



CITY OF BANGOR
PARKS & RECREATION



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 encouraged to donate a minimum of 3 hours of volunteer service including the Opening Day and End of Season Clean-Up Day (dates to be determined). 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.

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.
- 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.
- h) When you no longer want your plot, you must notify the BP&R 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.
- i) Volunteer gardeners 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 Bangor Parks & Recreation office if you would like someone to harvest (207-992-4490).
- j) Gardeners are responsible for all soil amendments, cultivating, weeding, fertility management, watering, and general maintenance in their own plot.
- 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. 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 attempt 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. Permanent structures are not allowed in plots.**

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 (event those listed as organic and unrestricted) on property open to use by the public without a commercial applicator license. Additionally, Maine state law states that anyone wishing to apply pesticides must have prior permission from the landowner (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 BP&R 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, oregano, morning glories) 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) Loud noises, such as radios are prohibited. We encourage the use of headphones for music.
- h) 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.
- i) A member witnessing or experiencing garden theft or vandalism should notify the police and call the Bangor Parks & Recreation office. **Due to the open nature of garden sites, BP&R is 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.

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.

Registration Questions: Contact Bangor Parks and Recreation (207)992-4490
Gardening Questions: Contact Byron Hale (207)631-8574