

South Burlington Community Gardens

Rules and Guidelines

Ensuring an enjoyable gardening experience for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and guidelines. For this reason, everyone is expected to observe these rules of the garden and be a good gardening neighbor.

If prior to or during the growing season, you decide that you can no longer maintain your plot in accordance with these rules and guidelines or you no longer wish to maintain your plot; you must give **immediate** notice to the City of South Burlington by calling the Recreation & Parks Department at 802-846-4108. The plot may be reassigned to a person on the waiting list.

Gardeners are responsible for cultivating, watering, and general care of their plot. Please respect adjacent plots by eliminating all weeds before the seeding stage. **Gardeners are responsible for weeding any pathway and/or fencing that borders the gardeners' plot and keeping walkways covered with woodchips**; woodchips are provided at the site for this purpose. Please keep walkways and paths clear of debris and tools at all times.

- **Mowing and Tilling:**

- The Parks Division, under South Burlington Public Works, will be tilling the soil each spring and weather permitting again in the fall. During the growing months, they will be mowing on a regular basis. The following is expected of all gardeners to assist them with their work:
 - Gardeners are expected to keep all their tools within their own garden plot or take them with you when you leave. The City of South Burlington is not responsible for lost or stolen tools, equipment, or other materials left in plots.
 - All rocks and stones must be removed from the gardening area and pathways, **and placed in the designated rock pile**. This will help to prevent the mower blades from being destroyed.
 - Gardeners are expected to keep all vined plants contained to their plot, and not allow them to travel into pathways.

- **Disposal of Materials:**

- South Burlington has a Carry-in/Carry-Out policy. That means gardeners are responsible to take all personal and gardening materials offsite for proper disposal (including diseased plant materials). Please take all trash home with you and properly dispose; there are no trash containers at the gardens.
- PLEASE place all rocks and stones you choose to remove from your plot in the **designated rock pile**.

- **Planting & Harvesting:**

- Gardeners are responsible to begin planting no later than June 5th. Failure to do so may result in your plot being assigned to someone on the waiting list.
- Gardeners are expected to weed and maintain their plots throughout the growing season.
- Walkways need to have woodchips down by June 5th.
- Gardeners are expected to harvest produce in a timely manner and remove plants that are no longer producing.
- PLEASE be respectful; tall crops (such as sunflowers and corn), structures, etc. should be planted as to not shade another garden. Specifically, gardeners are encouraged to plant potentially tall crops on the south side. Please keep vined plants such as pumpkins or squash contained as to not travel into pathways of your neighbor's.

- A gardener must be on site when watering. Please understand you will be sharing water faucets with others and sometimes the water pressure will be weak. Also, please be conscious of using water wisely. Sprinklers and soaker hoses are not permitted.
- **Organic Gardening Practices ONLY.**
- PLEASE keep your vehicle in the designated parking lot and off any grassed areas surrounding the community garden plots at all times. Please pick up all pet waste and dispose of it.
- **End of the Season Procedures**
 - Gardeners are expected to clean up plots by removing all material including cold weather crops prior to Closing Day on the third Sunday in October (October 17, 2021.) Vegetables left in plots after that date may be harvested by volunteers and donated to a local Food Shelf.
 - All plots must be cleared of all stakes and non-organic materials (including but not limited to plant labels, string, plastic mulch, paper and plastic bags, landscape fabric, tools, and metal earth staples) and these materials disposed of off-site. If this is not done prior to Closing Day on the third Sunday in October (October 17, 2021) your plot will be cleaned out and all material will be disposed of, and you may lose status as a returning gardener for the next garden season.