



Revised 5/2020

## **FOREST HILLS COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Until further notice, it shall remain the mission of the Board of Directors of Forest Hills Cooperative (hereinafter referred to as FHC), to provide a parcel of land not to exceed approximately 115 feet wide x 150 feet long to be utilized as organic gardening space for the sole use of its members. This space shall be designated as the Forest Hills Cooperative Community Garden (herein after referred to as FHCCG).

### **HISTORY**

FHC has provided land for use by its members as a community garden. The garden is self-sufficient, meaning the cost to operate is paid for by the garden members. If the current garden participants fail to cover said expense(s) the use of the land designated as the FHCCG shall immediately be terminated.

### **GARDEN PLOT PREPARATION**

On an annual basis, the Cooperative arranges for the garden to be tilled by an outside professional contractor.

### **ANNUAL MANDATORY GARDEN MEETING**

A meeting of all registered gardeners will be held on the date announced in a flier. A map outlining each plot will be provided at the meeting.

### **FEES**

The annual plot charge for new and returning gardeners is \$50.00 per plot. The per plot charge may increase if operating costs, such as water, tilling, fertilizer, maintenance work, etc. increases from season to season. Reservation forms, signed rules and all associated fees must be submitted annually.

### **PLOTS**

Currently, we have a total of 24 useable (unshaded areas) garden plots each having an approximate dimension of 18 feet wide x 20 feet long. The plot sizes may be smaller due to changes made to the path size in order to accommodate social distancing. It may be possible to expand the total size of the garden area to allow for more gardeners. An assessment will be made annually based on the number of registrations submitted and open spaces available.

### **PLOT RESTRICTIONS**

A single member household may have up to three (3) plots, providing there are enough plots available for each individual gardener/member requesting a plot, and the household requesting additional plots have paid all fees for each two or three plots. Members/gardeners requesting more than one plot will be assigned additional plots once all member/gardeners have chosen their individual plots under the lottery system.

### **PLOT LOTTERY**

Plots will be assigned on a lottery system. All registered and paid members of record in attendance on the date of the mandatory meeting will have their name placed in a hat. When their name is pulled, that member will have first choice, and the lottery will continue in the same manner until all plots have been assigned with the exception of member/gardeners who may wish more than one plot. In such instances, those member/gardeners will choose their remaining number of desired plots from those that may be available.

If, there may be more gardeners than existing plots available, every effort will be made by the Cooperative to extend (if possible) the garden area to accommodate the remaining gardeners, providing space to extend is available. If, however, a gardener does not desire to wait until the garden extension process is completed, those gardeners not pulled will obtain a refund within two weeks of the mandatory garden meeting. ***Additionally, if there may be a gardener who has not received a plot, those gardeners will be guaranteed first choice of a garden plot the following season, provided the number of gardeners does not exceed the number of plots available.***

### **FHCC RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **WATERING:** No gardener may water their plot for more than one-half hour a day. Gardeners should space out the gardening time so social distancing may be kept and each gardener may water their garden.
2. **REMOVAL OF DIRT FROM UNUSED GARDEN PLOTS:** Gardeners may never remove dirt or compost materials from any of the garden plots regardless if they believe the garden plot is not in use.
3. **ORGANIC GARDENING ONLY:** *All plots will be organic only.* Only fertilizers and pest controls conforming to the standard established by the Organic Crop Improvement Association will be permissible. In other words, no commercial inorganic fertilizers (i.e. Miracle Grow, etc.). Products of plant or animal origin (i.e. compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crops, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed) and commercial 100% organic fertilizers (i.e. greensand, granite dust and ground limestone) are also acceptable.
4. **ACCEPTABLE MATERIAL/PLANT STAKES, TRELLISES, BORDERS, ETC.:** Absolutely no discarded building or other materials may be used to stake your plants, used as trellises, borders, etc. No nails, screws, or other metals may be used in the garden with the exception of those found specifically at a garden center constructed for these specific purposes.
5. **END OF SEASON PLOT CLEAN-UP & STORAGE:** The garden chair and/or the office will provide notice to all gardeners announcing when your plot must be cleared at the end of the season. This means that all dead planting matter must be cut down, all stakes, trellises, etc. must be removed and stored in the storage area provided. If Gardeners would like to store their stakes, etc. for future use, they must be bundled, tied together and properly identified with name and address.

### **NON-ACCEPTABLE PLANTS**

Invasive species such as mint, comfrey, etc. trees, bushes, perennials of any type, illegal or dangerous plants are strictly prohibited.

### **COMPOST/TOP SOIL/WOOD CHIPS**

Gardening members may bring into their gardens, organic compost, top soil or wood chips.

### **UP-KEEP AND MAINTENANCE**

Your garden plot must be kept neat and clean at all times. It is each gardener's responsibility to maintain a 6-foot path between each garden plot. Plantings encroaching into the pathways must be removed immediately. No bucket, pails, or plastic materials may be kept on or near your plot. As a gardener, you are expected to remove all tools, buckets, plastic containers, etc. on a daily basis. All gardeners must keep in mind that the land used for the purpose of our community garden, visually impacts members living in the general facility.

### **FAILURE TO ABIDE BY FHCCG RULES AND REGULATIONS**

A member of the garden will be appointed as the Garden Chair. It will be the function of the Garden Chair to be available to answer questions and to ensure all gardeners are abiding by the established rules and regulations.

Each gardener is expected to follow all rules and regulations including but not limited to those recited in this handout, or, any other unacceptable practice that may infringe on another gardener's rights, interfere with any other member's rights, or, cause the Cooperative to be exposed to potential liability.

Gardeners in violation of any rules herein state or whose action may cause potential harm or liability may be prohibited from gardening the following season.

*I have read and agree to all regulations as herein stated and pledge that I will make every effort to work cooperatively with my fellow gardeners so that we all enjoy our gardening experience.*

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Print Name	Sign Name	Date
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**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unit #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:**

Check

ACH – if you would like the gardening fee automatically deducted from your account please complete the below

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Checking  Savings

Routing # \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Forest Hills Cooperative to deduct the gardening fees from the above account

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Signature

Date

**Please return this form by email to: [fhc@foresthillscoop.org](mailto:fhc@foresthillscoop.org) no later than Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**