

Riverside Community Garden Guidelines - 2026

The future of the Riverside Community Garden, established in 2013, is uncertain, as Habitat for Humanity plans to construct 3 two-family residences on the entire parcel currently owned by the City of New London. The city has presented a tentative plan to move the garden, but no timeline for action has been shared with us. Therefore, we will begin our gardening season as usual, and hope that there will be a smooth transition in fall if the garden can no longer remain in its current location.

The will be no per-bed fee in 2025. (We love our gardeners!)

For all gardeners:

- Open registration begins May 1.
- Returning gardeners may reserve 1 or 2 beds; please register as soon as possible, so we know how many beds we'll be able to offer to new gardeners. 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 usually June 15, or within 2 weeks of registration (whichever is later). Since we don't know exactly when everything will be set up at the new location, this date is subject to change for the 2026 season.
- 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. Fellow gardeners are always willing to help care for your beds while you're on vacation.

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:

- Tool sharing is available, and the garden shed will be secured with a padlock; combinations to the entrance gate and the shed will be shared upon registration.
- 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.
- All gardeners are invited to care for and harvest from our common beds (strawberries, rhubarb, asparagus, herbs).
- 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 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!