

Ayer Community Garden Gardener Application

Thank you for your interest in the Ayer Community Garden! We will confirm if a plot is available for you as soon as possible. Plot priority is given to returning gardeners and then based on the order in which applications are received. We will collect fees and assign garden plots at orientation, date/time to be announced. For questions, and to submit your completed application contact ayercommunitygarden@gmail.com or drop it off at Ayer Town Hall, Attn: ACG, 1 Main Street, Ayer, MA. 01432.

Are you a returning Ayer Community Garden member? If yes, what bed number?

Gardener Name:

Gardener Address:

Gardener Phone:

Gardener Email:

Gardening Partner 1 Name (if applicable):

Partner 1 Phone:

Partner 1 Email:

Gardening Partner 2 Name (if applicable):

Partner 2 Phone:

Partner 2 Email:

Contact information will be shared with fellow community gardener members.

Describe your gardening experience?

Are you interested in learning about leadership opportunities in the garden?

Are you interested in educational programs on gardening? If so, what type?

Do you require an accessible bed (taller or wheel-chair accessible)? We will work to accommodate you.

Does anyone in your household receive any of the following (check any that apply): This information is needed for demographic purposes & plot fee determination. (This information will remain confidential.)

____WIC ____SNAP/EBT/Food Stamp ____MassHealth ____Subsidized Housing ____SSI/SSDI ____TAFDC

Household size	Household income LESS than	Household income LESS than	Household income MORE than
1 person	<\$28,000	<\$48,000	>\$48,000
2 people	<\$32,000	<\$54,900	>\$54,900
3 people	<\$36,000	<\$57,100	>\$57,100
4 people	<\$40,000	<\$68,600	>\$68,600
5 people	<\$43,200	<\$74,100	>\$74,100
6 people	<\$46,400	<\$79,600	>\$79,600
7 people	<\$49,600	<\$85,100	>\$85,100
8 people	<\$52,800	<\$90,600	>\$90,600
Annual Fee	\$10	\$20	\$45

Please circle the Annual Fee applicable to you based on the table below.

Your fee allows use of shared tools, water, and resources.

Gardener Obligations By signing and submitting the application I indicate I will abide by the Garden Rules and participate in a required orientation meeting and end of season meeting, as well as three garden maintenance days per season, if physically able. Those physically unable to participate in garden workdays shall work with the Garden Coordinator to determine alternate garden projects to be performed in support of the Garden. Failure to follow rules and complete volunteer requirements may result in loss of garden plot.

Photo permission: Unless you check below, you give Ayer Community Garden permission to use you and/or your child's photograph (if applicable). These images may be used in print/online publications, presentations, websites, and social media to promote the garden. If you do not give your permission, please let photographers know when they are at the garden.

Please check here (___) if you do not give your permission for your photo to be published. If applicable, please check here (___) if you do not give your permission for your child's photo to be published.

_____(Signature)

_____(Gardening Partner Signature, if applicable)

_____(Gardening Partner Signature, if applicable)

Date submitted: _____

ACG Garden Committee Use

Date Application Received: _____

Garden Plot Assignment: _____

Gardener Added to Database and Email: _____

Attended Orientation: _____

Fee Paid: _____

Town Liability Waiver Received: _____

Key Given to Gardener: _____ Key Returned by Gardener: _____

Areas of Interest, committee assignments, notes: _____

Ayer Community Garden Rules and Regulations

Overview

The Ayer Community Garden (ACG) is intended to be a beautiful, safe, and peaceful place for individuals to cultivate vegetables, fruits, and flowers. The following rules and regulations have been designed to ensure the community garden is safe, pleasant, fair and equitable for all gardeners. These guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Ayer Community Garden.

Plot Rental and Registration

1. Eligible gardeners include residents of Ayer and Devens aged 18 or older. If plots remain, residents of neighboring towns are eligible. All gardeners must submit an annual registration application and fee.
2. Individuals may rent one garden plot. Plot assignments will be made as soon as possible in the spring.
3. Gardeners in good standing may renew their garden plot for the following season. Those who do not meet the registration deadline will forfeit gardening privileges and their plot will be re-assigned. Gardeners who relinquish their plot may not directly transfer the plot to another gardener.
4. Garden plots are issued on an annual basis. Gardeners are welcome to garden over winter.
5. Applications from new gardeners will be considered in the order in which they are received.
6. If there are no vacant garden plots, prospective gardeners can add their name to a waiting list. When a plot becomes available, prospective gardeners will be contacted in the order they registered.

Gardener Rules

1. Garden is open daily from sunrise to sunset, only.
2. Garden tools will be provided and shared. All gardeners are responsible for the upkeep and proper use of shared tools.
3. One garden key will be issued for each plot. Loss of a garden key may result in a fee for replacement.
4. The garden is not open to the public. You should lock the garden gate if you are the last one to leave.
5. At the end of the growing season, plots must be cleared and left as they were found in the spring.
6. Gardens and surrounding walkways must be kept free of weeds. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance of their garden plot and surrounding pathways. Watering, weeding, and harvesting are the responsibility of the gardener. If you are unable to care for your plot for a time during the season, ask a fellow gardener to help with upkeep.
7. All gardeners are prohibited from using toxic chemicals or fertilizers of any kind. All pesticides and fertilizers must be natural and non-toxic. If ever in doubt whether a substance is acceptable, ask BEFORE you apply it.
8. No plants shall be used that are listed as invasive or potentially invasive on the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group list of invasive plants, including quickly spreading herbs such as mint, unless they are potted. Planting trees, shrubs, bushes, and any non-native species is prohibited, unless the Town of Ayer provides written consent.
9. Water will be provided on site and shared amongst gardeners. Upkeep of hoses and accessories as well as responsible water use are required. Water must be turned off at the main source after each use.
10. If you decide not to use your plot, please contact the Garden Coordinator so it may be reassigned. If notice is given on or before June 1 and the plot is re-assigned, you will receive a refund. Plots must be used by June 15 or they will be reassigned if no other arrangements have been made.
11. Plots are not for commercial use. Selling of produce is a violation of ACG policy.
12. Smoking is prohibited within the garden property limits.
13. No pets other than service animals are permitted within the fenced garden space.
14. Supervised children are always welcome and encouraged to visit and work in the garden! Please be advised that accompanying adults are responsible for any damage caused by unsupervised children.
15. Gardeners and anyone assisting with the care of your plot must sign the Town of Ayer liability waiver.
16. The ACG Executive Committee will make decisions based on the interest of the garden as a whole. This includes resolving conflicts and upholding the rules of the garden. If a gardener is found to be in violation of one or more rules, they will receive a warning and be asked to rectify the violation. If no corrective action is taken following warnings, gardeners may lose their privileges and plot.
17. In support of your garden neighbors, please bring any concerns to the Executive Committee to be addressed and resolved.