

**Fort Fairfield**  
**Community Garden 2016**

***“Gardening in Community”***

**Guidelines for Members**

The Fort Fairfield Community Garden is an organic community garden located on land owned by The Aroostook Medical Center (TAMC) and is situated just off Brown Street in Fort Fairfield.

This Fort Fairfield Community Garden was built with generous support from a number of community businesses, local Future Farmers of America Program (FFA), the Town of Fort Fairfield, and countless hours of volunteer time put in by the Community General Hospital (CGH) Legacy Committee members. TAMC has contributed the land where the garden is located as well as the use of an outbuilding for storage and has also provided administrative and financial support. In the future, operating costs, including administration and coordination, will come from plot holder fees, donations to the Fort Fairfield Community Garden, grants when possible, and fundraising events, as well as limited administrative support and coordination from TAMC and the Town of Fort Fairfield. It is our goal that going forward the garden will be financially self-sufficient.

Member gardeners will tend their own plots. In addition, it would be appreciated if they would assist in maintaining the fence, paths and common areas. As part of the mission of the garden, space has been set aside to grow produce for Catholic Charities and Friends Helping Friends.

The rules that appear below are based on one simple foundation – *be a good neighbor*. The Fort Fairfield Community Garden is first a community. If you tend your plots well, keep them weeded and harvested, and contribute time to the maintenance of the common areas, you will be making an invaluable contribution to the “community”, which is at the heart of our garden.

1. **Benefits** - The annual fee entitles gardeners to the following:
  - One single or double garden plot.
  - Water.
  - Compost (supplied in bulk each spring).
  - Fencing around entire garden.
  - Access to the communal garden shed, communal wheelbarrows, and gardening tools.
  - Composting area for disposal of garden waste.
  - Soil analysis that will indicate what ingredients will need to be added to the soil.
  - Storage area with a combination lock, to include:

- ▲ Useful items such as pens, scissors, paper, etc.
- ▲ Seeds, seedlings swap area if you have some you will not need.
- ▲ Lost and Found area
- ▲ Tools you can borrow; if you have extras, please consider donating them for others to use.
- ▲ Sign out sheet for borrowed tools or equipment
- ▲ Bulletin Board for general notices.

2. Assignment of Available Plots

- Plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis.
- One single or double plot per family.
- Gardeners who abandon their plot for any reason are asked to notify the garden manager immediately.

3. Garden Plots

- 10'x10' or 10' x 20' plot
- Space will be laid out between each plot and around the Fort Fairfield Community Garden perimeter.
- Raised beds may be constructed if desired at gardener's expense.
- Garden structures (trellises, fences, posts, etc.) are allowed as long as they do not shade neighboring gardens.

4. Plot Maintenance – for the season

- Gardeners are responsible for working their plots by June 12th.
- Gardeners are responsible for keeping their plots weeded and harvested throughout the season.
- Vegetables must be harvested in a timely manner. Rotted tomatoes, squash, cucumbers are a source of disease and will cause 'sprouting' problems the following year.
- Gardeners are responsible, with adjacent gardeners, for keeping the paths next to their plots weeded.
- Plots should be planned so trailing plants do not spread into paths or other gardens.
- Tall crops (pole beans, corn, etc.) should be situated on the south side or middle of the plot so as not to shade other plots. Very tall plants such as sunflowers should not be grown in the plots.

5. The Fort Fairfield Community Garden is Organic

- Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides are not permitted.
- Product labels must state that the product is 100% organic.
- A list of acceptable and prohibited products will be posted in the tool shed and made available to members.
- Smoking is not allowed in or around the garden. Tobacco mosaic virus, which can be carried on smokers' hands, is a serious threat to

tomatoes and other related plants. Please, if you smoke, wash your hands before gardening.

6. Community Volunteer Contribution-ways to contribute
  - When gardeners sign up, the garden manager will discuss volunteer options with them.
7. Pets and Children
  - No pets are allowed in the garden, except service dogs.
  - Children are welcome but should be monitored to avoid damage to neighbor's plots.
8. Putting Gardens to Bed
  - Gardens must be "put to bed" by the end of October or two weeks after the first killing frost. Exceptions are frost resistant vegetables such as kale, Brussels sprouts and parsnips.
  - Non-biodegradable mulch, weeds, dead plants and vegetables must be removed.
  - Returning gardeners may leave perennial plants, trellises, fences, raised beds and other structures in place.
  - Members who are not renewing their plot are expected to leave their garden clear of weeds and structures.
9. Trash
  - Carry out anything that cannot be composted.
  - Meat, bread, dairy products, diseased plants or vegetables and processed foods of any kind cannot be composted and a sign will be posted on the compost pile to this effect.
10. Forfeiture
  - It is important that the gardens be kept clean and tended. If you are unable to comply with the guidelines the Fort Fairfield Community garden committee retains the option of not renewing garden privileges the following year.
  - Anyone renting a plot in the community garden will be doing so at their own risk and The Aroostook Medical Center will not be held liable for injuries sustained while working in or about the Fort Fairfield Community Garden.
11. Parking
  - Parking for anyone having a reserved plot in the community garden will be in a designated area by the communal garden shed or along Green Street.

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