

**Town of Perinton  
Recreation and Parks Department**



**2024 - 2025 Community Garden Handbook**

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## **Contact Information and Access**

Perinton Parks Department  
585-223-5050 ext. 2029  
gardencoord@perinton.org

### **2024 Community Garden Hours**

8am to 10pm daily

### **Seasons 2024-2025**

March 20th - April 30th pre-season with limited access to resources

May 1st - October 15th main growing season

October 16th - March 19th winter season with limited access to resources

### **Parking**

Potter Park at 53 W Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450 (Parking lot off Potter Place)

Street Parking on Potter Place

Please do not drive on grass, basketball courts, or sidewalks

**All registered families are welcome. Service animals only.**

### **To Register**

1. Fill out registration form (located on community garden webpage or in person at the community center)
2. Pay and submit form to community center
3. Fill out community garden member agreement - sent by email

Bed assignments will be distributed once registration confirmation and community garden member agreement have been received by the community garden coordinator.

### **2025 - 2026 Registration**

September 23rd, 2024 - October 15th renewal for current members

October 16, 2024 - registration for new members

Please register through the Community Center 585-223-5050

## **Community Garden Mission, Vision and Goals**

### *Mission*

The Town of Perinton Community Garden seeks to steward the beautification of a safe, positive, and healthy space for members to deepen their connections, knowledge and grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

### *Vision*

The vision of the Town of Perinton Community Garden is to celebrate the rich heritage of 'Victory Gardens' by nourishing community connections with educational programs, food donations and sustainable living and gardening.

### *2024 Goals*

- Donate 100 pounds of food to nourish the community
- Repair and replace damaged garden boxes
- Establish a perennial herb garden
- Establish a native garden
- Establish a pollinator friendly garden
- Install rain barrel

## **About the Garden**

Established in 2011, the Town of Perinton Community Garden is located in Potter Park. The garden was once the original site for a WWII Victory Garden. Victory gardens were vegetable gardens planted by community members coming together to ensure adequate food supply for civilians and troops.

The garden offers 105 raised garden beds to Fairport/ Perinton community members. The plots are 8ft x 4ft and members can grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The garden also offers vertical gardens, a vermiculture composting system, and pollinator gardens.

The Town of Perinton provides garden members with a cleared bed, compost, water and limited tools.

## **Community Garden Member Agreement**

- Members agree to **regularly maintain their garden plots** from May 1st through October 15th, including but not limited to **planting, weeding, watering, harvesting** and **winterizing**.
- You must notify the garden coordinator within a **two (2) week time frame** if you are **unable to tend to your plot** for a medical or personal reason, including vacations.
- Plots **unmaintained for more than four (4) weeks** from May 1st to October 15th will be considered **abandoned**
- Plots can be **used to grow food, flowers and herbs**. Invasive species, including mint, are not permitted. Growing cannabis is prohibited.
- You agree to **only plant, harvest and water the plot(s) assigned to you**. Theft will not be tolerated. Please request permission from the community garden coordinator to plant in vertical or pollinator gardens.
- Members are **prohibited to use herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides**, and agree to report any disease or bug infestation on your plot.
- Members agree to **share the space** harmoniously, be friendly, respectful and settle conflicts peacefully.
- Garden members must **keep aisles clear** of plants, materials, debris and tools when not in the garden.
- **Organic matter should be brought to the trailer** in the north-east corner of the garden. No organic matter should be left in the tool shed or discarded in park garbage cans.
- **Alterations to garden boxes** or community garden property is **prohibited**.
- Members will **keep tool shed orderly**; cleaning tools before returning to proper places
- You must **winterize your plot** and bring personal supplies home by **October 15th**, unless you have renewed for the 2025-2026 gardening season.
- Members have **read through the handbook** for additional information pertaining to guidelines of the community garden

## **Community Garden Core Member**

A community garden core member vouches to volunteer 15 hours or more annually.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to;

- supporting the mission of the community garden
- help at special events, attend core meetings
- contribute to the goals of the garden
- support other garden members
- assist the community garden coordinator with necessary tasks

## **Bed Assignments**

Bed assignments will be *emailed* no later than March 1st, 2024 for members who have active registration and filled out the community garden member agreement form.

Bed assignments will be assigned within seven (7) business days of registration if members join after March 1st, 2024.

Members waitlisted will be notified, required to register, complete the community garden member agreement form and then assigned a bed within seven business days (7).

Renewing members will have the option to keep their same plot if renewed from September 23rd to October 15, 2024.

New members and returning members who have not renewed by October 15th, 2024 are assigned plots at the garden coordinators discretion.

## **Town Provided Garden Resources**

### *Tools*

A limited number of tools including shovels, rakes and hand tools are accessible to all garden members in the tool shed. Please clean tools before returning to their proper places in the shed. The town does not provide any garden support materials (see supporting your garden, pg 9) Members are encouraged to bring their own tools. No personal items should be left in the tool shed throughout the season. The town is not responsible for personal tools lost or forgotten in the garden. The town is not liable for any personal items damaged while maintaining the garden plot. Please notify the garden coordinator of any damaged or broken tools or if you would like to make a tool donation to the shed.

### *Water*

Water is accessible for member use during the main growing season. Members will be notified when water is turned on and shut off for the season. Watering in the early morning and close to the soil surface is advised to avoid mildew and plant disease.

### *Compost*

The Town of Perinton provides a limited amount of organic compost for garden members to use.

## **Abandoned Plots**

Plots that have not been planted by **June 12th** will be considered abandoned and reassigned.

Plots unmaintained for more than four (4) weeks from May 1st to October 15th, 2024 will be considered abandoned.

If you fall two (2) weeks or more behind in garden maintenance, the garden coordinator will contact you.

Abandoned plots will be cleaned out and reassigned or winterized without reimbursement. If you no longer want your plot, please reach out to the garden coordinator.

## **Best Practices**

### *Garden Planning*

Planning your garden will be useful throughout the growing season and years to come. When creating a plan, choose the items you want to grow and will enjoy. Order your seeds early. Plan where, when and how you will be planting. Writing down or drawing your plan can be fun and will be very useful throughout the season. Know the final and first frost dates. Have a good understanding of what can be planted in cool soils and warm soils. Plan on starting some seeds indoors or buying transplants. Spread your planting throughout the spring. Consider replacing early cool season crops with warm season crops after the cool season crops are no longer producing. To extend your growing season and continuously enjoy your garden's abundance, consider succession planting. This can be achieved by planting items such as lettuce, spinach, carrots, radishes, green beans, and many others in short rows or blocks every 1-2 weeks throughout the spring and summer. Companion planting can help save space in the garden, increase productivity, repel insects and help some vegetables thrive. Build crop rotation into your plan to help protect your plants from disease, damaging insects and certain nutrient deficiencies. Rotate crops by planting your varieties to new locations for two years before returning to the original location. Plan to reduce disease, save space, and increase productivity by trellising. Be sure not to shade out plants that need full sun.

### *Maintenance*

Water early in the day to allow plants to dry out and reduce the risk of disease. Water deeply and close to the soil surface to encourage the roots to grow down. Do not let the soil dry out. Weed frequently or every day if possible. Early season is most effective. Use mulch such as cardboard, black plastic, leaves, straw, and wood products to reduce weeds. The mulch layer should not be more than 3 inches and should never pile up against the stem of plants.



## *Soil*

Best soils tend to be light and airy, alive with organisms and bacteria. Utilizing compost will improve soil quality by releasing nutrients and holding moisture.

A limited supply of compost will be provided by the town.

Organic or sustainable liquid or granular fertilizers are permitted.

Please contact the garden coordinator if you have any questions pertaining to what you can mend the soil with.

## *Supporting your Garden*

The use of plastics, fabrics, plant coverings, trellises, netting, tomato cages, or other like items are permitted. *The town does not provide plastics, fabrics, plant covers, trellises, netting, tomato cages, or other like items.* Items available have been donated and are available for use on a first come basis. Items should not diminish the aesthetics of the garden or park. Please refrain from using bright or neon colored items. Dark green or black are preferred. Items used to support your garden should be adjusted to not shade or interfere with other members' plots or ability to garden. All items must be contained within the interior bounds of the garden box(s) to avoid snags or damage from routine maintenance.

## **Winterizing Plots**

Members who have not requested and received permission from the garden coordinator to extend their plot rental through the winter season must have their garden plot winterized by October 15th, 2024.

### *How To Winterize Plot*

1. Remove plant matter, weeds, and debris in your plot
2. Remove weed barrier, trellising, trash, and miscellaneous items from plot
3. Cover with provided winter plastic by laying plastic flat over bed, adding a large scoop of compost/soil to each corner, a scoop on each long side of the bed, and two scoops in the middle ( 8 scoops in total, this will hold down the plastic for the winter)

Throughout any point in the season plots can be winterized. If you no longer want to participate in the community garden, please reach out to the garden coordinator.

### **Extended Season**

*Pre-season* March 20th - April 30th

The pre-season is an opportunity to mend your plot and extend the growing season. Members are encouraged to get their plots prepped and sow seeds that are cold-hardy. Resources may be limited.

#### *Favorite Pre-season Items to Grow*

Peas

Roots - radish, turnips

Greens - spinach, arugula, kale, mesclun mix

Herbs - cilantro

Flowers - calendula, poppy, phacelia, sweet pea

*Winter season* October 16th - March 19th

The winter season is an opportunity for members to extend their growing season in order to continue growing cold-hardy items and to plant their favorite varieties of garlic. Row cover and hoops are recommended for some items to be successful. Please contact the garden coordinator for permission to extend your plot into the winter season.

#### *Favorite Winter Cold-hardy Crops*

Roots - radish, beets, carrots

Greens - spinach, mesclun mix, kale, arugula,

Herbs - cilantro

Garlic

**Resources:**

**Town of Perinton** - <https://perinton.org/>

**Garden Basics & Practices** -

<https://stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu/gardens-grounds/garden-basics-practices>  
[s](#)

**Fruition Seeds** - <https://www.fruitionseeds.com/>

**Garden Planning: A Step by Step Approach | High Mowing Organic Non-GMO Seeds** -

[https://www.highmowingseeds.com/blog/garden-planning-a-step-by-step-approach/?gclid=CjwKCAiAleOeBhBdEiwAfgmXf1fkfZESs5vhaA\\_-A27ZN4V8MYIi9TcvjvWju30YE-TWJKZI8oq\\_choCzy4QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.highmowingseeds.com/blog/garden-planning-a-step-by-step-approach/?gclid=CjwKCAiAleOeBhBdEiwAfgmXf1fkfZESs5vhaA_-A27ZN4V8MYIi9TcvjvWju30YE-TWJKZI8oq_choCzy4QAvD_BwE)

**“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond” – Robin Wall Kimmerer**