

Riverside Community Garden Guidelines - 2016

Fee per bed in 2016: \$15; reduced rate of \$10 available upon request.

For all gardeners:

- Open registration begins March 1.
- Returning gardeners may reserve 1 or 2 beds; first-time gardeners will be offered 1 bed and may request a 2nd bed at time of registration.
- If space allows, a 2nd bed will be assigned in the order requested, no later than May 15.

New London residents and people who work in the city will be given first opportunity to rent a bed. If space allows, beds may be offered to non-New London residents.

Rules for individual beds:

- Plant by date is June 1, or within 2 weeks of registration (whichever is later). If your bed is not planted, it will be considered abandoned, and your fee will not be returned.
- Keep plants from blocking pathways or encroaching on neighbors' beds.
- Weeds should be kept to a minimum to prevent them from setting seeds. All rotting plant debris should be placed in compost pile to prevent pests and mold from spreading amongst beds.
- Diseased plants should be placed in the garbage.
- Regular maintenance is required, especially for watering. Expect to visit at least twice a week.

If you are unable to continue to care for your garden bed at any point, please contact one of the garden board members at info@riversidecommunitygarden.org, so we may care for your plants and pass along the harvest.

Organic Garden Practices:

Riverside Garden is an organic garden. We ask that every effort be made to choose organic plants when making selections for the season. Please also consider this when fertilizing your plants. Organic plants can be purchased at Perennial Harmony (Waterford), the FRESH-NL plant sale, and at some farmers' markets (ASK!) If you need assistance with choosing an organic fertilizer or pesticide, please contact a garden board member for guidance. Perennial Harmony and Green Survival, both in Waterford, are also well equipped to assist you.

Rules for the whole garden:

- Please be respectful of others' gardens and do not pick from them without permission.
- As this is a community space, please plan on participating in the group work days to maintain the common areas.
- Some tools will be available for use as well as hoses and sprayers. Please return them to where you found them. If something becomes broken, let a board member know so it can be replaced.
- Please ensure the water is turned off when you leave.

- If you are visiting with your pet(s), please clean up after them and do not let them roam into garden beds.
- We plan to have a kitchen herb garden and a strawberry-rhubarb patch which are for group use, as well as a bed to grow vegetables for the food pantry. Watering and weeding the community beds are everyone's responsibility.
- All gardeners are responsible to clear out their beds at the end of the season. Let us know if you plan to extend your season.

Violation of Rules: Please expect to be contacted by a member of the upkeep committee if the rules are not followed. A specific amount of time will be agreed upon to correct the problem. If the problem is not corrected, you will forfeit your bed.

Volunteering:

There are many opportunities to get involved with the overall garden. Use the info@riversidecommunitygarden.org email address for more information, or with any questions or concerns you might have.

We are looking forward to a fantastic growing season and are hoping that many of you will enjoy participating in this community experience!