



WELLESLEY HOUSING AUTHORITY
109 Barton Road, Wellesley, Massachusetts 02481

Washington Street/ Morton Circle Gardening Policy

Adopted: 9/1/2022

Board Member Signatures:

The grounds around each building are property of the Wellesley Housing Authority. In an effort to maintain a clean, well-kept appearance, and to minimize tripping hazards and obstructions to yard and lawn care, the Wellesley Housing Authority adopts the following policy regarding gardening.

Gardens will only be permitted in the open garden behind BUILDING 513. Garden plots will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis only, there shall be no reservations. The garden plot must be well maintained and not fundamentally altered in any way. Non-conformance to garden procedures may result in the loss of garden plot. This policy is in addition to any procedures outlined in the WHA Outdoor Policy.

Residents who are interested in gardening must do so in the open garden behind BUILDING 513. The WHA is not required and will not maintain gardens and reserves the right to make alterations in accordance with this policy at any time. Once installed, all plantings become property of WHA and if necessary, could be removed. Garden plots shall be claimed on a first-come first-served basis. The Executive Director and Maintenance Supervisor reserve the right to make any decisions regarding gardening, pursuant to this policy.

Any garden items that are in front of WHA units will be removed and thrown away by housing personnel. As a reminder, the WHA has an Outdoor Policy. The Gardening Policy shall be enforced in conjunction with the WHA Outdoor Policy.

Resident Responsibilities

- Garden plots should be cared for at least once a week. If any plot remains unattended for more than three weeks, the items in said garden plot are subject to removal by WHA personnel, in accordance with this policy.
- Gardeners are required to keep the aisles surrounding each garden plot free and clean of weeds, trash, and other materials to ensure that the common aisles are passable by others. Maintenance will remove and throw away anything left in the aisles.
- Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden-related maintenance are the sole responsibility of the gardener.
- At the end of the season, but no later than October 17, gardeners must clear their plots of dead plants, and all other Allowable Items. At the end of the season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their garden plot of all plant material and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring.
- Residents who intend to claim a garden plot for the season must report the plot they have claimed to the WHA in writing between April 17- May 1st. Garden plots will be registered on a first-come first-served basis.

Allowable Items

- Water will be provided by the WHA; water shall be restricted if usage is abused. Please use common sense when using the water and turn it off when you are done.
- Gardeners may only harvest vegetables and flowers in their garden plot. Gardeners are strictly prohibited from using their garden plot to grow any illegal substances, including but not limited to marijuana.
- Gardeners must ensure that the garden area is neatly maintained out of respect for their neighbors. Tools and other garden related items may be stored within the garden plot if they are arranged neatly.

Unallowable Items

- Gardeners are strictly prohibited from planting items outside of the designated fenced garden.
- No planting of invasive species is allowed, this especially includes bamboo plants.

- No materials including: jugs, tools, pots, strings, branches, and other materials can be kept outside the fenced area. Maintenance will immediately remove anything left outside the fenced area.
- Only generally accepted flowerpot containers may be used. All other containers are prohibited. This specifically includes Styrofoam containers, tubs, and buckets are absolutely prohibited.
- The application of herbicides (weed killers) to the garden plots are strictly prohibited.
- The use any type of animal or human urine and/or feces in the garden is strictly prohibited. This is a public health concern. The garden will be immediately shut down if such substances are used.

Enforcement

Residents who fail to properly maintain their yard and garden plot according to this policy will be responsible for the actual costs associated with the WHA having to bring the offending yard or garden plot into compliance. The cost will be the actual costs to the WHA based on the labor provided and time spent working. The work will either be performed by WHA staff or through a third party hired by the WHA according to the following steps:

- **Warning:** The offending resident will receive a written or verbal warning from the WHA upon the first violation of this policy.
- **Billing:** If the issue is not remedied within the time period provided in said notice, the WHA will make arrangements to remedy the issue. The Resident will be billed for the time and labor necessary to bring the items or conditions into compliance. This includes the disposal of any large, heavy, unsafe or unsanitary items or conditions. Payment will be due within thirty (30) days of notice to the Resident. Payments not received in thirty (30) days shall be considered a lease violation.
- **Billed without Warning:** If an especially unsafe or unsanitary item or condition exists, the WHA will be at liberty, within its discretion, to dispose of said item or remedy said condition without prior written or verbal notice to the resident.

GARDENING POLICY MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2022 meeting minutes

Resolution #2022-59 Updated Washington Street/Morton Circle Gardening Policy

Commissioner Sanchez moved and Commissioner Renzella seconded the motion. This policy was previously voted. It was then reviewed by legal counsel who made additions and corrections. ED Sullivan explained the changes. Commissioner Coduri then called for a roll call vote that was as follows:

Commissioner Coduri- yes

Commissioner Renzella – yes

Commissioner Sanchez – yes

Commissioner Sierra - yes