

## MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

For your safety and for the safety of those around you, all new garden members are required to attend the annual garden **orientation and safety workshop (dates to be determined)**. It is your responsibility to contact a Garden Coordinator to arrange an alternate training date if you cannot attend any of the dates suggested. Gardeners may not start working in their raised beds until they have participated in the orientation/safety workshop.

### COMMUNITY HOURS

Gardeners are responsible for a **minimum of 3 hours of volunteer service** to the collective areas of the garden (not inside your bed) each year. Hours may be contributed by the gardener, family, and/or friends. Community hours should be recorded on a clipboard provided in the shed. Gardeners are responsible for recording their hours. The Volunteer Coordinator(s) will monitor and compile community volunteer hours. Community hours must be completed by October 31st every year.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE E-MAILED TO YOU.** Applications will only be considered complete when they have a volunteer plan listed.

### GENERAL GARDEN INFORMATION

- a) Each garden plot is a raised bed approximately 4' wide, 8' long and 12" deep.
- b) Annual dues per plot, including water, are \$20 for the first plot and \$15 for each additional plot. Scholarships are available upon request. (Limited to 4 per household or 6 per organization)
- c) Plots may be cultivated from April 1st to October 31st. Please note that we will do our best to have new beds in the expansion area ready by this date, but it is possible there may be a delay due to weather or insufficient volunteer assistance.
- d) BCG is open from sunrise until sunset, seven days a week from April 1st to October 31st.
- e) Plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Returning gardeners are given preference if they re-enroll by the application deadline and if all components of the membership agreement were adhered to during the previous season.
- f) Plots must be planted by June 15th to ensure maximum use of limited space. Plots not planted by this time may be reassigned at the discretion of the Grounds Manager and Garden Coordinators.
- g) Each plot should be maintained in an orderly and clean manner. Plot owners will be contacted if not in compliance and give a week to address the issue. If action is not taken, plot will be reassigned without further notice or refund.
- h) When you no longer want your plot, you must notify the BPR office. You cannot give your plot to others. If surrendered plot can be re-rented during the same season, a full or partial refund may be offered prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- i) Volunteer gleaners will be available to harvest unwanted produce from your garden if you find that you don't have a need or the time to harvest them yourself. This produce will go to a local food pantry or shelter. Call the BPR office if you would like someone to harvest (992-4490).
- j) Gardeners are responsible for all soil amendments, cultivating, weeding, fertility management, watering, and general maintenance in their own plot. Bulk compost will be available as our budget allows – gardeners will be notified when it is available.
- k) Garden plots are used for growing vegetables and flowers for gardener's own use or for donation to charitable organizations. Growing trees, shrubs, and woody vines is prohibited.
- l) All plant material, structures, wire cages, and the like, must be removed at the end of the season unless arrangements are made to reserve the plot for next year. Individual gardeners are responsible for clearing the plots and returning them to their original weed-free condition.
- m) Gardeners should place any unwanted plant materials in the designated compost areas. Do not pile weeds and rocks in the pathways. Place bagged, non-plant materials (plastic, wire, trash) in a garbage can, not in the compost bin.  
**PLEASE PUT DISEASED PLANTS IN THE GARBAGE.**
- n) Since plots are close together, gardeners should endeavor to keep vines, or other materials contained so that they do not impact the enjoyment of neighboring gardeners.
- o) Tall plants (such as corn, sunflowers, or tall trellised plants) that cast extensive shade should be planted where they will not impact adjoining gardens. You must contact the Grounds Manager before building any structure in your plot.

## FERTILIZER AND PEST MANAGEMENT

BCG gardeners are required to follow eco-friendly gardening standards, and appropriate wildlife and environmental protection practices. The use of chemicals such as pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, animal repellants or slug controls and synthetic fertilizers are strictly forbidden. Use of raw human or animal waste, including hot or fresh manure is not allowed due to environmental and human health concerns; however, fully composted manures are allowed. Gardeners may use non-synthetic fertilizers such as fish meal, bone meal, blood meal, kelp meal, etc. Maine state law prohibits the application of any material applied to manage a pest (even those listed as organic and unrestricted) on property open to use by the public by those without a commercial applicator license. Additionally, Maine state law states that anyone wishing to apply pesticides must have prior permission from the landowner (the City of Bangor).

## MISCELLANEOUS

- a) Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the garden area at any time. Service dogs are welcome.
- b) There is no smoking allowed in the garden or parking area (inside the fence) at any time.
- c) Gardeners are expected to use common courtesy and resolve all differences in an amicable and civil manner. Neither verbal nor physical abuse will be tolerated. Please contact the Bangor Parks and Recreation if you are unable to resolve conflicts on your own.
- d) Gardeners must be present in the garden while watering. Drip irrigation, soaker hoses, and other irrigation may not be left on unattended. Please conserve water as much as possible. Water is to be used only for gardening. Water is turned off in October.
- e) Plants of an invasive nature (such as bamboo, mint, and oregano) will not be allowed in the garden. Also, containers of standing water should be avoided, because they can be breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- f) When not in use, tools, hoses, and other equipment must be stored in designated storage areas. Grounds must remain clear for maintenance equipment and for the safety of all garden members.
- g) Closely supervise your children; help them learn respect for gardening and boundaries. Children using tools in the garden must be under direct (within talking distance) and constant supervision of a parent or responsible adult. Parents or guardians are responsible for making sure that children do not consume soil from anywhere at the garden site. All produce must be washed thoroughly before eating.
- h) A member witnessing or experiencing garden theft or vandalism should notify the police and call the Bangor Parks and Recreation office. **Due to the open nature of garden sites, BCG and BPR are not responsible for loss of garden products.**

## LEAD NOTICE:

Soil tests from the Bangor Community Garden (BCG) site indicate slight to moderate lead levels, typical of soil in older urban settings. Lead is harmful to human health. Therefore, all production of edible crops at BCG must be in raised beds filled with uncontaminated soil. The following practices should also be followed to ensure the safety of members and their families: produce must be washed thoroughly before eating, care should be taken to minimize consumption of dust and dirt on snacks consumed in the garden, and small children should be monitored at all times to make sure that they aren't consuming soil from the site. If you have any questions or concerns about lead contamination, please contact Kate Garland. For further information, please refer to the UMaine Extension bulletin *Lead in the Soil*.

**Any gardener found to be in violation of the community garden rules may be asked to leave the garden and will not be given preference for garden space the following season.**

## THIS IS THE STATEMENT YOU AGREE TO WHEN YOU SIGN YOUR MEMBER APPLICATION:

- I have been informed that soil tests have disclosed lead contamination on the site. I understand and acknowledge the related requirement that the cultivation of all edible crops occur in raised beds and am aware of the precautions necessary to avoid lead contamination.
- As is recommended for any harvested crops, BCG encourages gardeners to thoroughly rinse/wash vegetables prior to consumption. I agree to the following Hold Harmless Clause (required by the City of Bangor and University of Maine Cooperative Extension):
- The undersigned adult on behalf of themselves, their child and/or children, agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Bangor and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, its officers, officials, employees, and agents from any and all claims, demands, suits, penalties, losses, damages, judgments, or costs of any kind whatsoever arising out of or in any way resulting from the activities of said parties and individuals.
- I acknowledge that I have read and understood the conditions of membership in BCG. I understand that failure to comply will result in non-renewal/non-approval of my application and/or termination of gardening privileges.

**Registration Questions?**  
**Gardening Questions?**

Please contact the Bangor Parks and Recreation Department **992-4490**  
Please contact..... Byron Hale **631-8574** or Kate Garland **942-7396**