

# 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. Garden plot usage is free-of-charge, however, gardeners are expected to fully participate in the upkeep and maintenance of the gardens, not just their assigned plot.

In addition to maintaining and improving the gardens, the Community Garden maintains the food pantry garden which helps supply the village's food pantry run by St. Francis. This is an important give back to the community and is a positive example for other groups using parks in the village.

## **Oversight:**

The gardens are the responsibility of the Commissioner of Public Works. The day-to-day operation and oversight of the gardens shall be managed by the garden oversight committee.

## **Golden Rule:**

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

You should not grow or do anything in your plot which will be a problem for your neighbor. In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners shall treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and park visitors with respect and consideration. No stealing—such as harvesting from others' plots without authorization and no verbal, online, or physical harassment is allowed. Violations of this rule may result in expulsion from the garden.

Work commitments will be set annually by the Community Garden Oversight Committee.

Current commitments for each gardener include:

Participate in 6 Work Sessions per season

Sign up and do 1 repeatable task on the Task List or Host a Social Event

Members joining mid-season shall be required to fulfill two work sessions within the first two months of joining and complete 5 work sessions by October.

At the discretion of the Garden Oversight Committee, some jobs may replace some work commitments.

## Ridgefield Park Community Garden Rules

**McGowan Park Gardeners:** *Gardeners may apply for more than one plot. The additional plot may be kept from year to year unless there is a high demand from new applicants and a shortage of garden plots. Any additional plots beyond 2 cannot be kept from year to year unless there are no applications for a plot by May 1st of the following year.*

**Fellowship Park:** *Gardeners may apply for an additional plot. These plots will be assigned after May 1. Additional plots cannot be kept from year to year unless there are no applications for a plot by May 1.*

### **May 15 deadline:**

May 15 is the deadline for planting your plot. The whole plot does not need to be planted, however, there needs to be active planting by May 15. Unplanted plots by May 15 may be reassigned.

### **Plot maintenance:**

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

### **Chemical use in the gardens:**

The use synthetic pesticides and herbicides are prohibited. Only organic and composted matter may be used in the plots. Natural methods of pest control are allowed.

### **Do Not Plant List:**

You are not allowed to plant anything on the NJ Invasive Species Strike Force *Do Not Plant List*:

[https://www.fohvos.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Strike\\_Team\\_Do\\_Not\\_Plant\\_List\\_2021\\_05\\_21.pdf](https://www.fohvos.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Strike_Team_Do_Not_Plant_List_2021_05_21.pdf)

In addition, the garden oversight committee will amend the Strike Force list as needed.

*Examples include morning glories and mint.*

### **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 a plot is not considered sale.

**Public beds:** Each garden has an outer surround of plots with lattice backs. These are considered the public plots. It is the responsibility of the gardeners to plant and maintain these public plots with vegetables and herbs to donate to the residents of the village.

### **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.

## Ridgefield Park Community Garden Rules

### **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 community garden oversight committee may waive the work requirement. The Commissioner of Public Works, upon the recommendation of the oversight committee, may at his discretion, deny requests to return. If you are denied a plot, you may reapply for the following season.

### **Rule amendments:**

These rules may be changed or amended at any time and without notice by the garden oversight committee, with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Works.

### **Appeals of decisions:**

Decisions of the garden oversight committee may be appealed to the Commissioner of Public Works.

### **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. No personal items shall be stored in the sheds.
- 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.
- Rules, meeting schedules, work sessions, and garden layouts will be posted on Facebook and in the shed at both gardens.
- The garden email address is [CommunityGarden@RidgefieldPark.org](mailto:CommunityGarden@RidgefieldPark.org) and is monitored by the garden oversight committee. Please direct all questions/concerns to this address