

Community Garden Agreement, 2018

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 marked off with four stakes; or one or two 20' x 20' plots as a returning gardener.
- A garden plot map.
- Access to shared tools in the garden shed and the outside water hydrant .
- Constant supply of mulching wood chips; plus burlap bags and cardboard when available.
- Free or low-cost access to garden materials such as seeds, plant starts, compost, and straw, when available.
- Email updates. Notice of opportunities to volunteer in the garden.
- Bulletin Board posts; including results of plot checks within 48 hours.
- Adherence to National Organic Plan (NOP) standards, plus a chart for companion planting and optimal planting times.



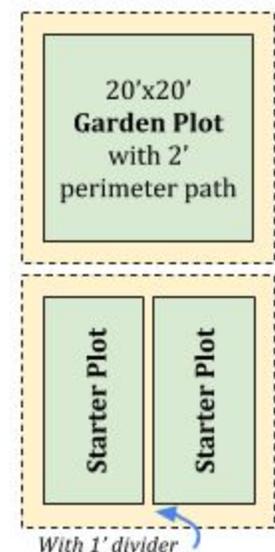
How can I be a Gardener in Good Standing (GIGS)?

- Pay the plot fee (see below); stay current with other payments such as compost.
- Volunteer a minimum of two (2) hours in the garden or on the farm over the course of the season; log your hours on the chart in the garden shed. Tell us right away if this requirement presents a hardship.
- Sign and submit the Community Garden Agreement (Page 5, see below).
- Pass 3 plot checks: spring, summer and fall (dates below). Plan accordingly; gardening involves a substantial commitment of time and effort.
- Use only organic practices in the community garden (see below).
- Weed plot/s and maintain 2' perimeter with wood chip mulch.

More about Path Maintenance

Just Roots prepares each plot, regardless of size or location, with a 2-foot perimeter which is the gardener's responsibility to maintain. In most places these combine to form a 4-foot wide garden path. Neighbors are encouraged to coordinate efforts.

Specifically, gardeners are expected to maintain a thick layer of woodchip mulch; pull weeds and grasses as necessary. If grass encroachment in the pathway is severe, please request assistance by speaking with a member of the garden committee, emailing garden@justroots.org or calling 413.325.8969.



Important Dates for 2018

- February 28 :: **GIGS REGISTRATION & PLOT FEES DUE**
- March 1 :: **OPEN PLOTS AVAILABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT**
- April 7 :: **GARDEN ORIENTATION** :: Saturday, 3-5pm, meet in the barn; required for new gardens, requested for returning gardeners. If you are unable to attend, please request an individual orientation.
- June 16 :: **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 14 :: **SUMMER PLOT CHECK**
Plots must be maintained to a minimum standard; more cultivated plants than weeds.
- November 17 :: **FALL PLOT CHECK**
Bag any blighted material. Remove or secure all non-attached objects (including loose cardboard) for winter. GIGS may extend plot use beyond November through the use of row covers, cold frames, low tunnels, etc.

Gardeners do not have to be present for the plot checks. Plots that need attention will be flagged and results will be posted on the garden shed bulletin board.

Plot Ratings

GIGS — Gardener in Good Standing (after the Spring Plot Check)

#1 Stressed (yellow) — issues have been identified; situation explained and assistance offered (2 week grace period)

STRIKE ONE 

#2 Losing It (red) — after clear communication, issues remain (additional 2 week grace period)

STRIKE TWO 

#3 Plot Open — plot has been released for reassignment

STRIKE THREE 

Flagging System

Plot check results will be posted on the bulletin board. Plots that miss the GIGS standard will be flagged (yellow or red) and gardeners will receive a letter in the mail with detailed information. Limited assistance is available for gardeners in difficult circumstances; please let us know what you need. Gardeners with plots rated #1 “Stressed” will be given a two-week grace period to bring the plot up to GIGS standard. #2 “Losing It” will be given a final warning and an additional two-week period before their plot is opened for reassignment. Between the Summer and Fall plot checks, any plot that is less than 50% cultivated plants or has plants originating in the garden paths may be flagged by the garden committee — first yellow for “stressed,” then red for “losing it” with the same grace periods applied.

Appeal Process

Concerns about plot ratings can be taken up with the garden committee by emailing garden@justroots.org or calling 413.325.8969.

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 the disease to other garden plots.

Composting — 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.

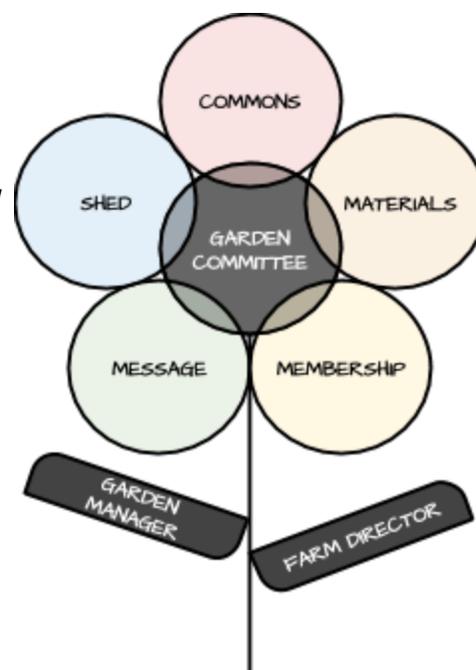
An Organized and Respectful Garden — Plots in the community garden are open to all, with priority given to residents of Franklin County. New gardeners are welcome as space becomes available. Be neighborly. Respect the space of the other gardeners and the boundaries of your plot. Permission must be received to enter another gardener's plot or pick their produce. 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. 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 are allowed but they must be leashed and dog waste managed appropriately. No dogs in the farm fields. Just Roots is a smoke-free environment.

How is the community garden organized?

There are five garden circles, each with a specified area of responsibility: Commons, Materials, Membership, Message, and Shed. The garden manager facilitates monthly meetings of the garden committee where circle leaders report on work in their areas and consult with the group. The committee as a whole makes policy decisions for approval by Just Roots management. The farm director — who is ultimately responsible for the operation of the farm and garden — is available to offer technical support and direction.

What do the circles do?

- **COMMONS CIRCLE** :: *Lead the maintenance of common areas including the picnic space and the grassy margins (not the broad areas). Re-establish garden paths and plot markers, as needed.*
- **MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE** :: *Maintain the standard of garden membership and communicate with members about changes in status.*
- **MATERIALS CIRCLE** :: *Manage shared materials including water, wood chips, cardboard, and compost.*
- **MESSAGE CIRCLE** :: *Maintain regular communication with gardeners via garden bulletin board, email updates and social media.*
- **SHED CIRCLE** :: *Maintain the garden shed as a repository of tools and materials for all gardeners.*



AGREEMENT FORM :: Just Roots Community Garden, 2018

Volunteerism in the Garden

Volunteering is essential to keep the garden running smoothly for the community as a whole. Over the course of the season, gardeners are expected to volunteer a minimum of two (2) hours either in the community garden, beyond maintaining their own plots and pathways, or on the farm volunteer days. Regular volunteer opportunities will be posted on the bulletin board and through the email updates. Log your volunteer hours on the check-in sheet in the garden shed. If you have a specific area of interest, feel free to contact a circle leader and offer your assistance. "Many hands make light work."



Please return the signed form (Page 5 only) 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		

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 2018 Community Garden Agreement.
 I will volunteer a minimum of two (2) hours in the community garden or on the farm and log my hours on the sheet in the garden shed.

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