

Community Garden Rules and Regulations Adopted July 2010

Letitia Carter, Michelle Connolly, Janine Vasica, Hayley Janney, Christy Stockey,
Dawn Smith, Kelly Zipperich, Christine Arndt

A **community garden** is defined as is a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people.

A **plot** is defined as a set area to be determined by the Big Hollow Nature Center Committee. It will be designated each year with the submission of a request to garden by a group or individual.

The Big Hollow Community Garden is a subcategory of the Big Hollow Nature Center, and will be subject to the rules and regulations set by the Big Hollow Nature Center Committee.

The Big Hollow Community Garden will be established as an area where local community members can choose a “plot” of land within the gardening area to grow fruits and vegetables.

Community gardens encourage an urban community's food security, allowing citizens to grow their own food or for others to donate what they have grown. In the Big Hollow Community Garden, each group or individual must follow the 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 regulation established by the committee.

- 1/3 of the crops grown will be donated to the local food pantry.
- 1/3 of the crops grown will be given to the school (if crops are ripe outside of school attendance, this 1/3 will also be donated to the food pantry).
- 1/3 will remain with the gardener.

Community gardens improve users' health through increased fresh vegetable consumption and providing a venue for exercise. The gardens also combat two forms of alienation that plague modern urban life, by bringing urban gardeners closer in touch with the source of their food, and by breaking down isolation by creating a social community. Community gardens provide other social benefits, such as the sharing of food production knowledge with the wider community and safer living spaces. Active communities experience less crime and vandalism.

The Big Hollow Nature Center Committee is a non-profit group and cannot supply seeds, seedlings, or other materials potentially needed for farming the plots. Every effort will be made by the committee to assist in the gardening process through donations and fundraising efforts, but the cost is ultimately the responsibility of the gardener.

The tasks in a community garden are many, including upkeep, mulching paths, recruiting members, and fund raising. Individuals or groups are responsible for maintaining their plot and assisting when available with the spring and winter clean up. Dates will be determined by the BHNC.