

York Township Community Gardens at Mill Creek Preserve

2026 Guidelines and Rules for Use

York Township is providing garden plots at Mill Creek Preserve, located at Camp Betty Washington Road and Chestnut Hill Road, to residents of York Township. In order to provide a safe and enjoyable gardening and park experience for all, the following guidelines shall be followed by all registered gardeners. York Township Park Rules apply as well. This information is included to help each gardener know what the Township will provide to aid in the gardening experience and what is required of each participant. Our hope is for a successful gardening season for all involved.

- Garden plots measure 4 feet x 10 feet. There will be 7 plots available for the season.
- Water is available from Mill Creek. It is suggested that Gardeners use organic mulch, such as straw, to reduce evaporation.
- The Community Gardens will be a carry in / carry out facility. This means that you shall not leave any trash in the area and will carry out any trash created by your gardening efforts.
- The Township will only be responsible for picking up rocks placed by Gardeners in the outer corner of the garden plots, and mowing around the plots as deemed necessary by the Township. No other special maintenance will be completed by the Township.
- Garden plots will be open May 1 (weather dependent) through October 31 and boxes will be marked with a plot number. Those renting a garden will be assigned a numbered plot on a first-come, first-served basis beginning March 31 and available to the public beginning April 1.

By receiving a garden plot, you, hereby referred to as the Gardener, are agreeing to the following as indicated by your signature on the Community Garden Application:

- The Gardener will pay a fee of \$15 to help cover garden expenses and understands that the refund policy is as follows: If plot request is cancelled prior to start of season, then full refund is offered. There is no refund offered once the season has begun.
- The Gardener will have something planted in the garden by the last Monday in May (or one month after rental) and keep it planted throughout the season.
- If the Gardener must abandon the plot for any reason, the Gardener will notify the Recreation Department at 717-741-3861 ext *142.
- The Gardener will keep trash and litter out of the plot and will follow the carry in / carry out policy regarding any trash.
- The Gardener will keep weeds at a minimum and will carry out any removed weeds.
- The Gardener will not use fertilizers or insecticides that will in any way affect other plots. Please use the most environmentally friendly products available. Chemical weed control is prohibited at all times.
- If the plot becomes unkempt, the Gardener understands that he/she will be given 2 weeks' notice to clean it up. If the plot is not cleaned up by that time, it will be reassigned or mowed down to keep weeds under control.
- The Gardener will plant tall crops only in areas where they will not shade neighboring plots.
- The Gardener will pick only his/her crops, unless permission is given by another plot user in writing to the Recreation Department.
- The Gardener will only park in the paved parking areas of the park.
- By October 31, the Gardener will clear all materials, such as tomato stakes, cages, string, etc and leave the plot how it was originally found.
- **The Gardener agrees to hold York Township and its staff harmless for any liability, damage, loss, or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the garden by himself/herself or any of his/her guests. York Township is not responsible for crop loss due to weather, animals, or vandals.**