

# **Blair Road Community Garden Association**

## **Rules**

**Promulgated by the Board of Directors and adopted as Authorized by Members of the Association at the Meeting on November 7, 2015:**

### **I – National Park Service Conditions**

The National Park Service has directed that each member of the Association be informed of the conditions under which the permit for the use of the garden area was issued to the Association, as follows:

1. Each garden assigned a plot will save the United States of America harmless from any claim or liability resulting from the permitted use of the area for gardening purposes.
2. The regulations of the National Park Service are adopted by the Association as “Basic Rules” for the use of the garden plots.
3. The cooperation of each member in the observance of these conditions is required.

### **II – Additional Specific Rules of the Association**

#### **Maintenance of Garden Plots**

1. Gardens will be kept weed free and neat in appearance at all times.
2. Garden plots will be managed by organic methods.
3. Gardeners will establish their own compost piles, arrange to use a neighbor’s or dig under garden refuse. Heavy, unsightly stems shall not be composted on the plot but shall be removed as pulled. Each gardener is expected to help maintain the community gardens and all other common areas of the community garden in orderly fashion.
4. No refuse shall be deposited in gardens, paths or roadways at any time. No plastic bags used for carrying leaves and grass clippings to garden area shall be left on site. No trash shall be deposited along paths or roadways except in coordination with our periodic cleanup days as announced by the Chairman’s newsletter.
5. No planting on any trellis, fence or other support shall shade any adjoining garden.
6. Each garden plot will be cleaned as excess growth and debris at the end of the season, not later than two weeks after the first killing frost or by November 15, and a cover crop of winter greens planted, or leaves, compost or manure spaded in.
7. No support, pole, fence post, etc. over ten inches high shall be placed within 12 inches of any path. Existing items may remain if the Chairman, Vice Chairman or the Executive Committee concludes that they do not obstruct wheelbarrow passage on any path.

#### **Maintenance of Paths**

1. There shall be a path 2 ½ feet wide on one or two sides of each full garden plot, except those plots immediately adjacent to the road or street.
2. Paths shall be maintained free of growth, rocks and debris at all times and shall be kept well covered with leaves and/or wood chips so that the path is safe and accessible for use by all members.
3. Each member is directly responsible for maintenance for the entire width of the paths on each side of the assigned plot.

4. To prevent erosion and ensure safe passage and use of paths, each member shall shore up and retain the assigned plot on all sides with boards or other semi-permanent materials. No trenches shall be over 4" deep.

### **Plantings**

1. All plants that normally grow taller than 18 inches shall be maintained no closer than 18 inches to the edge of the plot, so that branches do not intrude into the paths. Existing plants, especially perennials, shall be moved or pruned to conform to this rule. Low growing plants such as onions, lettuce, radish, etc., may be planted within the 18 inch border, thereby permitting maximum utilization of space, but must not intrude into the path.

### **Termination of Plot Assignment**

1. Any member failing to maintain the assigned plot, paths, or shoring in accordance with these rules shall be notified in writing to correct the existing discrepancy. Failure to do so by the date specified in the notice shall result in revocation of the plot assignment and termination of membership in the Association unless the Executive Committee votes to extend the assignment due to extenuating circumstances.
2. No more than two discrepancy notices shall be issued to any member within a gardening season; a third notice, should one be necessary, shall constitute automatic revocation of plot assignment.
3. A member who wishes to terminate a plot assignment voluntarily shall notify the Chairman, Vice Chairman or the Executive Committee, the departing member has observed the rules and is leaving the plot in an orderly fashion. The cleanup deposit shall be refunded if there is any.

### **General**

1. The fence between the gardens and park area shall not be used as a support for tools or equipment. A corridor shall be maintained between the fence and the garden area.
2. When not in active use, garden hoses shall be disconnected and shall not extend across or otherwise obstruct any garden path or roadway.
3. Each plot shall be worked by the member to whom the assignment is made. There will be no form of tenant farmer, share cropper, or absentee landlord practices. However, temporary use not to exceed two months by a friend during a member's temporary absence may be permitted upon written request to the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Executive Committee.
4. Assignments shall be limited to one plot and shall be made on a first come, first served basis, without respect to race, creed or color. Reasonable limited priority may be given to retired senior citizens.

### **Garden Work Days**

1. Each garden member is required to participate in one of four scheduled work days (three hours in duration) during the calendar year to assist with general garden projects. Any garden member who fails to fulfil this responsibility will risk losing his or her garden plot in the following year.