either individually or as a whole.

Golden Rule:

Be a good neighbor. This means to your fellow gardeners and people who use the parks.

What we mean is you shouldn't grow or do anything in your plot which will be a problem for your neighbor. This would include use of most pesticides and herbicides. In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners shall treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors and visitors with respect and consideration. No stealing (harvesting from others' plots without authorization), verbal, online, or physical harassment is allowed. Violation of this rule will result in expulsion from the garden.

Work commitments will be set annually by the garden oversight committee of the Ridgefield Park Green Team. Current commitment is 24 hours.

Work commitments are accomplished by participation in one or more work committees. You will be assigned to a committee according to need but every effort will be made to accommodate requests for a specific committee. You will receive credit for work done for any committee and you can be assigned to more than one committee if you wish.

Gardeners may apply for an additional plot. These plots will be assigned after May 15th. Additional plots cannot be kept from year to year unless there are no applications for a plot by May 15th of the following year. An additional work requirement of 9 hours will be required.

May 15th deadline:

May 15th is the deadline for planting your plot. The whole plot does not need to be planted. You just need to be actively planting by May 15th. Plots not in the process of being planted by May 15th may be assigned to a gardener on the waiting list.

Plot maintenance:

Gardeners must maintain their plots and adjoining walkways. This includes weeding, supporting tall plants and picking vegetables so they do not rot on the ground. Gardeners at Fellowship shall be responsible for edging around their plots.

Do Not Plant List:

You are not allowed to plant anything on the NJ Invasive Species Strike Force Do Not Plant List:
www.njisst.org/documents/DoNotPlantList.pdf



In addition, the garden oversight committee will amend the strike force's list as needed. Two additions are Morning Glories and tall sunflowers. Short/dwarf sunflowers are permitted.

May plant, taking precautions:

Plastic edging must be used when planting things like mint which spread by their roots. A public mint bed will be maintained at Fellowship and McGowan for all to use

Produce:

Produce grown in the community gardens is for personal consumption and may not be sold. Excess food can be shared with family, friends, and neighbors or donated to the food pantry. Use of produce by a restaurant who is assigned the plot is not considered sale.

Facebook page:

A Facebook page is currently made available to the gardeners. It is meant for social use to share photos and gardening stories in a positive manner. It shall not be used as a forum for debate about garden rules or policies.

Good Standing:

Good Standing must be maintained to retain your plot from year to year. Good standing is achieved by properly maintaining your plot, completing your work commitment and abiding by the rules of the garden. In special cases the garden oversight committee may waive the work requirement. The Green Team may, at their discretion, deny requests to return.

Rule amendments:

These rules may be changed or amended at any time and without notice by the garden oversight committee of the Green Team or by the Green Team.

Appeals of decisions:

Appeals of decisions by the garden oversight committee may be appealed to the full Green Team. Such appeals can be done upon 15 days' notice to the Green Team and notification of all gardeners by the gardener appealing.

Additional rules:

A limited number of tools will be available in Community Garden sheds for use during non-scheduled work times. Please keep them clean.

At the end of the growing season all gardeners are responsible for cleaning their plots of all plant material, decorations, stakes, etc. leaving the plot as they found it in the spring. Some perennial crops and some annual winter hardy crops may be wintered over but must be maintained.

Meeting schedules, planned work days, important contact information, committee rosters and garden layouts will be posted in Community Garden sheds.

Volunteer time will be allotted, up to 6 hours, for attending gardening meetings.

Public beds will be maintained by gardeners with assistance from the vegetable and herb committee.

2018 Garden Oversight Committee

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