



2024 Stow Community Gardens Application

The Stow Community Gardens are located on Tuttle Lane -- one of the most beautiful scenic roads in Stow, and part of the Captain Sargent Conservation Area, owned and managed by the Stow Conservation Commission. It's a friendly and inviting place to grow your vegetables and flowers, meet and exchange ideas with other gardeners, picnic, and learn the joys of gardening.

Annual garden plots are plowed and harrowed yearly in the spring and harrowed in the fall to allow for planting of cover crops. Perennial garden plots **are not** plowed or harrowed by the Town. Four pitcher pumps are on site to provide water. The approximate gardening season runs from early May through October depending on weather – **gardeners will receive an email with plot assignments once the gardens are plowed, staked and ready for gardening.**

Community Garden Rules & Regulations

1. Vehicles must not be left parked on the access roads around the garden. Please park off the access road so others can pass.
2. All paths must be kept clear for access to the pumps.
3. Gardeners must comply with all Town Conservation Land Regulations.
4. *All plots must be in active use by **May 25** or may be reassigned with no refund.* Please notify the Conservation Office if you cannot make that deadline or do not think you will be gardening this season.
5. ***Gardeners who are not actively gardening or maintaining their plot may be put on notice regarding their status and their plots may be reassigned with no refund.***
6. Gardeners are responsible for the weeding and maintenance of their plots to prevent weeds from spreading to adjacent plots. If you are not able to maintain your plot, please enlist the help of others and notify the Garden Stewards. Material to be composted must be placed in the designated areas. **Composting bins within the raised bed plots are for raised bed compost only.**
7. *All gardeners must keep a **12" border** inside all four sides of their plots free of plantings or weeds to prevent encroachment into neighboring plots.*
8. Gardeners are asked to help keep the common areas of the gardens tidy and may be asked to participate in a Community Garden work day.
9. All rocks removed from plots must be placed along the stone wall or in designated rock piles. Rocks in the annual plots must be removed at the end of the season.
10. Only organic fertilizers may be used. No chemical herbicides, pesticides or fungicides. Please familiarize yourself with proper organic farming methods or ask the garden stewards for advice before applying any remedies.
11. Biodegradable mulch is preferred. Any plastic must be removed at the end of the season.
12. Structures are not permitted in the gardens. Trellises are permitted.
13. Do not discard, store, or plant anything outside your plot or in the woods. Keep all gardening and storage within the boundaries of your assigned plot. Plots shall not be used to store anything unrelated to gardening. Any wood chips delivered to the gardens must be staged either in the

designated areas or within your plot. Do not pile wood chips outside of your plot. **Wood chip and compost deliveries must be approved by/coordinated with the Conservation Office.**

14. Annual Plots and Perennial Plots (upon termination of rental): All man-made or non-biodegradable materials, including plastic or landscape fabric, stakes, fences, personal belongings, etc. must be removed from annual plots by October 31st or a \$100 clean up fee will be assessed. Plots will be harrowed after **October 31st** so gardeners can plant a cover crop.

15. Perennial Plots: Fences and trellises may be left in perennial plots, but all other man-made materials should be removed at the end of the season unless approved by the Conservation Department. *Garden plots, field edges, and common areas cannot be used for storage of any kind.*

16. Stakes will be used to mark the plot locations and must remain in place. Annual and Perennial gardeners are encouraged to put up a sign with their name or plot number.

17. The Town of Stow is not responsible for stolen or damaged personal property at the gardens.

18. *Please note that garden fees must be paid with either check or money order. **The Conservation Office cannot accept cash.***

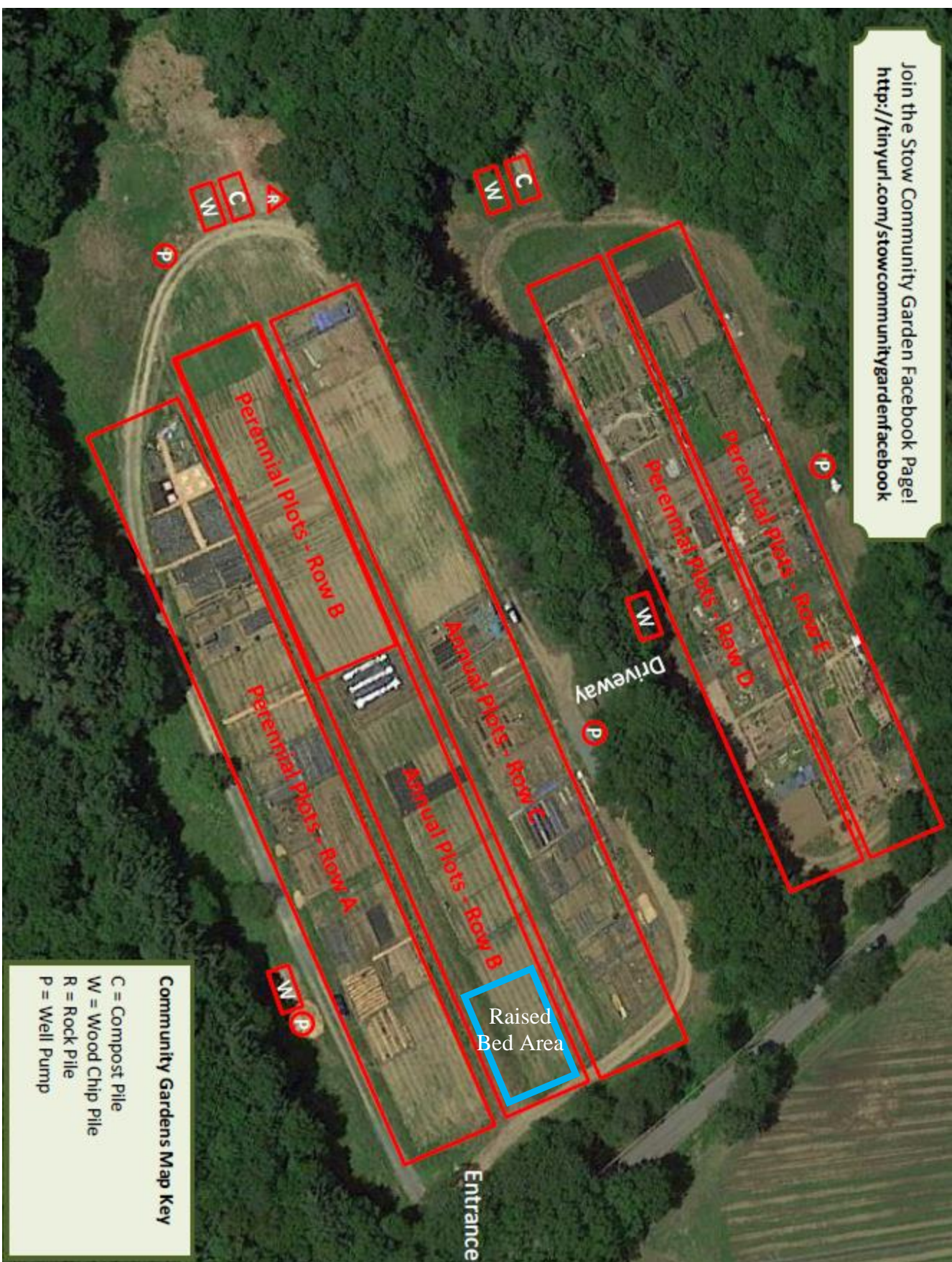
19. Failure to comply with the above rules may result in loss of gardening privileges, including the loss of the assigned plot with no refund.

20. All gardeners must comply with any and all COVID-19 guidelines.

Please complete and return the attached application along with a check payable to the Town of Stow to reserve a plot. Applications may also be paid online: <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/selection>. Returning gardeners in good standing will be assigned to the same plot if their application is returned by **March 31st**. After that, open plots are available on a first-come first-serve basis and a waiting list will be created when all plots are assigned. **If interested in one of the new raised beds, please fill out the raised bed application on our website.** Please contact Conservation Assistant Jacquie Goring with any questions you may have at 978-897-8615 or conservation2@stow-ma.gov.

Please keep these pages for reference.

Join the Stow Community Garden Facebook Page!
<http://tinyurl.com/stowcommunitygardenfacebook>



Community Gardens Map Key

C = Compost Pile
W = Wood Chip Pile
R = Rock Pile
P = Well Pump

The Stow Community Gardens 2024 Application Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Stow Resident? _____ Yes _____ No

Cell Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email (please print legibly): _____

May we share your email address with other gardeners? _____ Yes _____ No

Would you like to join the gardener email list (new for 2024): _____ Yes _____ No

Returning 2023 Gardener? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ willing to mentor a new gardener
_____ would like a gardening mentor

Number of Plots Requested:

Annual Plot(s): _____ Small _____ Large
Perennial Plot(s) _____ Small _____ Large

Fee Submitted: \$ _____

	<u>Plot Size</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non Resident</u>
<u>Annual Plot</u>	30' x 50'	\$35.00	\$40.00
	30' x 25'	\$25.00	\$30.00
<u>Perennial Plot</u>	30' x 50'	\$35.00	\$40.00
	30' x 25'	\$25.00	\$30.00

_____ I/we have reviewed and understand the rules/regulations governing the use of the Stow Community Garden. (Please initial)

_____ I/we agree to abide by the rules/regulations governing the use of the Stow Community Garden.

_____ I/we understand that violating the rules/regulations governing the use of the Stow Community Garden may result in loss of garden privileges.

I/we hereby release and hold harmless the Town of Stow, its agents, contractors and employees from any and all actions, claims and damages for losses, personal injuries and disabilities that I/we may sustain as a result of my/our participation in the Community Garden program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks or money order payable to the Town of Stow (no cash please) and mail to:
Stow Conservation Commission, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775
(978)897-8615

Applications may also be paid for online <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/selection>.

Note: Applications from returning gardeners in good standing must be received by March 31, 2024 to be guaranteed the prior year's plot(s). When all plots are assigned, a wait list will be created in the order applications are received.

Each gardener must sign and return this form.