

2027 SCG Gardener Policies and Application

Adapted from the Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin Community Garden Organizer's Handbook.

Stratham Community Garden Policies - 2027

The mission of the Stratham Community Garden is to:
- Provide members access to space (a 4'x8' raised bed) and share knowledge for growing their own garden
- Educate community on sustainable agriculture and organic practices
- Provide healthy sustainable produce to our community and local food pantries
- Provide a healthy ecosystem (including native plantings) in which to garden

The Stratham Community Garden (SCG) aims to be a safe place for gardeners, guests and children. Please do not bring anything to the garden that will compromise the safety of those enjoying the garden. The primary goal of these rules is to ensure an enjoyable gardening experience for all. Please observe the rules of the garden and be a good neighbor!

Prohibited items

- Smoking (including vaping) and chewing tobacco, alcohol, drugs
- Radios or boom boxes
- Fires
- Pets

Group Work Days

Group Work Days contribute to the success of the Stratham Community Garden. These days

will be held on designated weekday evenings and weekend mornings or afternoons from April
through November, and will focus on the common areas of the garden. Sessions will be approximately 2 to 3 hours. As a garden member, expect to commit to at least two work days (for a total of 4 hours) throughout the garden season. Gardeners are expected to sign up for their work days ahead of time. There will also be alternate volunteer opportunities that can be completed at any time, which will also count towards the 4-hour per season commitment.

New Member Orientation

All new members must attend one Orientation Session, held at the garden. These sessions will
be used to tour the garden, review policies and answer any questions you may have.

Policies

● Gardeners are required to complete the following items each season in which they are a member, both of which are contained in this document:
    - an application form
    - review and sign the policies section of this document (signature required below)
● Please supervise children in the garden.
● For your safety, only garden during daylight hours, as there is no lighting within the garden.
● All plots must have something planted by June 15, or your bed could be forfeited. Please
reach out if you have extenuating circumstances.
● If you plan to discontinue the use of your space, please let the SCG Committee know ASAP so that your plot can be assigned to another gardener. All discontinued plots must be
cleaned up and prepared for a new user.
● Planting illegal or invasive plants is prohibited.
● Please keep your plants contained within your garden bed. Tall plants should be planted in
the center of your bed so that they do not shade neighbors' beds. Vining plants should be
trained so that they stay within your bed.
● Generally, plan to visit your plot at least once a week for watering and weeding. In hot dry

times, you may need to water more frequently. Please use your best effort to reduce weeds
both inside and on the outer perimeter of your bed.
● Landscape fabric (or plastic) for weed suppression is not allowed. Use of hay or organic mulch for weed suppression is allowed.
● Bird feeders or decorative features (statues) are not allowed.
● Structures for supporting plants are allowed, as long as they are placed within your raised
bed. Structure height may be no taller than a large tomato cage (approximately 4 ft). If there
are higher structures you would like to use, they must first be approved by the SCG committee.
● Each gardener is responsible for keeping the walkways around their beds free of all litter,
debris, weeds, and sprawling plants.
● Personal tools should be taken home and not stored at your plot.
● The Stratham Community Garden is a carry-in, carry-out space. Please take all trash home with you.
● Do not apply anything to or pick anything from another person's plot without their express
approval.
● Compost rules (adding to and taking from the pile) will be reviewed during new member
orientation and reminders and tips will be posted at point of use.
● Please be aware of your water usage and avoid being wasteful! Notify the coordinator of
any leaks in the water lines.
● If you are unable to care for your plot for an extended time due to illness or vacation, please ask a fellow gardener or the coordinator to help during your absence. If a garden coordinator tends your garden during this time, any produce is expected to be donated.
● Not all insects are bad and many are beneficial to our gardens. If you don't know what the insect is, please ask others. For insects that cause significant damage, please hand pick
them off the plants and drop them in a bucket of soapy water.
● The SCG is organic and therefore does not allow use of herbicides and pesticides. For tips
on organic gardening practices, please reference Organic Gardening 101 (https://www.epicgardening.com/organic-gardening/) . When looking for

fertilizers or soil amendments, check to see that it is Certified organic, or OMRI rated.
● Please harvest crops when ready. Overripe produce attracts critters into the garden. If you
have an overabundance, please share with others or add to the donation bin.
● If you plan to add food to the donation bin, please review Food Pantry Donations from Home Gardeners
(https://extension.unh.edu/resource/food-pantry-donations-home-gardeners) for best practices.
● At the end of the garden season, please “put your garden to bed” by completing the following:
- Remove all dead plants from the site.
- Remove all non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, plant tags, etc.) from the garden.
- Cover any exposed soil with organic mulch that will break down over the winter (like organic leaves, straw, seaweed or compost). **Do not** use bark mulch or wood chips in the beds.
● Please always keep gates closed to prevent critters from getting into the garden.
● Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to the SCG Committee (send email to strathamcommunitygarden@gmail.com).

Rules Enforcement

The Stratham Community Garden Committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making
decisions for the garden. They have the authority to resolve conflicts and dismiss gardeners for
failure to follow the garden rules. Unresolved issues or disputes between gardeners will be
referred to the Committee.
Submit concerns via email to: strathamcommunitygarden@gmail.com
● If a member does not keep up with their plot or continually violates the above rules of the
garden, the member will be issued a warning by phone or email from the SCG Committee. If
the situation is not rectified within two weeks, they may have their plot revoked.
● The Stratham Community Garden shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color,
national or ethnic origin, religion, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender

expression, gender identity, disability, or military status in its garden membership and the
administration of its programs.

Stratham Community Garden Application - 2027

Please note: completion of this form does not guarantee you will receive a garden plot. An email notification will be sent to you with your plot number should we have sufficient quantities to fulfill this request. For the 2027 season, an annual fee of $35.00 per bed will be required (in cash or check) before use of the plot can commence. Checks can be made out to: **"Town of Stratham Trustees of Trust Funds", Note: "Community Garden" 2027 Dues are due by March 31, 2027.**

An (*) denotes a required field.

1.*Gardener Name (Please print):
(Full
Name:)_____
_____

2. Gardener address:
_____

3 *Gardener phone:
_____

4.* Gardener email:
_____

5. Were you a member of the Stratham Community Garden in 2026?
Yes ____ No ____
6. If you answered Yes to Question #5, do you plan on planting over-winter crops (such as garlic, spinach, kale seed for spring 2027)?
Yes ____ No ____

7. Photo permission: From time to time, gardeners, garden leaders and the media will take photos of the garden. If you do not wish to be photographed, please let photographers know when you encounter them in the garden.
8. Phone and email: All gardeners are required to share their phone number and email address with garden coordinators. In addition, a gardener phone and email list is shared with all gardeners. **Please check here (❑) if you do not give your permission to share your phone number and email with all gardeners**

9. By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand the 2027 Garden Policies and plan to abide by all of the garden rules. I understand that neither the garden group nor the town of Stratham, as owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the garden group and owners of the land for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or my guests.

_____

_____

Signature Date

— End of Application —

Once completed, please send an email to strathamcommunitygarden@gmail.com with the completed form, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you have any questions as to how to pay the annual dues, please send email to strathamcommunitygarden@gmail.com . You can also visit our website at https://www.strathamnh.gov/boards/community_garden/index.php . Thank you!