

Bloomfield Community Garden Frequently Asked Questions 2020

Administered by the Bloomfield Township Community Garden Committee



Locations:

Milbank Park Community Garden Address: 264 North 17th Street

Pulaski Park Community Garden Address: 24 Mount Vernon Avenue

What is required of a member?

To grow produce for home consumption and to help grow perennial flowers around garden borders. Gardeners must have his/her methods of sourcing vegetable seeds and plants.

Gardeners are responsible for staking plants, pruning plants, harvesting crops upon maturity and maintaining a clean environment, which includes: keeping the plots clear from weeds, pests and disease.

Gardeners must wear a mask and gloves in the garden, must bring sanitizing spray to sanitize handles and tools, and must properly turn off water and lock up after each visit.

The garden committee visits the garden regularly to ensure members are maintaining their plots. If members do not maintain the plot, plots will be returned to the Garden Committee.

Only temporary structures such as plant trellises will be allowed. The use of non-organic fertilizer, fungicides and herbicides, illegal crops, and invasive plants is not permitted.

At the end of the season members must return the plots back to the GC way it was originally provided. The plots are not transferable. Gardeners in good standing will be able to renew their plots.

No pets, smoking, alcoholic beverages, gambling, or use of illegal drugs allowed in the garden. Parking is NOT ALLOWED inside the parks or on the grass. Street parking rules are strictly enforced.

Who is eligible for a plot of land? How is it decided? What does it cost?

Garden plots are available only to Bloomfield residents. Interested residents must email bloomfieldnjgardens@gmail.com to inquire about community garden membership. Applicants must complete the required application form. The non-refundable fee is \$50.00 per plot, per season. Payment must be made in cash or check (made payable to the Township of Bloomfield.) The fee is waived for veterans. Veterans must provide ID and must still sign a contract.

Available plots will be allocated on a first come first served basis. A waitlist will be started if there are more gardeners than plots.

Applicants must be over the age of 18 years. Family members with the written permission of the plot assignee, may use the plot. In all matters the decision of the Garden Committee will be final.

What is a Community Garden?

A community garden is a single piece of land gardened by a group of people. The Bloomfield Garden Committee provides raised garden beds which people rent to grow their own plants.

A goal of a community garden is to encourage a group of people to work together in harmony and friendship. Hence there will be community workdays and meetings to both maintain the garden and to connect gardeners.

The long-term goal is to both develop community gardens throughout the township and develop a network of gardens and gardeners.

What will be provided? When is the commencement date?

4'x8' raised beds are available for seasonal renting (one plot per family, first come, first serve) each filled with a 50/50 mix of mushroom compost and topsoil recommended for planting. Gardeners will have access to soil, composting bins, garden tools, and community garden google group forums.

The official garden season begins in April. Best time to transplant summer plants is on Mother's Day or when night temperatures remain consistent in the mid-50's.

Assistance

The Garden Committee will assist gardeners and may provide educational resources to ensure that the goals of the garden are achieved. The Committee will work with gardeners to not only grow plants but also help create a community of gardeners.

Liability

The Township, Community Garden Committee, NTNN, Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs and/or any of its members/volunteers are not liable and will not be responsible for any theft, loss, injury or failure of crops.

