

**COMMUNITY GARDENS
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

August 27, 2022

- Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation provides the opportunity to garden on County property. Please respect the privilege.
- Safety first. It's number One.
- Gardening is the number one hobby in America. Have a great time but you are in a publicly shared space and please respect your neighbors.
- We all know Covid is still around. Please be safe and respect others.
- Please note due to heavy demand, new gardeners or existing gardeners that request an available plot are limited to one (1) plot total. If you are an existing gardener and have two plots we will grandfather you in. We would appreciate, however, if you would relinquish one of your plots to a new gardener.
- Be aware you are in nature. Bees, yellow jackets, snakes, vermin can be around. Imperative to practice good hygiene in your plot to reduce chances of bad things happening.
- You need to keep your plot in good shape. Especially true in the summer. More details below.
- The County does not charge for a plot. However, many of our Community Gardens internally charge a nominal and voluntary fee. The money helps finance tools, wheelbarrows, hoses, etc. Please contribute if you can.

- Your Garden Captain is a volunteer! Respect their time and effort please as they only make the experience better for the Community of Gardeners. So please comply with these rules.
- **Gardeners' Responsibilities**
- **Respect your fellow gardeners.** Safety First. Be Polite to each other. Abusive behavior toward others, stealing produce, vandalism, etc. will result in expulsion from the Garden.
- Gardeners are responsible for upkeep of everything inside of fence-includes weed control, and the adjacent pathways' maintenance. This means keeping your paths weed-free. Excludes any structural repairs like broken water line, County owned fence repair, etc.
- Make sure you lock the gate and turn the water off. This includes shutting off at your hose valve please. The water bill Park and Rec pays for all the 21 Community Gardens is not inexpensive. First step in chaos is when the gate is left open. Please don't forget to close and lock all gates.
- Water is shut down for the winter and reactivated in the spring. Usually November shut-off, April turn-on.
- No ornamental trees or shrubs are to be planted within your garden. This restriction includes:
Fruit Trees, including Fig Trees. Cannot shade out someone else's plot or inhibit the pathways.
Roses allowed ONLY if small growing and not an intrusion to someone else's Garden.
Blueberries, Blackberries, Raspberries and other fruit shrubbery allowed ONLY if not an intrusion on someone else's Garden.
Please consult your Garden Captain if any questions.
Violation of any of the above will result in expulsion.
- Gardeners are allowed to install their own fencing provided the posts are not installed using concrete. Upon decision to leave gardening at the Community Garden, fencing and other materials must be completely removed.
- **In regard to fencing-this is important!** The top of stakes must be covered with some material such as tennis balls, pipe insulation, etc. to prevent any impaling of a person if

an accident occurs. A serious injury occurred at a Garden, not ours, in 2020, that almost resulted in the death of the individual.

Another idea would be insert over the top of the stake PVC pipe, resulting in a stake 4' and higher. Please attend to this request.

- Gardeners are responsible for continuous clean-up of their garden plot.
- Gardeners are solely responsible for providing their own plants and fertilizers.
- Pesticides/Herbicides-We need pollinators. Any pesticides used in the Garden must be labelled for edible crops. Nothing beyond a "Caution" signal word is to be used.
- It is much better to practice good habits such as early weeding and environmentally friendly soap-type sprays.
- No bee hives allowed as this could be a great danger to a person who is allergic to bees.
- Trash In-Trash Out. Park and Recreation provides trash bags and pick-up. Please bag up your trash. We will come get it.
- Composting. No open composting either inside or outside the fence. Open composting encourages mice, rats, and other undesirables. Compost bins have to be above ground with the ability to close tightly.
- Garden Produce cannot be used for commercial use. You cannot grow for selling.
- PROHIBITED: Smoking/Vaping/Alcohol/Drugs.
- Children Under 16 must have adult supervision at all times.
- No pets allowed except service dogs or other bonafide therapeutic animals. Please clean up after your service dog debris-bag it and remove off site.
- **Cleanliness:** If a garden, or the paths adjacent to your garden, are deemed excessively weedy, the Garden Captain or Park and Recreation will inform that gardener and give them two (2) weeks to repair. If by that time the garden plot is still unkempt, there is a great chance the gardener will have their privilege in the Community Garden revoked. If you plan to be away for any length of time, you still need to comply with this rule. Contact your Garden Captain with plenty of lead time and we will see if help can be provided.
- See picture below- not appropriate.

Note: Summertime seems to be the worst time for Gardeners to neglect their garden. Still, the above policy is in force all year round.



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- Complaints/issues go the Garden Captain first. Park and Recreation if needed will make the final decision.

Violations of any of these rules can result in revocation of garden plot(s).

Park and Recreation Responsibilities:

- Provide Water, Compost, Mulch. Compost and mulch is provided once a year in the spring. If a second request is made, Park and Recreation will consider it.
- Water will be turned on early April and turned off in November each year. Please be judicious as the total water bill for the 21 Community Gardens is high.
- Will maintain the outer fence and the weeds at base of fence line.

- For those Community Gardens that have no tool shed, Park and Recreation may provide a tool box only to store your tools. Construction trash bags will be provided for “Trash Out.” You are welcome to provide paper trash bags.
- Crushed concrete for pathways will be provided per request. It will be the Gardeners’ responsibility to install.
- Park and Recreation will do no tilling or other plots’ preparation.
- Park and Recreation will not provide any plants or seeds.

Garden Captain’s Responsibilities:

- Garden Captains to arrange and lead a spring and fall clean-up of whole of area inside of fence.
- Garden Captains to be “First Responder” for complaints/issues. The GC will copy any e-mails to current P and R representative.
- Garden Captains to inform gardener if their plot(s) is excessively weedy. Two weeks notice will then be given to the gardener to clean the plot (s) of undesirables. Copy P and R on any e-mails please.
- Have a good time and thank you for your leadership!