



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Town of Belmont

Homer Municipal Building

19 Moore Street

Belmont, Massachusetts 02478-0900

Telephone: (617) 993-2650 Fax: (617) 993-2651

Date: February 21, 2012

To: All Rock Meadow Community Gardeners (new and returning)

From: Mary Trudeau, Agent for the Belmont Conservation Commission & Rock Meadow Garden Coordinator

Welcome, Gardeners!

The Belmont Conservation Commission oversees the Rock Meadow Community Gardens. As in years past, Kathy Martin will coordinate the day to day operations of the gardens as well as supervising the Spring Work Day on April 14, 2012. (see below for more on this activity!)

Waiting List:

As in past years, we have a long waiting list for garden plots. It generally takes two to three years of wait listing prior to being assigned a garden plot. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please send me an email with your name, address, phone and email contact information. My email is mtrudeau@belmont-ma.gov.

DO NOT SEND A REGISTRATION FORM OR A FEE if you are on the waiting list, or would like to be added to the list. I will contact the wait list as space becomes available, and send registration forms at that time.

Registration and Rental Fees:

If you are a returning gardener, you will need to send in a registration form, and the \$40.00 (forty dollar) fee by March 30, 2012. I will then re assign you to your plot, or put you on a list for a swap. You can either download the form from the website, or you will be emailed a copy in the next few weeks.

The website has been updated, and a **2012 Registration Form** is available. Please complete the Registration Form, sign the Contract and return both to me with a check to cover your rental fee. The Registration form now allows gardeners to make additional donations of support for the garden, and if you are able, this gesture will help off-set fees for those less fortunate. If you feel that the \$40.00 dollar fee is a hardship for your family, please call Mary Trudeau at (617)993-2667. **In any case, the deadline for Registration is March 30, 2012.**

April 14, 2012 (Saturday) Spring Work Day and Allocating of Plots

All returning gardeners are expected to be at the gardens on April 14, 2012 for the annual Spring Work Day and Allocating of Plots. Bruce Westgate and Kathy Martin will be managing the work party. The Work Day will start at 9:00 am, and garden assignments will be made around noon. Garden assignments will only be made to pre notified applicants...if you are on the waiting list and have not been contacted to attend the work day, it is unlikely that you will be assigned a garden this year. Please do not attend the work day and expect an assignment as gardens are allotted by rank on the wait list, not presence at the work day.

What happens on the Work Day?

The spring work day is important. It is currently the only time the gardeners work together to do much needed maintenance on the gardens. What you can expect to be doing includes removing trash to the parking lot (it will be picked up later by the Town of Belmont), reestablishing walking paths through the garden, digging and pulling out, and cutting back invasive plants such as Bittersweet vines, Black Swallow-wort vines, and Buckthorn bushes that are threatening not only the gardens but the whole meadow. Compost bins and processing have been ongoing and will need help on the work day for this project as well. Wear work clothes and bring garden gloves. We will provide some tools, but it is helpful if you bring your own clippers, loppers or shovels. (You might want to label these with your name.)

We also want the work day to be fun and social! Think about bringing a bag of bagels, a box of donuts or a carton of coffee and taking the opportunity to meet and greet old and new faces.

The work day will happen rain or shine and will NOT be rescheduled. Please assume that attendance is a pre requisite for being assigned a garden!

How are garden plots allocated?

If you are a returning gardener, you can reserve your existing plot by sending in the registration form and annual dues by March 30, 2012 AND attending the work day on April 14, 2012. Returning gardeners who wish to change plots are granted first choice of the available plots; this is done according to the order in which the requests were received. If you are a new gardener, you will be assigned a plot from the remaining plots, again, according to the order in which requests submitted were received.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can email me at mtrudeau@belmont-ma.gov. I look forward to see you on April 14, 2012!

Gardener's Contract

AT ROCK MEADOW COMMUNITY GARDENS, BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
2012 Growing Season

1. **The annual April Work Day is MANDATORY**, and you must attend to be reassigned a garden plot. Please contact the Commission immediately if you are not able to attend, and alternative service will be arranged. This is usually the only time that community work projects are done, and it is important that everyone attend.
2. **All assigned plots must be actively gardened and maintained throughout the season.** Plot must be worked (with visible signs of spading, weeding and planting) by June 1, 2012 or it will be reassigned. This means keeping the plot reasonably free of weeds, cleared of trash and litter, watered and harvested in a timely way.
3. **Respect garden neighbors.** Avoid planting crops that are potentially invasive such as raspberry or mint.
4. **Avoid plantings that will shade neighbors gardens.**
5. Gardeners must use sustainable and safe gardening practices. **The use of chemical herbicides is NOT allowed** (with the exception of poison ivy control). The use of inorganic pesticides is also prohibited and the use of ORGANIC products encouraged.
6. **Keep paths clear.** Each gardener is responsible for maintaining the paths adjacent to their garden. Paths shall be between two and three feet wide, and free of gardening tools, plantings and or stones.
7. **No Bird Boxes are allowed in the garden.** If found, these will be removed by the Garden Commissioner, and pose a threat to a local bluebird nesting program.
8. **Conserve water in the gardens. NO sprinklers or sprayers may be used unattended, and the use of SOAKER HOSES is prohibited.** The water system is used by well over 100 gardeners and soaker hoses and unattended sprinklers do not allow for equitable water access and usage.

Please Note: Payment and Registration are due by MARCH 23, 2012!!!!

Make sure you read, sign and return the gardeners contract with your payment!

Signature _____ Date _____

**Garden Hazards include: Ground Hornets, Poison Ivy and Ticks!
Be Aware!**



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REGISTRATION FOR GARDEN SPACE

AT ROCK MEADOW COMMUNITY GARDENS, BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
2012 Growing Season

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

I am a returning gardener _____ I want my old garden reassigned to me _____

The 2012 Garden Rental Fee is \$40.00 dollars. If you would like to help fund the gardens, and assist those who are unable to afford the annual fee, we are offering the following levels of support:**

Garden Rental 2012 Season:	\$40.00 dollars
Garden Friend	\$50.00 dollars
Garden Benefactor	\$75.00 dollars
Garden Patron	\$100.00 dollars

**** If you need financial assistance, please contact Mary Trudeau at (617) 993-2667**

Please mail this completed form AND your check payable to: **TOWN OF BELMONT:**

**Mary Trudeau
Conservation Commission
19 Moore Street – Homer Building
Belmont, MA 02478**

Please Note: Payment and Registration are due by MARCH 30, 2012!!!!

Make sure you read, sign and return the gardeners contract with your payment!