



STONY KILL FARM

ORGANIC COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT HANDBOOK

Hello Stony Kill gardeners! This handbook gives you the information you need to have a successful experience in our Community Garden.

All gardeners and their guests are required to abide by the rules in this handbook. Failure to do so can result in forfeiture of your plot rental without refund.

For questions or concerns throughout the year, contact Stony Kill Foundation at garden@stonykill.org or 845-831-3800

Welcome to the Organic Community Garden at Stony Kill Farm

Stony Kill Farm is a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) facility managed by Stony Kill Foundation. 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.

Community Garden Plot Rentals

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. All plots are the property of Stony Kill Farm and are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Rental fees are non-refundable and will not be prorated. Rentals are non-transferable. Plots that are given up or revoked for cause will be returned to Stony Kill Foundation for reassignment. Plots are assigned after payment is received.

Community Gardeners are limited to their own plot(s) identified in the rental agreement. 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.

Regulations and Renters' Agreement

The Stony Kill Community Garden is a collective of users whose activities and behaviors affect all other renters and users, as well as the long-term health of the farm itself. Therefore, each renter must agree to the conditions of use detailed in this handbook in order to provide the safest and most enjoyable experience possible. Community Garden conditions of use and guidelines are subject to annual review and revision.

Gardeners agree to abide by the practices, guidelines, and regulations defined by the 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 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OR STONY KILL FOUNDATION CAN RESULT IN THE LOSS OF GARDENING PRIVILEGES WITHOUT REFUND OF RENTAL FEES.

Stony Kill Essentials

Hours

Stony Kill Farm and the Community Garden is open from sunrise to sunset every day of the year, including holidays. Anyone wishing to enter the property after dark or before dawn must request written permission unless they are attending a Stony Kill Foundation program.

Stony Kill Foundation and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reserve the right to close the farm or the Community Garden at any time if necessary for reasons which might include maintenance, community safety, or for events at the farm.

Vehicles

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

Restrooms and Building Access

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.

Dogs and Other Pets not Permitted

New York State DEC regulations do not allow pets on Stony Kill property and trails except by written permission. This includes animals on and off leashes.

Prohibited and Restricted Items and Activities

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

The following items are **PROHIBITED** and 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). Also prohibited is the collection of animals or plants (except those grown in the Community Garden) at Stony Kill Farm.

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.

Safety and Security

Neither the DEC nor the Foundation are responsible for the loss or damage of personal property. Valuables should not be kept in the Community Garden.

Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Foundation at garden@stonykill.org or 845-831-3800. 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.

Community Gardener Responsibilities

Maintain and Mulch: Plots are rented “as-is.” Each plot is maintained by the renter and is expected to be kept in good condition throughout the season. Neither the Foundation nor the DEC will plow or till the plots.

All materials are provided by the renter except for wood chips or mulch, which, when available, can be taken from the chip or mulch piles (see map) on a first-come, first-served basis. Renters should not bring uncured 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. Plastic or non-biodegradable mulch is prohibited.

Weeding: 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.

Tend to the Aisles: Aisles adjacent to the plots are part of the rental agreement, and Community Gardeners are expected to maintain those areas, including regularly cutting back any plants in these lanes. Litter, including garden plants and other materials, should not be deposited in the aisles between plots. Renters are not permitted to remove an aisle to combine multiple plots.

Dispose of Waste Properly: All waste must be taken off the farm. Farm dumpsters are restricted to DEC, Foundation, and Common Ground materials and are not for public use. Compostable plant 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.

Water: Water for the Community Garden is provided by a single, metered well. Therefore, gardeners must be conservative when using water to assure it will be available on a regular basis. Overuse or drought conditions can result in water being unavailable or shut off, and water pressure may be impacted by the number of users at a given time. If there are any leaks or breaks in the waterline, a valve located at the rear of the greenhouse (see map) should be shut off and the Foundation contacted as soon as possible. Please note:

- Water is not available before May 1 or after October 15, nor after dark on any day.
- Access to water might not be available on a given day before 8am.
- 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.
- Sprinklers are not allowed because they waste water. When watering plants, direct water at the roots and soil, instead of broadcast spraying over plants.
- Mulching plants is encouraged with mulch provided by Stony Kill Farm, cardboard, straw, newspaper that does not contain toxic inks, or other natural methods.

Winterize: By November 30, all plots should be winterized and all items or decorations secured. Plots should look presentable over the winter; otherwise, materials may 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.

Important to Know

ALLOWED/PERMITTED in the Community Garden

- **ORGANIC gardening materials ONLY.** No chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides allowed (see more under "Prohibited in the Community Garden").
- **Trellises.** Wood or metal material is preferred. Cedar is good for posts.
- **Non-electric and non-barbed-wire fencing.** Fences must be less than 5 feet tall, be see-through all around, and restrict the plot's crops from extending into the passage aisle.
- **Containers, including rain barrels.** They must, however, be covered to minimize mosquito growth.
- **Umbrellas.** For safety reasons, umbrellas may be used only while you are present in your plot. At all other times, they must be closed and placed on the ground.
- **Garden tools and implements,** chairs, work benches, and tables.
- **Locks on garden plot entrances.** Note that DEC or Stony Kill Foundation staff may remove locks as needed under any circumstance at the plot renter's expense.

NOT ALLOWED/PROHIBITED in the Community Garden

- **Entering or altering another renter's garden plot or fence**, without their express permission.
- **Chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides, including common materials such as Miracle-Gro, Preen, and Roundup.** These materials damage soil fertility and are prohibited. Empty containers of prohibited materials also 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.
- **Tires.** Do not bring tires onto the property to restrict or contain plant growth or for other reasons.
- **Grills or fires (even enclosed).** This applies both in the Community Garden and elsewhere on the Stony Kill property.
- **Radios or electronic audio devices with speakers.** The only exception is if they are used with headphones.
- **Traps or ultrasonic pest controls.** Any issue with pests should be reported to the Foundation.
- **Structures, shelters, and canopies.** Unless approved by Stony Kill Foundation.
- **Political signs, advertisements, or postings.** Unless granted permission from Stony Kill Foundation.

Please note that 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

