

By-Laws of the Maple Street Community Garden

237 Maple Street, Brooklyn, NY
<http://maplestreetgarden.org/>

Article I: Mission

The mission of the Maple Street Community Garden is to beautify the lot at 237 Maple Street, make it a peaceful place to visit, a working garden, and a community gathering space.

Article II: Hours

Garden Hours and Policies will be posted on the website and by the garden gate.

The Maple Street Community Garden will be open to the public at least 40 Hours per week as required by GreenThumb and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Article III: Garden Use and Policies

The Maple Street Community Garden is an inclusive neighborhood space.

We strive to be a safe and welcoming space for everyone who comes into the garden. Members and visitors will constructively confront and stop any behavior or language that is contrary to this policy.

Smoking and Consumption of Alcohol are Forbidden

The Maple Street Community Garden follows rules as set out by New York City Parks and Recreation in terms of alcohol and smoking, and neither is permitted on the grounds of 237 Maple Street.

Pets Must be Leashed, Pet Waste Must be Removed

Well-behaved household pets are allowed in the garden with their owners as long as they remain on a leash (maximum of 6ft, according to NYC law).

All solid pet waste must be carried out of the garden and disposed of properly.

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No pet waste liquid or solid must ever be placed in the compost area or the garden beds.

Children Must Be Supervised

All children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Children under 3 years of age must remain in close proximity to the adult who is supervising them.

Plots are Communal

All plots are currently communally managed. Crops are planted and maintained by members, according to the design and gardening practices approved by the Board, with the guidance of the Master Gardener, if any.

We adhere to organic growing practices. chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers must not be used anywhere in the garden. Chemically treated wood must not be used for garden beds.

Anyone may harvest from the communal plots. We ask that you only take what you need for your personal consumption.

Hours

The garden opens at dawn and closes at dusk.

Article IV: Membership

General

All neighborhood residents may become members.

Membership Requirements

Individuals who wish to join as Members must

- sign an agreement to abide by these By-Laws
- pay an annual fee
- serve on one or more of the committees
- attend a minimum of 2 Membership Meetings per year.

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Annual Fee:

Members must pay annual fee in the amount of \$20 by January 31" of each year. Sliding Scale fee is available upon request

Revocation of Membership:

Failure to comply with By-Laws and membership requirements can result in revocation of Membership.

Article V: Meetings, Voting and Committees

Meetings

Membership Meetings are held bimonthly (every other month). They will be held on the first Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December from 1pm-3pm at the garden unless otherwise specified.

Committee and other meetings will be held as necessary.

Voting

Voting will take place at the Membership Meetings. A quorum of 10 percent of Members in good standing, and no fewer than 5 such members, must be present at a Membership Meeting for a vote to take place, and 50% of the Board must also be present for a vote to take place. Only Members in good standing may vote. A simple majority will decide the vote, except in the case of votes to remove an officer, in which case a quorum of no fewer than ten members is required and a two-thirds majority is needed to decide the vote.

Committees

Current Committees include: Gardening (with Planting, Harvesting, Watering, and Compost as subcommittees), Maintenance, Outreach and External Affairs.

If a Grievance is reported, a Grievance Committee will be formed.

Additional committees may be formed by proposal at the Membership Meeting and approval by a general vote.

Committees will meet as necessary. They will provide updates as requested by the Board, but at a minimum will update the Board at Membership Meetings.

Article VI: Board of Directors and Officers

Elections

Elections shall be held at the first meeting of the calendar year. Directors and officers will serve for a terms of one year. In the case of resignation, or if there is a membership vote to remove an officer, interim elections will be held.

A vote to remove an officer must be taken at a Membership Meeting and requires approval by a two-thirds majority of those present.

Responsibility of Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs are jointly responsible for the general management of the garden and overseeing the committees.

Responsibility of Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for all written records of meetings, maintaining membership records and ensuring all new members sign the current ByLaws.

Responsibility of Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for all distributions and collections for the garden, maintains accurate records of financial matters, and serves as signatory for the garden bank accounts.

The treasurer will provide a quarterly summary of the garden's financial status to the general membership.

Authorized signatories for check signing purposes will be the Treasurer and one other selected garden member. All checks of the Garden must be signed by two officers.

No two signatories shall be of the same household.

The treasurer must receive approval through voting from garden membership on transactions over \$500. Itemized receipts must be presented to the treasurer in advance of reimbursement.

Compensation

No Director or Officer of the Garden shall receive any money from the Garden or any pecuniary profit from the operations thereof, except for reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of services.

Article VIII: Grievances

Members are expected to be respectful of each other, and are encouraged to resolve disagreements through dialogue, both with each other and at Membership Meetings.

If a garden member wishes to raise a formal grievance, they may submit it to the Secretary in writing. The Secretary will assemble a Grievance Committee consisting of 5 randomly selected Members and at least two Board members. The Grievance Committee will review the grievance, hold an in-person meeting with the grievant if requested, and issue a recommendation within 30 days. The recommendation will be discussed at the subsequent Membership Meeting.

Article IX: Amendments to By-Laws

Upon request of a garden member, and a majority vote, a proposed change to bylaws will be considered. The proposed change will be circulated in writing or electronic text to members, and a vote at the subsequent garden meeting will be held. A vote to change the bylaws requires a two-thirds approval.

Acceptance

I, the undersigned, accept these by-laws in full and without reservation and agree to abide by them while I am a member of the Maple Street Community Garden

(Print Member Name)

(Member Signature)

(Date)