

Community Garden Agreement, 2017

Garden Ethos

LISTEN to everyone :: SEEK consent from all participants :: WORK together for creative solutions within given constraints :: ENJOY the bounty of the garden!

What can I expect from Just Roots?

- To be heard and valued as a community garden member.
- A 10' x 20' starter plot; or one or two 20' x 20' plots as a returning gardener.
- Access to shared tools.
- Access to water; primarily from the hydrant next to the garden shed.
- Constant supply of mulching cardboard and wood chips.
- Access to other garden materials (plant starts, compost, straw, etc.) at a low cost when available.



How can I be a Gardener in Good Standing (GIGS)?

- Pay the plot fee (see below); stay current with other payments such as compost.
- Submit the signed Community Garden Agreement.
- Pass 3 plot checks: spring, summer and fall (dates below).
- Volunteer in the community garden by joining a Garden Circle (see below).
- Use only organic practices in your garden plot/s (see below).
- Weed plot/s and maintain plot perimeter with cardboard & wood chip mulch. (The main woodchip paths are 4' wide; technically each gardener is responsible for their 2' boundary. However, neighbors are encouraged to cooperate.)

Important Dates for 2017

- April 1 :: Garden Orientation :: Saturday, 3-5pm, meet in the barn
- June 17 :: **SPRING PLOT CHECK**
Plot must be improved (i.e. there must be evidence that you worked the plot) and the perimeter of your plot maintained with mulch.
- July 15 :: **SUMMER PLOT CHECK**
Plots must be maintained to a minimum standard; more cultivated plants than weeds.
- November 18 :: **FALL PLOT CHECK**
Cut back and/or dispose of dead plants. Remove or tie down all non-attached objects for winter. GIGS may extend plot use beyond November through use of row covers, cold frames, low tunnels, etc.

Plot Ratings

0. Registered — plot assigned and fee paid
1. GIGS — Gardener in Good Standing
2. Stressed — issues have been identified
3. Losing It — issues remain after clear communication
4. Plot Open — plot has been released for reassignment

Just Roots :: Increasing access to healthy, local food by connecting people, land, resources, and know-how.

Registration Guidelines

- Annual garden plot fees are non-refundable:
STARTER SIZE (10'x20') \$20
STANDARD SIZE (20'x20') \$30
If these amounts would present a hardship, reduced fees are available.
- New gardeners will begin with a 10'x20' starter plot. Returning gardeners in good standing (GIGS) may request one or two 20' x 20' plots depending on availability; maximum two per household.
- GIGS are eligible to pre-register for the next season.
- Check the map to be sure that you have the correct plot!

G8	F8	E8	D8		C8	B8	A8	Z8	Z8.1	8	
G7	F7	E7	D7		C7	B7	A7	Z7	Z7.1	7	
G6	F6	E6	D6		C6	B6	A6	Z6	Z6.1	6	
G5	F5	E5	OLD COMPOS D5		COMM MATER C5	B5	A5	Z5	Z5.1	5	
Garden Map											
G4	F4	E4	NEW COMPOS D4		C4	B4	A4	Z4	Z4.1	4	
G3	F3	E3	D3		C3	C3	B3.1	B3.2	A3	Z3	3
G2	F2	E2	D2.1	D2.2	C2	B2	A2	FARM CREW Z2		2	
G1	F1	E1	D1		COMM SPACE C1	RAISED BED B1	COMM SPACE A1	FARM CREW Z1		1	
G	F	E	D		C	B	A	Z	(new)		

Parking

Park all cars in the designated parking area, marked with "Parking" signs. Motorized vehicles are allowed on the farm road and paths around the garden for loading and unloading only and for a maximum of 10 minutes. Vehicles must be moved to the appropriate parking area immediately after.

Garden Shed and Tools

You will receive the combination to the tool shed upon registration. Please lock the shed when you leave the garden. The garden shed contains common tools for use in the community garden. After each use, please clean and return tools promptly. Everything in the shed remains the property of Just Roots. Please do not store personal items or remove anything from the site.

The farm operation (greenhouses, cold frames, barn and tools) is off limits to community gardeners without permission from the farm director.

Gardening Practices

Summary

Grow food organically, following as closely as possible the standards set by the National Organic Program (NOP).

Seeds & Seedlings

- Use organic seeds and organic seedlings whenever possible.
- Be careful not to use a commercial potting mix, they likely have fertilizers and chemicals that are not allowed.
- Genetically engineered (GE or GMO) seeds/plants are not allowed.



Soil Health

- We suggest that you do a soil test once a year (at the same time every year) to see what your specific plot needs! The results of your soil test will help guide you in adding appropriate amendments to your soil.
- Soil amendments include compost, composted manure, bone meal, feather meal, blood meal, seaweed, fish emulsion, rock phosphate, wood ashes, etc. Look for products labeled “organic” or that have the OMRI seal (Organic Material Review Institute).
- Use biodegradable materials whenever possible, or remove all non-biodegradable mulches at the end of every season.

Weed Management

- Together, we can control the weeds sufficiently for the garden to flourish. Weed your garden regularly. Control weeds by hand or hoe or adequate mulching. No flame weeding. Plots that are 50% weeds at summer plot check may be reassigned.

Pest and Disease Control

- The best way to fight pests and diseases is to be observant! Scout regularly for pests and disease and learn about what pests and diseases may be harmful to your plants.
- Manage insect pests with hand-picking, by attracting beneficial insects, using traps, row covers, and other approved products. Good plant hygiene such as pruning helps prevent conditions for disease outbreak. Manage plant disease aggressively. Please put sick plants in trash bags and dispose in the trash. Avoid walking in other people’s plots to contain the spreading of the disease to other garden plots.

An Organized and Respectful Garden

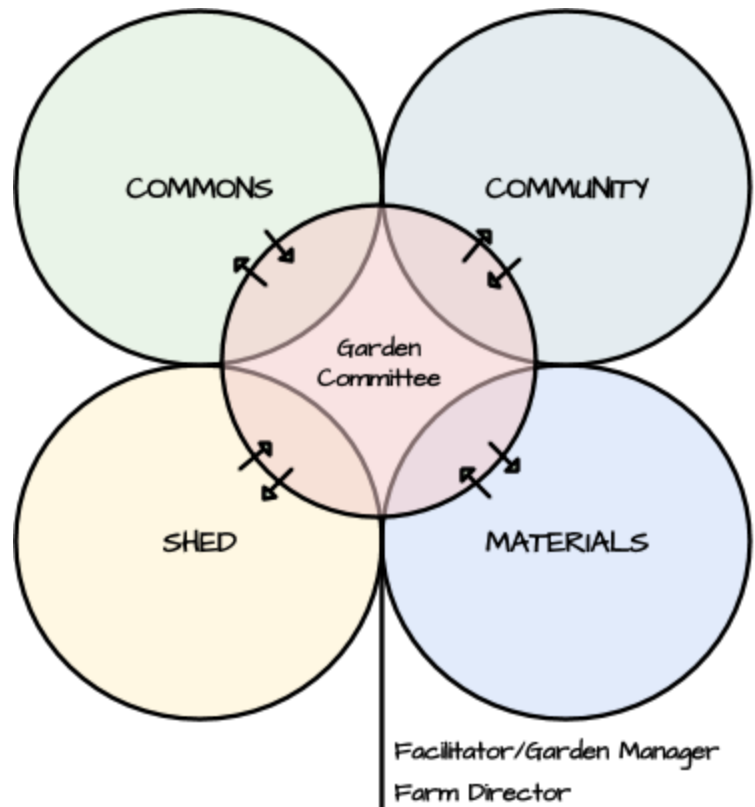
- Be neighborly. Respect the space of the other gardeners and the boundaries of your plot. Permission must be received to enter another gardener’s plot or pick from another’s garden.
- The community garden is open to all, with priority given to residents of Franklin County. New gardeners are welcome as space becomes available.
- No permanent structures are permitted in your plot.
- GIGS may continue in the same plot year after year, allowing for overwintering of crops such as garlic. Only GIGS may pre-register for the next season and request the same garden plot.
- Maintain a clean and beautiful community garden space. Keep our garden free of litter and trash. Please pack out all non-compostable waste.
- Supervised children are welcome at the community garden and farm. Please guide children to show regard for other gardeners.
- Dogs on leash are allowed at the community garden but they must be leashed and dog waste managed appropriately. Dogs must stay out of the farm fields.
- The Community Garden is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is prohibited anywhere at the Greenfield Community Farm.
- Gardeners are free to use the centrally located compost pile in the garden. Kitchen scraps are not allowed in the community compost pile. A compost pile or bin within your individual plot is not permitted. Non-compostable materials (meat, animal waste, metal, plastic, glass, diseased plants, etc) must be packed out of the site.
- Just Roots will contact gardeners with serious disease or pest problems and find solutions to maintain the health of the entire Community Garden and Farm.

How are we organized?

Every gardener is asked to find a **HOME CIRCLE** to focus their volunteer work in the garden. Beyond work in the home circle, gardeners are free to volunteer with projects directed by other circles.

Within each circle, policy decisions are made by a **CORE GROUP** of four (4) circle members including the circle leader or co-leaders. Consent decision-making is used. The core group is a good option if you are ready to take more responsibility for the life of the community garden.

Issues that are not resolved at the circle level may be taken up by the **GARDEN COMMITTEE** which includes the circle leaders plus one (1) delegate from each circle. These meetings of 9 or 10 decision-makers are facilitated by the Garden Manager.



Circles Charges

COMMONS CIRCLE :: *Maintain the common areas including the greenhouse, picnic space, and paths. Keep the plot boundaries well marked.*

COMMUNITY CIRCLE :: *Keep the standard of garden membership, communicate with members, and offer community-building activities.*

MATERIALS CIRCLE :: *Manage shared materials including water, wood chips, cardboard, and compost.*

SHED CIRCLE :: *Maintain the garden shed as a repository of tools and materials for all gardeners.*

Community Garden Committee

- Aim: Getting things done so that the garden flourishes.
- Composition: Circle Leaders, Circle Delegates (one from each circle), and Garden Manager (Andy Grant)
- Frequency: Meet as few times as necessary, not to exceed 6 times a year. Facilitated by the garden manager.

Just Roots :: Increasing access to healthy, local food by connecting people, land, resources, and know-how.

Community Garden Registration Form

Please return signed form to Just Roots (34 Glenbrook Drive, Apt 1B, Greenfield, MA 01301).
Pay with cash or by check made out to Just Roots.

CONTACT	REGISTERED GARDENER	OTHER GARDENER/S
Name		
Address		
Phone		
Email		

Include your email and phone # in the Community Garden Directory? Yes No

Choose a "home circle" for your volunteerism in the garden.

- Commons Circle Materials Circle (need more information)
 Community Circle Shed Circle

Check here if you wish to be part of the core decision-making group for that circle.

If you are a returning gardener, what is/are your current plot number/s? _____

What size plots have you chosen this year?

- \$20 :: Starter Plot (20'x10')
 \$30 :: Standard Plot (20'x20'; returning gardeners only)
 \$30 :: Second Plot (20'x20'; returning gardeners only; limit 2 per household)
 _____ TOTAL

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT

I have read and will honor the 2017 Community Garden Agreement.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I hereby release the Town of Greenfield and Just Roots, Inc, from any and all claims, demands, actions or cause of action, concerning damage or injury to any person or property and do hereby waive the same, at any time arising out of related to my or our participation in the Just Roots Community Garden.

Signature of Registered Gardener

Date

Other Gardener(s)

Date