

Matthews Community Garden Guidelines

- A gardener takes possession of a plot once the Community Garden Application is approved and the annual fee is received. Payment instructions will be provided upon approval of application.
- Priority in selection for community garden participation will be given to residents of Matthews when a wait list for plot assignment exists. Subsequent spaces will be assigned in the order that the request was received. **Priority for residents of Matthews is limited to selection for participation, residency would not play a role in plot location within the garden**
- The tilling, enhancing, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and cleaning up of each plot is the sole responsibility of the assigned gardener.
- Each gardener is responsible for maintaining the pathways (minimum 3 feet) surrounding their plots as well as keeping weeds under control within their plot. Gardeners of neglected plots will be given 2 weeks to clean up their plot or it will be reassigned.
- Hose Care: leave nozzle open so pressure does not build up and stretch out hoses down the main aisle. Store hoses neatly in order to prevent kinks.
- Tools are the responsibility of each gardener. A locked “community” tool chest is available for added convenience at the Covenant Lane Garden.
 - Only leave tools that you do not mind sharing
 - Common courtesy is the rule if you are using another gardener’s tool when they show up and are in need of it.
 - A key for the tool chest can be purchased for \$2.
- An annual fee will be paid by each gardener by January 15th in order to secure their plot for that year.
- A limit of one (1) plot per household is enforced.
- If a plot is left unplanted by May 15th, it is forfeited and will be re-assigned.
- If a gardener is no longer able to participate in the community garden, contact the plot manager and the plot will be re-assigned.
- Plots cannot be passed along to relatives or friends as there usually is a waiting list.
- Gardeners are expected to make a concerted effort to attend official community garden meetings which are held twice a year (usually in February and October).

Matthews Community Garden Guidelines (Continued)

- Participation in garden workdays (maximum 4 per year, usually just 2) is mandatory. If a gardener is unable to attend, an individual work day must be scheduled for that gardener.
- Plastic mulches and synthetic pesticides are NOT allowed. Organic herbicides, insecticides and fungicides are strongly encouraged.
- Please be considerate of neighboring gardeners by:
 - Harvesting only from your plot unless you have explicit permission from another gardener
 - Being careful about excessively tall or sprawling plants
 - Including garden decorations and structures that are pleasing to the eye
 - Using pathways for observing other gardens
- On-property compost bins are individually serviced. Please add plant residue and organic waste to your bin only. If you don't have a bin, please ask before dumping into compost bins.
- DO NOT PLACE WEEDS OR GRASS IN COMPOST BINS.
- Please remove all trash and left over material from the garden area.
- Children are welcomed and encouraged to learn in the garden. Small children should be supervised at all times.
- Dogs and other pets are not allowed within the fence of the garden area.
- Growing poisonous or illegal plants is prohibited.
- Gardeners agree to vacate the garden property upon 30 days notice, if property must be utilized for other public purposes.
- The Town of Matthews cannot guarantee protection against vandalism or theft. Any vandalism should be reported to the garden manager.

Matthews Community Garden Application

Name: _____

Requested garden location:

____ Covenant Lane Community Garden – 427 Covenant Church Lane

____ Phillips Road Community Garden – 13201 Phillips Road

SIZE PLOT PREFERRED: ____ ~ 12' x 14' (\$35) ____ ~ 12' x 28' (\$50)

Address & ZIP Code: _____

Cell #: _____ **Home #:** _____

Email: _____

I prefer to be contacted by (rank 1-3 with 1 being most convenient; please state the best time to be called):

_____ home phone (between the hours of _____ - _____)

_____ cell phone (between the hours of _____ - _____)

_____ e-mail

Emergency contact name _____ **Phone #** _____

Permission to add my e-mail address to the group garden list: YES _____ NO _____

Are you interested in being a Garden Manager or Town Liaison? YES _____ NO _____

I _____ hereby acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the identified Matthews Community Garden Guidelines. I hereby voluntarily release and discharge the Town of Matthews, its agents, contracted services, servants, and employees from any and all claims for injury, illness, death, loss, or damage, which may occur as a result of my participation in the Matthews Community Garden.

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

Please email this signed application to Scott Rawls (srawls@matthewsnc.gov) or bring/mail to:

Scott Rawls
1201 Crews Road
Matthews, NC 28105

Payment instructions and further information will be provided upon approval of application