
RODALE PLEASANT PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN BYLAWS

MISSION STATEMENT

NYRP's Mission Statement: *Nature is a fundamental right of every New Yorker. NYRP partners with local communities, public agencies, and the private sector to acquire, create, maintain, and program public open spaces. Our sustained partnership with communities promotes strong social ties and collective action. We aspire to expand our footprint and impact in all five boroughs to make a safer, healthier, and happier city.*

Rodale Garden's Mission Statement: *The garden exists primarily as a place of rest and beauty for ourselves and others. It helps provide food for our families and ourselves, and flowers to enrich our lives. It provides a chance to be involved with soil and growing things. Last but not least, the garden is a social experiment, bringing a diverse group together to work toward common goals.*

BYLAWS

The bylaws are reviewed and approved at the Annual Membership Meeting which takes place during the first monthly meeting of the season. They are also subject to change during the course of the year by discussion and vote of the garden members at a monthly meeting.

ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.1: Who can join? Membership is open to all. An annual registration form will be provided to all interested parties and signed by members each gardening season.

Section 1.2: Member in good standing. A member in good standing agrees to keep the garden open and accessible to the public during posted open hours, attends monthly meetings, participates in the care of the garden as prescribed in these bylaws and the garden's rules, and helps make decisions that benefit the garden group.

Section 1.3: Member's annual renewal. Members in good standing – those who met the previous year's commitments – may renew. At the last meeting of the season members will have an opportunity to review their standing. Those who did not meet the previous year's commitments must return to good standing according to the garden's rules before they can renew.

Section 1.4: Types of Memberships.

Individual: Member gets one key and one vote and is encouraged to participate with a committee.

Household: Membership encompasses those living in the same residential unit. The household membership gets one vote and one key, and households are asked to participate with a committee. Any and all members of the household can participate on a committee.

The terms “member” or “membership” apply equally to individual and household members. In the case of a household membership, the person who signs the registration form will be responsible for the household.

Keys: Duplication of garden keys is not permitted and garden members should not loan garden keys to non-members.

Article 2: MEETINGS

Major decisions are made by the entire garden group and by consensus whenever possible.

Section 2.1: Annual Membership Meeting. This is where our most important decisions take place. All garden members are required to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting will take place during the first monthly meeting of the garden season, the date of which will be decided upon by the garden members at the close of the previous season. Decisions and actions of the previous year are reviewed. Revisions to these Bylaws are discussed and voted upon. Ideas for the future are discussed and a plan for the coming year is laid out. A Calendar of Monthly Meetings, alternating between Saturdays and Sundays, is created.

Section 2.2: Monthly Garden Group Meetings. During the growing season (April-October) monthly business meetings will take place in the garden or at an agreed upon time and location as weather requires. Meetings and all garden events are open to the public and notice of time and place will be posted on the garden bulletin board. Simultaneous translation will be provided as needed.

Section 2.3: Final Meeting of the Gardening Season. The membership/Plot Coordination Committee will report to the group about which members are in good standing and are eligible to renew and retain their key and garden plot.

Section 2.4: Agenda. All members in good standing are welcome to propose agenda items for all garden meetings.

Section 2.5: Voting. All members and prospective members are invited and encouraged to attend, but voting is reserved for Members in Good Standing. A majority of members need to be present to vote on garden changes.

Section 2.6: Minutes. Minutes will be provided by email in a timely manner and translated as needed.

ARTICLE 3: ORGANIZATION & GOVERNANCE

Section 3.1: Committees. Members oversee the garden by participating on committees that promote the garden’s mission. All garden members are encouraged to participate on committee teams whose leaders report to the garden members at monthly meetings.

Section 3.2: Composition. Committees are created for various garden functions, including, but not limited to Membership/Plot Coordination, Communications, Fundraising, Composting, Planting, Events, Bylaws, Administration, etc.

Section 3.3: Eligibility. Every member in Good Standing is encouraged to participate with a committee.

Article 4: EVENTS

Section 4.1: Eligibility. Members in Good Standing may invite friends to events (such as BBQs, birthday parties, etc.) by first informing the membership, posting on the garden calendar, and by agreeing to clean the garden and all equipment used after the event. The garden member must be present during the event.

Section 4.2: Conditions. There are no private parties. All garden parties and events are open to all members. Gates must remain open to the general public. No alcohol may be served.

Article 5: FINANCES

Section 5.1: Income. The Garden's income may consist of grants, donations, and other NYRP approved fundraising.

Section 5.2: Budgeting. Income and expenditures are accounted for in the budget review at the Annual Membership Meeting, and operating funds are set aside for garden materials, tools and scheduled events in the budget.

Section 5.3: Reimbursements. As needed, all reimbursement and disbursement requests and approvals must be submitted at a monthly meeting. A detailed log of such activities will be created as needed and provided to NYRP.

Article 6: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Section 6.1: Process. If there is a conflict between members or in the governance of the garden, mediation will occur in two ways, in the following order: 1) Discussion at a monthly meeting of the garden members. If that fails, then 2) Discussion at a special meeting with the presence of a mediator agreed upon by all parties.

Article 7: GENERAL

Section 7.1: Environmental Guidelines. We are responsible to our environment. We compost (except for meats and invasive weeds), and we do not use non-organic pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers.

Section 7.2: Laws. Under the guidance of NYRP, the garden will comply with all New York City and State legal and safety codes.

Section 7.3: Construction. Structural additions or alterations to any portion of the garden are subject to the approval of NYRP. Any and all proposals must be presented and voted on by the group and then presented to NYRP for approval.

Section 7.4: Postings. All notices, information and ornamentation not pertaining directly to gardening activities are subject to the approval of NYRP before posting or installing in or around the garden.

Section 7.5: Neighbors. We operate with consideration for those living in the buildings adjacent to the garden and of all of our neighbors.

Section 7.6: Inclusivity. No persons will be denied access to the garden or be otherwise subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Section 7.7: Concerns. Members concerned with the observance of the Bylaws and Posted Garden Rules as they apply to themselves or to other members should request an agenda item at a monthly meeting or write to the garden email (rodalecommunitygarden@gmail.com) if they wish to remain anonymous.