

Town of Rockport Community Garden

April 2021

Introduction

Community gardens are an increasingly popular way of encouraging outdoor activity for people of all ages at minimal cost to the town. They can be enjoyed by the solo gardener or by families alike. The Marge Jones Facility is centrally located and already a hub for outdoor activities. The specific area under consideration is noted on the front piece of this document. It is currently unused and is planted with grass which needs to be mowed. A garden is a much more ecologically sound use of this space. There is very convenient parking and water supply for the area. The use of this area as a community garden would not interfere with any of the other currently existing activities.

“A community garden can help transform people who happen to live in the same place into a united community. It celebrates diversity in individual plots while creating opportunities for people to work together and learn from each other—about gardening, food preparation, and more. They learn to respect each other’s’ differences and to appreciate what they have in common. Community gardens build relationships that last beyond the growing season.”¹

Administration

The Rockport Community Garden functions under the Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee which is responsible for assigning plots and monitoring the site for compliance with “Rules and Expectations” (see attached). As the program expands to its full potential it is expected that volunteer coordinators and users of the garden will assemble a management subcommittee most likely under the Parks Committee. The annual fee for a plot is \$25.00.

¹ Bradley, Lucy. “How to Organize a Community Garden.” content.ces.ncsu.edu. NC State Extension, June 17, 2019. <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-organize-a-community-garden>.

Registration and Use Guidelines

New Gardeners

For the first year - April 2021

- Complete the Community Garden Plot Request Form from April 12 to April 30th.
If there are more applications than plots available, plot assignments will be decided by a lottery. Applicants will be notified by May 5th if assigned a plot
- Plots still vacant after May 5th will be assigned on a first come first serve basis thru September 30th.
- Registration and payment for a Plot Use Permit is due 10 days after plot assignment is made.
- Plots assigned between July 1st and September 31st are pro-rated to half price.
- Once registration is complete, contact the Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee for an orientation at haunaniw@mac.com.

Starting 2022:

- Complete the Community Garden Plot Request Form between January 15th and February 15th and return to the Town Office. If there are more applications than plots available, plot assignment will be decided by a lottery. Applicants will be notified by March 1st if they are assigned a plot.
- Plots still vacant after March 1st will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis through September 31st.
- Registration and payment for a Plot Use Permit is due 10 days after plot assignment is made.
- Plots assigned between July 1st and September 31st are pro-rated to half price.
- Once registration is complete, contact the Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee for an orientation at haunaniw@mac.com.

Note: This process is for all years after the first year 2021.

Returning Gardeners

All gardeners in compliance with the Rules and Expectations may renew their Plot Use Permit between October 1st and October 31st in order to continue gardening the same plot the following year. Gardeners who decline renewal for the following year have until December 31st to clean up the plot and remove their belongings.

Plot Use Permit

- A Plot Use Permit lasts from January 1st to December 31st.
 - The annual fee for a plot is \$25.00
 - The last day to request a refund is May 31st.
 - Plot Use Permits may not be transferred to another person or group
 - Permit Holders must keep the Town Office Staff notified of changes to home address, phone number, and email addresses.

Town of Rockport Community Garden

Rules and Expectations

1. Priority for plots will be given to Rockport residents
2. Permit Holders must act respectfully and safely while in the garden.
3. Permit Holders must attend the Community Garden orientation held in early May
4. Permit Holders must read and *Follow* all safety protocols for Covid-19 precautions. See attached guidelines.
5. Plots must be well maintained, within plot boundaries, and free of trash/debris.
6. All permit holders are responsible for maintaining pathways around their plot clear of weeds, rocks, etc. Mulch will be available for the pathways; please use it!
7. Please let the Town Office know if the permit holder is not able to maintain their plot or decide to leave the community garden.
8. If the permit holder goes on vacation and they will have someone tend their plot in the meantime, let the Town Office know who they are.
9. Permit holders will bring their own tools. Tools are not to be left in the garden. There will be no shared storage space or tools this year (2021).
10. When watering, do not waste water. Let us know about any leaks or dysfunctional irrigation as soon as possible.
11. Permit holders are to harvest crops from their plot only, unless given permission by another gardener.
12. Children are welcome and encouraged in the community garden but should not be left unsupervised.
13. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing plots and putting them to bed for the winter.
14. The gardens will be managed organically. See attached list of permitted and not permitted products.
15. Please do not plant invasive species such as mint. Or plants that may be federally or state controlled.
16. To prevent the spread of winter moth, only transplant plants that have been grown in potting mix. Do not directly transplant plants that have native soil on their roots.
17. If a garden plot looks abandoned at any point during the main season (April to October), garden staff will check in with the plot holder. The permit holder has two weeks to respond and start gardening. If there is no action after two weeks, the Plot Use Permit will be revoked. If a plot is left unused or abandoned, it will be reassigned at the sole discretion of the Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee.
18. The Town reserves the right to revoke a Plot Use Permit at any time if deemed necessary.

Have fun, grow lots of veggies, eat lots of veggies, and please ask if you have any questions!

Rockport Community Garden

COVID-19 Safety Protocols 2021

At this point in time, State and Federal recommendations are changing so rapidly that it is difficult to outline a set of health safety requirements that will remain relevant during the coming months. However, the state guidelines requirements at any point must be followed regarding masks or face coverings, social distancing, and any other requirements.

We ask that you be proactive about preventing the spread of germs. If you do have symptoms of any kind and/or feel ill or have had any contact with someone who is ill, please stay at home and do not come to the gardens. We strive to have a supportive community garden.

If you are ill and cannot make it to your plot, please contact other gardener(s) if you need assistance.

Preventing Person to Person Spread while gardening:

For the Spring of 2021:

- Practice social distancing: always remain 6 feet away from anyone else in the garden.
- Masks must be worn by all when in the garden
- Wash your hands with soap and water before and after working in the garden.
- Use the handwashing station located at the entrance.

Town of Rockport
Community Garden Permit Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

Fee Paid: _____

For office use only: Plot # _____

Liability Release

I understand, and agree, that The Town of Rockport is in no way responsible for my actions or the actions of others at the Community Garden. Therefore, I agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless The Town for any liability, damage, loss or claim by me that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my approved guests.

I am solely responsible for my own health and safety. I warrant that I am physically fit and capable to participate in this project. If I experience any symptoms which make it difficult or unsafe for me to continue, I agree that I will halt all activity and ask for assistance.

I, the undersigned, have read the Town of Rockport Community Garden Rules and Expectations and agree to abide by them. I understand that if I fail to adhere to the above contract it may result in the loss of my garden plot.

Signature _____

Date _____

Printed Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Clerk _____

Info Sheet

Acceptable and Unacceptable Garden Products

(When in doubt about what to use or how to use something, please ask!)

ACCEPTABLE

Always look for Organic Materials Review Institute (**OMRI**) Certified to be sure it is an organic product. Other organic products may have certification listing of National Organic Products (**NOP**), which is acceptable. A great resource for Organic Certified growing supplies is FEDCO Organic Growers Supply (<https://www.fedcoseeds.com/ogs.htm>). You can read and purchase inputs there. Local suppliers like Green Thumb, Agway, and Plants Unlimited carry some of these products as well. The book Rodale's Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening is also an incredibly useful reference.

Soil Amendments:

This is *not* a comprehensive list, but includes a variety of options. See the FEDCO catalog, Rodale's Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening, or search online, if you want to learn more.

Pro-Gro (5-3-4) – North Country Organics general-purpose fertilizer. Use in the early spring before planting and again during the season as a side-dressing. “Promotes healthy soil and plants. Contains cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal, feather meal, rock phosphate, kelp meal, cocoa meal, blood meal, fish meal, crab meal, dried whey, natural nitrate of soda, natural sulfate of potash, magnesium sulfate.”

Fish Emulsion/Kelp (3-2-2) – Organic Growers Supply. Improves plant vigor and stress resistance. Mix 2 Tbsp. with a gallon of water and water directly on leaves every 2-3 weeks. If watering the soil only, use 4 Tbsp. per gallon.

Manures – must be well-composted before use and labeled specifically for use on vegetable gardens. For fresh manure there is a food safety law that requires 120 days between application and harvest. Bagged composted manure is OK if labeled for vegetable use; never use any compost with dog or cat wastes in it.

Lime – use to raise the pH of soil if it is too acidic and loosens clay soil. Use in fall at the end of the season depending on pH levels in your soil. A soil test is the way to determine pH level in your plot.

Wood ashes – provide Potassium and micronutrients. Also a liming agent (raise pH). Make sure you know the source of the ashes, no toxic chemicals from treated wood or plywood.

Rock powders (granite dust, greensand, rock phosphate, azomite, limestone, Su-Po-Mg)

Acceptable Pest and Disease Controls:

This is *not* a comprehensive list, but includes a variety of options. See the FEDCO catalog, Rodale's Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening, The Organic Gardeners Handbook of Pest and Disease Control, or search online, if you want to learn more.

Make sure product is **OMRI** certified. Many sprays, even if organic, may harm certain beneficial insects at certain times – use with care. Identify the pest or disease first and use only the appropriate treatment. Use only when there is a significant problem – otherwise handpick insects and drown in soapy water. Please check with farm manager before applying OMRI certified pesticide products. Never apply before a rain, and avoid applying when bees are out, so early AM or late evening. A list of some allowable pest control products:

Garlic and/or Hot pepper, spray

Beer in a buried cup for slugs

Insecticidal soaps – check labels for organic seal

Diatomaceous earth – controls slugs and snails, but dust can be harmful

NEEM oil – promotes health and vigor of plants and has some anti-fungal, antibacterial and anti-parasitic properties – avoid spraying when bees are pollinating

Dipel or other products with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) – effective on cabbage worms on all cabbage family plants and tomato hornworms

PyGanic – HIGHLY TOXIC (pyrethrin) botanical insecticide with low toxicity to humans made from chrysanthemums – useful on Colorado potato beetle, cucumber beetle, flea beetle. This is a broad - spectrum insecticide that kills all insects it contacts including beneficial insects like honey and bumble bees– **use wisely and sparingly**

Serenade provides protection against a broad spectrum of the most common fungal and bacterial garden diseases yet is completely non-toxic to bees and beneficial insects.

Sluggo – to deal with slugs and snails. Contains iron phosphate, a naturally occurring soil mineral and bait. Slugs and snails are attracted to the bait; when they eat even a small amount, they stop eating and die within a few days. Sprinkle sparingly on moist soil, but pellets are not washed away by rain. Use 1 tsp. per square yard

Surround – liquid form of Kaolin clay that forms protective barrier against pests. Often used for cucumbers, squash, and fruit trees

Potassium Bicarbonate (baking soda) – 4 tsp. per gallon of water. Used as a spray against fungal plant diseases such as powdery mildew and blights

Spinosad/Monterey Garden Spray – bacterial spray used to control caterpillars, leaf miners, thrips, Colorado potato beetle larvae, fire ants, and fleas. Can kill bees and other beneficial insects – **use sparingly and wisely.**

UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS

Chemical fertilizers in bags or other chemical treatments for pests or diseases

Liquid fertilizers: e.g., Miracle-Gro, Miracid, or Peters, etc. – The Bright Blue Stuff!

Slug baits other than Sluggo

Products like Sevin, Rotenone, Malathion, Sabadilla, Methoxychlor, Diazonin

No herbicides will be allowed in the garden

Any products that are NOT listed as certified organic products (OMRI or NOP)