

Riverside Community Garden Guidelines - 2021

Note: Until further notice, we will continue to follow COVID-related guidelines that were provided last year to ensure the safety of our community gardeners and their families. We hope to return to normal use as season progresses, and will keep gardeners informed of any changes in accessibility and protocols for Riverside Community Garden. Feel free to email info@riversidecommunitygarden.org, or call or text Ronna at 860-772-8439 for more information.

Fee per bed in 2021: \$15; reduced rate of \$10 available upon request.

For all gardeners:

- Open registration begins March 1.
- Returning gardeners may reserve 1 or 2 beds; please register as soon as possible, as we will begin to offer beds to new gardeners, as available, starting on April 15.
- We will continue to re-evaluate our policies and update them as needed throughout the gardening season, in accordance with guidelines provided by the State of Connecticut and the local health district.
- We will not be scheduling any community work days before May 1; we ask that no more than 2 individuals work in the garden at any one time, and that social distancing be used **without exception**.

New London residents and people who work in the city are 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 15, 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 a 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 during the summer months.
- Gardeners may work **in their own beds only**, to comply with current social distancing regulations.

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.

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 Hunts Brook Farm (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.

Rules for the whole garden - updated for COVID-19 response:

- At this time (spring 2021), tool sharing is **NOT** available, and the garden shed will be kept locked and inaccessible.
- Sanitizing wipes and disposable gloves will be provided. Please wipe down the garden gate and lock upon entry and exit. We recommend discarding used gloves in our trash bin.
- Be respectful of others' gardens and do not pick from them.
- As this is a community space, please help to maintain the common areas.
- Please ensure the water is turned off when you leave.
- Please do not bring your pets into the garden.
- When caring for or harvesting our common beds (strawberries, rhubarb, asparagus, herbs), please wear gloves.
- 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!