



BOXBOROUGH AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

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Flerra Meadows Community Garden Rules & Regulations

Flerra Meadows Community Garden is a 6,000 square foot organic style garden on the site of a highly used and valued parcel of Conservation land. These Rules & Regulations are administered by the Agricultural Commission and will help ensure that everyone using the garden will have a productive and enjoyable experience.

The mission of the garden is to build community, and to allow all levels of gardeners to learn and share organic, sustainable methods. Gardeners acknowledge that even when best reasonable efforts are made, pests (wild animals, insects, fungi, etc.) can visit the garden and cause destruction. This is normal and the Garden cannot correct the resulting damage. When there is damage, gardeners will let the Garden Managers know as soon as possible. Gardeners acknowledge other gardeners may be at different skill levels. All gardeners accept the risk of neighbors who are inexperienced, have unforeseen problems, or have different expectations. Garden Managers will work to help gardeners with problems with an eye toward success.

Garden Applications will be available at the Boxborough Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, and on the Town Website. A nominal fee will be charged and due with the application to cover the cost of garden expenses. This fee is not refundable unless a plot is not assigned to the applicant. Plot sizes available are listed on the application.

Plots are assigned every spring. So long as there is sufficient gardening space within Town to ensure that all Town residents desiring to garden may have a plot, gardeners from the previous season have the first choice of plots for the following year. Due to variations in plowing and staking, numbered plots may not be located in the exact same place as the previous year. Each household may not have more than one plot unless there are surplus plots available. Gardeners may not enter other plots, unless they have an explicit agreement to assist another gardener (vacation care, mutual cooperation, etc.).

General Requirements

1. Gardeners must follow all local, state, and federal laws, the Conservation Commission's Regulations for the Use of Flerra Meadows, and the Commission's Conservation Lands Regulations. Gardeners agree to hold the Town of Boxborough harmless for any and all liability that may be incurred by themselves or third parties as a result of the use of the premises. The gardener accepts the risk of loss.
2. Failure to comply with these Rules & Regulations and/or discourteous behavior may result in the loss of gardening privileges, including loss of the assigned plot. Disputes may be brought to the Agricultural Commission to be mediated.

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3. The public is permitted on the paths within and accessing the garden. The public is not permitted within garden plots without the invitation of the gardener. The garden area is open when Flerra Meadows is open, seven days a week.
4. Garden plots are temporary fixtures. The Town of Boxborough and the Conservation Commission reserve the right to relocate or remove the garden or any plots at the end of the season.
5. Gardeners are responsible for any children and pets they bring.
6. Gardeners will park in designated parking areas and not drive vehicles into the garden. Materials will be hand carried into the garden by using the access path through the woods. Only the Garden Managers may keep one small wagon at the garden for use by all gardeners to transport water and other garden materials.
7. The mission of the garden is to build community, and to allow gardeners of all skill levels to learn and share organic, sustainable methods. Gardeners acknowledge that even when best reasonable efforts are made, pests (wild animals, insects, fungi, etc.) can visit the garden and cause destruction. This is normal, and the garden cannot correct resulting damage. When there is damage, gardeners will let the Garden Managers know as soon as possible. All gardeners accept the risk of neighboring gardeners who are inexperienced, have unforeseen problems, or have different expectations. The Garden Managers will work to help gardeners with problems with an eye toward encouraging them to succeed. Gardeners may not enter other plots, unless they have an explicit agreement to assist another gardener (vacation care, mutual cooperation, etc.). All communications with other gardeners and its managers must be conducted with courtesy.

Gardening Requirements

1. The Community Garden shall be treated organically. Gardeners may not use herbicides on or around the garden. The use of insecticides and fungicide made from synthetic chemical materials are prohibited. Gardeners may use composted manure and other materials approved for organic use. No materials of any type shall be applied in a manner that affects adjacent garden areas. Organic traps for slugs are allowed.
2. By June 1st, if a reserved plot does not show clear evidence of active gardening, the plot may be reassigned. Abandoned plots will be reassigned and treated as necessary.
3. By the end of October, each gardener must clear all corner stakes, fencing, trellises, string, and all inorganic material. Any vines or large plants shall be chopped so a cover crop can be planted. Gardeners who fail to prepare their plots may be subject to a non-refundable clean up fee.
4. No motorized equipment shall be used in the garden before 9:00 AM on any day, except 10:00 AM on Sundays. Amplified sound is not permitted.
5. No planting of invasive plants. Please refer to a web link on the Agricultural Commission page on the Town Website for a list of invasive plants. Mint plants should be planted in pots to avoid taking over.

6. No permanent fixtures may be installed in a plot. Temporary seasonal fences may be installed. Fences shall be installed in a manner that will not trap birds or insects; for instance, fencing will not be doubled over. Fencing material shall be black, earth-tone, or natural color to reduce visibility. Supports used by gardeners for fencing or vegetation will be traditional cages, stakes, strings, and ties. Installed supports may not exceed 60 inches in height. Stakes must be green painted metal or made of wood or wood type products in a natural or earth-tone color.
7. Any mulching material must be either biodegradable or removable black or green material. If it is not biodegradable, the material must be removed in its entirety by the end of the season.
8. Gardeners must keep all tools and gardening supplies within their assigned garden plots. Each gardener is responsible for keeping the aisle and area surrounding their plot free and clean of weeds, trash, and tools.
9. Gardeners shall securely close the gate when leaving the garden.
10. Water comes from the point well with backup water from the pond. Gardeners may store a maximum of two hand carried white, black, green, or brown water buckets on their plot. All water collection/storage containers must be capped when containing water to prevent increasing the mosquito population.
11. Any debris and trash, other than compost materials, will be carried out at the end of the day. Personal items, other than gardening hand tools and water buckets to be stored on the plot, will be removed at the end of the day.
12. A compost pile (with or without a container) shall be placed near the bushes by the access path, as much as possible out of sight of the neighbors.
13. Rocks and stones cleared from the garden may be placed in the stone piles in the woods along the access path.
14. Gardeners are expected to help the Garden Managers with overall garden chores.