

Bellevue Community Garden Agreement (2022)

Mission

Provide space for people to grow their own fresh vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers in ways that promote community building, garden education, exercise, health, and wellness.

Vision

The Bellevue Community Garden provides gardening opportunities for people from a wide variety of backgrounds (age, race, culture, social class) to grow their own food, increase their physical activity, get to know their neighbors, learn from each other, and interact in a natural gathering place for the physical and social benefit of the people and neighborhoods of the North Boroughs.

Goals

- Help combat food insecurity and increase access to fresh produce.
- Donate excess harvest to community service organizations or underserved populations.
- Provide habitat for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.
- Educate people on sustainable gardening practices and provide an opportunity for them to engage with their food system.
- Foster community and build connections with neighbors.
- Expose new generations to cultural traditions, promote intergenerational learning and provide the opportunity for people of diverse ethnic backgrounds to come together and share experiences and knowledge.
- Support healthier lifestyles, physical fitness, and sense of wellbeing.

Growing practices

The Bellevue Community Garden is an organic garden. Please adhere to organic growing and sustainable gardening principles. Do not use chemicals, such as herbicides (weed killers), insecticides (insect killers) or chemical fertilizers in your bed or in the communal garden areas. If you are not sure if something is allowed, please check with the garden coordinator.

Composting

Garden and compost members must attend a compost training session provided by a member of the Garden Care Team prior to using the compost bins.

Member Participation

Diversity, Equity + Inclusion (DEI)

Our community garden is intended to serve people with a wide range of ages, abilities, backgrounds, family sizes, and income levels. We strive to ensure equitable access to participate and one or more plots

may be made available at no cost to community members demonstrating need. Application for such plot should be indicated on the application form. Bona Fide Bellevue's Gardening Committee will determine if the request can be met and notify the applicant of the decision.

Committee meetings

Community Garden committee meetings are held monthly from January through October (meeting dates and location will be announced prior to each meeting). I understand that my participation, contribution, and ideas for the gardens are highly valued, and I am encouraged to attend.

Workdays

Garden members are expected to participate in at least two (2) community garden workdays each year.

Caring for Communal Herbs and Flowers

Garden members are expected to help care for communal spaces at the garden by selecting at least one week between June 1 and October 31 to do light work, such as weeding, picking up litter that may find its way into the gardens and watering as needed. A sign-up sheet will be provided, and you may select a week(s) that works best for your schedule.

Garden courtesy

Please do not plant sprawling plants or extremely tall ones that may interfere with walkways between beds and/or shade other plots. Keep insects and weeds under control.

If for any reason you will be temporarily unable to maintain your plot, please arrange for someone else to do so and inform the garden coordinator.

Harvesting

Please harvest only from your assigned bed or communal space. Vegetables, herbs, and flowers planted in communal spaces may be harvested by any member of the community.