

Hyatt Park Community Garden Rules

The Hyatt Park Community Garden is within the jurisdiction of the City of Hyattsville and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. As such, all rules governing this garden will conform to existing rules of park use.

Garden Space Allocation

1. Gardeners are required to complete an application form.
2. Garden plots will be 15 feet by 15 feet in area, with a path adjacent to two sides of each plot.
3. Applications and plot fees (\$30 full plot, \$15 half plot) are due for returning gardeners in good standing by February 15th of each year. All returning gardeners should notify the plot coordinator if they would like to change plots otherwise they will maintain their current plot. New applicants have until March 1st to submit their fees.
4. Only one plot will be allowed per extended family and/or household.
5. Gardeners in good standing at the conclusion of a garden year can expect to return to the same plot each subsequent year. Gardeners who fail to meet the standards of “good standing” (above) from the previous year will forfeit their garden privilege in the subsequent year. These individuals may reapply for a garden plot, following a one-year absence from the garden, and no special consideration will be extended regarding plot allocation.
6. New plots are allocated on a first come first served basis based on the date the application was received. If no plots are available, applicants will be added to a waiting list.

Garden Maintenance

7. Gardeners are responsible for following all garden rules. If you are unsure of the meaning of a garden rule or need additional information regarding the rules you are responsible to get clarification from a co-leader. Questions should be e-mailed to the co-leads.
8. Gardeners are required to keep plot and the adjoining pathways tended. If you will be out of town or unable to make it to the garden for an extended time PLEASE contact a gardener or co-leader for help in maintaining your plot in accordance with the plot maintenance rules.
9. For soil amendments as well as fertilizers, gardeners will only be allowed to use organic materials and sustainable techniques
10. Grass/weeds should not be over 6 inches high.
11. Vegetables and flowers should not hang over into the path by more than 1 ft.
12. Grass/weeds should not be creeping into other neighboring plots
13. (Plastic) covering of plot should not exceed 2 months during the growing season (March – September) and should have holes for drainage.
14. Plots should not have rotting vegetables for more than two weeks.
15. Tall plants should only be in the middle of the plot or on the edge adjacent to the pathways so not to block sunlight or interfere with your neighbor’s plots.
16. Gardeners will not create permanent structures, such as raised beds, arbors, or trellises (with the exception of seasonal string and pole structures) in the garden.

17. Temporary pole structures, fences and any other temporary structures shall not block sunlight from your neighbor's plot
18. A maximum of 10 percent of any given plot shall be used for the production of flowers with the exception of flowers that attract pollinators and/or beneficial insects.
19. Do not plant perennial plants that are difficult to remove such as mint, blueberry, berry vines, or fruit trees. An exception is made for strawberries and herbs other than mint.
20. Garden members will not place large stones and/or broken concrete chunks in the garden.

Garden Decorum

21. Gardeners are required to attend both bi-annual garden meetings and work the minimum number of hours stated on the Community Garden Application for one or multiple Garden Teams. Failure to attend garden meetings and/or work less than the hours required during a season will result in the forfeiture of garden membership.
22. Do not apply anything to or pick anything from another person's plot without their express approval.
23. Do not leave the water on unattended. When finished gardening for the day turn off the water at the pump, roll up the hose at the faucet area, return tools to the shed and lock the shed before leaving the garden. Please water judiciously.
24. Smoking and chewing tobacco is not allowed.
25. Pets, drugs (including alcohol), radios, boom boxes and fires (except in areas designated by the City of Hyattsville) are not allowed.
26. Children in the garden must be supervised at all times.
27. The garden will be open only during daylight hours. For safety, consider gardening in pairs or keeping a cell phone nearby if it makes you feel more comfortable.
28. Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to the garden co-leaders and police.
29. Gardeners should attempt to resolve any issues with neighboring gardeners before bringing it to the attention of the co-leads. Issues stated to the co-leads should be sent via e-mail **ONLY**.
30. If you plan to discontinue use of your space, please let the Co-Leaders and Plot Coordinator know as soon as possible so that your plot can be assigned to another gardener.
31. Please be mindful of a community's "code of conduct"; this consists of common courtesy, respect and consideration of other gardeners as well as the Leadership group. Inappropriate behavior to any of the gardeners (including those holding lead positions) may result in you losing your gardening privileges.

End of Season Cleaning

32. At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) that are not being used must be removed and disposed of properly and all gardens left neat and tidy. If your garden is not cleaned-up by December 15th, you could lose your gardening privileges.

33. Please put weeds and cut up dead plants into the compost bin provided (except tomato, okra or any other woody plants that will not break down quickly). These items will be chipped or hauled off the garden premises. If you have any questions please contact the Compost Team lead.
34. Any diseased plants or seedy or invasive weeds are to be put in the trash so it will not contaminate the compost, and spread disease to other gardens.

IMPORTANT: If any of the guidelines are violated that require corrective action you will be contacted by phone or e-mail and have one week to address the violation. If the violation has not been remedied by the end of 2 weeks, you may lose your gardening privileges.

HAPPY GARDENING!!