

# ROBERT M. KUBECKA MEMORIAL ORGANIC GARDEN

## ADMINISTRATION

Department of Environmental Waste Management  
Amanda Lerch, *Organic Garden Liaison*  
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[www.huntingtonny.gov/kubecka-gardens](http://www.huntingtonny.gov/kubecka-gardens)

## DEPT. OF GENERAL SERVICES

### GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND PLUMBING ISSUES

631-351-3105

## PUBLIC SAFETY

To report any suspicious behavior please call our 24/7 Public Safety Office at 631-351-3234

## APPLY ONLINE

Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit [www.huntingtonny.gov/kubecka-gardens](http://www.huntingtonny.gov/kubecka-gardens) and click the link for "Apply Online". A map of available plots can also be found on this page. Returning gardeners may continue to use their plots after renewing the annual agreement.

## HISTORY

In 1971 The Town Board authorized the purchase of 15 acres of land. In 1987 a local law was adopted officially establishing the Community Organic Garden Program with approximately 120 families actively gardening at the site. Membership has grown over the years and today nearly 400 families garden at the site. The philosophy of the garden is that all gardeners use their 20'x 30' plots to grow vegetables, flowers, shrubs or ornamental grasses without the use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and chemical fertilizers. The site also contains several vernal ponds, densely covered oak and maple trees which provide natural habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

## PARTICIPATION LEVEL

We require active participation from all our organic gardeners. Maintaining an organic garden plot means making a commitment to **a lot of work**. Most of our organic gardener's average working in their gardens approximately every other day and a large number of them work on their garden plots every day. New gardeners should only sign up with the full understanding of how much work, time and dedication is required. Also note, that your continued authorized use of a Town organic garden plot is not guaranteed and garden plots that are not maintained throughout the entire season are subject to being repossessed anytime during the season and offered to applicants on our current waiting list. Repossessed gardens can be offered to waiting list applications so that those new organic gardeners might have the opportunity to preform the work necessary to properly prepare their recently acquired garden plots for next year's season.

## APPLICATION FEES

The application fee is **non-fundable**; Residents pay \$35 per season, while seniors (over the age of 60) pay \$25. The payment to, or acceptance by the Town of Huntington of the application fee shall not compel or obligate the Town to continue the Organic Garden Program, provide access, services or materials in any way.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

## I. NEW & RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

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Organic Garden renewal applications and payments must be received by **March 1<sup>st</sup>** or plots can be assigned to another gardener. After this deadline, any plots unpaid for may be offered to new garden applicants. New gardeners are accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.

No guarantee of present or future plot assignment, renewal or continuation in the Organic Garden Program is made or implied.

All Organic Gardeners must have signed and notarized Hold Harmless & Indemnification Agreements on file with the Town of Huntington.

## II. GARDEN SEASON

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**Months of Operation:** March 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>. On December 1<sup>st</sup> gates are locked for the season.

**Hours of Operation during season:** Sunrise to sunset

**Water Service:** April 15<sup>th</sup> to approximately November 1<sup>st</sup>

**A garden plot must be cultivated by June 1<sup>st</sup>.** Garden plots not cultivated by this date are subject to being reclaimed by the TOH and the garden reassigned. Prior participants will have no recourse other than to apply for a new plot and be put on the waiting list.

**End of Season:** Each garden plot should be cleaned out and all personal property removed by the end of season. There will be no access to the Organic Garden after December 1<sup>st</sup>. Everything remaining at the Garden after this date is considered abandoned and subject to disposal.

## III. INTENDED USE

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The use of Garden plots is limited to **one plot per household**, for residents living in the Town and maintaining a Town of Huntington address.

Organic garden plots are for growing organic fruits, vegetables, flowers, shrubs, or ornamental grasses for personal or donated use only.

Any commercial use involving the Organic Garden is **prohibited**.

No bamboo or plants restricted or regulated by any laws may be planted or maintained.

## NATURAL LOOK



Type, size, shape and color of fencing, tarps, pails, buckets, landscaping fabric, hoses or other materials must be consistent and blend in with the look and surroundings of the Organic Garden.

The use of any color other than black, brown or green is not permitted for fencing, tarps, hoses or other materials.

## IV. PLOT MAINTENANCE

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Garden plots must be actively maintained throughout the growing season and should be kept neat, clean and reasonably free of weeds.

Tools, stakes, and cutworm collars should be secured within the plot.

Use of composite, pressure or chemically treated wood in the garden is **permitted**.

Plots are inspected on a regular basis. Renters of plots that have not been planted, are weedy, or do not meet the guidelines, will be notified. Failure to respond within **10 days** may result in forfeiture of the plot.

The only allowable structures within a garden plot is a storage bin no bigger than 3 ft high, 2 feet deep and 6 feet long. Any other structures erected on garden plots may be taken down at the sole discretion of the Town.

## PATHWAYS



Pathways between gardens are to be kept clear at all times. All vegetation must remain inside fences and out of the way of the areas to be mowed. Please keep all vining plants from growing into adjacent plots.

Gardeners are not allowed to encroach upon or incorporate pathways as part of their gardens. Gardeners encroaching upon or incorporating pathways as part of their gardens are subject to being immediately removed from participation of the Organic Garden Program.

No materials, tools, obstruction or obstacles are allowed in pathways at any time.

## FENCING



Fencing in and around garden plots shall be constructed of material, and in such a manner that is consistent with the garden setting and must be limited in height to a maximum of four feet.

Fencing that is not in compliance may be removed **without notice** by the Town without recourse.

The use of any color other than black, brown or green is not permitted for fencing. Orange or bright colored fencing is **not permitted**.

## WATERING



Water is turned on for the season April 15<sup>th</sup> and is shut off for the season by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

To reduce the risk of flooding, gardens should be watered when the owner is present on the site.

Please conserve the use of water. Mulch with leaves, grass clippings, or hay to reduce water evaporation.

## STANDING WATER



Place wheelbarrows, buckets, etc. upside down.

No containers, bowls, tray or other objects that permit standing water may be left at the Organic Garden. The Town may dispose of these, without notice, if left at the garden.

## PROHIBITED ITEMS



The use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and/or chemical fertilizers is **prohibited**.

Carpeting, rugs, hallway runners, plastic mulch and non-landscaping fabric are prohibited from use anywhere in the gardens or on paths.

Rusted or broken chairs, fencing or other debris that can potentially become a safety hazard must be removed immediately.

Any structures larger than 6 ft. x 3 ft. x 2 ft.

All plots must be accessible to the Town's General Services maintenance crew at all times, and the use of any locks on gates to prevent entry is prohibited. Locks or chains preventing such entry may be removed by the Town at its sole discretion without any recourse

## V. GARBAGE AND GARDEN DEBRIS

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**Take in, Take out Policy:** Trash generated by the individual that is not compostable is to be carried out by the individual.

There are designated areas for dumping your organic waste. The Town will collect yard waste from the garden as needed.

Small individual composters on plots are allowed. Be advised, improperly covered vegetable waste will attract unwanted rodents to the area. For more information please visit <https://huntingtonny.gov/composting>

## VI. GARDENING AMENDMENTS

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Gardeners should supply their own seed, plants, organic fertilizer, and equipment for proper growing, cultivating, and harvesting of their crops.

Any leaves, mulch or manure delivered to the garden for your plot must be placed within the confines of your plot. Otherwise they will be considered a donated amendment.

At times, there will be donated horse manure and/or wood chips available. When available, these materials are for use exclusively at the Organic Garden by registered garden members on their individual plots.

The supply of gardening amendments is not promised or assured.

The Town makes no representation nor accepts any liability for the quality, content, or possible foreign debris that may be found or contained in donated gardening amendments.

## VII. VEHICLES

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Display on dashboard the permit issued by T.O.H. when parking at the Organic Garden.

Abide by Town Code 159-8 Vehicles and Traffic.

Follow posted speed limit signs of 5 MPH.

All-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, minibikes, or other similar motorized vehicles designed or equipped to operate outside of paved surfaces of roadways are prohibited.

Do not drive vehicles on any other surface than the paved park roadways and parking areas.

## VIII. PETS

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No pets are allowed in the garden area, even if leash-restrained.

## IX. RESPECT

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Each registered organic gardener has the obligation to treat all other gardeners courteously and respect each other's rights, privacy and property.

## X. DEFICIENCY OF VIOLATION

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In the event the Town of Huntington notifies the registered organic gardener plot holder of a deficiency or violation of garden rules, the **gardener must correct the situation immediately.**

Non-compliance within 10 days after notification is grounds, without further notice, for the Town of Huntington to cancel your permission to continue in the Organic Garden program and reclaim and/or reassign your plot.

Any item(s) not in compliance may be removed and disposed of, or discarded by the Town of Huntington, without prior notice, with no recourse by the owner of the object(s) and causing no responsibility for damages or replacement by the Town.

The Town of Huntington reserves exclusive right of determination of compliance.

## XI. VANDALISM & THEFT

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Gardeners will harvest only from their own garden beds.

Minimize the risk of theft by getting to know your neighbors, and securing or taking garden tools with you when not at the garden.

No recording devices of any type may be affixed to any structure or vegetation at the property. Any recording devices deployed will be removed by the Town at its sole discretion without any recourse.

## XII. SAFETY & LIABILITY

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It is the responsibility of individual gardeners to maintain their plot and surrounding area in a clean and safe manner at all times.

Each registered organic gardener is responsible for his or her own safety and actions.

Registered organic gardeners agree to be personally responsible and liable for the safety and actions of any guest they may have.

The registered Organic Garden participant accepts personal responsibility as specifically noted in the Hold Harmless & Indemnification Agreement that is required from every participant.

The Town Attorney's office requires every registered organic gardener to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement releasing the Town of Huntington from any claim or responsibility of any loss, theft, damage and/or personal injury in connection with the Organic Garden.

The Town reserves all rights of enforcement to ensure compliance by gardener with all federal, state, local laws and code in addition to these "Rules and Regulations" for the "Organic Garden" including, but not limited to legal prosecution of violation of any federal, state, local laws, codes or rules.

Program participants are advised to call the **Town's 24/7 Public Safety hotline at 631-351-3234** to report any suspicious behavior.

## PLEASE NOTE

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The Town of Huntington owns the Organic Garden property and as such reserves the right to change and/or modify rules, requirements, access, future programs, the continuation of the Organic Garden Program and all other decisions regarding the property at any time with no recourse by any person or entity.

The Town reserves all rights of enforcement, prosecution and/or cooperation to ensure compliance with all federal, state, local laws and codes in addition to all rules and requirements of the Organic Garden.

The Town may, but is not required to, in its own opinion and at its own discretion, remove any object(s) that are not keeping with the rules, the look or stated or implied intent of the Organic Garden Program.

The Town may limit and/or rescind any or all access, permits or use of the Organic Garden or the property at any time without notice.