

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Community Garden Plot Guidelines

Individual garden plots are to be used for growing vegetables and flowers for family use and not for commercial sales. Plots are limited to 1 per person and a maximum of 2 per household.

Hours of operation: Dawn to dusk.

Plots are non-transferable. All plots will be surrendered back to the Department of Parks & Recreation. Fees are non-refundable. Plots are received in the current conditions. Annual tilling by M-NCPPC will not be performed. This will be the responsibility of the gardener of each individual plot. A two week priority window will be available for existing active permit holders to book their plot each season.

Gardeners should visit and maintain their plots at least once a week. Gardeners are responsible for cultivating, weeding, and watering their own plots and maintaining the surrounding paths. If you will be out of town or on vacation please arrange to have a fellow gardener watch over your space.

Plots must be in a cultivated state by June 1st and cleared of all summer/fall debris by December 15th. After purchase, gardeners will have access to their plots between March 1st and December 15th of that year.

Plots that are not being actively used by July 15th will be forfeited and fees will be surrendered.

All gardens are subject to occasional inspections. If the garden is not in compliance with the guidelines, an email notice will be sent. Two weeks later another inspection will be performed. If the garden is still not in compliance, the plot will be surrendered and all fees will be forfeited.

Fertilizers may be used on the garden plots. Organic means to control insects and diseases should first be used as necessary. As a last resort pesticides that can be commercially purchased may be used according to manufacturer's directions and with consultation with Commission Garden Manager.

Family members and visitors are welcome to the garden site. Plot holder must agree to accompany children under sixteen as guests and understand that he/she is responsible for their actions.

Crops and structures over six feet are not allowed due to the shadow effect they will cast on neighbor's plots.

Biodegradable mulch is encouraged. Examples include: aged compost, leaves, straw, and hay. Carpet mulch, stone, and sod are not allowed. Black or red plastic is allowed but must be secured.

Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash free. This includes a 6-foot path on the sides of your plot. Wood chips will be provided for mulching your paths.

Maintain the plot marker in excellent condition and keep it easily visible.

No permanent structures are allowed. All temporary structures on M-NCPPC land must have written approval of the Park Ranger Office.

No invasive or illegal plants. Plants like mint should be grown in containers. A list of invasive plants can be found at: <http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/>

No littering or dumping. Gardens are a carry in and carry out facility – trash free. The compost bins are for plant waste only. No dumping or kitchen garbage allowed.

For safety and health reasons, pets, smoking, alcohol, and glass containers are not allowed.

Containers of water should have tight fitting lids or otherwise sealed from mosquitoes.

Harvesting another plot is only allowed with explicit permission from the plot owner.

The Community Gardens conditions of use, guidelines, and fees are reviewed annually and are subject to review and change. Any conflicts among gardeners should be referred to the Park Ranger Office. If vandalism or theft occurs, notify the Park Rangers immediately. Help us discourage losses by talking to unfamiliar faces. This program is managed by the Park Ranger Program. They can be reached at 301-627-7755. For any emergencies contact Park Police is 301-459-9088.

