

Bellevue Friendship Garden / Garden Agreement (2024)

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 Friendship 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.
- Provide communal gardening space for growing produce that can be shared with community members.
- 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 Friendship 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 -including products like non-organic Miracle-Gro© and other brands of non-organic fertilizer or plant food. If you are not sure if something is allowed, please check with the garden coordinator.

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. 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 will be held two-three times per year (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 required to participate in at least two (2) community garden workdays each year, as ability permits.

Garden Maintenance Requirements

- Garden beds must be planted by June 7th and maintained throughout the year. Ongoing tasks include weeding, watering, and harvesting mature produce. Beds not planted by that date will be reassigned.
- Garden beds must be cleaned up by November 15th. Tasks include removing spent plants, garden labels, stakes, cages and temporary trellises, and covering the bed with straw to reduce weeds and help prevent soil erosion. Garden members who do not clean their beds by the date indicated will not be eligible for "returning gardener priority" if applying for membership the following year.

Caring for the Garden

Garden members are expected to help care for the garden by volunteering for ongoing maintenance tasks and sharing in other responsibilities related to garden management and activities. Information on workdays and other volunteer opportunities will be shared via email and/or posted on the shed.

Garden courtesy

Please do not plant sprawling plants or extremely tall ones that may interfere with walkways between beds and/or shade other plots. Harvest fruits and vegetables from your bed when they mature and keep insects and weeds under control. If for any reason you will be temporarily unable to weed, water or harvest 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.