

# Mount Laurel Township Community Gardens

## I. PLOTS (Rentals, Service Hours, Rules, Maintenance and Forfeiture)

### A. RENTALS (The location of each plot will be specific on the site map)

Full Plot (20' x 20') = \$40.00

Half Plot (20' x 10') = \$20.00

Quarter Plot (10' x 10') = \$10.00

The first name to appear on the Community Gardens application signed at the time of rental is considered the "Primary Gardener". All gardeners on the application are collectively and severally bound by the Site Rules. Gardeners on multiple gardener applications agree that the first name on the application form is the designated contact for all business correspondence from the Township regarding the garden plot. Any new gardener must be added to the application before being allowed to garden the plot.

No more than 3 regular plots may be rented by any individual or group. Only one "Able Gardening" plot may be rented by any individual or group. Additional plots may be rented on the recommendation of the Community Gardens Coordinator.

Plots will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. The Community Gardens Coordinator will maintain a "waiting list" for interested individuals/groups who will be notified if/when a plot becomes available for rent.

Mandatory orientation sessions for all gardeners with plots will be held at the beginning of the season to provide an opportunity to meet your gardening "neighbors", review the site rules, discuss approved fertilizers and pest management materials, hours of operation, volunteer service events calendar, ect.

### B. VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

To keep the garden area well-maintained and available for interested gardeners, the Community Gardens may hold volunteer service events during the year. Service events are NOT required but gardeners are encouraged to participate at these events. Your help is greatly appreciated!

### C. RULES

1. The Community Gardens area is open from 7:00 AM to Dusk, year-round.
2. No illegal plants, trees, cacti, castor beans (or other poisonous plants) may be planted.
3. Diseased and pest-ridden plants must be removed from the site or placed in the dumpster to prevent spreading.
4. Smoking and chewing tobacco is prohibited. Tobacco carries the mosaic virus which is deadly to some plants.
5. No permanent structures may be placed on the plot. Temporary structures should not shade a neighbor's plot without the approval of that neighbor.
6. Organic nutrients and pest controls are encouraged for use in the garden. When in doubt about a product or method, check with the Burlington County Master Gardener Helpline (609-265-5050), Community Gardens Coordinator, or a fellow gardener.
7. Gardeners are responsible for bringing their own tools, hoses and other gardening materials to the site. Some "community" tools/equipment may be provided, but gardeners should not rely on their availability.
8. To use the chemically treated wood (i.e. wolmanized wood) is not allowed. These products contain arsenic, hexavalent chromium and other toxic substances, which may leach into the soil.

9. Tools should be used only for the purpose for which they were intended. "Community" tools should be returned clean to their proper place. Only gardeners over 14 years of age are allowed to use power tools.
10. The community shed is for tool storage only. Pesticides and chemicals of any kind are not allowed to be stored in the community shed. The Township is not responsible for lost or stolen tools that are kept in the shed.
11. Gardeners must be present on-site when watering their plots. Unattended watering is not allowed. Gardeners using sprinklers or hoses should take into account wind and temperatures to ensure as little waste as possible.
12. Do not leave vehicles and tools unattended on stone drive.
13. Pets must be restrained on leashes at all times.
14. Each gardener is responsible for disposal of trash. Do not place any trash in the common areas or roadways. Only organic, compostable material is to be placed in the composting area. No trash from off the property may be placed in the dumpster.
15. No alcohol or illegal substances may be consumed on the entire site.
16. No gardener may:
  - (a) Use a sign or name with reference to Mount Laurel Community Gardens in conjunction with for-profit sale of produce or flowers in any venue (without the express written permission of the Township of Mount Laurel).
  - (b) Use of the property at Mount Laurel Community Gardens in conjunction with for-profit sale of produce or flowers.
17. This is a community garden. Other gardeners are out neighbors. Any disagreements should be resolved using pleasant language and a reasonable problem solving approach. There shall be no harassment, threats, verbal abuse or acts of violence by any person against any other person. Such acts should be reported to the Community Gardens Coordinator. If necessary, proper authorities will be called. Any person committing such acts may be asked to forfeit his/her gardening plot(s).
18. Corn should not be planted as it increases the risk of potential garden pests and casts shadows on neighboring plots.
19. At the end of the season, gardeners are responsible for removing all personal items and preparing their plot for winter.
20. If gardener has been in compliance during the season, the gardener will be offered the use of the same plot the following year, pending receipt of an updated application and fees.

#### **D. MAINTENANCE AND FORFEITURE**

Plot maintenance is defined as regular attention to and removal of weeds, grasses and other invasive plants and regular harvesting.

1. When a garden is out of compliance, the Community Gardens Coordinator will flag the garden and send written notice to the address on file to bring it into compliance within 14 days. Non-compliance will result in forfeiture.
2. A garden will be considered an abandoned based on the following:
  - (a) No evidence of plot maintenance in the preceding 30 days; and
  - (b) Telephone is disconnected or calls are not returned within 7 days; and
  - (c) E-mail is not answered within a 7 day periods, or U.S. Mail directed to the address on file is not answered within 14 days of mailing.

**The plot may then be re-rented.**

## **II. COMMON AREAS**

The Common Areas include the composting areas within the Community Garden's space, storage areas, permanent planting areas surrounding the plots, the seating areas and ornamental garden(s).

All of the gardeners have responsibility for maintaining the common areas.

## **III. PARKING**

Park only in the areas identified for parking. The handicap accessible parking space is only to be used by gardeners renting gardening space in the "able gardening" section.

## **IV. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

- A.** Please drive slowly and be aware of pedestrians and other gardeners while driving on the stone lanes within the community gardens area.
- B.** The property is open from 7:00 AM to Dusk, year-round. Gardening activities may occur only during those time. Irrigation will generally be activated in April and deactivated in November.
- C.** The gate and any other garden facilities are to remain locked from Dusk to 7:00 AM.
- D.** All children under 12 must be under adult supervision at all times.
- E.** BY SIGNING THE COMMUNITY GARDENS APPLICATION, YOU, THE APPLICANT/GARDENER, AGREE TO ABIDE BY AND BE BOUND BY THE RULES ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 19, 2011 BY THE MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL, AND TO INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS AND DEFEND THE TOWNSHIP, ITS EMPLOYEES, ASSIGNS, LESSEES, CONTRACTORS AND AGENTS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS OR ACTIONS OF WHATEVER KIND, FOR ANY PERSONAL OR OTHER TYPE OF INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, THEFT, AND/OR ANY OTHER LOSS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING ATTORNEY'S FEES AND EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE DEFENSE OF ANY SUCH SHIUT OT ACTIONS THAT ARE BROUGHT AGAINST THE TOWNSHIP, ITS EMPLOYEES, ASIGNS, LESSESS, CONTRACTORS AND AGENTS, RESULTING FROM OR ARISING FROM ACTIONS OR ACTIVITES ENGAGED IN BY APPLICANT/GARDENER, RELATING TO USE OF THE COMMUNITY GARDENS AND/OR HIS/HER FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND/OR ASSIGNS.

## **V. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Site Rules can be made subject to adoption by the Mount Laurel Township Council.