

## **Hyatt Park Community Garden Association 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 the Garden are intended to supplement and conform to existing rules of park use.

### **Plot Inspections**

The Plot Inspection Committee will conduct an inspection once per month, starting in April and continuing through October. If your plot is in violation of any of the Garden Rules, you will first receive an email notice. You will have one week to correct the problem. A follow-up inspection will be conducted 1-2 weeks after the initial notice and you may receive multiple notices for the same violation. If your plot receives 3 violations in one season, your membership(s) may be terminated according to the procedures set out in the bylaws.

### **Garden Space Allocation**

1. Gardeners are required to complete an application form.
2. Full plots are 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 not in good standing forfeit their membership. 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**

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. Grass/weeds, flowers and vegetables should not be creeping into other neighboring plots. Leave a buffer space of 6-12 inches at all four sides of your plot to help avoid this problem.
12. Remove any diseased or infested plants promptly to avoid spreading the problem throughout your plot and the garden.
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.

**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 may not create permanent structures, such as raised beds, arbors, or trellises in the garden. Temporary structures such as poles and fences, may be used seasonally but should be removed when not in use and should 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 may not place large stones and/or broken concrete chunks in the garden.

### **Garden Decorum**

**21.** Gardeners are required to work 4 hours per plot during the season. Failure to work the hours required during a season may 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, drug and alcohol use, pets, radios, boom boxes, and fires are not allowed in the garden.

**26.** Children in the garden must be supervised at all times.

**29.** Gardeners should attempt to resolve any issues with neighboring gardeners before bringing it to the attention of the Co-Leads. Issues elevated 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.** The HPCGA Code of Conduct consists of common courtesy, respect and consideration of other gardeners as well as the Leadership group. Inappropriate behavior towards other gardeners, including those in leadership positions, may result in you losing your gardening privileges.

### **End of Season Cleaning**

**32.** At the end of the gardening season, plots should be winterized. To prevent weed growth and soil erosion, bare ground should be covered with mulch, leaves, straw, etc., or a cover crop planted to prevent weed growth and soil erosion.

**33.** Put weeds and dead plants into the compost bins provided, after shaking off excess dirt so as to maintain topsoil.

**34.** Diseased plants or seedy or invasive weeds should be put in the trash so they will not contaminate the compost, and spread disease to other gardens.