

TC Community Garden
Historic Barns Park Plot Rental Rules and Regulations
Updated 10/112018

The mission of TC Community Garden is to provide a place for members of the community to gather and share a common interest in organic gardening in an urban setting, to provide educational opportunities to the community that foster an appreciation for sustainable growing practices, and to grow fresh produce for charitable purposes.

Overview

We hope you find gardening with TCCG at Historic Barns Park a rewarding and enjoyable experience. The setting in the Historic Barns Park, support of sustainable and organic growing practices, and gardener-to-gardener fellowship, are like none other. TCCG is lucky to be a part of an amazing place, and it is important to understand how your role as a plot renter is important to protecting our place in the community. Gardening in a communal environment is not like growing on your own land.

History

TCCG is a part of Historic Barns Park, a property located partially in the City of Traverse City and partially in Garfield Township, which is in the southwest corner of the Village at Grand Traverse Commons. The Historic Barns Park consists of TCCG, the Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, SEEDS, and the Cathedral Barn event rental space. These entities report to, and are managed by the City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority, commonly referred to as the RA. The RA is supported by a tax mileage levied in Traverse City and Garfield Township, but TCCG receives no funds from this mileage (nor does the Botanic Garden or SEEDS, only the Cathedral Barn).

After operating under a temporary agreement for three years, the RA granted a 3-year lease to TCCG in December 2015, provided it agreed to follow an agreement with the other park groups under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and reports activities monthly to the RA. The MOU has guidelines that all property users must follow, including but not limited to, following strict organic gardening guidelines, keeping visual clutter to a minimum, using natural materials and colors schemes, and maintaining a clean space.

MOST OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE TCCG REMAINS IN GOOD-STANDING WITH THE RA AND MOU PARTNERS, SO IT CAN REMAIN ON THE PROPERTY AND AN ASSET FOR THE COMMUNITY. IT IS IMPERATIVE ALL PLOT RENTERS UNDERSTAND THIS PREMISE. TCCG PRIORITIZES TO BENEFIT: 1)PEOPLE 2) PLANET 3) PARK & PARTNERS 4) PROFIT

Membership

- Membership is what you make of it. Take advantage of all the benefits of growing at TCCG. The more you are involved, the better your experience will be. Ask questions. Be community. Care about others.
- TC Community Garden must have current contact information, including a valid email, of all plot renters.
- In the event that a plot renter is unable to continue to maintain an assigned plot, please inform the Executive Director, so that other arrangements may be made.
- This is a community garden located in a public park and plot renters are ambassadors to same – please be courteous to visitors.

Gardening

- Most everything is provided to a plot renter for successful gardening. You do not have to use the items provided by the garden if you have particulars about how you like to garden.
- Use, only organic fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides and apply in such a way that no neighboring plots are affected. Refer to ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS for a complete list. Most products will be available to

the membership during the growing season. Inquire with the Executive Director if you need assistance. Products may be added to list after approval from the Board. If you have a question about a product, please inquire with the Executive Director. Approved products may change.

- Due to pest pressures (squash bugs and vine borers) there is a continuing moratorium on planting winter and summer squash, including but not limited, to zucchini, yellow summer squash, butternut squash, spaghetti squash, all varieties of pumpkins and gourds. The Executive Director is authorized to remove such plants without notice. Cucumbers and melons are acceptable.
- Please stay on top of picking and removing Colorado Potato Beetles, eggs and especially larvae from potato plants. Larvae will significantly affect the plant very quickly and also spread extremely quickly from plot to plot. To prevent serious spread, the Executive Director may clip potato plants if they are not maintained with or without notice. CPB may also spread to other nightshade edibles, including eggplants and some tomato varieties.
- To ensure quality control, no compost is to be brought into TCCG without the approval and supervision of the Executive Director. This includes manure, leaf mold, and other municipal and private sources of compost. The only exception to this rule is organic bagged or packaged garden supplements or organic manure that obtained at a garden center. Do not bring in home compost.
- Maintain, tend and harvest crops only from your own plot, unless express permission has been granted by the Executive Director. Do not assume a plot has been abandoned.
- If a plot contains and abundance or ripe, over-ripe, falling, and/or rotting produce, the Executive Director may remove said produce at her discretion. It is a magnet for pests and may cause unpleasant gardening conditions. Salvageable produce will be donated.
- Please weed regularly. You must weed before a plant goes to seed and begins to spread. It is understood that many 'weeds' are edible, but please use good judgment. Spreaders like common mallow, pigweed, lamb's quarters, stinging nettle, purslane, etc. will affect the community. Weeds may be composted.
- Please do not throw anything, including weeds, over the north or south fences. Please take plant waste to compost.
- TCCG has tillers available for member use on TCCG site only. Please contact the Executive Director if you would like to use a tiller.
- Members must clean-up and plant a cover crop at the conclusion of the season. Cover crop will be provided to the membership.
- If a plot renter is in good-standing and renews membership and plot rental prior to the October 31 deadline, crops may be planted in the fall and perennials and property may remain at the risk of the member.

Decorative Items, Tools & Storage

As part of the MOU Agreement with the managing entities, TCCG adheres to the MOU 'Visual Clutter Policy.' Items within the plot should be neat, reasonably sized and functional. The Executive Director reserves the right to request any item be removed should it be deemed it may violate the VCP. Please also do not hoard items in your plot. Most items should be used by the planting deadline.

TCCG has community tools located in the shed between plots 38 and 39. Plot renters can use any items located in that shed at any time. Most of the tools needed to tend a plot are supplied. Please return the items to the shed when you are finished so the community may use same. Community tools must be returned to the shed each time a member departs the garden. Please do not store community tools throughout the day or overnight in assigned plot.

Other 'scrap' items are located in and around the shed are available to use on a first-come first-serve basis. There are sometimes extra soil amendments, seeds, tomato cages, trellises, chicken wire, stakes, etc. Please take only what you need and feel free to share if you have extra. However, please do not use the shed as a dumping ground area. If something is no longer has a practical use, please pack it out. We do not have trash service at this time.

If you need an item that is not readily available in the shed, please contact the Executive Director.

Personal items may be kept within an assigned plot. Please mark clearly with name. Any items, including but not limited to tools, pots, chairs, or decorative items left at TCCG are left at owner's risk. TCCG is not liable for any loss, theft, or damage that may occur.

- Do not erect any temporary or permanent building, shed, or other structure on the property. Trellises, garden boxes, supports, etc. are acceptable, but must be taken down or removed by the October 31 clean-up deadline.
- Due fly ash/chemical concerns, please do not use cinder or concrete blocks. Pallets are currently acceptable, but please use sparingly and remove by the October 31 clean-up deadline unless you are in good-standing and have renewed for the following season.
- Each plot may have one storage container to house personal tools, soil amendments, gloves, etc. An example of an acceptable storage container is a 30 gallon tote. Legacy plots may have a larger container, such as a 45 gallon garbage can. Please attempt to use earth toned containers i.e. green, gray, black, brown, so they blend in with the natural landscape of the garden. Additional or much larger containers must be approved by the Executive Director.
- Bags of compost, peat moss, straw or hay, etc. used during the season are allowed to remain in neat storage within the plot. Please remove items not being used from the garden.
- Do not place any items in garden walkways so a lawn mower may pass without obstruction.
- Members may have outdoor furniture, statues, and birdbaths, contained within the boundaries of their assigned plot. Please do not leave these items in the aisle ways. Please return community seating to community areas.

Compost

TCCG composts on site. It is a gigantic operation that requires support from all members. Plot renters will receive a complete overview of the compost area during the personal tour. Check back often. Ask questions.

- Remove compostable refuse (plant/organic) from your garden and place in the designated compost pile. Do not bring home or outside garden refuse to the community garden compost pile. Please do not make 'mini-compost piles' within assigned plot.
- **KNOCK AND CHOP** – Knock off ALL the dirt on the roots when it is pulled. Yes, all the dirt. Keep that dirt in your plot! Chop whole vegetation into manageable pieces or smash it to a pulp. Whole cucumber, tomatoes, sunflower heads, anything whole takes too long to breakdown.
- **STRIP AND CLIP** – Strip stems of all leaves. Clip stems into 4-6 inch pieces. This is especially important with large items such as cornstalks, sunflower stems, broccoli plants, kale stems, thick tomato plants, etc. Do not put whole plants in the compost.
- Do not place any soil or dirt, including potting soil, in the compost.
- Please do not place any materials such as string, twine, wire and wood stakes in the compost, even if it is a 'natural' product. Those items need to be packed out.
- Please pack out diseased and pest infested plants as they will contaminate the entire compost and therefore, the garden.
- Please feel free to water the compost at any time as it helps it break down faster.

Watering your Plot

The water at TCCG is not potable. Do not drink water from TCCG lines. TCCG and SEEDS Farm share a water pump located in the small white shed (the pumphouse) that is powered by SEEDS solar panels near the north entrance. The solar panels are hooked up to the grid. While the system is in use, should others begin or conclude watering, pressure will be affected. The system can be strained and reach capacity quickly. TCCG water lines are PVC lines. The hoses, sprayers, and sprinklers are all donated items. The hose hangers were self-installed by members. Please treat the watering system with due diligence and care.

- No unattended sprinklers. Please remain on Historic Barns Park property when watering your garden i.e. going to your car, the compost, communal areas, another plot to visit, or the Botanic Garden Visitor's Center is fine. If you

leave the HBP and there is damage to the watering system as a result of your negligence, you will be responsible for repairs.

- Please do not install irrigation or timers in your plot without express written permission from the Executive Director.
- Turn off water at both the spigot and the valve in case there is a component failure.
- Hoses should be neatly coiled and hung on the hose hangers up off of the pathways so a lawn mower and/or weed whip can pass easily underneath. Mowing the lawn is a big job, so please do your part to make it easy on the community.
- Please do not take sprinklers, sprayers, or other hoses from other plots.
- Individual collection containers, such as rain barrels, are not allowed in plots.
- Mulch assigned plot to reduce water usage. Straw will be provided to plot renters.

Common Areas

- Pet owners are strictly liable for their pets. The City of Traverse City and Garfield Township and properties under the management of the Recreation Authority follow leash laws. Pets in TCCG must be on leashes or tied up at all times. Please clean up after your pet.
- Close and secure gates when entering and departing.
- Do not drive on the TART Trail. Automobiles are not permitted in TCCG unless an expressed permission is given. Parking is permitted by buildings 221 and 223, the BGHBP Walled Garden, and by the barns in designated areas.
- TCCG does not have trash service. Please pack out all garbage and recycle when appropriate.

THANK YOU FOR ADHERING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS
IN THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY. ENJOY GARDENING!

ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS

10/11/2018

The Historic Barns Park as managed by the Recreational Authority has agreed to practice organic gardening. TCCG must do its part to adhere to this commitment. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Creating healthy soil in the beginning is the best way to get on the right track to a healthy, organic garden.

HEALTHY SOIL = HEALTHY PLANTS = LESS PESTS

ACCEPTABLE SOIL AMENDMENTS & FERTILIZERS

- Leaf Mold (packaged only or supplied by TCCG)
- Organic Compost (packaged only or supplied by TCCG)
- Azomite
- Greensand
- Langbeinite
- Sphagnum Peat Moss
- Fish Fertilizers, liquid or pelletized
- Seaweed Fertilizers, liquid or pelletized
- Blood Meal
- Bone Meal
- Feather Meal
- Crab and/or Shrimp Meal
- Neem Meal
- Cottonseed Meal (some supplied by TCCG)
- Alfalfa Meal
- Dairy Doo (packaged only)
- Chicken Manure (packaged only)
- Earthworm Castings (packaged only)
- Bat Guano (packaged only)
- Buffaloam (packaged only)
- Packaged, OMRI-approved organic N-P-K fertilizers (some supplied by TCCG)

Homemade Compost or Compost Teas are not allowed to be used in TC Community Garden at Historic Barns Park due to new Federal Food Safety Modernization Act Rules.

Jobe's Organics, Down To Earth, Miracle-Gro Nature's Care Organic, Alaska, Dr. Earth, Nutri-Rich, Brown's, Neptune, Organicare, and Black Gold are all good brands, but there are others.

For larger pests such as moles, voles, rabbits, deer, etc. reasonably-sized cages may be built around affected plants. The Board is not responsible for mitigating pest damage.

SEEDS AND TRANSPLANTS

Vegetables, fruits, and flowers may be planted at TCCG. It is not necessary to use organic seeds and transplants, although it is highly encouraged. Seeds of Change, Burpee Organic, High Mowing, and Park Seed Organics are all great brand. TCCG has seeds available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is also a Starter Sale each spring. Please consider supporting this sale as members receive a discount.

Please do not purchase plants that have been treated with Neonicotinoids – the labels should specify – as they are believed to cause harm to bees. Many plants from 'Big Box' stores are treating with Neonicotinoids, including some plants from Home Depot and Lowe's. Oryana, Skegsmogg Gardens, and the Sara Hardy Farmer's Market are good places to procure transplants if you do not grow your own or use the TCCG sale.

ACCEPTABLE MULCH

- Chopped leaves
- Grass clippings
- EZ – Straw
- Straw (some supplied by TCCG)
- Non-colored shredded bark
- Sawdust
- Whole sheets of newspaper (no shreds)
- Landscaping fabric
- Jute/Potato/Coffee Sacks

ACCEPTABLE TREATMENTS, HERBICIDES & PESTICIDES

- Being an active gardener is the best way to mitigate pests. The best ‘pesticide’ is your fingers!
- Companion Planting – Chrysanthemum, marigold, lavender, mint, lemon balm, horseradish, garlic, onion, chives, feverfew, nasturtiums, sage, rosemary, thyme, and many other plants have natural pest-detering properties.
- Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) – OMRI-approved only as some strains are genetically modified. Btk (bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki) for leaf-eating caterpillars and Bti (bacillus thuringiensis israelensis) for gnats are both acceptable.
- Insecticidal soap – without Spinosad. Homemade’ soaps using basic dishwashing detergent without additives (bleach, antibacterial agents) are acceptable. Using nonpetroleum-based soaps (Ecover, Ecos, Seventh Generation) is encouraged.
- Neem Oil
- Diatomaceous Earth
- Pyrethrum
- Beneficial Nematodes
- Various home brews/traps made with human food-grade products such as cayenne pepper, garlic powder, vinegar, aspirin, etc.

A member cannot count on a greenhouse, nursery, hardware store, or website to suggest to ‘organic’ gardening products that are acceptable for use at the TCCG. Even pesticides and herbicides listed as ‘OMRI-Approved’ are often listed as ‘Allowed with Restrictions’ and are for use only after other gardening methods have been depleted such as crop rotation and introducing beneficial insects, which are not able to be completed within a single season.

One such product is Spinosad, which has gained popularity recently. Please do not use a product if Spinosad is listed in the ingredients as it is highly toxic to honeybees for 30 days. It is lethal to sperm, egg stage, larval stage, and causes queen death. It can cause hive collapse. In slug baits, it is toxic to earthworms. Spinosad can be found in Captain Jack’s Deadbug Brew products by Bonide, Monterey Garden Insect Sprays, and Sluggo and Sluggo Plus slug baits. Please always check the ingredients listed on a product.

ALWAYS NON-ACCEPTABLE

- Sevin Products
- Ortho Products
- Preen Products
- Miracle-Gro (traditional kelley green and yellow packaging)
- Osmocote Products
- Schultz Products

Thank you for helping the Historic Barns Park and the MOU partners adhere to agreed upon guidelines, and gardening with community spirit in mind.

If there is a question about a product, please email the Executive Director at contact@tccommunitygarden.org .

HAVE A FANTASTIC GARDENING SEASON!