



Town of Lexington Office of Community Development Conservation Division

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March 2, 2015

Dear Community Gardener,

Welcome to spring! This year, Lexington continues to offer community garden plots for growing organic vegetables and/or flowers at two sites: Dunback Meadow Conservation Area off of Allen Street and Idylwilde Conservation Area off of Middle Street. Please see the attached form for information on how to request a plot. The request deadline for **returning gardeners is Monday, March 23, 2015.**

Plot requests for **new gardeners will be taken starting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015** on a first-come, first-served basis. New gardeners may register by mail or in person in the Community Development Office in the Town Offices Building starting at 8:30 am on March 25th. No mail or in-person registrations will be accepted from new gardeners prior to that time.

Your garden coordinator will contact you regarding your plot assignment and will communicate with you throughout the gardening season with garden updates. **All first-time gardeners will be required to attend a short garden orientation, to be scheduled by each garden coordinator in early May.**

Garden Guidelines

Please note the Conservation Commission has a set of garden policies to govern the use of the gardens. A copy is included with this letter. Please carefully read these policies before signing up for a garden plot and check-off that you have done so on the **2015 Lexington Community Garden Plot Request Form.**

Please note that gardeners are NOT allowed to install permanent structures (i.e. permanent raised beds, fences, trellises, etc.) or perennial plants*. Any non-plant material in your plot must be removed at the end of each gardening season.

Under-used Plots

If you only used your plot minimally last year, please carefully consider when signing up whether you plan on using it consistently this year. Under-used plots can create problems for neighbors, such as the dispersal of weed seeds and the potential for rodents and other pests to feed on overripe crops and nest in weedy plots. Unused or minimally used plots may be reassigned.

Garden Maintenance and Clean-up

Per the Garden Policies, all gardeners are expected to help with general maintenance of the garden area. Your coordinator can provide details regarding garden maintenance tasks, which will be on-going during the season. Each year, the coordinator may have several goals beyond annual maintenance, and completion is dependent on volunteer participation.

Community service work in the gardens can be applied to fulfill high school or other required community services hours. Student/family work is highly encouraged and needed during every month of the season. Garden leaders can work with small groups of students on maintenance or improvement projects. Please contact your garden coordinator for ideas.

Additional Information about the Dunback Meadow Garden

Your garden coordinator is Alix Bartsch, 781-862-2716, albartsch@rcn.com. The fee for plots is \$20 per 20' x 20' plot.

Additional Information about the Idylwilde Garden

Your garden coordinator is Donald Kozak, 339-223-0686, donkozak@hotmail.com. The fee for plots is \$50 per 20' x 20' plot and \$25 per 20' x 10' half plot. ***A perennial plant strip is designated at the edge of each plot.**