

Funny River Community Association 2024 Community Garden

Hello,

I am Terri Kunz, the Garden Manager for the FRCA Community Garden for 2024. I will monitor the garden during the 2024 growing season.

Funny River Community Association offers up to ten (10) 10' x 20' garden plots to Funny River community members for \$50 a year. Up to two (2) of these plots may be used by volunteers to grow food for our Food Pantry.

The overall garden is fenced and water is piped to the garden. Basic tools are available for gardeners' use: rake, shovel, hoe, hose, and sprinkler. Gardeners provide their own hand tools, gloves, plants, and seeds. Compost will be provided by each gardener for their own plot. Funny River Community Gardens (FRCG) will make a soil test available to gardeners to use in calculating their optimum nutrients.

Interested in a garden plot? Complete the application and return it to FRCG c/o FRCA, 35850 Pioneer Access Road, Funny River. Questions? You can email Terri Kunz through the FRCA email, frca35850@gmail.com or call her at 907-394-5403.

See you at the garden!

2024 Garden Plot Application

Applicant Name

Date

Mailing Address

Phone Number (home work mobile - circle one)

Email Address (most garden-related communication will be via email)

Signed

Date

Enclose a check for \$50 for the annual garden plot fee along with your application to FRCA Community Garden, c/o Terri Kunz, Garden Manager, 35850 Pioneer Access Road, Soldotna, AK 99669. Your check will be returned to you if you are not selected for a plot.

Applications are due by May 1, 2024

You will be contacted by email by May 20, 2024 to notify you of your garden plot number or to notify you that you weren't selected for a plot this year, and asking if you would be willing to be on a wait list in case any gardeners cannot continue in their garden plot.

Questions? Contact Terri Kunz, Community Garden Manager, at frca35850@gmail.com or 907-394-5403.

Recommended reading for those beginner gardeners:

Square-Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew (available on Amazon.com)

Gardening from Seed in Arctic and Sub-arctic Areas by Reg Yapple (available from Denali Seeds at www.bestcoolseeds.com)

GARDENER AUTHORIZATION & RESPONSIBILITIES

The following guidelines outline the management of the community garden and its site property. The community garden is a privilege, and everything works more smoothly when people are involved in its overall upkeep. Please also remember to treat your fellow gardeners as you would like to be treated. With your signature below, you acknowledge as a participating gardener responsibility for the following:

1. Participating in volunteer tasks such as weeding common areas, caring for community food lot plantings, caring for gardening tools, etc. by providing a minimum of two (2) hours per month to the community Garden. (Failure to contribute your hours will result in the loss of gardening privileges.)
2. Submitting dues for the current year gardening season totaling \$50 for each 10x20 plot. These plot fees cover a range of services including water, compost and general garden maintenance.
3. If for any reason you can't continue to care for your garden, email us and let us know! We completely understand that life changes happen, and we can't always keep up with the garden. No judgment! The sooner we know you're out, the sooner we stop pestering you with emails and can get a new gardener into that spot. If it's just busy for part of a season, you can ask a friend/neighbor/coworker to tend the plot in your place for a bit. Let us know that, too, so we can keep our emails going to the right person. If your garden appears neglected/abandoned (unwatered and/or overrun with weeds), you will be given ten (10) days' notice to maintain your plot. After this time your plot will be re-assigned.
4. FRC Gardens requires water restrictions and conservation measures be followed. A gardener **MUST** remain on the premises while his/her garden is being watered. The garden cannot allow excess water to drain onto adjacent gardens or the property outside the garden area.
5. FRC Gardens are not specifically organic gardens. It is FRCG policy to allow each gardener the use of any pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers they provide.
6. The maintenance of common areas and furnishings, fencing, trees, trash receptacles, compost bins, rights of way, and water lines are the shared responsibility of all gardeners.
7. Gardeners must have their plot planted by June 15 or the plot will be forfeited and reassigned.
8. Each gardener is responsible for clearing and tilling his/her plot before the close of the season. All dead plants, weeds, trash, tools, sticks and cages are to be removed by October 1 each year. All gardeners must tend their plots in compliance with FRCG's Maintenance Guidelines, included below and also located in the Garden Manager's manual hanging in the garden storage shed.

WAIVER & RELEASE

1. I desire to participate voluntarily in the gardening and other activities sponsored and coordinated by FRCG on the Funny River Community Garden site.
2. I understand, accept, and assume the risks associated with participation in any and all activities. I also assume the responsibility of conducting myself in a civil manner that is mutually beneficial to all participants. Unacceptable conduct generally includes but is not limited to, vegetable theft, tool theft, profanity, and any offensive behavior.
3. I assume full responsibility for any injuries which may occur to me, as well as the safety of my family and guest, and do hereby fully and forever discharge and release the FRC Gardens and Funny River Community Association, their employees, board members, officers, agents, authorized volunteers, representatives, consultants, insurers and sureties, and their successors and assigns (collectively, the "Released Parties") from any "Claims". "Claims," as used in this document, mean any and all claims, demands, damages, rights of action or causes of action, present or future, whether the same be known, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of my presence or the presence of my family members and guests at the garden, activities at the garden, the use or intended use of the garden, and/or participation in activities connected with FRCG including, without limitation, any of the foregoing resulting from or arising out of the negligence of a Released Party. Further, I hereby waive any and all Claims against a Released Party.
4. I expressly acknowledge that participation in the community garden is for my purposes and convenience and not for the purpose and convenience of any one or more of the Released Parties.
5. In the event that a dispute arises between gardeners or between a gardener(s) and the Garden Manager or their representative, and a resolution of the dispute cannot be reached by these parties, I agree to have the FRCA Board of Directors act as arbitrator of the dispute, and I further agree to adhere to the FRCA Board's decision as final.

Signed

Date

COMMUNITY GARDEN MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The Community Garden landowners require Funny River Community Garden (FRCG) to ensure that garden participants keep their garden sites clean, attractive and orderly at all times - including during the winter. The garden must have a year-round unified and tidy appearance to landowners, visiting officials and the general non-gardening public. To this end, FRCG has established the following requirements of all participants. The benefits of a well-maintained garden are at minimum three-fold:

1. The use agreement for the garden remains in good standing with the landowner (Funny River Community Association),
2. Owners, neighbors and non-gardeners enjoy and recognize the community garden as a community asset,

AND

3. Your community garden will harbor fewer pests and weeds and will be healthier from season to season.

Funny River Community Association (FRCA) serves as the use agreement holder, insurer, authorized 501(c)3 corporation and primary representative for community garden participants with borough and state officials. FRCA secures funding for community garden improvements, training and site insurance. In turn, FRCA is required to report to funding agencies and foundations as to the status of your community garden to neighbors, borough and state agencies.

It's important to recognize that all gardeners have a significant role and responsibility regarding the sustainability of the community garden. Participation in a community garden is a privilege, and all gardeners are expected to do their fair share of work beyond maintaining their individual plot. Your effort to properly clean and maintain your community garden allows FRCA to dedicate our resources on working to install improvements at the community garden site.

By following the "Community Garden Maintenance Guidelines", you contribute to FRCG's ongoing efforts to ensure that community gardening continues across the Central Peninsula. Thank you for your efforts to ensure that the Funny River Community Garden remains a positive example for other neighborhoods and groups.

Participant Requirements

1. Garden plot: Each plot must be kept clear of weeds, spent plants, debris and trash. Each fall, turn compost and organic material into the soil and cover it with a layer of mulch to regulate soil temperature and retain moisture throughout the winter. This makes a garden plot look cared for to the passer-by. Any perennials in your plot must appear well kept. In addition, you are responsible to maintain the area immediately adjacent to your plot including paths, compost bins, trash collection areas, fences and the community garden's other common spaces.
2. Vertical structures: Structures to encourage vertical growing, including arbors, trellis, tree branch frames, fence sections and cages are only allowed during the growing season if they are functional, orderly, safe and attractive. Vertical structures used for growing must appear

COMMUNITY GARDEN MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)

in good condition and contribute to the community garden's overall visual continuity. All growing structures must be disassembled and removed during the off-season.

FRCG does not permit the construction or existence of permanent shelter structures within individual or shared community garden plots, including personal sheds, storage, or shade units. Individually constructed shelter structures present safety concerns and are not compatible with FRCG's community-based approach. Please contact us with any storage concerns.

3. Storage: The following items are not authorized to be left standing during the off season and must be disassembled and stored in the storage shed (only if community garden property) or removed from the site when not in use:
 - a. Chairs and individual benches
 - b. Shoes, clothes
 - c. Sticks, steel T posts
 - d. Buckets, plastic containers
 - e. Wire cages, fencing
 - f. Plastic plant pots, tools
 - g. Wheelbarrows or wagons
 - h. Pipe, hoses and nozzles
 - i. Piles of brick and stone
 - j. Water containers
 - k. Bags of compost or leaves
 - l. Non-permanent garden art
4. Compost bins: Individual compost bins are discouraged as they distract from the visual continuity of the community garden. We do, however, encourage using and maintaining shared community garden compost bins. All material used in compost bins must be chopped into one- to two-inch pieces before being added. Please do not add diseased plant material to the compost bins - they should be placed in the trash instead. Plastic bags of spent plants, grass clippings and leaves are not allowed to be stored in your community garden at any time. To "passers-by" they appear to be bags of trash. Chop and spread these materials in your plot immediately, allowing for decomposition and integration with your existing soil, or add them to the community garden compost pile. Unopened bags of topsoil, compost or manure are not to be stored in your community garden.
5. Plot boundaries: Interior "boundary fences" around individual plots are discouraged; they are difficult to weed and can quickly make the overall garden unsightly. The preferred boundary is a weed-free edge between your plot and the adjacent path or neighbor.

COMMUNITY GARDEN MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)

6. The community garden is a “community” responsibility. Everyone must take responsibility for maintaining the common areas of the community garden, such as:
 - a. Compost bins and tool shed
 - b. Trees, flower beds and lawn
 - c. Entries, pathways, and courtyards
 - d. Trash containment areas
 - e. Street fronts and sidewalks
 - f. The two Food Pantry garden plots

7. Water/irrigation:

Water Turn On: In Funny River, the average date of last freeze is in late May. Depending on weather, the garden water will be turned on during the last week in May.

Water Turn Off: In Funny River, the average date of first freeze is in September. Depending on weather, the garden water will be turned off in the second week of September.

Water System Breaks: If you notice a break in the irrigation system, gardeners are asked to find the backflow device or the main shut off valve outside the community center building and turn off the water to the garden and contact the Garden Manager who will arrange for repair of the system.

Thank you for being a part of the Funny River Community Garden!

Terri Kunz, Garden Manager
and the Funny River Board of Directors

Garden Manager Contact Information

Email: frca35850@gmail.com

Phone: 907-394-5403