

Smyrna Community Garden at North Cooper Lake Park Lease Agreement 2015

The Smyrna Community Garden is a City-owned suburban community garden in Smyrna, Georgia. It is our wish to offer this green space as an opportunity to promote natural and organic gardening practices. We'd like to welcome you and thank you for your interest in the garden! We look forward to growing with you. In order to obtain a plot, members must agree to the requirements below. Please read carefully:

1. This is yearly contract commencing Jan. 1, 2015 through Dec. 31, 2015. The community garden is intended for the use of growing vegetables, fruit, flowers, and legal herbs.
2. A non-refundable, nontransferable annual membership fee is required for each plot. We are not limiting the number of plots per address at this time, but we will if a waiting list develops. Plots are assigned on a first-come first-serve basis. Plots are available to Smyrna City residents only. Plots may be shared, but all sharing partners must sign the lease. Applicants must submit their application by Dec. 31, 2014. Annual fees include use of land, utilities, basic community garden owned tools, and, when available, compost and mulch. Plot members will incur some personal expenses for their choice of seeds, plants, amendments, tools, etc.
3. Since the success of the garden depends upon the support of its gardeners, each plot member(s) must participate in at least 3 hours per quarter of community garden service each year for cleaning and general upkeep.
4. During the year, you will be responsible for keeping your plot planted, watered, harvested, weeded/mulched (including pathways around your plot), staked/pruned to prevent excess growth outside of plots, cleared of any dying or dead plants, and any other garden related maintenance, as all of these provide for a neat, attractive, cared-for appearance in the garden plot areas.
5. Please do not harvest, water, or tend to another plot member's garden unless given permission. For example, if another plot member goes on vacation and asks you to do so, this would be acceptable in order to prevent their plot from being reclaimed.
6. If your plot goes visibly unattended, you will be notified by phone and/or email. You will have 10 days to respond and resolve the situation at which time another notice will be sent and the Garden Committee will have authority to remove weeds and dead plants, and harvest the plot. If there is no response after 30 days from the first notice, the City will reclaim the plot. No refunds will be given. The City reserves the right to give the plot to the next person on the waiting list.
7. Weed seeds germinate and spread quickly. We ask that you be diligent in keeping your plot weed free. Remove and dispose of weeds properly. Chemical herbicides are prohibited in plots in this garden. Organic solutions are acceptable.
8. These plot member(s) who have chosen to use organic gardening practices agree to refraining from using synthetic chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides. In the spirit of promoting organic gardening practices in a shared environment, we ask that you seek the help of more experienced gardeners, if need be. See: http://www.georgiaorganics.org/growins/pests_diseases.php, for some examples of acceptable pest and disease controls like insecticidal soap, pyrethrum, neem oil, etc.
9. All use of non-organic tank sprayers or dusts is prohibited throughout the garden. Hand sprays are permitted, except the use of Sevin products (malathion) which is toxic to bees. Use of granular fertilizer will be permitted in non-organic plots.
10. Water conservation is very important. Turn hoses off at the spigot when not needed and mulch beds to hold moisture.
11. We ask that members be mindful of where tall crops are planted in plots to prevent shading neighboring gardens; recoil, remove, and return hoses from pathways for safety; please carry out all trash and place unwanted plant materials in their designated areas; and clean and return tools.
12. No structural alterations may be made to any raised bed. Nothing may be attached or secured to any bed in any manner.
13. Smoking, chewing tobacco and alcoholic beverages are not allowed.
14. Children 12 years and younger must be accompanied and supervised by an adult in the garden.
15. Keep pets out of the fenced garden area, and keep loud noise to a minimum.
16. Rules and policies are subject to change at any time. Please note, a citizen garden board, rather than the City of Smyrna will enforce these rules and policies and handle any disputes.
17. The lock code is not to be shared with anyone whose name is not on the lease. The garden gates must be locked if no member is in the garden.
18. The City reserves the right to revoke plot membership and access for a failure to comply with the above-stated rules.

By signing below, I agree to comply with the policies and guidelines listed above of the Smyrna Community Garden at North Cooper Lake Park. I understand that failure to abide by these guidelines and policies could result in forfeiture of my garden plot or other privileges. I understand this is a community garden and commit to its success by supporting and working with my fellow gardeners.

I also understand and acknowledge that the City cannot warrant the viability or performance of my crops or plantings. Further, I understand and acknowledge that in the case of damage or destruction to any part of the garden and/or plots, the City is not obligated to restore same or to refund any membership fees or incurred costs. No insurance or guaranty is being provided for crops or plantings. Please call 770-431-2863 if you have any questions.

Lease Fees (Please note that sizes are approximate):

Small (5' x 6'), fee = \$40

Medium (5' x 8'), fee = \$50

Medium plus (5'x10') = \$63

Large (5' x 12'), fee = \$75

Extra large (12'X 13') fee = \$195

_____ **I have never leased before. I would like a _____ size plot.**

_____ **Renewal for Plot # _____ Size _____**

_____ **I wish to change plots from Plot # _____ to a _____ (size plot).**

_____ **I do not wish to renew. Please release my plot.**

Signature(s): _____

Print Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Home Phone _____ **Mobile** _____

E-mail: _____ (Please Note: E-mail addresses are only for community garden purposes.)

Date _____ **(Very important) Received (City use only)** _____

Please enclose a check for the plot fee payable to "City of Smyrna" with this form and mail to:

Keep Smyrna Beautiful
Attn: Smyrna Community Garden
P.O. Box 1226
Smyrna, GA 30081

You may also drop off your payment and form to Keep Smyrna Beautiful at 3180 Atlanta Road (Brawner Hall). Please make a copy of this agreement and keep for your records. Upon receipt of your form and payment, we will contact you to give you your plot location and information about access.

If you have any concerns, questions or comments please contact: akirk@smyrnaga.gov or 770-431-2863. Also, please share any special skills, interests, hobbies, talents or knowledge you have that may assist us with any educational sessions or special projects/events we might hold in the future.