

## Shandaken Community Gardens—Gardener Agreement

*Welcome to Shandaken Community Gardens! We are glad you are interested in joining. Please consider these guidelines carefully, even if you are an experienced gardener. They are designed to ensure the safety of all participants, create a harmonious environment, and to promote care for the garden site. In becoming an SCG member, you are agreeing to uphold these rules and responsibilities and to be a steward of the garden as a whole. Please review and sign this form along with the Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement. We will return this form to you with an approval signature once your dues have been paid and your plot availability confirmed. Thank you!*

1. I use this garden at the sole discretion of the Shandaken Community Gardens. I agree to abide by its policies and practices.
2. I am responsible for keeping my plot(s) and adjacent pathways clean and cared for. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all my responsibility. I may arrange for other members to tend my plot(s) and will notify [the Membership Coordinator], if I do so. My plot is (10' x 10'). I will not expand my plot beyond this measurement or into paths or other plots. I will keep all my plants within the limits of my garden plot and will not plant trees or allow saplings to grow. The Garden Committee reserves the right to remove any planting or structure that creates shade or root competition problems or is projected to do so.

I will keep my plot free of weeds, pests and diseases. [Please see the Resources section on the website, which is continually updated, or request a hard copy of a list of weeds, as defined by SCG.]

3. I will cooperate in the tasks for which I have accepted responsibility throughout the season. I will participate in at least two full Community Work Days (or I will volunteer for tasks, listed at the bottom) held during the season.
4. At the end of the growing season, I am responsible for clearing my plot of all plant material and leaving the plot as I found it in the spring. All amendments I have made to the soil are considered donations to the community garden. If I plan to renew my membership for the same plot for the following year, dues will be paid at the close of the current season. This guarantees the same plot(s) and grants me permission to cover crop or leave perennials in the bed.
5. Assignment of open plots will be done on a first come, first serve basis. I will be notified of my plot number by Opening Day at the end of April. I may reserve one plot per household per season, unless not all plots have been reserved by April. If I am interested in applying for multiple plots, I will indicate this on my application, and will be notified if additional plots become available. If I reserve multiple plots, I can request that they be adjacent to one another. However, I will maintain the pathways between them, rather than merge them into one. Preference for next year's plots will be given to this year's participants first, as long as next year's dues are paid in November. A waiting list will be maintained.
6. Membership dues are to be paid in full by the start of the season. The dues are (\$25.00) per plot, per year (end of April–December). There is an additional one-time \$25 donation due with my first-year application, which will support the costs of maintaining garden infrastructure. I understand that this payment is non-refundable. I will complete the Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement and attend an orientation session in the Spring before any work in the Garden can begin. I am responsible for my guests and/or family members working in the garden. I will have them sign liability waivers, even if they are not official members.
7. This is an organic gardening community. I will not use pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and repellants. They are prohibited.
8. Proper composting is key. I will follow the Garden's composting system, which I will receive information about during the orientation session in April. Use of leaves, straw, wood chips or other organic mulches are recommended for the control of weeds. I will not use synthetic ground covers. All non-genetically modified (non-GMO) seeds/seedlings are permitted. Organic is recommended. A list of recommended products, plants, and sources are posted in the Resources section of our website and hard copies can be obtained by request.

9. I will not grow illegal or invasive plants. A list of invasive species is available on our website or by request in hard copy form.
10. I am responsible for bringing my own tools and understand that SCG is not responsible for lost or damaged items if I choose to store them in the community shed. A limited number of tools and watering equipment may be available for general use. I will clean and return community tools before I leave the garden, even if only for a short time. I am responsible for keeping any lockable gates or storage bins locked at all times.
11. I will not throw garden debris in the pathways. Wheelbarrows, garden carts, hoses, and bicycles must not block pathways at any time. No glass of any kind, including windows for cold frames, is permitted in the garden.
12. I will harvest vegetables and flowers from my garden only and will obtain permission before touching others' plots.
13. I will be mindful of the Garden's visibility on school grounds. Our aim is to beautify the community. I will always carry out trash. I will consider aesthetics with supporting structures such as trellises and stakes and use materials that visually blend in with the environment. The Garden Committee reserves the right to remove disruptive structures.
14. This is a water-wise garden. Therefore, there is one main spigot and supplementary rain barrels. I will do all watering with watering cans or buckets. If I choose to use a hose, I will do so carefully so as not to drag it through garden beds, and I will always disconnect it when I am done and turn off the water completely at the source.
15. The garden hours of operation are dawn until dusk. Unauthorized non-gardening activities such as alcohol use, cooking, camping, or sleeping in your plot, are prohibited. Music players should be used with headsets. Please use cell phones courteously. NO SMOKING in the Garden.
16. I will notify the Garden Committee/Garden Coordinator if I will be unable to tend my plot for more than two weeks. The Garden Committee will consider unkempt plots abandoned after giving three written notices, as follows.
  - initial notice of problem with plot via telephone or email;
  - if no response or correction after one week, repeat notification and plot will be "flagged" as problematic, inviting other members to offer assistance;
  - if no response or correction after another week, a final notice will be sent and the plot will be "flagged" as open for community care and harvesting;
  - a plot "flagged" as open for community care and harvesting can be redeemed in some circumstances by contacting the Garden Coordinator/Committee; otherwise, the "flagging" of a plot as open for community care and harvesting will be considered a forfeiture of the plot;
  - no refunds are available for forfeited plots;
  - reapplication for a new plot in the following year is possible but requires specific permission from the Garden Coordinator/Committee.
17. If I expect to be unable to tend my plot throughout the season, I may request other members to assist me, and I will notify the Garden Coordinator/Committee, requesting that any assistants also receive notices regarding my plot.

**The Garden Committee is responsible for ensuring rules are followed at all times.**

*We look forward to growing together and creating a place of beauty, fun, and bounty! Thank you for being a part of this project.*

