

CAPE COMMUNITY GARDEN AT MAXWELL'S FARM

Guidelines for 2017

Welcome to our community of gardeners! The Cape Community Garden at Maxwell's Farm is an organic garden located on land owned by the Maxwell family on Spurwink Avenue. The garden is located behind the Ocean House Child Development Center. The Community Garden consists solely of its member gardeners and is coordinated by the Garden Committee. **The garden relies on the financial support and cooperative efforts of all its members.**

Gardeners tend their own individual plots and surrounding paths and collectively maintain the garden. In addition to individual gardener's plots, one plot is reserved for the day care children and two plots are reserved to grow produce for **Judy's Pantry** here in Cape Elizabeth. **Maine Harvest for Hunger** is coordinated by Wendy Garland and Marybeth Richardson; other gardeners pitch in to plant, tend, harvest and deliver, or to donate extra vegetables from their own plots. Last summer, our two MHH plots along with donations from other gardeners produced 470 pounds of veggies for the Pantry to feed Cape Elizabeth families with limited resources.

Garden Committee

Roger Bishop(Chair)	239-6504	roger@rogerabishop.com
Wendy Garland	415-4017	garlanddore@gmail.com
Deb Cavanaugh	899-1407	debbie.cavanaugh@gmail.com
David Dufour	751-3436	dadufour@gwi.net
Melissa Kelly	767-5564	rkelly842@earthlink.net
Donna Savage	767-8047	dsavage5@maine.rr.com
Tom and Marti Meyers	799-6876	tmeyers1@maine.rr.com

Membership and Benefits

1. Fees and Assignment of Plots:

- \$35 annual fee for each 15' X 15' plot
- \$25 one-time initial membership fee per plot

Deadline: Gardeners must pay the applicable fee by March 31, 2017. Plots not paid for by this date may be considered vacant and assigned to a new gardener on the waiting list.

Assignment of plots: The garden is open to Cape Elizabeth residents. Gardeners may keep the same plot from year to year. Assignment of vacated plots will be based on the order of the waiting list. If a gardener wishes to leave the garden for only a season, they will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list for a plot in the following season. They will be offered the next available plot that comes open when they get to the top of the waiting list. They will not be required to pay the \$25 initial membership fee when they return. Plots may be shared, but please submit just one application per plot. If plots are shared, submit both names and email addresses so that both gardeners will receive messages. **It will be the responsibility of the gardener who pays the annual fee to manage the sharing arrangement, including the compliance with the garden guidelines. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the plot.**

2. Garden Plots: Plots are 15' X 15'. Paths are laid out between each plot to provide access with wheelbarrows and hoses. You may plant both vegetables and flowers as you wish.

3. Benefits: Garden fees will cover the following within the limits of our budget:

- Water, waterline and hose system;
- Bulk purchase of organic compost and fertilizer, as well as other organic products.
- Compost area for disposal of garden wastes;
- Fence around the garden;
- Wheelbarrows and hand tools

Responsibilities

Remember that the garden is a 'guest' of both the Maxwell family and the Child Development Center – please treat the area with proper respect at all times.

- 1. Because the garden shares the property with the Child Development Center, extra care is needed when driving/parking at the garden Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00AM and 5:30PM when the children are present.** They are often playing or walking in the area behind the building. **Park only to the left** as you turn off Spurwink Avenue and walk down the slope beside the building to the garden. Parking behind the building is permitted only on weekends and before or after hours. We ask that your children stay out of the play-yards and off the playground equipment that belong to the day care center. During several special events at the Center, they will need all the parking places and ask gardeners to avoid those hours altogether.
- 2. The garden is on the property of Dan and Imelda Maxwell** who grow vegetables in the greenhouse and in the field between our garden and Spurwink Ave. Dan and Imelda often have seedlings and vegetables for purchase – watch for signs near the greenhouse. **Please leave your pets at home as they are not permitted in the garden at all nor in the surrounding fields.**
- 3. All plots in the Cape Community Gardens must be ORGANIC.** Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides are not permitted. Look for labels stating product is 100% organic. We will try to provide appropriate organic products to deal with particular problems as they arise. A list of Acceptable and Non-Acceptable Products is available at <http://www.capegardener.org/>. It is not necessary to use organic seeds and seedlings. Gardeners may wish to have a soil test done to determine what additives are recommended for their own particular soil. Garden plots cannot be used to grow produce for sale, rented, or used for business purposes.
- 4. Gardeners are required to help with garden tasks beyond the care of their own plot and surrounding paths (e.g., one week weeding/watering MHH plots, emptying trash can regularly etc.).** Gardeners will be contacted by the committee members to coordinate their specific assignment for the year. **Participation in spring and fall workdays is also required**
- 5. Gardeners are responsible for working their plots by June 1 and tending them throughout the season.** Any gardener who will not be using his or her plot for any reason is requested to let a member of the Garden Committee know as soon as possible, so that the plot can be well used for that season. **If you have an injury or other situation and are unable to maintain your plot, please contact Roger Bishop or a member of the garden committee, who will organize a team of volunteers to assist you.**
- 6. Gardeners are responsible for keeping the garden free of debris.** There are designated areas for weeds and other compostable material. There is a trash barrel available for small items, but we ask that gardeners dispose of larger wastes and any recyclable items at the transfer station/recycling center. Serviceable items you want to give away (such as tomato cages, stakes, etc.) can be left on a designated pallet near the garage; take them on a first-come, first-served basis. If something you left there isn't taken by another gardener after a week, please dispose of it yourself.
- 7. Gardeners are responsible, together with adjacent gardeners, for keeping paths around all sides of plots weeded throughout the season. Gardeners with plots along the fence line are also responsible for weeding the fence adjacent to their plot. Corner plot owners may apply time spent weeding the fence line toward volunteer hours. Plots should be planned so that trailing plants do not spread into paths or into other gardeners' plots. Tall crops (pole beans, corn) and, in particular, large sunflowers should be situated on the south side or the middle of your plot so as not to shade other gardeners' plots. Plant the shorter sunflower varieties that are more suitable for our small plots.**

8. **Gardens must be “put to bed” by the end of October or two weeks after a killing frost** – i.e. remove non-biodegradable mulch, weeds and dead plant material (to prevent spread of plant diseases). Gardeners who will be using the plot the following year may leave perennial plants in place. Plants that are still producing may also be left in place.

9. **A gardener who will be away or unable to tend his or her plot for an extended time should arrange help from a friend or another gardener and/or contact the Garden Committee. If gardeners will be away when crops are ready to pick, we ask that you notify the Harvest for Hunger coordinators so that your plot can be picked and the produce donated to the pantry. Your plants will do better if the ripe produce is picked on a regular basis.**

10. There is **no smoking** allowed in the garden or surrounding area. Tobacco mosaic virus, which can be carried on smokers’ hands is a serious threat to tomatoes and other plants.

11. **The garden is fortunate to have an easy way to water individual plots. We have to pay for all the water that’s used whether used on your plot or wasted through abuse or leaks. There are instructions posted on the spigot at the garage to help everyone learn how to use the watering system wisely – please use the system as instructed.**

12. **When there is a serious pest, viral or fungal problem in the garden, gardeners will be asked to more carefully and regularly monitor their plants, so as to contain the problem as soon as possible.** When a gardener can’t be reached or isn’t able to come and deal with the problem, members of the Garden Committee may remove diseased or infested plants. Obviously, this is a difficult choice to make, but it’s the only way to protect other plants. We had a devastating outbreak of late blight our first season on tomatoes and potatoes, which killed many plants and moved very rapidly through the garden. Any gardener who has questions about the guidelines should contact a Garden Committee member.

13. **Although children are a welcome addition to the garden, please monitor your children carefully so that they do not damage neighbors’ plots.**

14. **If a gardener is not following these Guidelines, the gardener will be notified and asked to correct the problem within two weeks. Failure to do so may mean forfeiture of the garden plot at the committee’s discretion.**

15. **Garden communications are sent via email and are often time- sensitive concerning upcoming workdays or pest alerts. Please pay attention to these in a timely manner.**

Melissa Kelly will be handling communications so be sure to put her email address: rkelly842@earthlink.net in your address book, as well as those of the rest of the committee.

16. **Be a good neighbor!** If you keep your plot and paths well tended, the entire garden will be healthier, your neighbors will be happier, and you’ll make an invaluable contribution to the “community” which is at the heart of our garden. Welcome!

KEEP THESE GARDEN GUIDELINES FOR REFERENCE DURING THE SEASON – THEY WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE GARDEN WEBSITE at:

<http://www.capegardener.org/>

The site contains helpful information on the garden, planting hints, treatments of diseases and pests, educational opportunities, local gardening supply locations along with wonderful photos from both community gardens – do take a look.