

# Community Garden Agreement 2019 Season

Administered by the Bloomfield Township Community Garden Committee



- A. Introduction:** The Community Garden is an initiative started by the Open Space Trust Fund (OSTF) and now administered by the Community Garden Committee to encourage gardening in the township and provide gardening resources to township residents. OSTF launched Bloomfield's first community garden in 2015 at Pulaski Park. Bloomfield's Neighbor-to-Neighbor Network (NTNN), which provides social services for low-income township residents through the township Health Department, also partners with the Community Garden.
- B. Fees:** Plots are available to rent per garden season for Bloomfield Residents ONLY. The person filling out the agreement must be 18 years of age or older, but family members can use the plot with the permission of the responsible party. Plots are not transferable which means that should a gardener not be able to maintain his or her plot, the committee should be notified immediately by email: bloomfieldnjgardens@gmail.com. The committee will then reassign the plot.

**Regular member seasonal rental fee:** \$50 for one 4' x 8' raised bed garden plot.

**Veterans: fees are waived, but the contract must be signed.**

**Plot fee is non-refundable.** After the fee is paid in full and the signed contract submitted, the gardener will be assigned a plot. As long as the plot is maintained, and the gardener abides by the rules and regulations outlined in this contract and in the township ordinance and posted in the garden, they will have the option to renew their membership by Dec. 31 for the following season.

Due to the current space limitations and demand, only one plot per household will be assigned. In the case of full capacity, we will start a waitlist and notify each person in the order received when a plot is available. Requests for a second plot will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- C. Obligations of Gardeners:** The main obligation is to keep the community garden happy, secure and an enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner. Gardeners should respect the integrity of other plots and conduct themselves in a responsible manner on the premises. Gardeners are also required to follow the rules and regulations of the park department.

Gardeners must keep their plot and plot perimeter maintained regularly including: control of weeds, pests and disease with organic products, staking plants to keep *plants within the plot*, harvesting upon maturity and disposing of waste in the proper place. If you are unable to maintain your plot, please notify the committee immediately.

If a plot is not maintained or abandoned, the following steps will be taken:

- First, a *verbal* warning will be given.
- If there is no response or correction after 7 days, the gardener will receive a *written* notice.
- If, after another 7 days, the violation has not ceased or been fixed, the plot will be forfeited, and the gardener will lose his/her privileges and plot for the remainder of the season.

Vegetables must be harvested when they ripen. If you cannot harvest your produce in a timely fashion the garden committee reserves the right to first notify you, then pick the produce so it can be donated to NTNN.

Gardeners are encouraged to donate some of their harvest to NTNN or a designated service over the course of the season. With good communication, we can work together to create a wonderful garden!

**D. Mandatory Dates and Volunteer Hours** (Actual Dates will be announced):

**Opening Day & Garden Orientation -- *Mandatory attendance*:** Opening Day is the orientation where we review garden policies; introduce the gardeners and get the garden ready for the season.

**Closing Day -- *Mandatory attendance*:** final cleanup for plots and overall garden cleanup.

**Volunteering: All gardeners must volunteer one (1) hour per month during the season to help with general garden chores and must log their monthly volunteer hour(s) on the sign-up sheet** located inside the right door of the black shed.

**Primary Volunteer Activity:** includes mowing and weed whacking pathways, weeding the fenced garden perimeter, watering flowers around perimeter, placing ripe crops from donation plots in cooler for donations and (notifying the garden committee whenever donations need to be made), cleaning garden tools, maintaining compost bins and bird bath, and overall helping the to keep the garden space looking neat and tidy. The garden is completely run by volunteers and is only able to exist thanks to the enormous amounts of time and energy we all put into the space.

*(A great way to complete volunteer hours is by joining the CommuniTEA event held on the first Saturday of every month from 10am until noon. During this time gardeners get together, catchup, enjoy free coffee and tea, BYOP (bring your own pastry) and tackle volunteer tasks together.)*

**E. Rules and Regulations:** Anyone who signs a garden agreement is expected to comply with the garden rules and regulations provided along with this contract so that we can all enjoy the benefits the garden offers.

**Please return this last page with payment**  
**Please keep first two pages of the contract for your reference.**

**F. Community Garden Membership Agreement:** *By signing below, I agree that I have read and understood this application including the obligations & rules for participation in the Bloomfield Community Garden program. I understand that if I do not follow the information outlined herein, I may lose my membership, and/or my plot will be reassigned. I may receive an amended version of this agreement to sign in the future if the committee members decide to change anything included above.*

*It is my responsibility to contact the Garden Committee if I am going to be unable to maintain my plot on a weekly basis or if I have any questions.*

*I use this garden at the discretion of the Bloomfield Community Garden Committee and must abide by the rules and regulations stated in the Bloomfield Township Community Garden Ordinance. I will contact the committee if I have any dispute or issue that needs attention.*

*I hereby agree to indemnify and save and hold harmless the Township of Bloomfield, Neighbor-to-Neighbor Network, The Community Garden Committee, The Bloomfield Township Recreation Department and any person charged with the administration of the garden from any liability, damage, loss or claim arising out of or in connection with the use of the garden by me or any of my family or guests, agents, or invitees.*

**Gardener's Signature** (Must be over 18 and a Bloomfield Resident- Must be able to provide proof of residency). The \$50.00 payment can be made by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to: Township of Bloomfield Send checks with completed and signed contract to: Bloomfield Municipal Hall, Room 203, One Municipal Plaza, Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:**

**Clearly printed E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clearly printed CELL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE: home** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

For office use: Pulaski Park Plot Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_ Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of address: \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Fee Received: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ (proof:) \_\_\_\_\_