



## Mission Statement

To create a space where community members can connect with one another in a peaceful, respectful, and inclusive environment for the purpose of growing food

## RULES

The Portsmouth Community Garden strives to be a safe place for gardeners, guests and children. Please do not bring anything to the garden that will compromise the safety of those enjoying the garden. The primary goal of these rules is to ensure an enjoyable gardening experience for all. Please observe the rules of the garden and be a good neighbor!

### Group Work Party Days

Group Work Party Days are crucial to the success of the Portsmouth Community Garden! These days, held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month from April through October, focus on the common areas of the garden. As a garden member, expect to commit to at least three work days throughout the garden season. Gardeners can sign up for their work days online. Note that the rain date is Sunday and if Saturday is a problem for your schedule, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator to make other arrangements.

- Generally, plan to **visit your plot once a week** for weeding and watering.
- **Please keep your plants contained within your garden bed.** Tall plants such as sunflowers should be planted in the center of your bed so that they do not shade neighbors' beds.
- Each gardener is responsible for **keeping the walkways around their beds free of all litter, debris, weeds, and sprawling plants.** Gardeners must put all weeds in the compost bin.
- Each gardener will have access to the tool shed. Please keep the **garden tool shed neat and clean.** If you choose to use the communal tools, make sure they are hosed down, cleaned, and placed back in the shed in the appropriate place.
- The Portsmouth Community Garden is a carry-in, carry-out space. **Please take all your trash home with you.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation and commitment to keeping the garden neat and clean.

- Prevent weeds before they get started. One solution is to mulch around your plants or seeds, covering all exposed soil. Newspaper with some type of free mulch like leaves, pine needles, dry grass clippings, seaweed, or compost will help keep the weeds down. Please do not use wood chips or bark mulch in vegetable beds as these options will not break down in a timely manner. Landscape fabric for weed suppression is not allowed.
- If you have a lot of watering to do, be mindful of whether other gardeners need to use the hose. Some people have very limited time in the garden. While you wait your turn again for the hose, **consider using the water in the rain barrels**, which is better for the plants as rainwater contains much needed oxygen, which water from a faucet does not provide.
- The Portsmouth Community Garden pays for water usage. **Please be aware of your water usage and avoid being wasteful!** If you are watering in the evening, avoid watering the foliage of your plants as this encourages disease. After you are done watering, turn water faucets off. Notify the coordinator of any leaks in the water lines. **Please keep the hoses empty of water and neatly rolled up.**
- If you are unable to care for your plot for an extended time due to illness or vacation, please ask a fellow gardener or the coordinator to help during your absence.
- Not all insects are bad and many are beneficial to our gardens. If you don't know what the insect is, please ask others. For insects that cause significant damage, please hand pick them off the plants and drop them in a bucket of water.
- **HERBICIDES** and **PESTICIDES** are not allowed within the Portsmouth Community Garden according to the State of NH. Thank you for following this rule.
- Please harvest crops when ready. If you have an overabundance, please share with others, so that valuable food does not go to waste. All extra produce can be donated to Gather, Portsmouth's local food pantry.
- At the end of the garden season, please "put your garden to bed" by completing the following:
  - Remove any diseased plants from the site (please don't compost them).
  - Cover any exposed soil with some type of mulch that will break down over the winter like leaves or pine needles. Do not use bark mulch or wood chips in the vegetable beds where annual crops grow.
  - Please remove any trellis or stakes for the winter.
- Do not bring pets inside the garden. If you bring your pet to the parking lot, please remove all waste.
- **Please always keep gates closed to prevent woodchucks and other critters from getting into the garden.** When you enter or exit, PLEASE remember to close the gates.
- **If you are the last person in the garden, check and make sure all gates are locked.**
- When necessary, please gently remind each other of these garden tips and rules so that the garden can be a pleasant place for all.

- **The Portsmouth Community Garden will open for planting on April 15, 2021. All plots must be planted no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> or the plot will be forfeited and reassigned.** The garden is open seven days a week from dawn until dusk until the end of October. The garden is closed from November to March.

### Rules Enforcement

The Portsmouth Community Garden’s Board of Directors has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions for the garden. They have the authority to resolve conflicts and dismiss gardeners for failure to follow the garden rules. Submit concerns via [communitygarden603@gmail.com](mailto:communitygarden603@gmail.com). Unresolved issues or disputes between gardeners will be referred to the Board.

- If a member does not keep up with their plot or continually violates the above rules of the garden, the member will be issued a warning by email from the Board of Directors. If the situation is not rectified within two weeks, they may have their plot revoked.
- The Portsmouth Community Garden shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or military status in its garden membership and the administration of its programs.

Sign here \_\_\_\_\_

Spell name here \_\_\_\_\_

Signing this document signifies your agreement with the rules stated above.