



GROUNDWORK

Rhode Island

Groundwork Garden Community Garden Bylaws

Groundwork Rhode Island is committed to offering community members access to healthy growing space and an opportunity to have a meaningful, educational and productive relationship with the ground. In addition, Groundwork Garden hosts workshops and offers resources to help growers achieve success in their own unique and personal connection to their plots and the plants they steward. We do not specify what is allowable to grow in your plot. We do however have guidelines for gardeners to follow so all gardeners can enjoy the same benefits of healthy, safe and productive ground.

1- year garden plot fees: Due March 17, 2017

10' x 20' ----- \$82.00

10' x 4' ----- \$21.00

8' x 4' ----- \$18.50

4' x 4' ----- \$13.00

1. General Responsibilities

- You must read and agree to the community garden bylaws.
- You must pay the prorated plot fee for the season before receiving the new season's garden lock combination. Plot fee includes membership into the Providence Community Growers Network <http://www.southsideclt.org/growersnetwork>
- Plot fee payments must be received by March 17th. Membership cards to the PCGN will be sent to individual gardeners or be available for pick up at The Urban Agriculture Kickoff on April 8th at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center.
- You must live in Providence.
- You must be willing to share your e-mail with your fellow gardeners and the garden director for ease of communication and community-building.
- **Each gardener is responsible to dispose of their own garden debris.** There is no communal composting or city garbage pick-up.
- There is only one waiting list for Groundwork Garden. If you wish to get a larger or smaller plot next season you must be put on the list. The list will be available on the Groundwork Garden webpage. You may also call 401-305-7174 or email Amanda Baez at abaez@groundworkri.org.
- There is no individual rain water collection allowed

2. Your Garden Space

- There is only one plot per person.
- Plots that are empty by June 1 will be stewarded by Groundwork Rhode Island's GreenTeam Youth Program.
- Plot fees cover 1 year from March 17 to March 16 of the following year.
- Common areas and walkways CANNOT be used for storage; returning gardeners may use their plot for storage of items such as plant cages and stakes. You must be the primary gardener and be present for the duration of the growing season; if you go on vacation, you are responsible for finding someone to tend your garden.
- Do not enter other people's plots / do not dispose of, stems, leaves, vegetables or weeds in common areas such as Blackberry espalier, under walnut tree or in walkways or fence-lines. Common spaces are designed to encourage biodiversity and grow plants that are typically too large for community garden plots. Please respect the common trees and shrubs and enjoy their fruits.
- For gardeners who are not returning – all perennials must be removed by March 17 or you risk losing them. If there is plant material, you would like to donate to the GreenTeam garden plot please contact the current Groundwork Garden coordinator.
- You must show activity in your plot by before May 1 or contact your community garden coordinator if you are unable. Activities may include double digging, turning soil or cover crop, removing winter weed and leaves, planting early crops.
- All dogs must be on-leash.
- No smoking.
- You must lock the gate behind you.
- 1 Hose bib must be available at all times. You may water with the hose however the other hose bib must be available to other gardeners to fill watering cans. You must roll hose up and hang on hook after use.
- Groundwork Rhode Island no longer has a tool bank (for more information, contact the Department of PublicWorks: (401) 467-7950). You may leave your own tools in your plot, but Groundwork Rhode Island will not be responsible for theft or breakage.
- Using an integrated pest management program is highly suggested for each gardener, and the use of chemical pesticides is **not** advised! Try to reach out to your fellow gardener and discuss the shared problems and successes. IPM is explained below. A list of suggested organic and botanical pesticides is available on the Groundwork Garden webpage. Please note Groundwork Garden is host to 2 honeybee hives, so we all need to be very sensitive to the methods we use.

What is Integrated Pest Management? (IPM) -- IPM is not a single pest control method but, rather, a series of pest management evaluations, decisions, and controls. In practicing IPM, growers who are aware of the potential for pest infestation follow a four-tiered approach. The four steps include:

- **Set Action Thresholds** -- Before taking any pest control action, IPM first sets an action threshold, a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate that pest control action must be taken. Sighting a single pest does not always mean control is needed. The level at which pests will either become an economic threat is critical to guide future pest control decisions.
- **Monitor and Identify Pests** -- Not all insects, weeds, and other living organisms require control. Many organisms are innocuous, and some are even beneficial. IPM programs work to monitor pests and identify them accurately, so that appropriate control decisions can be made in conjunction with action thresholds. Monitoring and identification removes the

possibility that pesticides will be used when they are not really needed, or that the wrong kind of pesticide will be used.

- **Prevention** -- As a first line of pest control, IPM programs work to manage the crop, lawn, or indoor space to prevent pests from becoming a threat. In an agricultural crop, this may mean using cultural methods, such as rotating between different crops, selecting pest-resistant varieties, and planting pest-free rootstock. These control methods can be very effective and cost-efficient and present little to no risk to people or the environment.
- **Control** -- Once monitoring, identification, and action thresholds indicate that pest control is required, and preventive methods are no longer effective or available, IPM programs then evaluate the proper control method both for effectiveness and risk. Effective, less risky pest controls are chosen first, including highly-targeted chemicals, such as pheromones, to disrupt pest mating, or mechanical control, such as trapping or weeding. If further monitoring, identifications and action thresholds indicate that less risky controls are not working, then additional pest control methods would be employed, such as targeted spraying of pesticides. Broadcast spraying of non-specific pesticides is a last resort.

3. **Violations**

If any of the bylaws are violated, the garden coordinator will send a written warning, indicating the type and date of the violation and how long you have to resolve the problem. If you do not resolve the problem within the time allotted, the coordinator will inform the entire garden membership and you will be given a second written warning including with it the type and date of the violation as well as the how long you have to resolve the problem. If you do not resolve the problem, with reasonable effort, your garden bed will be reassigned to the next person on the waiting list. Groundwork Rhode Island, our partners in urban agriculture and sustainable landscape as well as your fellow gardeners should be seen as a support. Please reach out if you are having a problem in your garden.

4. **Release of Liability**

Gardeners, their families, friends, and other guests participate in all activities at their own risk. No liability of any kind will be conferred upon or acknowledged by Groundwork Rhode Island, Inc. By signing this agreement, participants, for themselves and on behalf of their agents, assigns, or heirs agree to indemnify, release and hold harmless Groundwork Rhode Island Inc. and their directors for any and all injuries incurred in participating in this program.

5. **Revisions of Groundwork Garden Community Garden Bylaws**

If any gardener would like to institute a change, please contact the garden coordinator, who can speak with the rest of the gardeners, and if is in the consensus of the entire gardening group submit the change to Groundwork Rhode Island Inc. for approval. If approved, the garden coordinator will make a written change in the bylaws for the garden.

The current Groundwork Garden coordinator is Amanda Baez, Program Coordinator at Groundwork Rhode Island. It is the responsibility of the coordinator to program the educational space of Groundwork Garden, steward the tree farm, and communicate issues of safety and maintenance (including water lines) to Groundwork Rhode Island Inc. The coordinator is

responsible for the waitlist and the proper and equitable distribution of garden plots as well as management of plot fees. The coordinator will respect and enforce the community garden bylaws.

NOTE: The current Groundwork Garden coordinator is Amanda Baez, Program coordinator at Groundwork Rhode Island at abaez@groundworkri.org. It is the responsibility of the coordinator to program the educational space of Groundwork Garden, steward the tree farm, and communicate issues of safety and maintenance (including water lines) to Groundwork Rhode Island Inc. The coordinator is responsible for the waitlist and the proper and equitable distribution of garden plots as well as management of plot fees. The coordinator will respect and enforce the community garden bylaws.

Please sign below if you agree to the terms listed above

Name (printed) _____

Date _____

Signature _____