

Brooklyn Community Garden Rules & Guidelines for Membership

Garden Mission Statement: *“Nurturing self-reliance and building community across generations.”*

The Brooklyn Community Garden (BCG) provides a space for community members to cultivate fresh produce, foster environmental sustainability, and build connections with neighbors. Our mission encourages education, health, and community engagement through gardening.

The Brooklyn Community Garden is overseen by the Brooklyn Community Garden Advisory Committee and The City of Hendersonville. The use of this land is a privilege, and maintaining the garden grounds is essential to continue enjoying this privilege. The BCG Advisory Committee reserves the right to modify these guidelines and/or revoke gardening privileges for any violations.

Membership, and Volunteer Requirements

- Garden membership is guaranteed for a one year time frame (December to December).
- A signed agreement must be submitted by the end of the required garden onboarding. Failure to sign up for an onboarding meeting without notifying Staff Liaison or the Brooklyn Community Garden Advisory Committee Members for an alternate date may result in garden plot being reassigned to another member.
- Each garden member must contribute a minimum of 35 volunteer hours annually. This requirement can be fulfilled through a proxy, organization, or group of volunteers. Garden members are required to work 1 workday per month. If members are unable to attend this then they must make up the hours at the next workday.
- Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to community residents and returning members in good standing.
- Only one plot per household is permitted.
- If privileges are revoked due to non-compliance, plots will be forfeited.
- There is a suggested membership fee of \$25 dollars that will sustain garden maintenance. Please contact the advisory committee if you would like to pay this membership fee.

*****Produce from communal plots will be distributed among the gardeners tending to those beds**

Garden Protocol

- The gardening season runs from May 15th to December 21st (winter solstice).
- Gardeners must plant their plots by June 30th.
- Respectful and cooperative behavior is expected at all times.
- No alcohol consumption, smoking, or loud music is permitted.
- Harvest only from your assigned plot unless given permission by another gardener.
- If you will be absent for an extended period, notify the Advisory Committee.
- Children must be supervised at all times (below the age of 18).
- No pets are allowed in the garden.
- Garden gate codes or keys are for members only and must not be shared.
- Community organizations must maintain a 1-10 ratio whereas one staff must be present for every ten persons present from their respective organizations.

Gardening Practices

- Only organic gardening methods are allowed. No chemical herbicides or pesticides may be used.
- Plots must be kept weed-free and maintained regularly.
- Tall plants or trellises must not shade neighboring plots.
- Invasive species such as mint and comfrey must be planted in containers.
- All plots must be cleared and prepped for winter by December 1st
- Any gardener who does not maintain their plot will receive a warning. Failure to comply may result in loss of gardening privileges.

Maintenance and Cleanliness

- Tools and materials must be stored properly after use.
- Pathways must be kept clear of obstacles.
- Organic waste should be composted according to posted guidelines.
- Diseased plants must be removed and disposed of properly.
- Water conservation practices must be followed; refill barrels if using community water.
- Gardeners must participate in at least two scheduled maintenance workdays per season.

Security and Access

- The garden is open from sunrise to sunset.
- Members must ensure gates are properly locked upon leaving.
- If you are the last to leave, verify that all tools are secured, water is turned off, and the entrance is locked.
- Any security concerns should be reported immediately to the Advisory Committee.

Health and Safety

- Gardeners should stay hydrated and wear appropriate sun protection.
- Use caution on uneven surfaces.
- Report any injuries or safety hazards to the Advisory Committee.
- In case of an emergency, call 911 and notify a committee member.

Administration and Communication

- Communication will be conducted primarily via email. Members without email access should arrange alternative communication methods with the Advisory Committee.
- Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Advisory Committee at Tae Brown - tae.rashaud.brown@gmail.com (Chair) or Julia Heimer - juliaheimer1234@gmail.com (Vice Chair)

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the Brooklyn Community Garden Rules and Guidelines.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Garden plot number (if assigned): _____