

Raritan Township Community Garden Application 2024

The Raritan Township Community Garden is located behind the Raritan Township Administration building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822

The annual fee for renting a plot in the Raritan Township Community Garden is \$30 per plot. Senior citizens, 65 or older, pay \$20 per plot. Township schools and non-profits will not be charged a fee. The plots are approximately 12' x 15'. The Raritan Township Community Garden Committee will assign plots on a first come first served basis with preference given to current plot holders, Raritan Township residents and entities. Reservations are limited to 2 plots per family with a 1 plot limit for first year gardeners. Application forms can be downloaded from the *Forms* section of the Raritan Township website and mailed with a check to the mailing address on the form after January 1, 2024. Confirmation of accepted application will be via email.

Gardening requires a tremendous commitment in maintaining garden plots weekly, from soil preparation, to sowing and planting seedlings, regular weeding and final harvests. Mowing the grass between the plots is an additional responsibility. The mower and everything necessary for that task is available at the garden and can be completed within 1 hr. Cooperation with all the gardeners makes this job only necessary 2 times during the entire growing season for each plot owner. An orientation is offered to all new gardeners to allow time to ask questions and learn where everything can be found to work their plots. Please read the following guidelines before committing to reserving a plot. The application for plot reservation follows the guidelines and can be found on page 3.

Raritan Township Community Garden Rules

1. Only certified organic materials will be used. As part of maintaining an organic garden and controlling pests, gardeners may bait mouse traps with peanut butter.
2. The garden includes areas that are designated for habitat for pollinators, including butterflies and bees. Anyone who has allergies is expected to exercise caution and follow their doctors' advice for being in areas with these insects.
3. No pets of any kind are allowed in the garden, except for service animals. Children will be supervised and kept out of neighboring plots. Special caution should be exercised to keep children away from mouse traps baited with peanut butter to catch garden pests.
4. Smoking and the use of alcohol are prohibited in the garden.
5. All gardeners must help with mowing at least two times during the season.
6. Plots that have not been worked before **June 1** will be open for others. Unworked plots before that time will need to be mowed or weed wacked to prevent the spread of weeds to neighboring plots.
7. The Community Garden Committee may not accept a plot renewal request if plot was not worked or if plot was not cleaned up by **November 15**.
8. Plots may be worked during the extended planting season March - November. Unless told otherwise by the Community Garden Committee, all garden supports, etc., must be removed at the end of each season.
9. Garden hours are from dawn to dusk. Gardeners must close (and lock) the fence when leaving the garden. *Locks on the gates (and their combinations via email) will be available as gardeners begin harvesting produce from their gardens.*
10. Water will be available from a hose at the rear of the municipal building via a hose routed to the garden. Gardeners are expected to make sure the water is turned off and the hose hung on its hose caddy before they leave the area.

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11. The Community Garden Committee may choose to provide benches and other items for communal use and enjoyment. These may not be moved or changed without express permission of the Committee.
12. Each gardener will keep weeds at a minimum, remove trash and litter and work with other gardeners to maintain the walkways. Gardeners may not leave anything in the walkways (except when they are working on their plots). The township dumpster is available for garden waste. Plots that are unkempt and overgrown will be subject to clean-up and loss of plot with no refund.
13. Gardeners may not keep items like chairs, sundials, rain barrels, etc. in their gardens or in any part of the community garden area. In a case of non-compliance, Community Garden Committee will notify the gardener that they have two weeks to clean up or forfeit their garden privileges.
14. Gardeners will not shade neighboring plots and they must restrict the growth of their plants to their own plots and make sure growth stays within the plot boundaries and out of the walkways to allow for mowing.
15. If a gardener, for any reason (health, vacation, work) is temporarily unable to maintain their plot(s), they should inform the Community Garden Committee.
16. Gardeners may only pick their own crops unless given permission by another plot user. In the event that ripened produce is not harvested in a timely manner, it may be picked by the Garden Committee for donation, after notifying plot owner.
17. The use of the Raritan Township Community Garden is a privilege. If a gardener should fail to comply with the governing rules, fair notice will be given for plot the owner to explain extenuating circumstances. The Community Garden Committee may rescind their privileges and reassign their garden plot(s) if there is no cooperation and fees will not be refunded.
18. During business hours parking is only in the designated area, beside the dumpster or in the free space beside the EV charging space and **never** in specially designated or reserved spots. Please provide your car make and model in this application so that we can ensure compliance with this very important rule. Violators stand to lose these parking privileges. Vehicles will not be driven or parked on the grass.



The Raritan Township Community Garden is a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat and is an Official Monarch Butterfly Way Station through the Garden Club of New Jersey's efforts. The Pollinator Garden is also registered in the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge as a Garden Club of NJ Pollinator Garden.

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Registration begins in January with preference given to prior participants and those on a waiting list.

Completed application and payments can be returned to the Township Clerk at One Municipal Drive or mailed to Leslie Leith, 14 Lake Ct, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Make your check out to Raritan Township **NOT** Leslie Leith.

Annual Rental Fee: \$30 for adults; \$20 for seniors 65 and older.

Questions: Email Leslie at cleanuples@gmail.com.

I have read and agree to abide by the rules and guidelines established for the Raritan Township Community Garden. I understand that failure to comply with these rules and guidelines will be justification for revoking my gardening privileges.

I understand that the Raritan Township Community Garden Committee and the Township of Raritan are not responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the Raritan Township Garden Committee and the Township of Raritan for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of Raritan Township Community Garden by me, my servants, or agents, family members or guests.

Print Name(s): _____

Address _____

Municipality if different from mailing address: _____

Telephone: _____ Second telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Vehicle 1 Make : _____ Model : _____ License #: _____

Vehicle 2 Make: _____ Model: _____ License #: _____