

# The Community Gardens Langhorne Heritage Farm – Julius Lojeski Acres

## Rules and Regulations

We ask that all gardeners read and become familiar with our rules. These rules and regulations have been established in order to ensure an enjoyable experience for each gardener, while respecting the needs of the Langhorne Borough community which has made this open space available to us for community gardening.

### Langhorne Community Gardens are Organic!

Respecting Mother Nature is top priority here at the Farm, and we're proud of the fact that the community gardens are all organic. This means that no chemical fertilizers or pesticides are permitted.

### Maintaining your Garden Plot(s)

As a courtesy to your fellow gardeners, we ask that you observe some basic rules about maintenance of your garden. As you know, untended plots quickly fill with weeds that spread to other gardens, resulting in more work for your neighbors. In addition, plots that are not cleared out at the end of the season make it more difficult for us to do final mowing and tilling.

**Gardens Not Started by June 1** will be reassigned to another gardener and our Agreement with you is terminated. The rental fee and security deposit for plots, unfortunately, is non-refundable in this case and forfeited.

**Abandoned Gardens** If your garden plot becomes overrun with weeds, the garden manager will make a reasonable attempt to contact you via email and phone. If we do not hear back from you within 3 days, the Agreement will automatically terminate, and the rental fee and deposit will be forfeited.

**End of Season Clean-Up** is very important, not only for the appearance of the Gardens during the off-season, but to facilitate tilling the following season. Failure to properly clean up your garden at the end of the current season will result in forfeiture of your deposit. **All non-biodegradable and bamboo materials (e.g., stakes, fences, apparatuses, etc.) and any extra-bulky plant material stalks (e.g. sunflowers) must be removed from your garden by November 30 of the current gardening season. All other plant material may remain. ALL Landscape Fabric/Plastic materials MUST be removed by November 30 of the current gardening season regardless of its potential to biodegrade. No exceptions.**

**Equipment and Debris** must be kept clear of the grassy common areas between gardens. As a courtesy to the gardeners, Langhorne Open Space volunteers will periodically mow these common areas to keep things neat and tidy, so please don't leave anything in the way that would make it difficult for our kind volunteers. Rocks which you remove from your garden should be placed near the water spigots for collection by more kind volunteers.

**Mulching Materials** such as newspapers, leaves and straw **must** be weighted down or securely placed so they do not blow into neighboring plots or properties. Leaf/compost piles must be spread at the time they are dumped.

### Garden Structures

So that the community gardens have an overall natural and aesthetically pleasing appearance, there are a few basic guidelines related to 'structures' used in your plots.

**Plant Supports**, frames or structures used to support pole beans, or any other climbing plants may be a maximum of 6' tall. Materials used to construct these frames must be black, dark brown, dark green, or a natural wood color. No other colors are permitted.

**Fencing** used for borders, or for supporting climbing plants may only be black, gray (i.e. chicken wire) dark brown or dark green, or natural wood color. No other colors are permitted.

**Hanging Items and Accessories** such as scarecrows in your garden are welcome. However, reflective (such as CDs or aluminum pie pans) or unsightly items are not permitted. If in doubt, please email your garden manager, Joan Feldman-Plumb, [LanghorneGardens@gmail.com](mailto:LanghorneGardens@gmail.com).

**Large Obtrusive Items** such as lawn furniture, trash cans, etc. may be used while you're present in your garden, but may not be left behind when you leave.

### **Shared Composting Area**

The shared composting area located just to the south of the gardens driveway is for the use of Community Gardeners. Only rapidly composting materials may be placed on the compost pile. Materials such as wood, bamboo, sunflower stalks, branches, and stumps are not permitted. Trash of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please observe signs indicating areas closed to composting. The Gardens Manager will provide instructions about how the resulting compost may be used by Gardeners.

### **Langhorne Borough Ordinances**

Please be aware of a few ordinances that pertain to Heritage Farm, which is a Borough property:

**Driving on the Grounds** must be kept at a maximum of 5 MPH (no exceptions) for the safety of all, including the children that reside and play at the Farm. **Please drive slowly!** The farmhouse driveway is not to be used to enter or exit the community gardens. Under no circumstances should the backyard of the farmhouse be used as a thoroughfare. The only way to drive in and out of the gardens is via the gravel garden entrance alongside the cemetery.

The grassy strips between rows A-D are too narrow to allow vehicles through and were never intended to be used for parking or as a thoroughfare. In just one year, we have had two spigots run over in these strips - leading to expensive repairs and costly water bills. Please only drive and park along the perimeters of sections A-D, not in between. There are plenty of other areas for parking while gardening.

**No Burning** is permitted at the Community Gardens in accordance with the Langhorne Borough NO-BURN policy.

**Pets** are always welcome to accompany gardeners, but they must be kept on a leash and confined to your plot or the common areas only. Also, please be mindful of cleaning up after your pet—dog droppings do not qualify as fertilizer.

**Alcohol, Drugs and Chemical Substances**, as well as the cultivation of any **Illegal Substances** are prohibited as the Farm is classified as a town park.

### **Noise**

Please be mindful of the residents living around the gardens, plan to wrap up your activities and remove vehicles by dusk. The Community Gardens is a place to commune with nature, we ask that no loud music be played so that all who visit may have a peaceful, bucolic experience. You can certainly sing and dance if you wish (especially in celebration of a successful harvest!). You are welcome to bring any personal listening device that utilize ear buds/headphones.

### **Watering**

Please try to conserve this precious resource as much as possible. Watering in the early hours of the morning is preferable, but since we're all busy and unfortunately limited on time spent in our gardens, many times watering in the evenings is our only alternative.

Although hand watering is the most effective and conservative way to give your plants moisture, occasionally sprinklers are necessary. Please try to limit watering (with any automatic devices) to under two hours at a time. Watering overnight is not permitted, and isn't beneficial to your garden anyway.

When you're through watering, please make sure the tap is off and your hoses are rewound and kept tight to your plot. It's impossible for our volunteer mowers to avoid nicking a hose that's hidden in high grass. Please notify Garden Manager Joan Feldman-Plumb, [LanghorneGardens@gmail.com](mailto:LanghorneGardens@gmail.com) immediate if you notice a leaking spigot.

### **Thanks!**

We hope your gardening season this year is spectacular (and that Mother Nature graces us with some favorable weather conditions—it always helps). Thanks for being mindful of this rather lengthy but very necessary list of rules. Your kindness and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

**Please note that when you sign / submit your garden application, you signify that you have read, understood, and agree to comply with these rules and regulations.**