

BLENDON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY GARDEN

2026 RULES AND GUIDELINES

The Community Garden consists of 25 plots (20' x 30'). Located directly behind the Administrative Building and to the left of the Cemetery.

The rules and guidelines for use of the Community Garden are as follows:

A) **To Encourage Neighborliness:**

- 1) Ensuring an enjoyable gardening experience for all gardeners is a primary goal. Please respect your fellow gardeners. Please clean up after yourself and throw away all trash.
- 2) Having Township land available and gardening in the Community Garden is a privilege, and the Township will enforce all gardening policies as listed in this document.
- 3) Gardeners are asked to avoid planting very tall plants (squash, sunflowers, tomato, etc.) near the grass walkways or adjacent plots to avoid infringing on the walkway and on your neighbor's growing space. Gardeners must keep fence lines between individual gardens weed-free.
- 4) Gardeners must provide their own tools; however, the Township will provide some "community tools" for sharing. These tools will be designated with bright red handles and must remain in the garden for all to use. The Township provides shovels, rakes, and tillers. The tools are set out in April.
- 5) Limited amounts of compost will be provided at the beginning of the season. Once it is gone, you are responsible for providing your own.
- 6) Gardeners are encouraged to grow extra crops and donate to the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (W.A.R.M.)
- 7) Gardeners have permission to share their own lots with another individual without notifying the Township. The gardener on the application is still the sole individual responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of the lot at the end of the season.
- 8) Pets are welcome, but please keep them out of the garden area. Please clean up after your pet.
- 9) There is no parking allowed on the grass in any part of the complex, including where the community garden is located. You can park on the paved driveway next to the garden or in our parking lot only.
- 10) Weather permitting, the Township Maintenance Department will till the garden plots only if the gardener specifically requests it. If there has been a lot of rain, the Township may not be able to get the big tiller out. Because of this, we cannot guarantee that our crew will be able to till the garden plots by a certain date. The personal tillers that the Township provides are available for use at any time. If you need assistance with the tilling, please contact the Administrative Office. If you use all of the gas in the tiller, please contact the Administrative Office to let us know. Once you are done using any of the provided supplies, please return them to the "supplies" area.
- 11) Any disrespectful behavior and/or actions towards other gardeners and/or Township staff will not be tolerated. Gardeners found breaking this policy may lose their current plot(s) and future garden privileges.

B) **To Encourage Organic Gardening:**

- 1) Although gardens are not specified as "organic gardens", we encourage gardeners to consider alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides.
- 2) Township staff will provide limited amounts of compost and water for the gardens.
- 3) Gardeners are strongly encouraged to cover their plot(s) with mulch as an excellent method of weed control.

C) **To Oversee Garden Assignments and Policies:**

- 1) Township staff will assign annual plots in the spring.
- 2) Plots that appear to be un-worked or abandoned will be reclaimed without a refund. The Township has the authority to reassign the plot after one notice is given to the gardener. Unclaimed plots will be reassigned after June 1st. All garden planting should be underway by June 1st, weather permitting. If, for some reason, this is not possible, please contact a Township staff member for an extension. Extension length is at the courtesy of a Township staff member.
- 3) Full refunds are only offered up until June 1st, upon notifying the Administrative Office that you no longer need your plot(s). If you notify us after June 1st, no refund will be given.
- 4) Please use the buddy system if you are away and unable to tend or harvest your plot(s).
- 5) Weeds must be controlled in your plot(s). If they go to seed, they will invade your neighbor's plot(s). Township staff will send letters to offending gardeners notifying them of the weed problem. If it is not corrected, the Township will correct the problem and may deny the gardener(s) future garden privileges.
- 6) If you wish to keep your same plot(s) for the next season, a new application must be submitted, and the fee must be paid. We cannot guarantee that you will have access to the same plot next year.
- 7) You may lose the plot(s) you were assigned for the prior year if you failed to follow the rules throughout the previous season.
- 8) There is a limit of 2 garden plots per household. If you are a returning gardener and have had more than 2 plots previously, you are also limited to 2 for this season.
- 9) Blendon Township residents and returning gardeners (3+ years) qualify for a rate of \$55.00 per plot. Proof of residency must be provided. The rate only applies to one household, and residents may not purchase for non-residents.
- 10) The Township Maintenance Department and Administrative Office will oversee the assignment and use of the garden plots. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Administrative Office at 614-882-1270.

D) **Miscellaneous:**

1. Blendon Township is not responsible for any damage or injuries that occur while using the Community Garden. You are responsible for your garden tools if you decide to leave them unattended on your plot(s).
2. The garden area is open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week.
3. The garden season officially begins on the first day of spring.
4. The Administrative Office may attempt to contact you via phone or email, should they have questions or if any issues arise.
5. Gardens **must** be cleared of any loose items by the last Thursday in October. We assume no liability for items left behind by gardeners.
6. If you leave anything behind on your garden plot without properly notifying us, our crew will remove and dispose of the items. We do not recommend planting anything that needs to be maintained outside of the garden season.

By submitting the application form and paying the fee, you agree to abide by the rules as listed above.