



Reservoir Park Community Garden: 2026 Gardener's Agreement

Responsibilities, Rules and Expectations

1.1 General

- a. Attendance at our scheduled Annual Meeting, signing RPCG Gardener's Agreement and paying annual dues is mandatory.
- b. As part of our community garden, every gardener is requested to sign up for at least one Volunteer Day per growing season. Growing seasons are defined as Spring (April-May), Summer (June-August), and Fall (September-October). Opportunities will include general garden care of shared spaces and resources, and participation in or support of the Food for All program garden efforts will also satisfy this request. Important tasks that need done will be posted on the communications board at the garden.
- c. Respect other's gardens. Please do not pick crops or use other's tools without permission.
- d. Community gardeners are encouraged to supply their own tools for garden care and maintenance. Tools for use in the Food for All garden are available for borrowing; please be respectful of this shared resource, return them where you found them, and assume responsibility for any damages. Removing any Food for All tools from the garden is prohibited.
- e. Limit of one plot per household; expressed interest in additional bed space is welcome, and in the event space becomes available, interested individuals/families will be notified and offered the bed space on a pro-rated basis for the remaining portion of the growing season
- f. We encourage personal donations of excess produce to our Food for All garden efforts. All food donations should be logged with Trellis for Tomorrow to be included in annual totals.
- g. Gardener conduct: this is a community garden space – a place where both food and community can grow. We invite and encourage you to treat others with kindness, act as ambassadors for the best kind of community we can become, and resolve any differences in a respectful manner. Mediation assistance is available upon request. Contact the Rec Rep for more information.
- h. If at any time you are needing assistance with your plot ask the Rec Rep or Garden Committee for resources about planting, maintenance or harvesting.

1.2 Planting/Growing

- a. Upon signing an agreement work will begin during the next growing season. Seasons are defined as Spring (April-May), Summer (June-August), and Fall (September-October).
- b. For all off-season applicants who are assigned a growing space, produce must be grown for 3 calendar quarters. Please notify the Rec Rep if you plan to be inactive for a quarter. A cover crop should be used if not actively growing. Please inquire with Rec Rep, Garden Committee, or Trellis for plant recommendations
- c. Keep all plants from encroachment on other garden plots or walk-ways. Remove rotting produce. Remove weeds before they make seeds. Respect your neighbors and garden in a way that does not infringe on others in the garden and makes no negative impact on the environment.
- d. Plants allowed to become infested with diseases, aphids, squash bugs and other insects without treatment will harm the entire community garden. Please contact the Rec Rep or speak to a Community Garden Committee Member if you are having issues.
- e. This is an Organic garden. Chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are not allowed.
- f. Gardening for commercial purposes is prohibited.



1.3 Prohibited Plants and Conditions: If in question, ask the Rec Rep.

- a. Illegal plants in plots.
- b. Poisonous plants in plots if eaten raw, e.g., purple hyacinth bean.
- c. Invasive plants in plots (*See TxInvasives.org*); plants that have been problems in other established community gardens: **Lemon cucumber** b) **Morning Glory vines** c) **Bamboo** d) **Mint (container only)**. e) **Nutgrass** f) **Wild Blackberry** g) **Cypress vine** h) **Wild sunflowers** l) **Larkspur** j) **Bermuda grass** k) **Amaranth**
- d. Trees of any kind in plots.
- e. Plantings of any kind outside of plots including potted plants.
- f. Flowers/plants not for human consumption as a primary crop, e.g., gourds. However, marigolds, citronella, nasturtium and catnip are among the preferred flowering plants that will protect your skin and your vegetables from insects. No plot may have more than one quarter planted with flowers. The primary purpose of this community garden is to grow food for human consumption.

1.4 Plot Maintenance

- a. Wood bed frames and drip tape irrigation system components are provided, but both are susceptible to damage. Pre-season bed condition is noted by the Rec Rep and the plot holder is responsible for the proper care of their bed. In the event of damage to the irrigation line(s), shut off water flow using the corresponding red valve inside the bed and notify the Rec Rep and/or a member as soon as possible.
- b. Any water leaks need to be reported immediately to the Rec Rep.
- c. Hoop/coverings exceeding 4 feet in height above soil surface are not allowed..
- d. Permanent improvements to plots will become the property of Phoenixville Parks and Recreation Department.
- e. The surrounding areas of plot should be weeded, kept free of tools and general debris and maintained with wood chips on a continual basis.

1.5 Safety

- a. Every gardener is responsible for their actions in the garden and the actions of their guest. Every gardener is responsible for the supervision and safety of their children or guests.
- b. The garden is a natural environment. Bee stings, insect bites and contact with poison ivy is possible.
- c. Proper shoes and clothing to avoid harm is encouraged for gardeners and guests.
- d. No pets are allowed in the garden.
- e. Any issues or instances of theft or vandalism should be reported to the Rec Rep as soon as possible. The Borough of Phoenixville and the Parks and Recreation Department are not liable for any lost or stolen items.
- f. In the event of a medical emergency or life-threatening situation, call 911.



Non-compliance, Notices and Relinquishment of Plots

2.1 Non-Compliance/Abandonment

- a. Abandonment is defined as: No activity for a continuous four-week period
- b. Non-Compliance is defined as Lack of adherence to above Responsibilities, Rules and Expectations including proper maintenance: watering, weeding, prohibited planting, and gardener conduct
- c. Plot surveys by the Rec Rep and Community Garden Committee Members will be made regularly throughout the growing season.
- d. Plots that appear in need of maintenance will result in notices issued by the Rec Rep to the shareholder.

2.2 Notices/Action regarding non-compliance or abandonment

- a. First Notice – Email will be issued to registered plot holder identifying infraction.
- b. Second Notice – After two weeks of inaction, a second email will be issued to registered plot holder. Garden will be marked with a yellow flag to indicate the plot requires maintenance.
- c. Third Notice– After four weeks of inaction, a third email and phone call will be issued to registered plot holder. Garden will be marked with a red flag to indicate abandonment. Gardens with red flags may be tended to by organizers to protect the health of the community garden.
- d. Relinquishing of plot: Formal letter will be sent to the address of the plot holder. The Parks and Recreation Department and its representatives will determine whether to re-claim the plot for non-compliance or abandonment. No fee will be issued.
- e. A gardener who accumulates more than three non-compliance/abandonment situations during the year will be cause for non-renewal of plot rental for the next year.

2.3 Voluntary Relinquishment of Plots

- a. Plots may be voluntarily relinquished by holders at any time. The beginning of planting seasons is a good time for plot holders to decide whether changes in their lives require discontinuing gardening at RPCG. An early decision is thoughtful of persons on our Wait List who want to garden an available plot as soon as possible.

Shareholder Plot Survey Citations	
1.2c	Encroachment of plants on other garden plots
1.2c	Rotting Produce
1.2c	Weeds inside plot
1.2d	Pest problem
1.3a	Illegal plants in plot
1.3b	Poisonous plants in plot
1.3c	Invasive plants in plot
1.3d	Tree in plot
1.3e	Plants in common path not permitted
1.3f	Overplanting of flowers
1.4c	Hoop covering over 4'
1.4e	Weeds/debris in common path
1.4e	Woodchips needed in common path
2.1a	Abandonment - no activity for 4 weeks