



Borough of Island Heights

Community Garden Agreement (2021)

Eligibility

1. Garden Beds are available with the completion of an application to the Borough Administrative Office.
2. To be eligible for a Garden Bed Rental, the applicant must be a Resident or Property Owner in the Borough of Island Heights and Eighteen (18) Years of Age or older.
3. Gardeners must agree to abide by the Community Garden Agreement that is signed by gardeners prior to the start of each gardening season (year).

Community Garden Governance

1. Gardeners shall select from their ranks up to four gardeners to serve on the Community Garden Advisory Committee who shall be approved by the Mayor and Council via Resolution.
2. The Community Garden Advisory Committee shall work together with all gardeners to assure that the garden operates smoothly and that gardening beds are kept orderly and the rules of the community garden are being followed.
3. Gardeners shall not plant anything that is unlawful to grow in the State of New Jersey.

Communication and Courtesy

1. Community Gardening requires working together and next to each other in harmony. Please be courteous in all interactions, and work together to keep the garden a secure and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize in a neighborly manner.
2. In the spirit of respect and cooperation, all gardeners shall treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and visitors with respect and consideration. Harvesting from others beds is not permitted.
3. Gardeners should avoid entering beds being used by other gardeners. Please do not use or take anything from the garden that is not yours.

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4. It is recommended that you not leave gardening tools in your bed, anything left is at your own risk.
5. Recognizing that many people seek the peace and quiet that gardening in nature provides, please be respectful of fellow gardeners desire for quiet time.

Garden Bed Maintenance

1. The garden area is open dawn until dusk, seven days a week (March 15 – November 15).
2. Upon payment of the Community Garden Bed Rental Fee, gardeners will receive a key for the locks on each access gate. If a gardener's key is lost, replacement keys will be available from the Borough upon payment of a \$5.00 fee.
3. Visitors to the garden are only permitted if accompanied by a gardener.
4. Gardeners must comply with all applicable Federal and State Laws, Local Ordinances and Executive Orders.
5. Please lock the Garden Gates upon departure if the garden area is clear of other gardeners.
6. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden bed. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener.
7. Gardeners must demonstrate that they are tending their beds by May 15 of each year or their bed may be forfeited and assigned to another gardener.
8. Temporary structures in beds are limited to a height of 6' and are to be removed upon relinquishment of the bed. No tools or ornaments are to be placed on the perimeter fence.
9. Bed corners are clearly marked with stakes and numbers; these are not to be removed.
10. Gardeners should consider the mature height and spread of their plantings. Please do not plant spreading plants close to the bed's boundary such that they impede walking along the paths. Consider growing up rather than out by using trellises, stakes, cages etc.

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11. Please do not place plants where they will shade your neighbor's bed when they reach mature height.
12. Individual fencing of beds is allowed but it must be made of chicken wire or other open mesh materials that allow light transmission. Keep fences and structures under 6' in height. Fencing must go on the inside of the officially marked bed boundaries.
13. Families with children and organized groups of children, such as Scouts, are encouraged to use the garden to learn about the joys of gardening, to observe the wonder of nature changing a seed or seedling as it grows to maturity and produces food and to sample how great organically grown fresh food tastes.
14. By November 1st garden beds are to be cleared of all decorative items, tools and plant debris.
15. Garden bed renewals will begin each December with enrollment and payment required by March 1st of the new gardening season. Gardeners who fail to renew by signing the Gardening Agreement and paying the Bed Rental Fee by March 1st of each year will forfeit their bed.

Common Area and Path Maintenance

1. Gardeners are required to keep the paths adjacent to their beds free of weeds and to apply wood chips as needed.
2. Wood chips are only to be used on paths; no wood chips are to be used in garden beds.
3. Please keep the paths clear for other gardeners.
4. All gardeners are asked to volunteer their time to help in maintaining the garden paths and common areas. Two hours of volunteer time per season by each gardener is suggested.

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Watering

1. It is suggested that beds be covered with leaves, hay/straw, or clean grass clippings from untreated lawns to reduce water evaporation.
2. Please conserve the use of water by using hand held watering devices and shutting off the hose spigot when watering is completed. No sprinklers, soaker hoses or drip systems are permitted.
3. Please return hoses as neatly as you can after each use.

Organic Gardening

1. The use of non-organic pesticides is prohibited, please do not apply chemical pesticides in the garden. If necessary, you are encouraged to use insecticidal soap or other organic measures to control insects, such as, picking off insects and disposing of them in soapy water or alcohol.
2. Please use only Organic Materials Research Institute (OMRI) approved products which is indicated on the label of all approved products.
3. Building raised beds is at the option of the gardener. Do not use treated lumber for constructing raised beds.

Trash and Weed Disposal

1. Please dispose of organic materials in the designated compost area.
2. Trash and litter must be removed from the garden site by gardeners, carry in – carry out is the rule.

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Affirmation and Release

I understand that The Borough of Island Heights permits usage of community garden beds for gardening purposes only and maintains all other rights including the right to full access of all plots at all times, and if necessary may deny any individuals access to the community garden site for the safety and welfare of others.

I understand that The Borough of Island Heights assumes no liability for injury, damage, theft, or loss of property belonging to garden users. I hereby assume the risk of accidental injury to myself, users of, and visitors to my garden bed. I hereby waive any liability from accidental injury resulting from participation in program or garden activities and waive any liability claims against The Borough of Island Heights, Community Garden Volunteers or any other persons or entities assisting in the community garden in any way.

I agree to work cooperatively with other gardeners and the Members of the Community Garden Advisory Committee listed below to assure that the Community Garden and my garden bed are properly maintained and that the rules established for the safe and efficient operation of the Community Garden are followed by me and any guests who I bring to the Community Garden.

Community Garden Advisory Committee Members (2021)

Lucy Scheer - 732-600-5934 - scheerlucy@gmail.com

Mary Judge - 732-644-7018 - mfjudge@hotmail.com

Kathy Ballas - 908-464-6919 - kathyballas@yahoo.com

Judy Caldwell - 973-204-3884 - jcaldwellpool@gmail.com

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Community Garden Agreement Signature Page

I understand and agree to abide by the terms of the Community Garden Agreement:

Name of Gardener (print) _____

Street Address _____

PO Box _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Name of Co-Gardener (if applicable) _____

Email Address _____

Signature of Gardener

Date

Signature of Co-Gardener (if applicable)

Date