

Elizabeth Street Community Gardens

Rules and Regulations

2018 Season

Mission - Elizabeth Street Community Gardens (ESCG) is dedicated to maintaining an organic community garden that provides education and beautification to the community and supplies food for its members. ESCG members maintain the grounds at the ESCG, working in a spirit of cooperation and fellowship. Our goal is to offer a safe and attractive environment to people desiring a place to learn and grow edible produce and flowers. The ESCG is for the use of its members and their households.

These Rules and Regulations are intended to ensure the maintenance of a neat, safe, and productive garden area and assure a pleasant environment for all persons in the garden and neighboring properties.

TERMS: The ESCG is managed by the ESCG Committee of the Keyport Garden Club. It is available to Members-in-good-standing and their households. Membership is open only to residents of Keyport. To become a Member, an application must be completed and a fee paid. Membership allows the use of a gardening plot and other ESCG facilities. Plots will be assigned in the order in which both applications and payments have been received. If plots are still available after May 15, a member may purchase a second plot.

The fee to use a plot for one season is \$25. In addition to paying the fee, each Member must donate four hours of labor per growing season to help maintain the ESCG, under the direction of the ESCG Committee. Such maintenance may include spreading woodchips, weeding common areas, end-of-season clean up, etc.

Under no circumstances may plots be sublet or transferred to another party. Any Member who can no longer maintain their plot during the season must inform the ESCG Committee. Fees are non-refundable.

The ESCG season will begin April 1 and end December 1. The ESCG may be accessed by Members between dawn and dusk. No person is permitted in the ESCG after dusk or before dawn. All plots must be planted no later than June 1. If a plot is not planted by June 1, the plot will be considered abandoned and will be made available to applicants on the waiting list.

Members with unkempt plots will receive two warnings, one week apart. If the Member does not respond or make improvements within one week of the second warning, his/her plot will be considered abandoned and will be forfeited. If a Member expects to be away for some time, ask another Member to water and weed for you. If you will be gone for 2 or more consecutive weeks during the growing season, please notify the ESCG committee in advance.

RENEWALS: Members-in-good-standing can chose to renew their membership, keeping the same plot. Renewal requests must be made by in writing with payment by October 15. If a Member wishes to renew but wants a different plot, this can be accommodated if the plot becomes available.

ACCESS: Each Member will receive the access code to the gates after the application and payments are accepted. Members must secure the locks upon leaving.

COMMON AREAS: Members are required to keep all common areas neat and free of trash. Members should remove weeds from the paths adjacent to their plots. Place weeds and other garden trimmings in the compost pile on site.

COMPOSTING: Please place any plant material on the designated compost pile. Properly managing the compost pile is the responsibility of all members.

ORGANIC METHODS: All gardening at the ESCG must be done using organic methods. No chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or seed germination inhibitors may be used anywhere in the ESCG. Chemically treated wood (for borders stakes, etc.) is prohibited. No dyed wood chips or synthetic (i.e., rubber) chip-type mulch.

PROHIBITED PLANTS: To prevent casting shade on a neighboring plot, structures and plants taller than 4 feet (i.e., corn, sunflowers) are not permitted at ESCG. In addition, invasive plants are not allowed in the garden (**list will be provided**). In addition, cacti, castor beans, illegal, and poisonous plants are not permitted (**list will be provided**).

WATERING: The Committee will provide water and hoses. After using the water and hose, the Member must wind up the hose, turn off the water, and lock the spigot.

TOOLS: Members are expected bring their own tools, but once the shed is built, the Committee will begin stocking it with some basic tools for all to share.

BEHAVIOR:

- Children must be supervised by adults.
- No pets are permitted inside the garden.
- No smoking is allowed. (Note that tobacco can spread tobacco mosaic virus to tomatoes, so smokers should wash hands after smoking and before entering the ESCG.)
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed.
- Members must use headphones or ear buds when listening to music and keep the volume at a level that it cannot be heard by fellow gardeners and neighbors.
- Be considerate when using a cell phone.

HARVESTING: Members may only harvest crops and flowers from their own plot. Members are encouraged to donate excess crops on Tuesdays and Thursdays to the Community Church across the street.

PUTTING THE GARDEN TO BED: At the end of the growing season and no later than December 1, Members must clean up and prepare their plot for the following season as per the direction of the ESCG committee. Exceptions may be made for perennial crops or extended, winter gardening, but must be approved by the Committee.