

MEMO to: JORDAN GARDENERS

From: Stephanie Ide, Conservation Commission Administrative Assistant
Side@bedfordma.gov
Bedford Conservation Commission - Town Hall – 10 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730

Rob Dobson, Jordan Community Gardens Liaison
Rob_Dobson@verizon.net

From the Bedford Conservation Office:

Welcome to the 2023 Jordan Community Gardens program! One of the gardeners, Rob Dobson, will continue as the Gardens Liaison this year and will help with the various issues that arise during the gardening season. Contact Rob at 781-271-0356 or via e-mail at rob_dobson@verizon.net.

The Conservation Commission is grateful for your sincere commitment to good gardening practices. Enclosed with this e-mail is a sketch of the Jordan Gardens layout. Please note that plots 17 and 18 are not usable at this time due to the condition of the plots. **The process for plot sign-ups for 2023 will be handled remotely.** Please read over all materials carefully. You will be signing up through e-mail; please send an e-mail with a request to renew your plot from last year to the Conservation Office at Conservation@bedfordma.gov. Please include your plot number and acknowledgment of the Jordan Gardens rules and regulations. You will need to mail in your \$40.00 payment, made out to the Town of Bedford to:

Bedford Town Hall
Attention: Conservation
10 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730

You will have until Friday, April 7, 2023 to mail in your payment. Once payment is received, we will e-mail you confirmation of your assigned plot. Please see the important date information for this year's gardening below.

Garden Fee: The Conservation Commission has set the garden plot fee at \$40.

2023 GARDENERS (Those who paid for and used a garden plot last year)

- ❖ **If you were registered as a gardener in 2022**, and actively used your plot, you may continue to use the same plot by registering through e-mail. Please email the Conservation Office at: Conservation@bedfordma.gov with your name, last year's garden plot number and acknowledgment of the Jordan Gardens rules and regulations. **Please mail** the \$40 fee by Check or Money Order Only (No Cash), made out to the Town of Bedford to:
Bedford Town Hall
Attention: Conservation
10 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730
- ❖ Please provide any updated information in your e-mail to include, name changes, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. If you had two plots last year, you may register for either, but not both. The person registering must be last year's gardener of record and this year's principal gardener; the plot is not transferable to anyone else.
- ❖ **Monday, March 27, 2023 to Friday, April 7, 2023**. Register for your old plot during this period. Plots that have not been reserved and paid for by April 7, 2023 **will be made available to other new gardeners**.
- ❖ As legal manager of the Jordan Conservation Area, the Commission has the right to monitor plot use.
- ❖ Registration will be limited to **one plot per residential unit**.

PLOT SWITCHING

- ❖ **Monday April 10, 2023.** Plot switching will be available to 2022 gardeners. Please e-mail the Conservation Office at Conservation@bedfordma.gov to find out which plots are available if you would like to switch. Plots that are available will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

NEW GARDENERS - BEDFORD RESIDENTS ONLY

- ❖ **Tuesday, April 11, 2022 to Friday, April 14, 2023.** Registration for **new Bedford gardeners.** All new gardeners will be limited to **one plot per residential address.** All new gardeners must register through e-mail. Please e-mail the Conservation Office at Conservation@bedfordma.gov with your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and acknowledgment of the garden rules and regulations. We will contact you to let you know which garden plots are available and will assign them on a first come, first served basis. Please mail your \$40 fee by **check or money order only,** made out to the Town of Bedford to:

Bedford Town Hall
Attention: Conservation
10 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730

- ❖ The person registering must be the principal gardener; the plot is not transferable to anyone else.

ALL NEW GARDENERS - BEDFORD RESIDENTS OR NOT

- ❖ **Tuesday, April 18, 2023 to Friday, April 21, 2023.** Plots that are still available will be assigned on a first come, first served basis to prospective gardeners from Bedford or other communities, under the same provisions as cited above.

SECOND PLOTS

- ❖ **Monday, April 24, 2023.** If any garden plots remain unassigned, any gardener may sign up for **one additional plot** by paying an additional fee of \$10 to the Conservation Office. Please e-mail Conservation@bedfordma.gov on **April 24, 2023** to inquire about the availability of an additional plot. This opportunity is limited to one additional plot per residential address. Second plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Please do not expand into any additional plots or untilled ground until the area has been assigned to you.

JUNE 1 GARDENING DEADLINE

- ❖ **All gardeners must be actively gardening by June 1, 2023 or your plot may be made available to new gardeners, or gardeners desiring a second plot. If you are not actively gardening, you may also not be invited to renew your plot in 2024, although you will be welcome to apply for a different plot if available after the sign-up period for 2023 gardeners.**

JORDAN GARDENERS

You may not claim, prepare or use a garden plot until it has been assigned to you by the Conservation Office, and it will not be assigned until you have paid the \$40 fee. You will be e-mailed confirmation of your plot once the office has received your payment through the mail.

GARDEN PLOT USE LIMITATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Bedford Conservation Commission has approved this memo and its contents. The Commission has voted to require a \$40.00 fee from each gardener to encourage serious use of the garden plots, and to cover maintenance and landscaping costs.

All processed materials used for mulch must be biodegradable within one gardening season (April 1 to October 31). The use of plastic, cardboard or carpeting is unacceptable. Permanent construction materials, such as cement blocks and lumber, shall not be brought into the gardens. All such materials shall be removed and disposed of by the individual gardener prior to the use of the garden plot. The individual gardener is responsible for removing and disposing of all other processed or non-biodegradable, non-organic materials by October 31. The Commission will have any unacceptable materials removed, if necessary.

All gardeners will be asked to e-mail a statement that they have received this information and agree to abide by these limitations and requirements, as well as by the procedures and standards.

The success of the garden program is dependent upon these guidelines. Please consider that the Community Garden area is part of the Jordan Conservation Area, and that the Commission is responsible for managing the land in a way consistent with natural resource and neighborhood values. The Commission also wishes to ensure that the management of the gardens is consistent for all gardeners, and that maintenance and clean-up costs are not created by garden practices.

SUMMARY OF DATES

- **Monday, March 27, 2023 to Friday, April 7, 2023.** Registration for last year's gardeners (2022)
- **Monday April 10, 2023.** Plot Switching for last year's gardeners (2022)
- **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 to Friday, April 14, 2023.** Registration for new Bedford gardeners
- **Tuesday, April 18, 2023 to Friday, April 21, 2023.** Registration for all gardeners
- **Monday, April 24, 2023.** Sign up for second plots if available

*Jordan Community Gardens
Acknowledgment*

When you register for a plot by e-mail, you must state, “I acknowledge that I have received the Memo to Jordan Gardeners, and the accompanying Guidelines for Use and Maintenance. As requested by the Commission, I agree to abide by the guidelines, limitations, and requirements included in these documents.”