



STONY KILL FARM

ORGANIC COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT HANDBOOK 2021

Hello Stony Kill Gardeners! This handbook contains the information and guidelines necessary for you to have a successful experience with the Community Garden at Stony Kill Farm. Please review the handbook and sign the application form at the end to show that you have read and agreed to these policies and guidelines.

SPECIAL NOTE DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS:

Please respect Covid-19 social distancing guidelines with your Community Garden neighbors and wear a face mask when social distancing is not possible. Sanitize your equipment before sharing anything with another person outside of your family unit.

After reviewing this handbook, any questions may be directed to the Stony Kill Foundation at garden@stonykill.org or by calling 845-831-3800

Introduction

Stony Kill Farm is a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) facility managed by the Stony Kill Foundation, Inc. The Foundation's mission is to educate the public and cultivate environmental stewardship through the interpretation of the rich historical, environmental, and agricultural heritage of Stony Kill Farm.

Stony Kill's Community Garden was established to provide an opportunity for community members to cultivate a section of the farm for personal use and to share knowledge and techniques with other gardeners.

Individuals may rent a plot measuring 20' x 20' for a year, beginning March 1 through the last day of February of the following year, at a cost of \$50.00 for the season. Plots are rented on a first come, first serve basis. All plots are the property of Stony Kill Farm. Rental fees are non-refundable and will not be prorated. Rentals are non-transferable. Plots that are given up or are revoked for cause will be returned to Stony Kill Foundation for re-assignment. Plots are assigned after payment is received.

Gardeners may visit the Stony Kill Community Garden between dawn and dusk every day throughout the rental period. All children must be supervised. Stony Kill Foundation and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reserve the right to close the community garden at any time for purposes of maintenance or community safety.

Gardeners agree to abide by the practices, guidelines, and regulations defined by the NYS DEC and the Foundation to safeguard the property. Gardeners also agree to comply with any additional instructions given by DEC or Foundation staff or posted by them.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE PRACTICES, GUIDELINES, REGULATIONS, OR RESTRICTIONS OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION OR STONY KILL FOUNDATION, INC. CAN RESULT IN THE LOSS OF GARDENING PRIVILEGES WITHOUT REFUND OF RENTAL FEES.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Regulations

Stony Kill Farm is governed by the DEC and anyone who enters the property must follow New York Codes. Violators are subject to fines and prosecution.

The farm is open **FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET** each day, including holidays. Anyone who wishes to enter the grounds outside these times must request written permission from the DEC, unless they are attending a Stony Kill Farm Foundation program.

The following items **CANNOT** be brought onto the farm: alcoholic beverages, firearms, litter, animals (except for licensed service animals), and plants (except those to be grown in the community garden). Collection of animals or plants (except those grown in the community garden) at Stony Kill Farm is prohibited.

The following activities are **RESTRICTED** on the farm: fires, ice skating, swimming, boating, hunting, fishing, or trapping, unless part of a Foundation program or with written permission from the DEC.

Community Gardeners are **LIMITED** to their own plot(s) identified in the rental agreement. Gardeners are permitted use of the public restrooms in the comfort station (when open). Gardeners may not enter other farm buildings and restricted areas unless they are invited during a Foundation program.

Vehicles are **CONFINED** to designated roadways and parking areas only (see attached map). Vehicles may not be driven on the fields, trails, or any restricted roadway. Vehicles in any other location require written permission from the DEC.

No fires or BBQ grills, even enclosed, are permitted in the Community Garden.

Community Garden Guidelines and Renters' Agreement

The Stony Kill Community Garden is made up of a collective of users whose activities and behaviors affect all the renters and users, and the long-term health of the farm itself. Each renter must agree to the following conditions of use to provide the safest and most enjoyable experience possible. In the case of more than one garden plot rental, there is no guarantee that the plots will be contiguous. Multiple plots cannot be combined across an aisle or walkway. Community Garden conditions of use and guidelines are subject to annual review and revision.

Safety and Security:

The Foundation is not responsible for the security or safety of personal property used by the Community Gardeners. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Foundation at garden@stonykill.org or 845-831-3800. DEC staff and Common Ground Farm staff should not be approached. If criminal activity is observed, please call 911 with any relevant information. Local police, Forest Rangers, and Environmental Conservation Officers do regular patrols of the farm and will issue tickets for illegal activity or violations of DEC regulations. Valuables should not be kept in the Community Garden. Neither the DEC nor the Foundation are responsible for the loss or damage of personal materials.

Community Gardeners' Responsibilities:

1. **Maintenance:** Plots are rented 'as-is.' Each plot is maintained by the renter and is expected to be kept in good condition throughout the season. All materials are provided by the renter, except wood chips or mulch, which, when available, can be taken from the chip or mulch piles on a first-come basis (see map). Renters should not bring wood chips or mulch onto the farm because they can include invasive organisms or materials that can be harmful to the plants or animals on the farm. Neither the Foundation nor the DEC will plow or till the plots. Community Gardeners must assist with maintaining aisles that border their plot(s), helping keep the aisles weed and clutter free. By November 30, all plots should be winterized. All items or decorations should be secured. Plots should look presentable over the winter, otherwise materials can be removed and discarded at the renter's risk. If a renter does not plan to return the following year, the plot should be cleaned out and fences removed. Materials remaining will be considered abandoned and discarded.

2. Caring for the Plot: Gardeners must maintain their plots by weeding their gardens. Plots that are not weeded may be considered abandoned. Please notify Stony Kill Foundation if you are away or not able to keep up with maintenance tasks due to travel, illness, or other circumstance. Refunds are not issued for abandoned plots. Mulch or newspaper covered with grass clippings or straw deters unwanted weed growth and helps to retain water. Plastic or non-biodegradable mulch is prohibited.
3. Aisles between plots: Aisles adjacent to the plots are part of the rental agreement. Any plants in these lanes should be cut regularly. Litter including garden plants and other materials should not be deposited in the aisles between plots. Gardeners are expected to maintain those areas. Renters are not permitted to remove an aisle to combine multiple plots.
4. Waste: All waste must be taken off the farm; no waste material can remain. Farm dumpsters are restricted to DEC and Foundation materials only and are not for public use. However, compostable materials may be deposited in the marked compost dumping area located at the front of the Community Garden between the Verplanck Raised Bed Gardens and the Community Garden or in the marked area at the end of the road (see map). Depositing material in other areas is not permitted.
5. Water: Water for the Community Garden is provided by a single, metered well. Overuse or drought conditions can result in water being unavailable or shut-off. Water pressure may be impacted by the number of users at any time. If there are any leaks or breaks in the waterline, a valve located at the rear of the greenhouse should be shut off (see map) and the Foundation contacted as soon as possible. Gardeners must be conservative when using water to assure it will be available on a regular basis. Please note the following:
 - a. **Water is not available** before May 15 or after October 15, nor after dark on any day.
 - b. **Access to water is usually not provided before 8 AM.**
 - c. **Use of personal garden hoses is permitted, but hoses should not be left running when not in use. They must be decoupled from the main line when not in use.**
 - d. **Sprinklers are not allowed** because they waste water. When watering plants, direct water at the roots and soil, instead of broadcast spraying over plants.
 - e. **Mulching plants** is encouraged with mulch provided by Stony Kill Farm, cardboard, straw, newspaper that does not contain toxic inks, or other natural methods.

6. PERMITTED in the Community Garden:

- a. **Only ORGANIC gardening materials are permitted.** Chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides cannot be used. Empty containers with labels of prohibited materials on them cannot be brought to the farm, even if the container carries another product. If in doubt, please get permission from the Foundation before using the material.
- b. **Trellises can be built to grow plants.** Wood material is preferred, although metal or plastic can be used. Cedar is good for posts.
- c. **Non-electric and non-barbed wire fencing less than 5 ft tall is permitted.** Fences must be see-through all around and restrict the plot's crops from extending into the passage aisle.
- d. **Containers, including rain barrels,** can be used, but must be covered to minimize mosquito growth.
- e. **Umbrellas** may be used while you are present in your plot. During all other times, umbrellas must be closed and placed on the ground for safety.
- f. **Renters provide all garden tools and implements.** Chairs, work benches and tables are permitted inside the plot areas.

7. PROHIBITED in the Community Garden

- a. **Entering or altering another renter's garden plot or fence,** without their express permission
- b. **Chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides, including common materials such as Miracle-Grow, Preen, and Round-Up are forbidden.** Empty containers with labels of prohibited materials cannot be brought to the farm, even if the container is carrying another product.
- c. **Non-natural objects such as tires are not to be used to restrict or contain growth.** Please use only naturally occurring objects if such items are needed.
- d. **Grills or fires are prohibited in and around the Community Garden.**
- e. **Radios or electronic audio devices with speakers** are not allowed except if used with headphones.
- f. **Traps or ultrasonic pest controls cannot be used.** Any issue with pests should be reported to the Foundation.
- g. **Structures, shelters, and canopies are not permitted,** except for overhead trellises growing plants, or unless approved by Stony Kill Foundation.
- h. **Signs or postings** are not permitted without permission from Stony Kill Foundation.

- i. **Locks** on community garden plot entrances are permitted; however, DEC or Stony Kill Foundation staff may remove locks as needed under any circumstance at the plot renter's expense.
- j. **The Foundation or DEC can enter a garden plot at any time as needed to perform maintenance, inspection, or other duties.** This may include removal of prohibited chemicals or other materials.

Stony Kill Foundation Community Garden Map





Stony Kill Foundation

79 Farmstead Lane | Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

845.831.3800 | garden@stonykill.org

2021 Stony Kill Foundation Organic Community Garden Plot Application

Please PRINT clearly

First & Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____

Emergency Contact Email _____

Number of Garden Plots requested for the season:

- 1 plot - \$50 | 2 plots (Returning gardeners in good standing only) - \$100

If you are a returning gardener, would prefer to use the same plot(s) as last year?

- Yes* | No, please relocate me if possible | I am flexible to stay or move as needed

Additional comments _____

Would you like to also become a Supporting Member of Stony Kill Foundation? (check one)

- Family - \$45 | Individual - \$30 | Individual Student - \$20 | Individual Senior (62+) - \$20

Note: Stony Kill Foundation Supporting Members are non-voting, informal members of the nonprofit and are not called upon to elect our Board of Directors.

Total Due \$ _____ Checks should be addressed to: Stony Kill Foundation

Your signature indicates that you have read and agree to follow all the guidelines and regulations contained within the 2021 Stony Kill Foundation Community Garden Plot Handbook. Violation of any of the policies outlined in the handbook can result in forfeiture of your plot rental without refund.

Signature: _____ Date: _____