



# GrowUp! Community Garden

## Guidelines

These guidelines are designed to make gardening enjoyable and successful for you and your garden plot neighbors.

### 1. **Fences**

Fences are not required but please be aware that we do have woodchucks who live over the berm on the river bank. Last year we had several well fed woodchucks. If you choose to erect a fence, it must consist of mesh fencing materials. Fences must be secure and not encroach beyond the boundaries of your plot.

### 2. **Making Good Plant Choices**

You may grow a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Choosing the right plants can be fun as well as challenging. Talk to your plot neighbors and have fun with your selections.

- a. *Bamboo is not permitted to be grown.*
- b. *Perennials such as asparagus, rhubarb, and many desirable flowers are permitted. Divide them as needed to manage their size. Take them with you when you leave the garden program.*
- c. *Take care not to plant any INVASIVE plant. Visit the URI Master Gardeners web page for helpful information regarding invasive plants: [http://www.urimga.org/invasive\\_plants.html](http://www.urimga.org/invasive_plants.html)*
- d. *Some desirable plants can be weedy. Please keep these plants 1' or more away from plot boundaries. You might consider growing some of these weedy plants in pots to control growth. Remove and throw away seed heads before the seeds ripen.*

### 3. **Mulch**

The soil in the garden has been tested and is non toxic. As it has not been used for a garden for very long enriching the soil to enhance necessary nutrients for growth is essential. Using mulch in your garden has many benefits. As organic mulch breaks down, valuable nutrients will be added to your soil and you will need less fertilizer. Mulch also helps to conserve water.

- a. *Use of pesticides is prohibited.*
- b. *Non-biodegradable mulches such as stone, carpet and artificial turf, are prohibited. Plastic and porous weed blocker covers are permitted, but need to be secured to the ground to prevent them from blowing away.*
- c. *Composting plant materials within the plot is an excellent way to reduce trash and conserve nutrients. DO NOT compost food scraps as this attracts animals.*

### 4. **Watering**

The water hoses will be on most days during normal business hours and will be turned on during the day over the weekend. Overwatering can be just as damaging to your garden plot as underwatering. Please do what you can to conserve water. If the water is not on when you are at the garden the rain barrells should always have a plentiful supply of water that you can access with watering cans.



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## Guidelines *(continued)*

### **5. Managing Pests**

There are many potential pests in the garden, such as weeds, insects, fungi, small animals, etc. Most can be controlled using good gardening practices. The garden is a neighborhood-what you do in your plot can affect others.

- a. *Use of pesticides in the garden is prohibited.*
- b. *Barrier methods, such as fencing below the soil line and netting, may help protect your crops from small animals wishing to feed off of your crops.*
- c. *Choose plant varieties that are appropriate for our area and are resistant to pests.*
- d. *Keep plants healthy by using compost for fertilizer and mulches to retain water. Overwatering can cause diseases to increase.*
- e. *Talk, talk talk to your neighbors and fellow gardeners for ideas on how to resolve pest problems safely.*
- f. *Clean up dead or diseased plants immediately.*

### **6. Rental Procedures**

- a. *Garden plots are rented on an annual basis from March 1 to February 28. Garden contracts will be mailed out in the beginning of December and must be returned with payment by the date on the contract.*
- b. *Gardeners in good standing will automatically be mailed renewal contracts. At that time a gardener may request a trade to a different plot, if available.*

### **7. Plot Return Policy**

- a. *Gardeners may return their plots at any time by contacting Stump Olsen at 401-671-2971. If you are no longer going to use your plot please let us know so we have the opportunity to offer it to another community member.*
- b. *Garden plot renters may not give away or sublet their rented plot to other renters. All garden plot trades or plot rental terminations must be managed by the Garden Coordinator*
- c. *Fees are not returned or prorated if a garden plot is returned early or if it reclaimed.*

### **8. Safety**

- a. *Renters garden at their own risk.*
- b. *Family Resources assumes no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal property, plants or produce at the GrowUp Community garden.*
- c. *Should you observe illegal activities, such as theft or malicious damage, please contact the Woonsocket Police Department at 401-762-1212 or call 911 if there is an immediate need.*

### **9. Contact Information**

- a. *If you have any concerns at the garden please be in contact with your assigned garden coordinator, leave a message at the garden through our messaging system or contact Stump Olsen at Family Resources Community Action at 401-671-2971 or [solsen@famresri.org](mailto:solsen@famresri.org).*

***We sincerely hope you enjoy your garden plot!***

***Best wishes to all for a productive gardening season and a wonderful community experience!***