



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Parks and Recreation



Parks & Environmental Conservation Division

DC Department of Parks and Recreation
Community Garden Code of Conduct

The following rules are the DPR Garden Code of Conduct that all gardeners, participating in any way at a DPR Community Garden, must adhere to. In order to start gardening, all gardeners must submit a signed copy of the signature page below to their Garden Manager. Consequences for failure to adhere to the code of conduct may include but are not limited to the loss of use of a personal garden plot.

I. Membership Requirements

- A. All members must volunteer a certain number of hours, determined by the garden manager, maintaining common areas or attend a certain number of volunteer events every year to keep their garden plot. Common areas can include, but are not limited to public plots, fences, area around the garden border, garden isles, and tool shed.
- B. Each garden manager determines the volunteer requirement and how to monitor each person's contribution.
- C. All gardeners must sign, verifying they have read, understand, and accept, the DPR liability form and the DPR Garden Code of Conduct.
- D. All members must abide by all garden rules, Garden bylaws, DPR rules, and DC laws. Failure to follow any of these rules and laws may result in the loss of the member's garden plot, determined on a case-by-case basis, by either the Garden manager or DPR in its discretion.
- E. All members may only garden on one personal garden plot per household.
- F. All members are restricted to one garden plot per household at one DPR community garden. Members cannot garden a personal plot at more than one DPR community garden.
- G. If there are multiple people gardening in one plot, all members must sign a waiver and code of conduct.

II. Members voluntarily leaving their plot

- A. If members wish to leave their garden plot they must contact the garden manager as soon as possible in writing.
- B. Members cannot assign their plots to another person.
- C. The vacated garden plot will be assigned by the Garden Manager according to the waiting list.

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III. Termination of Membership

A. Safety Violation

1. If a garden member violates a DC law or a DPR Code of Conduct that affects the safety of the garden, that member may lose their garden plot and/or be banned from the garden. Each case may be determined by DPR and/or the Garden Manager on a case-by-case basis in their discretion. Safety rules include but are not limited to:
 - a) No physical or verbal behavior that's aggressive, intimidating, threatening, harassing or violent in any way.
 - b) No Alcohol within Garden or anywhere on DPR property
 - c) No Smoking in the garden or anywhere on DPR property
 - d) No pets in garden
 - e) No non-organic fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide, or fungicide.
 - f) No harvesting or disturbing other people's personal garden plots.
 - g) Gardeners must not erect any structures that the garden manager deems a hazard.
2. Procedure for Safety violation
 - a) Immediate threat
 - (1) If anyone's safety is at risk please contact MPD using 911.
 - (2) If immediate assistance is needed (by staff or gardeners) that does not require calling MPD, please call the Park Rangers at 202-441-2605.
 - b) Non-immediate threat
 - (1) All staff members, garden managers, gardeners who witness any safety violation must fill out an incident report as soon as possible and submitted to DPR.
 - (2) Based on the incident reports collected DPR will determine the following course of action(s) that could include, but not limited to:
 - (a) Request for follow up information
 - (b) Document incident with no further action
 - (c) Issue a warning
 - (d) Require mediation
 - (e) Remove a gardener from their personal plot for one calendar year.
 - (f) Ban a gardener from a garden
 - (g) Report incident to MPD

B. Garden violations

1. If a garden member violates a non-safety related garden rule that person must remediate the violation or they may lose their garden membership and garden plot immediately. Non-safety rules include by not limited to:
 - a) All gardeners must plant their plots within a month of receiving the plot (weather permitting).
 - b) All returning gardeners must plant their plots by June 1st.
 - c) All gardeners must maintain their plot which entails
 - (1) Controlling weeds and pests in and around their plot
 - (2) Harvesting ripe vegetables before they rot
 - d) All gardeners must complete their volunteer requirement set by the garden manager.
 - e) Gardeners must not erect any permanent structures or structures that block sun from another garden plot.

C. Warning System

1. The garden manager must make a documented attempt by the usual contact method to issue a warning
2. After waiting a week if the problem still persists, the garden manager must make another documented attempt by a different form of contact, stating clear consequences
3. After waiting another week, the garden manager must make a documented attempt over the phone or in person to make contact. If contact is made, the member who committed the violation must create an action plan to remediate the problem with the garden manager. If there is no contact after a week or if the remediation plan fails, the garden manager may ask the garden member to leave their plot.

Signature Page

Gardeners may keep the above rules for their own records. Garden managers must have a signature page on record for all gardeners before they can participate in the garden.

I, _____, agree to all the rules on the DPR Garden Code of Conduct and accept any actions from the DPR or Garden Managers if I break any Code of Conduct.

Printed Name

Signature

Date