



Waterford Parks and Recreation Community Garden Project at Hess-Hathaway Park- January 2021

Welcome to Waterford Citizens Farm Project/ Community Garden. The Citizens Farm Project seeks to educate our residents and encourage healthy local organic growing with little or none of the carbon emissions commercial farming can produce.

As a citizen farmer, participants will be renting 10'x10' plots of land within the **Hess-Hathaway Park located at 825 S. Williams Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48327**. Policies do allow citizen farmers to retain plots from year to year, if desired. Vehicles may be left outside the gate and gardeners may walk in during such times that the park is closed.

A one-time \$10.00 lifetime membership fee is accessed for new gardeners. An annual \$20.00 plot fee for Waterford residents/\$35 White Lake residents will be charged payable to Waterford Parks and Recreation and subject to review yearly. Returning Citizen Farmers will have until MARCH 16 to reserve their plot from the previous year. All fees are for the benefit of the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department and Hess-Hathaway Park. Upon payment Citizen Farmers will have access to leased plots. Upon expiration or termination of a Citizen Farmer's participation in the program; any keys, program identification badges, etc. shall be returned to Hess-Hathaway Park/Waterford Parks and Recreation. There is no limit on the number of plots a participant may rent.

Citizen Farmers are expected to be good neighbors and shall follow all rules of conduct of the Hess-Hathaway Park Advisory Board. Citizen Farmers shall take all reasonable steps to cooperate with each other and to resolve any disputes which may arise in a civil manner. Any complaint or issue that cannot be resolved must be submitted to the Hess-Hathaway Advisory Board for review in writing. Growing vegetables and produce for commercial purposes is prohibited. Donations to food banks have routinely been organized by the farmers.

Care, planting, maintenance and harvesting of leased plots are solely the responsibility of Citizen Farmers. Only organic material, in moderation, is allowed to enrich the soil. Materials, which create or emit obnoxious odors, are prohibited. All soil enhancers added to plots will become the property of Hess-Hathaway Farm Park once the plot lease has expired.

Raised beds: Landscape timbers (example: 4 x 4) and any other materials must be approved by the Hess-Hathaway Committee. The material must be maintained and in good condition. For example: wood that is deteriorating must be removed or replaced. Any material placed on the ground which does not decompose, must be removed by November 1st.

Toxic sprays and chemicals are not allowed. Annual flowers to border plots are allowed for aesthetic purposes and to discourage insects and wildlife destruction.

Permanent fencing: No fencing is allowed; only a trellis may be used for climbing plants. It must be removed by November 1st.

Restricted plants:

- Perennials, ground cover, ivy and other invasive plants such as chives are not allowed.
- Marijuana and all other plants associated with drug use are prohibited.
- No toxic plants can be grown in any shared community garden plot. If you are unsure of what they are, see the garden supervisor to evaluate your selection. Our list of toxic plants will mirror the poison control center list. For example: growing poison ivy, on your fence to keep neighbors out is not allowed.
- Castor Bean plants are banned. Touching and eating of this plant will not severely hurt you but eating as few as 2 seeds can kill you. The reported cases of illness are extremely rare and we restrict this plant because no antidote exists for ricin. It is best to avoid ricin exposure.
- Some plants are considered invasive and they must be container grown. Container grown plants must be elevated off the ground because their roots can never touch the ground. If any of these plants are found growing in your garden plot you will be asked to dig them up and put them into a container. Strawberries are allowed to be soil grown but they must be kept trimmed.

1. Horseradish Root
 2. Any plant from the mint family, lemon verbena and horehound
 3. Jerusalem Artichoke
 4. Lily of the Valley
 5. Sea Kale
 6. Sorrel
 7. Egyptian walking onions and perennial garlic
- Shrubs and small fruit trees are never allowed on your garden plot. All gardeners will be notified in real time if there are any changes to the restricted plant list made during the garden season.
 - **Pets of any kind are not allowed with the exception of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.**
 - **While you are welcome to leave tools in the “shed”, please note that all are welcome to use what is there.**
 - While “obnoxious is a subjective term, all participants are expected to use both common sense and courtesy when applying soil-enrichment materials”.
 - While the cultivation of some controlled substances may be permitted under law, the cultivation of such substances shall not be allowed at the Hess-Hathaway Farm Park under any circumstances. This is not intended to curtail the lawful right of any individual to cultivate such substances; however, the Hess-Hathaway Park cannot assure the necessary security for the public’s safety for such substances.
 - Park restroom facilities are open during Park hours. A walk-through gate is available for the times the park is closed. Vehicles must be parked to the side of the roadway if you are using the walk-through for access other than during regular hours. Please park parallel to Williams Lake Road.

Tidy Garden Plots:

1. All flags, bags and other creative materials used over the summer to deter pests MUST be removed by November 1st.
2. Except for over-wintering vegetables, all annual plants should be cleaned-out or dug in when they die.
3. Garden plots must not be used as storage plots. When harvest is completed, all garden equipment and material must be placed in designated winter storage areas.
4. Refer to the General Garden Rules for all other plot maintenance requirements.
5. Gardeners who fail to follow the guidelines will forfeit their plot per the Rules and Regulations.

Healthy Soil: Healthy soil grows healthy plants; therefore the use of compost and cover crops to ‘grow’ healthy soil is a guiding principal which will be encouraged.

Fall Planting: Fall planting is permitted. Examples: collard greens, spinach, carrots and leeks, winter cover crops.

NOTE: RULES AND POLICIES REVIEWED ANNUALLY AT THE **SPRING MEETING:**

This is the appropriate time to bring up issues for discussion. Issues will be presented, reviewed and implementation determined as we move forward into the 2021 Garden Season.

Tuesday, April 20, 6:30pm, Hess-Hathaway Community Building
825 South Williams Lake Road

AGENDA ADDITIONS: Please contact Tori Heglin, Recreation Supervisor
248.618.6165 or theglin@waterfordmi.gov
Please submit agenda addition requests by:
April 14. Thank you.

2021 January - Garden Rules and Regulations The Quick Reference Guide

1. All new gardeners must be a Waterford or White Lake Township residents. Names put on the waiting list will remain there until there is an opening that has been offered.
2. Returning gardeners must renew their garden plots annually by the due date. If you move out of Waterford Township or White Lake Township, Waterford Parks and Recreation Citizen's Community Garden membership will be revoked for the next calendar year, so that Waterford and White Lake Township residents may access this opportunity. Garden plots not paid for by the deadline for returning gardeners will be offered to those on the waiting list first.
3. The gardener assumes all responsibility for any personal injuries, accidents and their guests.
4. All labor, plants and any material used in the garden, is the sole responsibility of its owner.
5. Moving the boundary lines or planting anything outside the surveyed area is not allowed.
6. Park restroom facilities are open during park hours (there are restrooms at the Community Building and porta-johns may be available). There is a pedestrian gate to the park for the times the park is closed. Vehicles must be parked to the side of the roadway outside the entrance gates if you are using this gate after hours.
7. Pets of any kind are not allowed with the exception of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act: *A service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability.*
8. All gardeners are expected to keep their garden fully planted, weeded and harvested.
9. There is no general compost area, and any individual compost area may be forbidden if it becomes unsightly or a nuisance attraction. Please use trash barrels for all non-organic waste.
10. The garden stays open even if it floods.
11. All watering is done by hand, unattended sprinklers are not permitted, keep hoses properly secured and out of the way of mowing equipment etc.
12. Soil amendments are encouraged, ask for written guidelines. Some substances are not allowed.
13. Garden tools must be supplied by each individual gardener.
14. Inform fellow gardeners when you are away. Unfamiliar faces working in your garden may be questioned.
15. Gardeners on vacation are not exempt from weeding, maintenance or compliance deadlines.
16. If you must give up your garden for any reason, please inform the garden supervisor or office so any neglect affecting other gardeners can be addressed in a timely manner and/or plot can be reassigned.
17. Security: It is forbidden to ENTER, HARVEST OR WEED someone else's garden without their expressed permission. If you see suspicious behavior, keep watch (it may be helpful to introduce yourself) and do inform the garden supervisor.
18. The garden plot owner is responsible for their actions, their family members and their guests.
19. End of the season clean-up is expected of everyone. Failure to return the garden plot to its original condition may result in penalties.
20. The steering committee consists of volunteer gardeners and members of the Hess-Hathaway Park committee and a Parks and Recreation staff member. They meet as needed during the garden season.
21. The garden supervisor is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the rules and regulations. If disciplinary action is required, the garden supervisor will investigate, consult with Parks and Recreation staff and proceed as needed