

Two Coves Community Garden Membership Agreement

Please read the below agreement. A representative from every plot must sign this agreement to receive a plot in Two Coves Community Garden. This agreement pertains to your entire plot & those who work on it.

By signing below I agree I have reviewed this pamphlet, including the Two Coves Garden Rules of Conduct (Rules) & Obligations of Gardeners (Obligations), and agree to follow these Rules & Obligations. I understand that if I do not follow the information outlined on this page I may lose membership in Two Coves Garden and/or my plot will be reallocated. Should I have further questions I will contact a Steering Committee member. I further understand:

- * Rules & Obligations are subject to change (with notice) during the season. These changes may affect my plot or public space. I am expected to follow any changes made.
- * Other proposals that may affect my plot or public space in the garden may arise during the season. I am expected to follow any changes made.
- * I agree to abide by all votes of the garden.
- * Two Coves Community Garden exists on City property. My suggested donation is to aid in the communal upkeep of the garden & does not in any way entitle me to property rights of my plot, or any part of the garden.
- * All tools & materials in the communal shed are supplied as garden-wide tools & must be replaced after use.
- * I agree to fulfill my required 2-hours per month of volunteer time.
- * The garden operates on a democratic process of member-wide representation holding monthly meetings the 4th Saturday of every month. I will attempt to participate in these meetings and understand I have the right to express my views and vote at such meetings.
- * Membership renewal occurs on an annual basis, approximately March 1 to the end of February the following year.
- * Green Thumb encourages the cultivation of edible plants. (Two Coves is a registered Green Thumb garden.)

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Please list names of other people that will garden your plot this season:

Days and times representatives from your plot are usually available to volunteer:

- My plot is willing to help with heavy manual tasks (examples: construction, heavy lifting, snow shoveling)
- My plot is willing to help with semi-manual tasks (examples: weeding, compost, hose repair)
- My plot is willing to help with administrative duties (examples: mailings, phone calls, grant applications)

Please provide contact information below so we can better coordinate garden business (volunteering, plot renewal, meetings, etc). We do not distribute your contact information outside of the garden.

Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email(s): _____

Add the following to the Two Coves Membership Directory: name email phone number address

YES, add my email address to the Two Coves Garden Discussion Group. Different subscriber options to control emails received are available. Please do not hesitate to ask for technical assistance regarding email subscription.

NO, do not add me to the Two Coves Garden Discussion Group.



Two Coves Community Garden

**Information Packet
2009**

Two Coves Community Garden Contact Information
PO Box #2585
Astoria, NY. 11102
Phone: 718-512-8649
Email: twocovesgarden@gmail.com
Website: www.twocovescommunitygarden.org

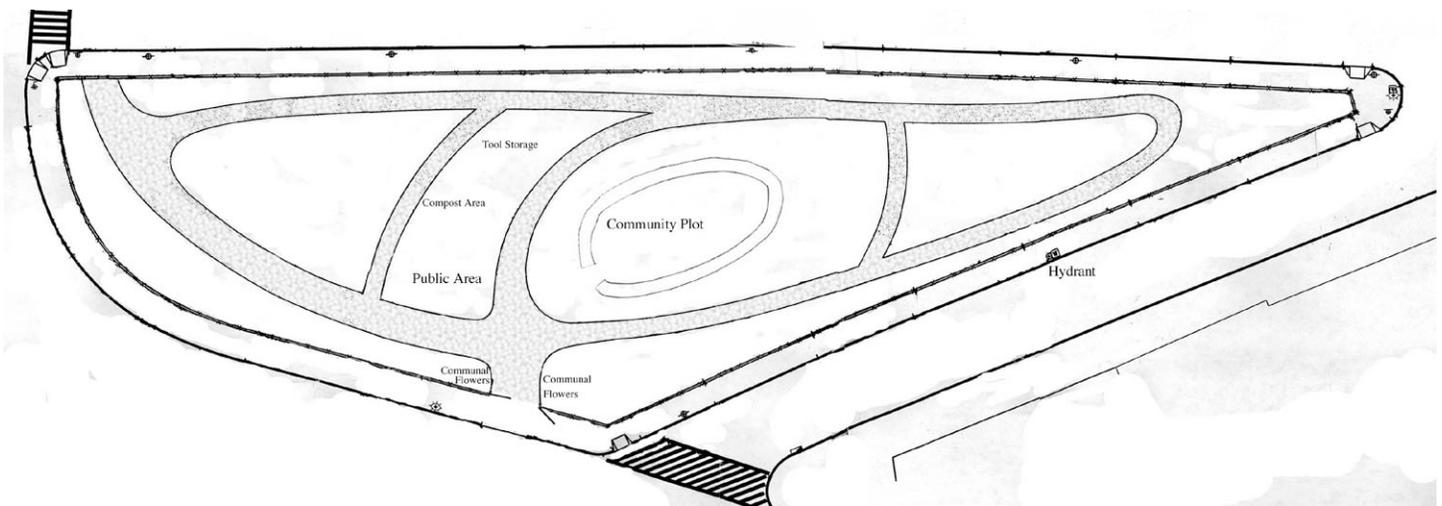
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All information in this packet can be found on the website www.twocovescommunitygarden.org, or the bulletin board in the garden

Please make sure to attend the General Meetings for the garden held the 4th Saturday of every month.

Map



Community Plot

The Two Coves Garden Community Plot will grow community through: creating a space where gardeners can garden together; inviting greater participation in the garden; building bridges by sharing work, education and food. The Community Plot is a place where all members of the community - individual plot gardeners, and non, are welcome to garden, harvest, and in general, enjoy the garden together.

The Community Plot only recently became a realized dream and it needs help, muscles and support from gardeners and the community. It is located in the central space, just after the entrance. Together we beautify the berm and cultivate the central area. The Community Plot is a space for vegetable experimentation (peren-

nials, space-needers, group pollinators, etc), to harvest abundance, to giveaway, to work together, for education, and whatever else we can dream together to make the Two Coves Garden a greater space for community.

The Community Plot is open to everyone so join us. The Community Plot provides a space for potential gardeners on the wait list to participate in gardening while waiting for individual plot placement. The Community Plot will host regular Community Harvest & Potluck Gatherings.

The Community Plot open hours will coincide with the Two Coves Garden's open hours.

Obligations

If you fail in these obligations consistently, your plot can be assigned to another gardener. You are also required to respect all general rules of conduct for the garden. You will receive no more than two warnings regarding violations.

1. Plot Maintenance. If you have taken responsibility for a plot, you must control invasive weeds, pests, and disease in your plot. Weeds should be pulled, and should not be allowed to go to seed.

2. Poison Free. Do not use chemical pesticides (including synthetic insecticides, herbicides, larvacides, and fungicides) in the garden.

3. No Permanent Structures Without a Permit. You may not build a structure with a solid, inflexible roof. You may not build a structure that is enclosed on more than three sides. You may not build a structure taller than nine feet high. *

4. Litter. Volunteers must spend at least an hour every month bagging litter in the garden, and taking the bags to the curb outside the entrance. If you see large

amounts of garbage on the adjacent sidewalk, they must be collected and moved to the area directly outside of and to the right of our front gate.

5. Monitor Duties. You must commit to a single 2 hour block of time per month when you can host the garden during open hours. If open hours are completely unworkable with your schedule, than you and the site coordinator must find agreement on a monthly 2 hour block for you to do other community duties such as litter pick up or composting.

6. Forbidden Plants. Do not cultivate dangerous or illegal plants. (i.e., poison ivy, poison mushrooms, etc.)

7. Contact Information. The site coordinator and steering committee must have your address and at least one electronic way to contact you. If contact info changes, let the site coordinator know. *

8. Orientation. It is required for gardeners to attend orientations and workshops that have been mandated by the Steering committee.

Rules

1. Do Not Touch A Plot Without Expressed Permission of Its Supervisor. If you see a problem with somebody else's maintenance, contact them or the Site Coordinator. Do not make alterations to any of the common areas without the clearly expressed permission of the Site Coordinator.

2. A Non-threatening Environment. Anyone who makes a threat against another person's physical well-being can be banned from the garden.

3. Respect Supplies and Equipment. Do not remove supplies or plantings from the garden, unless they are yours and yours alone. However, gardeners are expected to care for the garden's tools as if they were their own. Tools must be returned to the storage area before you leave the garden.

4. No Dogs Are Allowed in the Garden.

5. No Smoking Is Permitted in the Garden. *

6. No Alcoholic Beverages May Be Consumed in the Garden Outside of a Legally Permitted Event. *

7. No Children Unattended. No child under the age of 14 is admitted into the garden without a parent. No child under the age of 16 is permitted in the garden without the expressed permission of a parent. Parents of any child under 18 are fully responsible for their child's activity in the garden.

8. No Loud Radios Outside a Permitted Event. Gardener's radios cannot be audible outside of their plots. Headphones are strongly encouraged.

9. No Paid Advertising is permitted to be displayed in the garden.

10. No Gambling is permitted in the garden. *

*Rules of Green Thumb/NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

Volunteering

All gardeners are expected to volunteer two hours of time each month – in addition to the time spent gardening their own plot. Volunteer tasks might include staffing the gate during our open hours (to welcome the public and answer questions about the garden), keeping the common areas weeded, helping with administrative tasks, or turning/tidying compost bins.

Through hard work and dedication, volunteers have made Two Coves Community Garden what it is today.

We need volunteers year-round, as our license with Green Thumb requires a certain level of monthly maintenance (such as shoveling the exterior sidewalks when it snows). Please email twocovesgarden@gmail.com or call 718-512-8649 to let us know your availability so we can schedule your volunteer shifts each month. To find out about volunteer opportunities, please visit www.twocovescommunitygarden.org.

Composting

Composting is the process of creating ideal conditions to rapidly and efficiently turn natural waste into fertilizer.

Why should I care?

NYC households create two pounds of natural waste daily on average, which makes more than two million pounds yearly. This “waste” can be used to feed and beautify our parks, gardens, and houseplants, and composting is the cheapest way for the city to manage it.

There are seven steps to the city’s guidelines for individual composting. These guidelines apply to larger operations as well, and we invite you to participate in our communal composting project (see details below).

STEP 1: SET UP

Composting can be done below or above ground, but works best above, and must be kept contained and tidy to avoid pests. Compost needs room to work (about a cubic yard, or 3’ x 3’ x 3’, but it can be smaller too). Contact the Queens composting hotline (718 539 5296), or email compost@queensbotanical to find out where to buy or how to build a container. Check for scheduled composting or bin constructing events on the website or on bulletin boards around the garden.

STEP 2: ADD DRY STUFF

Fall leaves, newspaper (soy-based ink only), brown paper, dried plants/weeds (seeds removed), or old potting soil.

STEP 3: MOISTURE

Keep your bin moist, but not “mushy” or soggy. Uncovered compost piles can collect too much rain water, attract mosquitoes (a big NO-NO), and slow the composting process.

STEP 4: FOOD SCRAPS

Chop up food scraps very small, and cover them on all sides with dry stuff to avoid attracting pests.

STEP 5: MIX IT UP

Composting needs food scraps, moisture, dry stuff... and air! Turn the pile with a pitchfork, shovel, or stick.

STEP 6: WAIT

The amount of waste, moisture, and how often the pile is turned, will determine how quick (as little as three months) or how slow (up to a year) your compost is ready.

STEP 7: USE IT

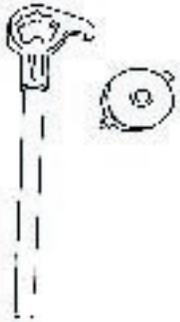
Finished compost looks like crumbly topsoil, and smells pleasantly earthy. Test to find out if it’s ready by sealing in a plastic bag for a few days, and check the smell. Mix with equal parts dirt to make potting soil, or use as mulch for vegetables and flowers. Avoid using directly up against tree trunks.

What can I do to help?

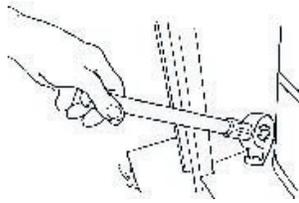
Find Shirley Chai (shirleyschai@yahoo.com). She is a certified Master Composter and graduate of the Lower East Side Ecology Center in Manhattan, which is funded by the Dept. of Sanitations and really enthusiastic about teaching others the way to compost. You can also talk to Stephanos Koullias (skoullias@gmail.com). Please be prepared to chop up any kitchen waste you bring to be composted, check with Shirley or Stephanos before bringing large amounts of food waste, and do not leave food exposed to where it will attract rodents or create rotting odors. For a complete list of what you can compost and what to avoid, see the signs by one of the bulletin boards, or composting bins, or call 311 to order the Dept. of Sanitation NYC Guide to Composting.

Watering Diagram

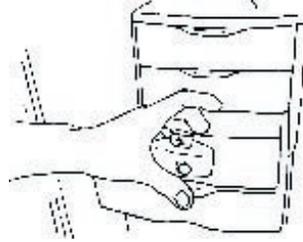
Step One A - Find the hydrant cap & the wrench.



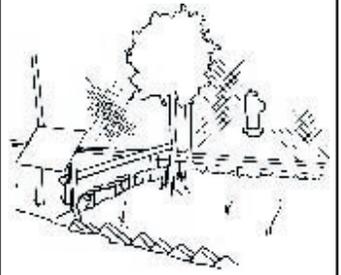
Step One B- The wrench is kept between the plastic drawers & the inside of the left wall of the tool shed. Please return it there after turning the hydrant on or off.



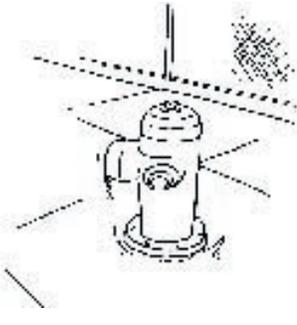
Step One C - The hydrant cap should be located in one of the plastic drawers. Please return it there after removing it from the hydrant.



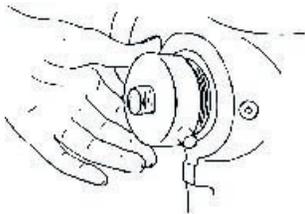
Step Two - Pass the hose through the pvc pipe to the sidewalk.



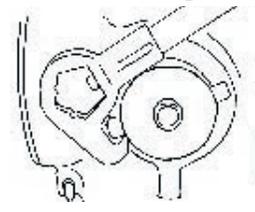
Step Three A - Pull the hose to the hydrant & attach the hydrant cap.



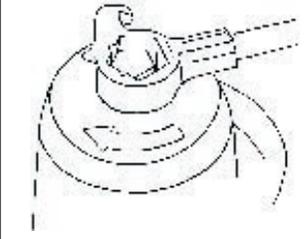
Step Three B- Screw on the cap carefully to avoid cross-cutting the threads.



Step Three C - Using the back of the wrench, tighten the cap only enough that a moderately strong person can easily remove it. Attach the hose to the adapter.



Step Four - Use the key on the wrench to turn nozzle on the top of the hydrant 1.5 - 2.5 times. **Stronger pressure will damage the hoses.**



Watering Etiquette & Guidelines

Q: The hose on my line has no pressure. Should I turn the hydrant pressure up?

A: Follow the line your hose is on back to the hydrant, shutting off any valves for lines that are not in use. Increasing the pressure will result in damaged hoses.

Q: The gun/nozzle/wand on the end of my hose is broken. Should I remove it and use another one?

A: Please, avoid removing the gun/nozzle/wand at the end of your hose. There are small pieces that can easily get lost. If possible use the hose in the area closest to yours

Q: My plants are really dry can I use two hoses to water them or turn the hose on & let it run for an hour?

A: Please avoid using more than one hose at a time. This is a good way to over water, & it also deprives others of sustained pressure and access to the hose. Unless you have your own drip hose & you have expressed permission from Gary, please do not leave running hoses unattended for long amounts of time.

Q: I am done watering & there is no one left in the garden. Can I just leave the hydrant cap on & the hose connected to it for the next person to use?

A: No. The hydrant cap & wrench are not free. To avoid wasting city water please be turn hydrant valve off when not in use. If you are the last one in the garden you must remove the cap & hose, if you are not the last one using water make sure that the next user knows they are responsible for the cap & hose.

Steering Committee Members

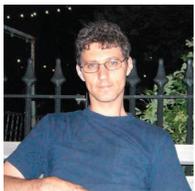
The Steering Committee (SC) is comprised of eleven members of Two Coves Community Garden. The ten members listed below were elected at the November 15th General Membership Meeting. We will fill vacancies at the April 25th, 2009 General Meeting.



Emily Compton and Atticus - I have been gardening at Two Coves since June 2007. I am co-signer (with Garrett) on the Garden's bank account, but what I really enjoy is gossiping about neighborhood politics about the Garden.



Vanessa Jones-Hall - As a member of the Two Coves Community Garden Steering Committee and resident of the Astoria Houses for over 40 years. This is my first time being involved in a community garden. Since then I have meet amazing people and have earned a great wealth of knowledge about gardening. As the new harvesting comes near, I look forward to meeting and greeting new people, new ideas and you. Enjoy this harvest year.



Bernard Klevickas - I am committed to maintaining and improving the garden. It is my belief that the environment of the Two Coves is a healthy and inspiring place where individuals who may not otherwise cross paths are engaged in developing and sustaining a community that crosses divides. My personal focus within the garden is offering my skills as a craftsperson and artist in developing and building structures for garden use and promoting art as an integral component to gardening. I currently have a plot on which I grow roses and a variety of other flowers. This past season has been my first gardening experience and I look forward to growing an even more beautiful plot next year.



Stacey Ornstein - Community Plot member, President of Astoria Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), Vermicomposter. I am excited to see the garden bloom larger in 2009 - and especially to grow more eggplants!



Jodie Paris - Jodie Paris has a strong interest in sustainable practices, water and soil conservation, and local food production. She has experience as a market manager with Greenmarket and aspires to establish a diversified organic farm in the Hudson Valley.



Garrett Ramirez - Garrett has been with the garden since 2006 when it was only one part of the Goodwill Park project. He is currently secondary contact between the garden and the city. Garrett is interested in growing edible and medicinal plants in organic and intensive ways, and exchanging knowledge of this with others.



Lynne Serpe - Lynne is an active member of many local environmental and civic organizations. Her interest in gardening grew from a desire for healthy, locally-produced and affordable food. She believes Two Coves Community Garden is a unique green space for the entire community to enjoy.



David Turner - Helped to start the Community Plot and is looking forward to working with gardeners there! Loves muskmelons.



Gary Weeks - Gary is the mastermind behind the hoses and works with the plots.



Nitsa Whitney - I live in LIC and I have gardened for many years. I cannot wait to garden in 2009