

# Blueberry Park Community P-Patch Garden Program

## RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Gardeners must comply with all policies, rules, and regulations for the p-patch as listed below. Bremerton Parks and Recreation can dismiss a P-patch gardener who does not follow these rules and regulations.

**PLOT RENTAL CONDITIONS** I understand that all plots are rented on an "As Is Condition" basis.

**GARDEN ENGAGEMENT** I commit to maintaining my plot regularly throughout the rental period. This includes weeding, watering, and harvesting. An engaged gardener actively tends their plot and fulfills any required volunteer hours.

### RESPECT

- I will be a considerate gardener. I will respect all persons with whom I interact with at the park.
- I will not pick fruits, vegetables, or flowers that are not mine.
- I will conduct myself in a courteous, respectful manner and refrain from profanity, **harassment, disruptive behavior or abuse of any kind in person or via email.**
- I will closely supervise my children and keep my pets at home or in the car while gardening.

### COMMUNITY WORK

- I will contribute a minimum **4 hours of community garden work** by December 1, weeding and maintaining the common areas of the garden. **Working on my own plot does not count towards these hours.** I'm responsible for recording my community hours in the binder located in the shed. Work party days are scheduled for all gardeners, but I may also work on my own to weed and maintain the common areas. If I do not complete community work hours I will forfeit my plot(s) to gardeners on the waiting list.

### GARDENING AND MAINTENANCE

- I understand that my produce, seeds or other products from my plot(s) cannot be sold; however, these items can be shared.
- I will stay within the boundaries of my own plot. I will not intrude on neighboring plots by over-spraying, watering, shading or other activities. I will keep invasive, vining and spreading crops confined in my plot. My plot cannot be enlarged and the configuration will not be changed; my plot markers must be left in place.
- The pathways surrounding my plot are my responsibility to keep weeded year round.
- I will only use **organic materials**; no processed fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides or treated wood may be used. If I'm unsure, I will ask the Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff for clarification.
- I will keep my plot weeded, watered, harvested. If I'm not actively gardening my plot from September through the winter, I will use cover crop or otherwise winterize my plot to maintain soil quality.
- I will not use motorized equipment with the exception of small rototillers.
- I will remove all litter and garbage from my plot. I **MUST** process the plant material generated within their assigned spaces (compost, bury or remove plant waste). Compostable garden debris can be placed in the compost pile in plot #58. I can alternately choose composting within the boundaries of my plot. I will keep all pathways free of debris and equipment. Non-compostable debris can alternately.
- I will place non-compostable debris in designated trash cans.

### STRUCTURES

- I understand that temporary/permanent structures or greenhouses are not permitted in the community garden without prior permission.
- Fences around individual plot(s) are discouraged but if I feel that there are conditions which warrant a fence I must adhere to the following criteria; 1). Height for perimeter plot fencing is limited to 3 feet; exceptions allowed with staff approval. 2). Fence must be safe for all and placed **within** the perimeter of the plot. 3). If I build a fence I must also remove it upon leaving. 4). I will check with Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff before building my fence to make sure I follow the correct criteria.

**PLANTS** I understand that tall plants and trellises that support them must not shade neighboring plots. No trees or shrubs allowed.

**WATER** I will conserve water. I will **never** leave water on unless I'm present in the P-patch. I will **never** leave water on overnight. Water service is shut off from November 1 until March 31.

**PARKING** I will park my vehicle in the designated parking spaces **ONLY**. If the park parking lot is full, I will park across the street at the church or street parking.

**PETS** I will not bring any domestic pets in the garden for any reason.

**COMMUNICATIONS** I am expected to read regular communications from Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff. Email is the preferred method of contact. I will check my spam folder if I haven't received an email from the Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff by March 1.

**VANDALISM** I will report all vandalism to the Bremerton Parks and Recreation Department immediately at (360) 473-5305. I will not hesitate to call 911 if disruptive, combative or threatening persons are in the area. (911 is indeed this areas non-emergency number.)

**SIGNAGE** I will not post any political or otherwise inappropriate signage in my plot(s) or the P-patch in general. If unsure, I will ask the Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff for clarification.

**PLOT PREPARATION** I agree to clear my plot of all weeds and non-perennial plants, ensuring it is ready for planting by April 1.

**PLANTING COMMITMENT** I will plant at least half (½) of my plot by June 15.

**NOTIFICATION OF INABILITY TO CONTINUE** If I am unable or unwilling to continue as an engaged gardener, I will promptly inform the Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff of my intent to release my plot.

**REQUESTING ASSISTANCE** If temporary help is needed to maintain my plot, I will reach out to the Recreation Program Coordinator or other available resources. (examples include being hospitalized, vacation etc.)

**COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING**

- I understand that the Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff will monitor plots for compliance with these rules. If an infraction is noted, I will receive an email titled "Notice of Garden Warning" at the provided address. I will have two weeks from the notice date to correct the issue to the satisfaction of Bremerton Parks and Recreation Staff.
- Failure to address the infraction within the specified timeframe may result in the immediate forfeiture of my plot. I will have one week to remove any materials (plants, produce, fencing, etc.) from my plot. After that, the plot will be made available to another renter.

**FORFEITURE OF RENTAL FEE** I understand that if my plot is forfeited due to non-compliance, the rental fee will not be refunded.

**WARNING NOTICES AND CONSEQUENCES** I understand that I may receive up to two warning notices with the opportunity to address each. Upon receiving a third notice, my plot will be immediately forfeited. I will then have one week to remove any personal materials before the plot is reassigned.

**PLOT RENTAL LIMITS AND TURN OVER**

- A household may rent either two small plots (#14-68) or one large plot (#2-13 and #69). If additional plots are available after April 1, and there is no waiting list, they may be rented for that year only.
- All individuals residing at the same address are considered part of one household. A plot holder in good standing can renew their garden space annually.
- I cannot sub-lease or give my plot to others. When I no longer want a plot(s) I must notify the Recreation Program Coordinator and leave the space in reasonable condition. I must remove all structures and non-plant materials.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the rules and policies for renting a plot in the Blueberry Park Community Garden. Bremerton Parks and Recreation Department uses photographs and video recordings for historical records and to promote programs and events. The Department does not have the capability to track those not wanting to be photographed or video recorded.

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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_