



Welcome to the North Attleborough Community Gardens!

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE GROWING SEASON

We believe:

- ♦ The gardens are an oasis - separate from home and work - where you can come together with your neighbors to experience the wonder of Mother Nature.
- ♦ Gardeners are committed to “organic-only” growing practices to ensure that they are harvesting the purest quality herbs and vegetables and maintaining the integrity of the land.
- ♦ All gardeners, from beginner to master, are welcome.
- ♦ By working together, we can learn and grow with each other to create a healthier and more inclusive town.

Find us at:

Location: Codding Farm, 217 High Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760

Contact the NACG team at: nacgorg@gmail.com

Website: <https://nacommunitygardens.weebly.com/>

Mailing Address for Application Materials: North Attleborough Community Gardens
6 Hunting Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760

Plot Size: 4 x 8 Plot Fees: **\$40.00** per garden bed

We are continuing to process electronic payments through our Square website at:

<http://nacg.square.site/>

NOTE: We are offering a **\$5.00** discount to any gardener wishing to pay by **check**. If you are interested in obtaining this discount, please mail a check for \$35.00 (per plot), made payable to the North Attleborough Community Gardens, to the address listed above.

RULES & GUIDELINES

GENERAL:

- Complaints, policies, and mediations are the responsibility of the NACG team (nacgorg@gmail.com). The NACG team will have final say on all matters. The gardener agrees to respect any decision and/or outcome of the NACG team.
- Failure to comply with the defined rules and regulations during the growing season may result in a loss of future gardening privileges.
- Gardeners must complete an application for a plot assignment, sign a current release of all claims and read and agree to abide by the defined garden rules and guidelines. They understand that failure to abide by these rules could result in forfeiture of their gardening privileges.
- Gardeners understand that neither the North Attleborough Community Gardens, nor the Town of North Attleborough, is responsible for the gardener's actions. Gardeners therefore agree to hold the North Attleborough Community Gardens & the Town of North Attleborough harmless for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by the gardener or any of their guests.
- Registration will open on March 1st. Preference will be given to returning garden members who are in good standing.
- The close of the regular garden season will be on October 31st. For those gardeners who are not planning to continue with any late fall harvesting, you must clear out your rented garden plots and remove all ornamental items by this date so we can prepare the space for winter. **IMPORTANT NOTE: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEARING OUT YOUR OWN GARDEN PLOT BY OCTOBER 31st IF YOU ARE FINISHED USING IT FOR THE SEASON.**
- If you are planning to continue gardening beyond the normal season closing date, you must notify the NACG Team by **October 31st** to let us know that you are still actively using your plot. We'll be happy to accommodate your request, but we must hear from you directly for confirmation (*we will not make any assumptions*).
- **NEW:** By your request, a fall pre-pay option is now being offered! We realize that many of you are long-term renters of your plots, and we have heard that some of you would prefer to keep well established plants or other items in your plots untouched for the winter season. We also know that the fall is an ideal time to plant various bulbs ahead of the next growing season. If you would like to pre-register, we will ensure that your present plots are left untouched, and you will have unrestricted access to your plot until October 31st of the next calendar year. To do this, we ask that you sign/date the

necessary forms that we provide in October, and return them to us along with your payment by **November 15th**. Rest assured, even if you do not decide to pre-pay for the next growing season, please clear out your plots for winter as normal, and you will still be given preference to re-rent your existing plot from March 1st until March 15th of next year.

- Gardeners agree to “**ORGANIC ONLY**” gardening practices (*in brief, organic gardening is a philosophy which looks to support the health of the whole system at play, whereby all gardening is conducted without the use of any synthetic fertilizers and/or pesticides*). Gardeners are not permitted to bring in any non-organic items to the garden. The use of herbicides, mulches, and chemicals are prohibited. Gardeners who do not respect this policy will be suspended from all future use of the gardens (**considered a major infraction**).

PLOT RESPONSIBILITY, COMPOSTING, & TRASH:

- All plots are marked with a wooden number marker.
- Gardeners must have the NACG team’s approval for any add-on to the plot. NOTE: absolutely no physical alterations to the beds are allowed- this includes marking the frame, permanently attaching anything to the frame, etc.
- Individual fencing of plots is permitted under certain rules:
 - The fencing may not be taller than 4ft
 - All fencing must be secured inside the plot, not on the outside, as this interferes with mowing/weed whacking
 - All fencing must be removed by the end of the growing season; any fencing left behind at the end of the season will be thrown out
- Be considerate of your neighbors: sprawling and/or tall plants that might interfere are not permitted. The NACG team reserves the right to prohibit any plants that do not meet these requirements. Gardeners will be informed via email and asked to remove said plant. Failure to do so will result in immediate termination and suspension of gardening privileges (**considered a major infraction**).
- Hose etiquette: all gardeners should recoil the hose in its proper place next to the spigot after each use, and hang the nozzle on the spigot when finished. Also, please remember to check the water valve at the spigot to make sure it is in the “off” position before leaving.
- The NACG team inspects the gardens weekly. Plots that have not been planted by the assigned date, are weedy, or are in violation of the guidelines will be notified. Failure to respond may result in forfeiture of their plot.

- Forfeited plots which have been planted will be harvested, and any produce will be donated to charity.
- Please dispose of all weeds & plant materials in the designated compost area.
- Plots must be planted no later than June 1st. Otherwise, the plot will be considered abandoned and a letter of cancellation will be sent to the gardener.
- Gardeners agree to be courteous and respectful in all interactions. Please harvest produce from your own garden bed only. All issues will be subject to review by the NACG team, and gardeners will be informed of the final decision. Vandalism, theft or discord will not be tolerated (**considered a major infraction**).
- Members take full responsibility for their plots. If the member is unable to tend to their plot (ex. vacation etc.), the member is responsible for making accommodations to have it tended. The NACG team is not responsible for any untended bed.
- If a member is unable to tend to their plot due to illness, unforeseen circumstances, etc., they need to contact the NACG team immediately. The team will work with the member to find the best solution.
- If the member has an outside entity tend their plot for any reason, a signed consent form must be submitted.

GARDEN MEETINGS & REVIEW:

- There may be occasional garden meetings and/or workshops scheduled throughout the growing season. All gardeners will be notified via email regarding details pertaining to any such meetings/workshops.
- The NACG team will decide the review process for any infractions, and the team's decision will be final.
- All violations considered to be **major** infractions are clearly marked in the rules and guidelines. As such, any other violation would classify as a **minor** infraction:
 - For **minor** infractions- a three strike policy is in place for all gardeners. A corrective action report will be filled out and the gardener will sign an agreement. If the gardener commits a fourth infraction, they will be asked to leave and be placed on a two-year suspension from the garden.
 - For **major** infractions- the gardener will face immediate termination and will no longer be eligible to become a member of the NACG in future growing seasons.

VISITORS:

- Pets are not allowed, unless they qualify as a service animal. Standard state & federal laws apply to service animals.
- Children are encouraged to participate, under the supervision of the garden member. This is a wonderful place to learn and engage in nature. Gardeners take full responsibility for all visitors and children. Please supervise children at all times to ensure other plots are not disturbed.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Gardeners understand that this is a community garden and they are encouraged to work together as a group for the good of all. A list of activities will be posted on the garden's website and on the group's Facebook page.
- The NACG has designated plots that are used to grow produce for charitable purposes here in North Attleborough each year. If you would like to assist us in tending to these plots, or if you would like to donate any of your own produce to local food banks, please contact the NACG via email (nacgorg@gmail.com), and the team will be most happy to assist you.
- Crops MUST be harvested once they are mature. Please contact the NACG team (nacgorg@gmail.com) if you have more produce than you are able to use, and it will be donated to local neighbors in need.
- Seed saving: the NACG Team is interested in exploring opportunities for our gardeners to share seeds with one another. We would like to generate a seed library from which gardeners could exchange seeds with one another and/or donate unwanted seeds. If you are interested in taking part in a seed saving initiative, please let the NACG Team know (nacgorg@gmail.com). Stay tuned...more information to come.