

Community Garden at Marsh Sanctuary 2023 Procedures and Rules for Gardeners

Basic Reminders

- **THE GARDEN IS TO BE KEPT LOCKED AT ALL TIMES WHEN GARDENERS ARE NOT PRESENT. Please make sure the lock is in place when you leave.**
- The combination to the lock changes every year; the Garden Committee sends the password in the registration email.
- You will be emailed the garden and shed lock combinations upon receipt of your registration.

Membership and Rates

- Your rental fee (\$60) will be used by Marsh to prepare and maintain the property and administrate the garden.
- Residents of the towns of Mt. Kisco, Bedford & New Castle will be given priority to rent plots on a first-come first-served basis up until the end of May at which point registration opens to other individuals who are residents of Westchester County. If all plots have been filled, additional prospective renters will be placed on a waiting list.

Plots

- Gardeners may not give away or sublet their plots. If you no longer wish to garden or you are moving out of the area, please contact our communications to return your plot to the pool so it may be offered to the next on the waiting list.
- Garden plot markers are to remain stationary.
- These garden plots are temporary fixtures. Marsh reserves the right to redesign or relocate plots at the end of the season.

****Marsh Sanctuary will inspect the garden plots regularly and notify gardeners if their plot is not in compliance with these rules. The gardener will be instructed to take corrective action. Repeated offenses or lack of corrective action within three weeks of the notification will result in revocation of gardening privileges.***

Building Your Garden

- Gardeners are permitted to build raised beds with the **approval from Marsh Sanctuary prior to building**, provided they follow the guidelines set by Marsh. They become the property of the Garden if the gardener relinquishes his/her plot.
- Gardeners **are** permitted to fence their plots as protection against small animals. See other plots and **ask questions** before fencing your plot. All fencing is subject to approval by Marsh Sanctuary. Plots may not be bordered by **bricks, plastic**, or any other materials other than natural stones or logs.
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What to Plant in the Garden

- Vegetables, herbs, flowers and small fruit plants for home consumption and donation are appropriate. No large structures, trees, or large collection of non-plant items are allowed. Crops must be legal and for personal use or donation. Highly invasive plants or perennial plants (shrubs, trees, vines, etc.) are not permitted. Please do not plant or encourage anything you are not willing to control.
- Please do not plant anything too tall that it will obscure the sun from surrounding plots.

Maintaining Your Garden

- Gardens should be maintained from the beginning of the season until the end. **There should be some planting done by the end of May.**
- **Please remember this is an organic garden.**
 - ***Chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are forbidden. Organic soil amendments and pest remedies, such as: manure, compost, marigolds etc., may be used instead.***
 - ***The internet is a valuable tool to learn about methods of plant disease and pest remedies. In an organic gardening this is to be expected. Please be on the lookout for diseased plants and pests. Inform gardeners if you observe anything that is out of the ordinary.***
- **Gardeners are also responsible for keeping their plots and the surrounding pathways weeded and well-tended.**
- Gardeners who are unable to maintain their plots themselves due to temporary causes (such as illness or travel) **must find someone to do it on their behalf.**
- Sprinklers may not be used; hand watering only. Gardeners may bring watering heads to use on hoses. Turn off all spigots before leaving the garden.
- If ripe produce is not being harvested, we may harvest and donate it.
- You may leave tools and related gardening equipment at your garden plot site.
- **You may borrow any tools we have stored in the garden shed. We are now sharing the shed with the Wilding School. We can no longer use the shed for personal storage.**

PLEASE NOTE: Members of the Marsh Sanctuary will inspect the garden plots regularly and notify gardeners if their plot is not in compliance with these rules. The gardener will be instructed to take corrective action. Repeated offenses or lack of corrective action within three weeks of the notification will result in revocation of gardening privileges.

Watering

- Watering is to be done when the gardener is present, and water conservation must be practiced. Turn off all faucets before leaving the garden. Coil the hoses neatly. Do not water another gardener's plot unless you have permission.
- Water faucets are provided within the proximity of each garden plot. Do not coil the hoses too tightly or they will break. Take care when using a sprayer or washing vegetables that you do not spray another garden.
- *Please keep in mind that in the event that water may be temporarily unavailable, you may need to carry water from your homes.*

Vacating Your Plot

- Please remove all plants, debris, stakes, fencing, plastic, tools, etc., from the plots prior to the close of the gardening season. If remaining materials must be removed by MCG volunteers, you will forfeit your security deposit.
- If you are returning, you may store all round tomato cages in your plot.
- Harvesting must be completed and plots must be free of materials by November 27th.

Other Considerations

- Do not have anything delivered to the garden area unless you are there to receive it and place it on your plot.
- Children are encouraged to garden with their parents, but they must stay on the paths of their assigned garden without going through the plots of other gardeners.
- Pets are allowed in Marsh Sanctuary on leashes, and no pets are allowed within the fencing of the Community Garden.
- One of the main goals in community gardening is to work together or next to each other in relative harmony. Please be courteous in all interactions, and work to resolve any disagreements.
- Gardeners who are unable to maintain their plots themselves due to temporary causes (such as illness or travel) must find someone to do it on their behalf. Each gardener is responsible for the actions and activities of their guests or caretakers. Caretakers must be knowledgeable of all garden rules and regulations and must follow them.
- While on the community garden property, all town and police rules must be obeyed at all times.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages and use of cigarettes is forbidden.
- Commercial activity is forbidden.
- No public events will be held without permission from Marsh Sanctuary.
- Removal of plants or equipment from any plot other than one's own without permission from renter is not allowed.

Structures

- Do not build a structure or plant anything that will shade or interfere with adjacent garden plots.
- Building berms or channeling water from your plot is not allowed if it adversely affects neighboring plots.
- Chairs, benches, compost bins, smaller garden tools, trellises, pots, birdbaths, bird feeders, and small decorative objects are okay as long as they are in good taste determined at the discretion of the Marsh Sanctuary

Parking

- Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only. You may not park along Sarles Lane or along the Sanctuary driveway.
- No overnight parking allowed on premises.

Communication

- For registration concerns, please email Jim Cottingham at marshgar14@gmail.com
- For garden concerns, contact John Ohannes at fishingjohn@aol.com (917) 428-6408 or Mike Holden at mholden9300@gmail.com

It is your responsibility to be sure that the Marsh Garden Registrar has your current email address, street address, and telephone number, when available. Any correspondence mailed to the address currently on file will be considered delivered. The gardener must inform a committee member of any changes.

Please check your email periodically for notices. That is an expedient method of communication.

Fees

- The fee for renting a plot for a season is \$60.
- A second plot may be available for an additional \$30.00 fee.

Coronavirus

- Please observe all current regulations in place by the State of New York concerning proper social distancing.