

## Riverside Community Garden Guidelines - 2023

***Note: We will continue to monitor the presence of COVID in our community and ask that gardeners be mindful of social distancing guidelines that we've had in place for the last few years. The shed will be accessible, and tools will be available for sharing; we will keep gardeners updated if any changes are recommended by our local health district. Feel free to email [info@riversidecommunitygarden.org](mailto:info@riversidecommunitygarden.org), or call or text Ronna at 860-772-8439 for more information.***

Fee per bed in 2023: \$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 starting on April 1. New gardeners may also rent 1 or 2 beds as available.
- 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.

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.
- Diseased plants should be disposed of in the garbage.
- Regular maintenance is required, especially for watering. Expect to visit at least twice a week during the summer months.
- It is recommended that gardeners work in their own beds only.

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](mailto: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:**

- At this time (spring 2023), tool sharing is available, and the garden shed will be secured with a padlock set; combinations to the entrance gate and the shed will be shared upon registration.
- Hand sanitizer and disposable gloves will be made available to gardeners; please wipe down tool handles when you return borrowed tools to the shed.
- Be respectful of others' garden plots 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 through the winter.

Violation of Rules: Please expect to be contacted 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](mailto: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!