

Haverstraw Community Garden - Garden Guidelines for Community Plots 2010

Located at Haverstraw Middle School

In case of Emergency call: Town of Haverstraw Police – 845-354-1500

About the Haverstraw Community Garden

- Our community garden is a space where friends and neighbors can grow vegetables, fruits, flowers, and relationships; and a place of recreation, education, and connection.
- We welcome people of all cultures, speaking all languages, making any kind of income, with little or a lot of gardening experience.
- The Haverstraw Community Garden is located in between Haverstraw Middle School (16 Grant Street) and the Haverstraw Center (50 West Broad Street).
- Gardeners receive a plot of approximately 5' x 15' for your use during a garden season, use of a few shared common tools, access to water, and a supportive environment for learning about gardening and meeting neighbors!
- Gardeners are expected to tend their plots and contribute some volunteer hours to help run the garden.
- The Haverstraw Garden was established as a multipurpose site - gardening for local families, intergenerational initiatives, and for learning projects for students attending Haverstraw Middle School.
- Please obey all garden rules and regulations.
- The Haverstraw Community Garden Committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions for the garden. They have authority to resolve conflicts, including refusing a plot to a gardener or dismissing a current gardener.

General Rules and Regulations

- If you find vandalism and/or theft report it to the Garden Coordinator. The Garden Coordinator will report the incident to the police.
- No smoking, alcohol, or drugs, are allowed within 100 feet of school property including in and around the garden.
- Human-made refuse should be placed in the metal trashcans supplied by the Haverstraw Community Garden or taken away with you to be disposed of. Trash will be picked up from the garden by the Village of Haverstraw.
- If you discover any problems with the garden, i.e. missing supplies, water problems, excess trash, etc. please notify the Garden Coordinator.
- Shoes must be worn at all times when in the garden.
- Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the Garden Coordinator.
- No pets in the garden.
- A household is one address. Only one plot per address is allowed.
- No parking in the middle school driveway. Follow all local parking rules. Parking is available in Village Lot #3 (50 West Broad Street – Knights of Columbus lot)

Important Dates

- All gardeners are required to submit a registration form and fees by May 1st of the calendar year. A deposit of \$30 is due by May 1st of the calendar year. Upon successfully cleaning and closing your plot at the end of the season (November 15th), \$15 will be returned to you by December 1st. Should you lose the fence key, a fee of \$5 will be deducted from your deposit. Should you lose the shed key, a fee of \$5 will be deducted from your deposit.
- The garden will open on May 29th and closes on November 15th. Opening day may change depending on the soil conditions and the weather.
- Keys will be distributed at the Welcome Meeting or will be available for pick-up at the Haverstraw Center starting after the Welcome Meeting date.
- All gardeners are expected to attend an annual Welcome Meeting - This year the meeting will be held on Saturday, May 15th from 9:30am – 11:00am at The Haverstraw Center (50 West Broad Street).

- You must start working your plot within two weeks after the garden opens. If you do not, the plot will be considered abandoned. You will receive a reminder phone call within 5 days past the deadline and a letter will be mailed to you. If no other arrangements have been discussed with the Garden Coordinator, the plot will be reassigned within 1 week of sending the reminder letter. If meeting this schedule is impossible for you, please talk with one of the coordinators. There are no refunds on abandoned plots.
- By November 15th all plants and roots must be removed from your garden plot. If your garden plot is not cleaned out by this date, you forfeit your deposit and risk not being assigned a plot in the future.
- Each gardener must apply each year for a plot. Returning gardeners will be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish.

Planting Rules and Tools

- Haverstraw Community Garden at Haverstraw Middle School is an organic garden. This means no pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, etc. If you don't know if a substance is organic, please ask the Garden Coordinator.
- Please keep your plot as weed-free as possible. Gardeners whose plots have weeds that are likely to cause trouble for neighboring plots (because of height, location, or concentration, among other reasons) will be given a warning. If the first warning is not effective, the gardener will be sent a letter specifying a time by which the weeds must be taken care of. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the plot. There are no refunds on abandoned plots.
- Plants that can grow to heights taller than 4 feet should not be planted. Any plants that may cast significant shadows should be grown in the middle of the plot, instead of on an edge where they are likely to block the sun in your neighbors' plots.
- Please do not plant mint, catnip, Jerusalem artichokes, comfrey or raspberries, as they are invasive.
- Stakes that mark your plot's corners and have your plot number must be left in place all season.
- The shed is for garden equipment only and for use by gardeners at the Haverstraw Middle School site only.
- Put all communal tools away neatly in the shed when you are done using them and lock the shed to avoid loss and theft.

Good Manners

- Ensuring enjoyable gardening experience for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and responsibilities. For this reason, observe the rules of the garden, and be a good neighbor.
- Maintain appropriate conduct including appropriate language.
- Please do not take things from other people's plots without asking and without direct approval from them.
- Do not pick from your neighbor's garden even if you think they have neglected their plot.
- Keep vines and visitors out of neighboring plots.
- You are responsible for your own plot. If you are unable to care for your plot for a time because of illness or vacation, ask a fellow gardener or the coordinator for help with weeding and harvesting.
- Do not send non-members to harvest for you. If you wish to share your produce/flowers, please pick it and give it.
- Do not invite different people from the neighborhood (kids too) in to pick something when you aren't there.

The Garden Community

- All gardeners are expected to volunteer a minimum of 6 hours of their time (about 1 hour a month) to the community garden each season, beyond time spent working on plots. It is your responsibility to fulfill this obligation and verify your work with the Garden Coordinator. If we don't know you've done the work, Haverstraw Community Garden will keep your deposit. See the attached list of volunteer opportunities.
- Garden meetings and work parties are scheduled throughout the season. Please plan to attend to get to know your fellow gardeners and assist with garden upkeep and special projects.

Have a great gardening season!