

Burlington County Community Agriculture Center  
COMMUNITY GARDENS  
SITE RULES

Adopted December 10, 2008 by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington

The Burlington County Community Agriculture Center's (BCCAC) Community Gardens are located at 500 Centerton Road, Moorestown, New Jersey 08057. The roughly 1.0 acre site includes: full, half and quarter-sized plots for interested County residents, group-sized plots for classrooms or organizations and a future proposed "Able Gardening" section particularly for seniors or individuals with disabilities to experience gardening. County residents interested in renting a plot must agree with and abide by all of the Community Gardens Site Rules. Gardeners that do not honor these site rules may be required to relinquish their garden(s).

**I. PLOTS (Rentals, Service Hours, Rules, Maintenance and Forfeiture)**

**A. RENTALS**

Each full-sized plot measures 20'x20'.

Each half plot measures 20'x10' and each quarter plot measures 10'x10'. The location of each plot will be specified on the site map.

Full plot: \$40.00 per year.

Half plot: \$20.00 per year.

Quarter plot: \$10.00 per year.

The first name to appear on the Community Gardens application signed at the time of rental is considered the "Primary Gardener". All gardeners on the application are collectively and severally bound by the Site Rules. Gardeners on multiple gardener applications agree that the first name on the application form is the designated contact for all business correspondence from the County regarding the garden plot. Any new gardener must be added to the application before being allowed to garden the plot.

Groups may rent only one plot at the garden. Individual gardener may rent only one plot during the first season they are at the garden. Additional plots may then be rented on the recommendation of the Community Gardens Coordinator. Individual gardeners may not rent more than a total of three half plots.

Plots will be provided on a first come, first served basis. The Community Gardens Coordinator will maintain a 'waiting list' for interested individuals/groups who will be notified if/when a plot becomes available for rent.

Mandatory orientation sessions for all gardeners with plots will be held at the beginning of the season to provide an opportunity to meet your gardening "neighbors", review the site rules, discuss approved fertilizers and pest management materials, hours of operation, volunteer service events calendar, etc.

## **B. VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS**

To keep the garden area well-maintained and available for interested gardeners, the Community Gardens will hold several volunteer service events during the year. Service hours are NOT required but gardeners are encouraged to participate at these events or individually during the season. Your help is greatly appreciated!

## **C. RULES**

1. The Community Gardens area is open from 7am to dusk, year-round.
2. No illegal plants, trees, cacti, castor beans (or other poisonous plants) may be planted.
3. Diseased and pest-ridden plants must be removed from the site or placed in the dumpster to prevent spreading.
4. Smoking and chewing tobacco is prohibited. Tobacco carries the mosaic virus which is deadly to some plants.
5. No permanent structures may be placed on the plot. Temporary structures should not shade a neighbor's plot without the approval of that neighbor.
6. Organic nutrients and pest controls are encouraged for use in the garden. When in doubt about a product or method, check with the Community Gardens Coordinator or fellow gardener.
7. Gardeners are responsible for bringing their own tools, hoses, and other gardening materials to the site. Some "community" tools/equipment may be provided, but gardeners should not rely on their availability.
8. The use of chemically treated wood (i.e. wolmanized wood) is not allowed. These products contain arsenic, hexavalent chromium and other toxic substances, which may leach into the soil.
9. Tools should be used only for the purpose for which they were intended. "Community" tools should be returned clean to their proper place. Only gardeners over 14 years of age are allowed to use power tools.
10. Gardeners must be present on-site when watering their plots. Unattended watering is not allowed. Gardeners using sprinklers or hoses should take into account wind and temperatures to ensure as little waste as possible.
11. Pets must be restrained on leashes at all times.
12. Each gardener is responsible for disposal of trash. Do not place any trash in common areas or roadways. Only organic, compostable material is to be placed in the composting area. No trash from off the property may be placed in the dumpster.
13. No alcohol or illegal substances may be consumed on the entire site.
14. No gardener may:
  - a. Use a sign or name with reference to BCCAC Community Gardens in conjunction with for-profit sale of produce or flowers in any venue (without the express written permission of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders).
  - b. Use the property at BCCAC Community Gardens in conjunction with for-profit sale of produce or flowers.
15. This is a community garden. Other gardeners are our neighbors. Any disagreements should be resolved using pleasant language and a reasonable problem solving approach. There shall be no harassment, threats, verbal abuse or acts of violence by any person against any other person. Such acts should be reported to the Community Gardens Coordinator. If necessary, proper authorities will be called. Any person committing such acts may be asked to forfeit his/her gardening plot(s).

16. Corn should not be planted as it increases the risk of potential garden pests and casts shadows on neighboring plots.
17. At the end of the season, gardeners are responsible for removing all personal items and preparing their plot for the winter.
18. If gardener has been in compliance during the season, that gardener will be offered the use of the same plot the following year, pending receipt of an updated application and fees.

#### **D. MAINTENANCE AND FORFEITURE**

Plot maintenance is defined as regular attention to and removal of weeds, grasses and other invasive plants and regular harvesting.

1. When a garden is out of compliance, the Community Gardens Coordinator will flag the garden and send written notice to the address on file to bring it into compliance within 14 days. Non-compliance will result in forfeiture.
2. A garden will be considered as abandoned based on the following:
  - a. No evidence of plot maintenance in the preceding 30 days; and
  - b. Telephone is disconnected or calls are not returned within 7 days; and
  - c. E-mail is not answered within a 7 day period, or U.S. Mail directed to the address on file is not answered within 14 days of mailing.

The plot may then be re-rented.

#### **II. COMMON AREAS**

The Common Areas include the composting areas within the Community Gardens space, storage areas, permanent planting areas surrounding the plots, and future proposed seating areas and ornamental garden(s). All of the gardeners have responsibility for maintaining the common areas.

#### **III. PARKING**

Park only in the areas identified for parking. On weekends please be advised that other BCCAC activities may be held and could require Community Gardeners to park in the overflow parking areas. If you need to unload a heavy load from your vehicle, do so quickly and move the vehicle to a designated parking area.

#### **IV. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

- A. Please drive carefully and be aware of pedestrians.
- B. The property is open from 7am to dusk, year-round. Gardening activities may occur only during those times. Irrigation will generally be activated in April and deactivated in November.
- C. The gate and any other garden facilities are to remain locked from dusk to 7am.
- D. All children under 12 must be under adult supervision at all times.
- E. BY SIGNING THE COMMUNITY GARDENS APPLICATION, YOU, THE APPLICANT/GARDENER, AGREE TO ABIDE BY AND BE BOUND BY THE RULES ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 10, 2008 BY THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON (THE "COUNTY"), AND TO INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS AND DEFEND THE COUNTY, ITS EMPLOYEES, ASSIGNS, LESSEES, CONTRACTORS AND AGENTS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS OR ACTIONS OF WATEVER KIND, FOR ANY PERSONAL OR OTHER TYPE OF INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, THEFT,

AND/OR ANY OTHER LOSS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING ATTORNEY'S FEES AND EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE DEFENSE OF ANY SUCH SUIT OR ACTIONS THAT ARE BROUGHT AGAINST THE COUNTY, ITS EMPLOYEES, ASSIGNS, LESSEES, CONTRACTORS AND AGENTS, RESULTING FROM OR ARISING FROM ACTIONS OR ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY APPLICANT/GARDENER, RELATING TO USE OF THE COMMUNITY GARDENS AT THE BURLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE CENTER BY APPLICANT/GARDENER AND/OR HIS/HER FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND/OR ASSIGNS.

## **V. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Site Rules can be made subject to adoption by the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

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