

Thank you for your interest in registering to be a part of our Community Garden Program. The Program is run by the Recreation Department on East Longmeadow town property at Brown Farm. Please review the following conditions for participation.

- Each registered gardener is responsible for maintaining for the season a pre-rototilled plot. A full plot is approximately 20x20 feet. The cost of the plot and the length of the season will be set by the Recreation Department.
- Gardeners will not use chemical fertilizers, pesticides, treated/colored mulch, cardboard (PFAS) or take any other action that can cause harm to the soils or neighbors. Lime, organic fertilizer, plant covers, ground cover and similar products can be used to deter weeds and bugs.
- By the last day of the season, gardeners will remove from their assigned plot, and appropriately dispose of, all plant identification tags, pots, decorations, covers, fasteners, supports, gloves, watering devices, and any other item that will not allow for rototilling and fully and safely compost in a winter.
- Town water is available to gardeners, however, wasting water (i.e., broadcast watering) is discouraged and may become a nuisance. After use Gardeners will turn water off at the base spigot, drain and neatly hang the hoses on the supports.
- Gardeners are required to keep the pathways around their assigned plot clear of weeds/ debris. Any rocks or weeds or composting materials from your plot must be brought to the designated areas. Do not throw rocks or debris into the grass or pathways.
- Carry in / Carry out: There are no trash barrels at the gardens. Other than compostable plant materials, gardeners must remove any items they brought to the gardens.
- Gardeners will be included in a group email distribution for purposes of communicating about the gardens. To opt out of this distribution list, send written notice to the Recreation Department and the garden coordinator. Use of the distribution list or any person's email for any other purpose is not permitted and repeated misuse will be treated as a nuisance. Harassment or misuse of the distribution list is cause for immediate removal from the Program.
- A gardener who is unable to maintain their plot should reach out directly to the garden coordinator(s) or through the Recreation Department, who will relay the information. Failure to participate and/or communicate with a coordinator about difficulties maintaining the assigned plot may be deemed abandonment of the plot by the garden coordinator. The garden coordinator(s) may in their discretion take steps to manage the plot to prevent an adverse impact on surrounding plots. The garden coordinator will communicate with the gardener by email, at the address provided during registration, of the risk of abandonment. The gardener will have at least five days for correction. A second five-day period of correction will be allowed if a good faith effort has been made during the first period or extenuating circumstances beyond the gardener's control. If the correction is not substantially complete, the garden coordinator will refer the gardener to the Recreation Director, who will confirm a determination of abandonment by email sent to the email address provided by the gardener during registration.

- All the town rules for use of town property, as interpreted by the Recreation Director, the Town Manager, or the appropriate town department, are applicable. The town does not allow political messaging and banners/flags require approval.
- The Recreation Director has discretion to remove a gardener from the community gardens if either they or anyone they invite to the gardens disturbs the peaceful enjoyment of the gardens or creates a nuisance, whether at the gardens or through misuse of the distribution list. Refunds are not given in the case of a removal.
- At the Recreation Director's discretion, a gardener can be ineligible to re-enroll for up to two additional seasons following removal or a second abandonment. Written notice of removal, ineligibility, or both will be given by email at the address provided during registration. Any appeal must be made in a writing, contain an explanation of the grounds for the appeal, sent to the attention of the Recreation Director, and received within 10 days from the date of the notice to the gardener,
- The Town of East Longmeadow assumes no liability for the use of the property, including any personal injury, loss of or damage to personal belongings, or any other loss, claim, or damages of any kind arising out of, as a consequence of, or related to participation in this program.

Your participation in the East Longmeadow Community Gardens is your acknowledgement and acceptance of these conditions.