

## OLD TOWN COMMUNITY GARDEN MEMBERSHIP (OTCG) AGREEMENT

For your safety and for the safety of those around you, all new garden members are required to attend the annual garden orientation and safety workshop (dates to be determined). It is your responsibility to contact a Garden Coordinator to arrange an alternate training date if you cannot attend any of the dates suggested. Gardeners may not start working in their raised beds until they have participated in the orientation/safety workshop.

### COMMUNITY HOURS

Gardeners are responsible for volunteer service as needs arise. The Garden Coordinator will contact members regarding needs. We appreciate your willingness to help.

### GENERAL GARDEN INFORMATION

- a) Each garden plot is a raised bed approximately 4' wide, 8' long and 10" deep.
- b) Annual dues per plot, including water, are \$20 for the plot.
- c) Plots may be cultivated from April 1st to October 31st. Please note that we will do our best to have new beds in the expansion area ready by this date, but it is possible there may be a delay due to weather or insufficient volunteer assistance.
- d) OTCG is open from sunrise until sunset, seven days a week from April 1st to October 31st.
- e) Plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Returning gardeners are given preference if they re-enroll by the application deadline and if all components of the membership agreement were adhered to during the previous season.
- f) Plots must be planted by June 29<sup>th</sup> to ensure maximum use of limited space. Plots not planted by this time may be reassigned at the discretion of the Garden Coordinator.
- g) Each plot should be maintained in an orderly and clean manner. Plot owners will be contacted if not in compliance and give a week to address the issue. If action is not taken, plot will be reassigned without further notice or refund.
- h) When you no longer want your plot, you must notify EJ Roach at City Hall, 827-3965 ext 5. You cannot give your plot to others. If surrendered plot can be re-rented during the same season, a full or partial refund may be offered.
- i) Volunteer gleaners will be available to harvest unwanted produce from your garden if you find that you don't have a need or the time to harvest them yourself. This produce will go to a local food pantry or shelter. Call EJ Roach at City Hall, 827-3965 ext. 5 if you would like someone to harvest.
- j) Gardeners are responsible for all soil amendments, cultivating, weeding, fertility management, watering, and general maintenance in their own plot. Bulk compost will be available as our budget allows – gardeners will be notified when it is available.
- k) Garden plots are used for growing vegetables and flowers for gardener's own use or for donation to charitable organizations. Growing trees, shrubs, and woody vines is prohibited.
- l) All plant material, structures, wire cages, and the like, must be removed at the end of the season unless arrangements are made to reserve the plot for next year. Individual gardeners are responsible for clearing the plots and returning them to their original weed-free condition.
- m) Gardeners should place any unwanted plant materials in the city dumpster. Do not pile weeds and rocks in the pathways. Place bagged, non-plant materials (plastic, wire, trash) in dumpster as well.  
PLEASE PUT DISEASED PLANTS IN THE GARBAGE.
- n) Since plots are close together, gardeners should endeavor to keep vines, or other materials contained

so that they do not impact the enjoyment of neighboring gardeners.

o) Tall plants (such as corn, sunflowers, or tall trellised plants) that cast extensive shade should be planted where they will not impact adjoining gardens. You must contact Ron Harriman, at City Hall, 947-8595 before building any structure in your plot.

#### FERTILIZER AND PEST MANAGEMENT

OTCG gardeners are required to follow eco-friendly gardening standards, and appropriate wildlife and environmental protection practices. The use of chemicals such as pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, animal repellants or slug controls and synthetic fertilizers are strictly forbidden. Use of raw human or animal waste, including hot or fresh manure is not allowed due to environmental and human health concerns; however, fully composted manures are allowed. Gardeners may use non-synthetic fertilizers such as fish meal, bone meal, blood meal, kelp meal, etc. Maine state law prohibits the application of any material applied to manage a pest (even those listed as organic and unrestricted) on property open to use by the public by those without a commercial applicator license. Additionally, Maine state law states that anyone wishing to apply pesticides must have prior permission from the landowner (the City of Old Town).

#### MISCELLANEOUS

a) Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the garden area at any time. Service dogs are welcome.

b) There is no smoking allowed in the garden or parking area (inside the fence) at any time.

c) Gardeners are expected to use common courtesy and resolve all differences in an amicable and civil manner. Neither verbal nor physical abuse will be tolerated. Please contact Ron Harriman, Economic Development Officer, City of Old Town if you are unable to resolve conflicts on your own

d) Gardeners must be present in the garden while watering. Drip irrigation, soaker hoses, and other irrigation may not be left on unattended. Please conserve water as much as possible. Water is to be used only for gardening. Water is turned off in October.

e) Plants of an invasive nature (such as bamboo, mint, and oregano) will not be allowed in the garden. Also, containers of standing water should be avoided, because they can be breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

f) When not in use, tools, hoses, and other equipment must be taken home, not left at the site. Grounds must remain clear for maintenance equipment and for the safety of all garden members.

g) Closely supervise your children; help them learn respect for gardening and boundaries. Children using tools in the garden must be under direct (within talking distance) and constant supervision of a parent or responsible adult. Parents or guardians are responsible for making sure that children do not consume soil from anywhere at the garden site. All produce must be washed thoroughly before eating.

h) A member witnessing or experiencing garden theft or vandalism should notify the police and call the Economic Development Office, City of Old Town. Due to the open nature of garden sites, OTCG and the City of Old Town are not responsible for loss of garden products.

Any gardener found to be in violation of the community garden rules may be asked to leave the garden and will not be given preference for garden space the following season.

THIS IS THE STATEMENT YOU AGREE TO WHEN YOU SIGN YOUR MEMBER APPLICATION:

- As is recommended for any harvested crops, OTCG encourages gardeners to thoroughly rinse/wash vegetables prior to consumption. I agree to the following Hold Harmless Clause (required by the City of Old Town):

- The undersigned adult on behalf of themselves, their child and/or children, agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Old Town officials, employees, and agents from any and all claims, demands, suits, penalties, losses, damages, judgments, or costs of any kind whatsoever arising out of or in any way resulting from the activities of said parties and individuals.

- I acknowledge that I have read and understood the conditions of membership in OTCG. I understand that failure to comply will result in non-renewal/non-approval of my application and/or termination of gardening privileges.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized City of Old Town Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Planting Bed # \_\_\_\_\_