Borough of Westwood

Community Garden

Welcome Packet and Guidelines

A community garden means many things to many people. For some, a community garden is a place to grow food in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it's a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Yet others use community gardens simply because they lack adequate space to have a garden at their house or apartment. The Borough of Westwood is excited to announce the inaugural season of a community garden. The Borough was awarded a grant from the Bergen County Open Space fund. Our community garden is located at the Borough's Westvale Park, adjacent to the dog run. The garden will consist of thirty (30) plots, each 4' X 8'. The Garden plots will become available on a first come first service basis. The Community Garden is open to Westwood residents only. Applications shall be submitted to the Westwood Town Hall, Borough Clerk's office, proof of residency will be required upon submission.

The garden is intended for growing annual fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. The Borough will provide a water supply, compost bins and coffee grinds. Gardeners shall provide their own tools, plants and mulch. Because community gardening requires a fair amount of work beyond tending your own plot, every gardener is asked to participate to the best of his or her ability in the management and upkeep of the entire garden.

Tips for Successful Community Gardening

- **Plan to visit your garden two to three times a week during the growing season.** Make a schedule with yourself or other gardeners. Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door, it's sometimes easy to forget that there is weeding, watering, staking or harvesting to do.
- **Attend any scheduled garden meetings.** This will help you meet other gardeners and become part of your gardening community.
- **Make friends with other gardeners.** Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource at your garden. Pick their brains for gardening tips. Visit their plots to see how they stake their tomatoes or trellis their beans.
- **Volunteer for a garden job or committee.** Community gardens don't manage themselves. They require a fair amount of work. By pitching in on a certain job or project, you'll be supporting the garden as a whole and ensuring that the work is spread among many people.

- **Know your neighbors.** Learn the names and a little about your non-gardening neighbors. Take the time to visit with them about how the garden works if they're not familiar with it.
- **Harvest produce on a regular basis.** Some people use the excuse that "a lot of food is going to waste" to justify taking food from a garden without permission. During harvest season, let garden leaders know if you plan to be out of town for more than a few days. Gardeners can harvest for you and donate the food to a local pantry.
- **Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to garden leaders.** The more people who are looking out for the garden and talking about what's going on, the more success you'll have at being safe and curbing unwanted activities.

Community Gardener Guidelines

Gardener Guidelines have been established by the members of Westwood's Environmental Committee in order to ensure safety and fairness in the garden. Please read the guidelines and direct any questions or comments to the Borough Hall. Successful and vibrant community gardens rely on the dedication of each and every gardener to maintain his or her own plot and contribute to the upkeep and management of the entire garden. If everyone pitches in according to their ability and desire, then the garden will prosper and grow.

1. All gardeners are required to complete an application form. During the 2013 year there will not be a fee for plots except for the gardener's own supplies and plants.
2. Applications are accepted and plots are assigned on a first come first serve basis, with a maximum of 2 plots per family. Application must be accepted and reviewed by Borough Clerk's office.
3. Every new calendar year, garden and/or a kick off meetings may be scheduled throughout the season. Please plan to attend to get to know your fellow gardeners and help with garden upkeep and special projects.
4. Keep your plot and the adjoining pathways tended. If your plot appears to be untended for a period of time, you will be contacted and your plot may be assigned to another gardener. If you plan to discontinue use of your space, please contact the Borough Hall.
5. Plant tall plants in places where they will not interfere with your neighbor's plot. Planting illegal plants is prohibited. Trees, shrubs or vines will be allowed
6. At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly and all gardens left neat and tidy. We request all gardens are cleaned out by Thanksgiving weekend.
7. Please put weeds and dead plants into the compost bin provided. Do not leave them in the pathway. Any diseased plants or invasive weeds are to be bagged and put in the trash so as not to contaminate the gardens.
8. Do not pick anything from another person's plot without their approval.
9. Any chemical pesticide or fertilizers are prohibited in the garden. Natural products such as ladybugs, coffee grinds and eggshells are allowed.
10. Please do not leave the water on unattended.
11. No smoking.
12. No littering, please pick up litter when you see it.
13. No smoking, pets, drugs (including alcohol), radios, boom boxes and fires
14. Please supervise children in the garden.
15. For your safety, only garden during daylight hours.
16. Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to the Westwood Police Department.
17. Violation of Gardener Guidelines: If any of the guidelines are violated you will be contacted by phone or e-mail and have one week to address the violation. After one week, if the violation has not been remedied, you may lose your gardening privileges.