2022 Burnham’s Field Community Garden Agreement

All gardeners are required to complete an application form. Garden membership dues of $25-$50 (for beds that are 8’x4’) and $30-$60 (for beds that are 10’x4’) are due April 30, 2022. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to meet this deadline. Financial assistance may be available.

1. I have read and understand Backyard Growers’ COVID-19 statement.
2. I understand that I am required to participate in at least 2 of the Garden Work Days or the equivalent of 4 hours over the course of the season to work on shared garden spaces (not my own garden).
   a. If I fail to fulfill my 2 garden work day (or 4 hours) requirement without proper communication with Backyard Growers, I understand that I will not be eligible to maintain my garden for the following season.
3. If I must abandon my plot for any reason during the season, I will communicate this to Backyard Growers immediately, as they maintain a wait list for Burnham’s Field Community Garden.
4. My plot is a reflection of me, therefore I assume full responsibility for its maintenance throughout the duration of the growing season: I will weed my plot and the pathways around my plot, I will harvest produce before it rots in my garden bed.
   a. If there are circumstances preventing me from being present in the garden for a time, I will coordinate with a fellow gardener or mentor to help maintain my plot while I’m gone.
5. As a gardener in Burnham’s Field, I am an actively contributing member of a larger community. I will therefore not leave garbage behind and I will participate in keeping the garden clean by picking up litter when I see it.
6. I understand that in order to keep the space safe for everyone, this garden is organic. Chemical pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides are prohibited. If I am having pest or disease issues, I will speak with my mentor or Backyard Growers’ staff. Also, because compost is applied to the garden beds every season, I understand that I do not need to add extra fertilizer to my bed.
7. There are rules above compost bins explaining what can and cannot go into the bin. If I am unsure whether or not something is compostable I will ask my mentor or Backyard Growers in order to learn.
8. When I am making my garden plan for the season I will be considerate of my fellow gardeners by:
   a. planting tall crops where they will not shade other gardens.
   b. using trellising support for beans, cucumbers, tomatoes and peas.
   c. not planting crops such as watermelon and winter squashes whose vines inevitably crowd paths and invade other gardens.
   d. planting a maximum of two tomato plants, and taking the time to learn how to stake and prune my tomato plants so rotting tomatoes and vines do not crowd my neighbors and my own garden space in mid-August.
   e. not planting aggressive perennial crops - such as mint - or shrubs, which can become invasive in container gardens and cannot be removed once I have retired from my plot.
   f. not planting crops that may affect next season’s ability to cultivate a new garden, such as garlic, which overwinters and needs to be harvested the following season.
9. Drugs, alcohol, chewing tobacco, and smoking are not permitted in the garden. Tobacco can transmit a serious disease, tobacco mosaic virus, to tomato plants. I will wash hands after using tobacco products to prevent disease spread.
10. I will conserve water and always be sure that water is turned off after use.

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11. I will lock the garden gate when I leave the site.
12. I will only pick my own crops unless given permission by another plot user.
13. It is my responsibility to immediately report community garden issues or concerns to Backyard Growers; including technical problems, garden bed issues, theft, vandalism, inappropriate behavior, etc. Backyard Growers and the Burnham’s Board will do their best to resolve any issues. For severe vandalism or theft contact the Gloucester Police and Backyard Growers immediately.
14. For my own safety, I will only garden during daylight hours.
15. I understand that our garden is located in a public park, and that there is always a risk of theft or vandalism.
16. I will not bring pets into the garden.
17. A parent/guardian must accompany children under 16 in the garden at all times.
18. If I fail to manage my garden bed (e.g. weeds, weeds going to seed, disease, pests, overripe fruit not being harvested, etc.), I understand that the following actions may be taken:
   a. Backyard Growers or a mentor may contact me about the issue and ask for immediate resolution by me.
   b. I will be given 2 weeks following this communication to clean up my garden.
   c. After 2 weeks I will be given another two week warning
   d. If the issue continues, the Burnham’s Field Board will be notified and my plot will be cleared at the next work day.
   e. The garden bed will then be given to a new gardener from the wait list.
19. Backyard Growers understands that garden mistakes can happen to both new and veteran gardeners, and that sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that lead to overgrown gardens. We ask that you work with us to resolve any issues. Enjoy your gardening season!
20. There are many community members who have asked for garden beds at Burnham’s Field Community Garden. We request that if you are not actively using your garden plot you turn it back over for Backyard Growers to assign to someone on the wait list who can use it.
21. Failure to pay your fee and/or comply with any of the above guidelines may result in the forfeiting of your raised bed for the season.

Agreement and Receipt: By signing this agreement, I agree that I have read and understand the Backyard Growers Community Garden Guidelines and will abide by all of the garden rules. I understand that neither Backyard Growers nor Burnham’s Field Garden Board are responsible for my actions and agree to hold them blameless for any liability, damage, loss, or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or my guests.

Name___________________________________________ Date______________

Signature________________________________________________________________________