



# Cocoa Beach Community Garden

## Participant Handbook Rules and Regulations

### And Use Agreement

This document constitutes a Use agreement with the City of Cocoa Beach for a garden plot and sets out the rules and regulations that govern the Cocoa Beach Community Garden. These rules are intended to help all persons who have a plot in the garden (the “gardeners”) grow fresh, healthy food and/or flowers in a thriving garden, to help create a sense of community among our gardeners, and to help the Garden be a good neighbor. The City of Cocoa Beach, via the Sustainability Committee (the “sponsor”), oversees the land for the garden, sponsors the garden and administers these rules. By signing this Agreement, each gardener agrees to comply with the following rules and regulations:

1. Gardeners may plant and harvest vegetables and flowers from their assigned garden plot only.
2. No illegal or invasive plant species, as defined by the Florida Exotic Plant Pest Council (FEPPC) (appendix 1) may be grown in the community garden.
3. Garden plots should be cared for at least once per week (7 days). It is the gardener’s responsibility to notify the Garden Coordinator if they are not able to care for their plot in any given week. Gardeners may designate a surrogate to tend to their plot for a short period. If a plot remains unattended for more than three weeks, the plot is considered abandoned and subject to reassignment.
4. Not harvesting grown crops is strongly discouraged as it is wasteful, and attracts nuisance animals and pilfering. It is the gardeners’ responsibility to harvest crops or designate a surrogate to do so. Gardeners who cannot harvest crops or have unwanted crops shall contact the Garden Coordinator for a remedy.
5. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot including: weeding, harvesting, and any other garden related maintenance. Notify the Garden Coordinator of leaks in the water line.
6. Meetings and/or workshops will be scheduled periodically by the Garden Coordinator. Attendance of all gardeners is strongly encouraged to ensure the community garden area is well maintained.
7. Application of synthetic pesticides and herbicides (weed killers) to any garden plot is prohibited. Careful observation for pests and disease control is essential and should be completed in compliance with IFAS garden guidelines (appendix 2). If application of synthetic pesticides or herbicides is deemed necessary, it must be approved by the Garden Coordinator and the City of Cocoa Beach Environmental Specialist and/or Ground Maintenance Supervisor.
8. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and leaving their plot as they found it at the beginning of the growing season.
9. Children are welcome in the garden, but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times.
10. Participants are expected to respect the garden plots of others; loud or disruptive behavior, smoking, alcohol or illegal drugs are not permitted.
11. Assignment of garden plots are on a first come, first serve basis. As plots become available those on the waiting list will be notified in the order in which their application was received.
12. Gardeners may hold their garden plot for a time of 1 year, and must re-apply if they wish to rent a raised garden bed for the following year.
13. The Garden Coordinator and Assistant Garden Coordinator may hold their garden plots for the duration of their service to the community garden.
14. Each gardener must complete and sign this Use Agreement prior beginning any work in the community garden.
15. Garden plot fees are due in full prior to gaining access to their assigned raised garden bed.

16. Gardener understands that there will be no refunds, reimbursements or rain checks for any expenses if the gardener decides not to garden or if plot is reassigned as a result of the gardener violating any rules or regulations set forth in this handbook.
17. The Garden Coordinator is responsible for ensuring all rules and regulations are followed.
18. All plots will be periodically inspected by the Garden Coordinator. Renters of plots that have not been planted, weeded, or do not follow the rules and regulations, will be notified. Failure to respond within 14 days will result in forfeiture of the garden plot.
19. If vandalism or theft occurs, notify the Garden Coordinator Immediately. Help discourage losses by questioning unfamiliar faces.

By signing this Use Agreement, I hereby agree to abide by the Cocoa Beach Community Garden Participant Handbook Rules and Regulations, and agree for myself and/or for any minors in my care, to fully and completely release the City of Cocoa Beach, its officials, employees, boards, departments, agents and affiliated entities from any and all claims, liabilities or actions for any personal injuries to me, personal injuries to minors in my care and/or any loss or damage to my personal property or the personal property of any such minors arising from our use of the Cocoa Beach Community Garden.

Your compliance with the above regulations will help everyone have an enjoyable and prosperous garden. Failure to comply with the above regulations may result in loss of future gardening privileges.

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_