

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

MISSION STATEMENT

The gardens exist to provide an opportunity for Stoneybrook Village residents (1) to grow plants to use and eat and (2) to provide an attractive addition to the community, and (3) to offer a gathering spot for residents.

PLANTING BED ASSIGNMENTS AND PROCEDURES

1. In the January and February issues of *SVOA Happenings*, invite owners to sign up for a planting bed.
2. In January, a sign-up sheet will be posted on the SVOA Clubhouse bulletin board.
3. In March, planting beds for a full year (March through the following February) will be assigned.
4. Gardeners in good standing who have had beds the previous season may continue with their assignment if their names appear on the sign-up sheet.
5. Continuing gardeners who desire a change of planting bed must request by March 1.
6. Planting beds will be assigned to new gardeners in the order their names appear on the sign-up sheet.
7. Sizes of beds may be adjusted to accommodate the number of gardeners.

PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

1. Annuals may be planted in the raised beds, but certain species (e.g., Daffodils, irises, and other spreading species) are not permitted.
2. Flowers may be inter-planted but not allowed to cast seeds.
3. Pathways must be unobstructed.
4. Contain all plant growth and hoses must be contained within the beds.
5. Long hoses must be left lengthwise along the beds rather than coiled.
6. Soil on retaining wall caps must be brushed off or washed off.
7. Pathways and gardens must be accessible to all.
8. Please avoid using ornaments and personal trinkets — enjoy them in your HOME gardens.
9. Personal tools and supplies are not to be left out or stowed in the fenced enclosure.
10. Necessary plant supports may be used, but elaborate structures may not be installed (check with the chair of the Community Gardens Committee prior to installation.)
11. Stakes should not be placed within 3 inches of retaining walls as this may cause structural instability of the concrete block walls.

WEEDING AND OTHER GARDENING EXPECTATIONS

- It is essential that every gardener vigorously keep up with the weeds. Even the tiniest plants spread rapidly when they become rooted and cast seeds. All gardeners benefit from having a tidy and weed-free garden area.
- Debris and rolling carts are provided for use by gardeners. The cart enclosure area should be kept tidy.
- We all need to help stay ahead of the pathway moss and weed problem. When you see weeds sprouting in the pathway, please remove them, roots and all.
- Water is provided by SVOA. Be sure to fully turn off water AT THE TAP after each use. Please do not water a neighbor's garden unless requested to do so.
- The vehicle pullout area is small. Please make an effort to keep the sidewalk as clear as possible and avoid occupying the space longer than necessary.
- Unless specific arrangements have been made to help with another garden plot, be mindful to tend your own planting exclusively. Our gardens each have their own watering and care needs and schedules.
- At the end of the growing season, please clear your space except for plants that you are continuing to harvest or are wintering over. If you will be returning you are responsible to keep weeds down through the winter. If you will not be returning, please inform the Community Garden Committee Chair by December 1 so that your bed may be tended by someone else.
- If a gardener fails to tend a bed according to these guidelines, and it becomes necessary for the Committee to maintain it, the gardener shall be denied a bed for the coming season. The gardener may sign up again after one missed year.
- Let your garden committee know if you have suggestions to make our collective experience more productive and harmonious.

**May every season bring us together in happy labors and
may our efforts yield abundance to enjoy and share!**