



# City Farms 2025 Garden Bed Rental Agreement

Welcome to the Baltimore City Farms program, sponsored by the Department of Recreation and Parks, Horticulture Division, as a service to the citizens of Baltimore. These pages contain an overview of the City Farms Program operations and what is expected of each participant.

## General Information

1. To qualify for participation, you must be at least 18 years of ages and a resident of Baltimore City. An adult must sponsor anyone under 18.
2. New gardeners are permitted to rent only one garden bed their first year. Gardeners will be considered for additional garden bed(s) in subsequent years at the discretion of the coordinator and garden rep with consideration of the current waiting list for new gardeners. A second plot may not be assigned until after May 15 of the current garden season. Each household (at Carroll, Cimaglia, Clifton, Dewees, Druid Hill, and Leakin) has a **two garden bed maximum**.  
Note: **The following City Farms locations only allow one garden bed per household:** Heath St, Light St, Patterson Park, Rockrose, Roosevelt

**If you are unable to work your garden bed for any given reason, you must notify the City farms Coordinator to arrange solutions. The City Farms Coordinator is the only person allowed to reassign garden beds (except at Heath and Light St). Violators will be asked to leave the program.**

3. Garden beds vary in size, but most are 10' X 15'. All are marked either by a numbered stake or by painted lettering/number on raised bed frames. Make sure the number or letter matches the information on your agreement and receipt.
4. Rental cost for 2023 is \$35.00 per garden bed. There is a one-time nonrefundable application fee of \$10.00 for new participants. Prices are subject to change through written notice. After June 15, the cost is only \$10, plus the \$10 registration fee.
5. Gardening hours are dawn to dusk. For your personal safety and to prevent vandalism or deer entry, make sure you lock, dummy lock, or close the gate(s) at all times that you are in the garden. You must lock the gate if you are the last person to leave. New participants are given the combination upon payment of fees. **DO NOT** give the combination to others. **Please notify your garden representative if you wish a friend or relative to work your garden in your absence.**
6. Wood chips (mulch) and wood chip fines (compost) are provided by the Horticulture Division for use in the gardens. Water will be available from early Spring though late Fall. At Rockrose, the tanks are filled as needed.
7. At all of the City Farms, trash is separated into two categories –
  - a. Organic debris and
  - b. Garbage.

**Organic debris** is pulled weeds, spent plants, or anything that once was growing in your garden. Organic debris is kept in a separate pile at designated compost bins in each City Farm.

**Garbage** is trash (includes rugs and non-biodegradable material like plastic) you have not grown in your garden. **If you bring it in, then take it out.** Do not put garbage in the organic

waste piles. Do not put bags of pulled weeds into the trash cans. Do not put recyclables (aluminum cans, glass bottles, paper) in the garbage cans. **Do not put diseased plants in the compost bins.**

Note: At Heath and Light, you must take all waste with you when you leave, including organic material. At Roosevelt, take all non-organic garbage with you.

8. Gardeners who do not maintain their garden beds according to the guidelines attached are subject to a three-step remedy process:
  - a. Warning – Garden needs attention.
  - b. Gardener needs consultation with assigned volunteer master gardener,
  - c. Garden privileges terminated. **Failure to meet any of the deadlines listed in number 4 of the Guidelines below, without contacting garden rep or City Farms coordinator and being granted an extension, counts automatically as a warning. Garden Reps have the authority to issue first and second warnings. City Farms Coordinator is the only one with the authority to terminate garden privileges, except for Heath St and Light St.**

## **Guidelines for Participation in Baltimore City Farms 2025**

1. Gardeners are **fully responsible** for maintaining and tending to their garden beds and **are caretakers of the entire garden.** Each garden bed must be regularly maintained appropriate to the season and **kept free of weeds** at all times. During the summer months, a garden should be visited at least once a week to monitor for weeds. Vegetables must be harvested in a timely manner. Rotting vegetables attract rodents that could lead to a rodent infestation.
2. Gardeners are **fully responsible** for maintaining the adjacent pathways around their garden bed as well as adjacent sections of fencing. Gardeners are prohibited from fencing in their individual garden beds, and violators will forfeit their gardening privileges. Paths and adjacent fencing must be kept weed- and vine-free. No personal belongings are to be stored in the pathways. **Pathways are to be passable at all times.**
3. Gardeners are prohibited from moving their stakes or expanding their bed area into the adjacent pathway. If stakes are damaged or missing, notify your garden representative or the City Farms Coordinator.
4. Gardeners are expected to meet certain deadlines in garden bed preparation, planting, and clearing.
  - a. Garden beds must be cleared and prepared for planting by **April 15, yearly** and
  - b. planting must begin by **May 22, 2025.**
  - c. The deadline for clearing and covering your garden bed for winter (unless growing winter crops or nitrogen-fixing groundcover) is **December 4, 2025.**
  - d. There will be inspections throughout the summer to check that plots, pathways, and fences are free of weeds.
5. Please respect the property and planting of others. This means not walking across or dragging a hose through someone else's garden bed. Unless invited by another gardener, please stay out of garden beds belonging to someone else. **Be respectful!**
6. Non-organic pesticides are prohibited **in ALL City Farms.** Growing healthy food and protecting the environment make for sustainable farming. We recommend against using impermeable plastic on

your soil, but, if you do use it, do not leave it on for more than 3 months. It kills beneficial microorganisms in the soil and degrades in the sun.

7. Theft or unauthorized use of someone else's property, plants, or produce is not in keeping with the spirit of **community** within the City Farms Program. Anyone caught taking or using someone else's property without permission **will forfeit their gardening privileges immediately.**
8. Gardeners are forbidden from "borrowing" or using City property outside of the City Farms, i.e: hoses, wheelbarrows, wood chips, manure, or water for washing cars. Return all communal tools and hoses to their respective locations; do not leave tools or wheelbarrows in your garden plot
9. Planting woody and vining perennials, including berry bushes, is not permitted in a City Farms garden bed, except lavender, rosemary, sage, and thyme. Mint and other invasive plants should not be planted in the ground, only containers. **Remember: You do not own the space.**
10. Because of health and safety concerns, **pets are not allowed** in any of the City Farms.
11. The use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is strictly forbidden in City Farms or any property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Recreation and Parks. **Smoking is prohibited within the fenced area. Violators to this rule will be asked to leave the program immediately.**
12. The City Farms Coordinator has the discretion and right to cancel gardening privileges in the event of gross negligence of any of the above rules. Every effort will be made to contact the gardeners involved and suggest ways of solving the problem as stated earlier.
13. **REMEMBER:** Participation is critical for the success of City Farms. **All gardeners are required to participate in two garden clean-up sessions per season or establish an alternative option with the garden representative.** Your involvement considered when you request an additional garden bed or agreement renewal.

Questions? Contact Garden Rep or City Farm Coordinator.

**(410) 396-4850 or [cityfarms@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:cityfarms@baltimorecity.gov)**



To participate in the City Farms Program, you must register online or fill out the following form, sign and date it, and return it with your payment, due March 22, 2025. Each garden bed rental costs \$35. There is a \$10 nonrefundable application fee for new participants. Contact the City Farms office at (410) 396-4850 or [cityfarms@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:cityfarms@baltimorecity.gov) with any questions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ d/o/b: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (preferred): \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of City Farm location: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Bed #(s): \_\_\_\_\_

2025 Garden Bed(s) Rental Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Application fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**No personal checks or cash!** Unless you register and pay online with a credit or debit card, payment must be in the form of a **money order or cashier's check**. **NO CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS** will be accepted. Make money order or cashier's check payable to: Director of Finance. Mail to: City Farms, Cylburn Mansion, **4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209**

I have read and understand the rules as listed in this agreement, a subset of the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Recreation and Parks. I understand that ...

- if I do not comply with the above guidelines, I will receive an email or a written reminder from the City Farms office. If I do not respond to this reminder within the given time period, my garden bed will be reassigned.
- **if my garden is abandoned for more than 2 weeks without my having given prior notice to the garden rep, my garden bed will be reassigned to someone else.**
- due to the inherent nature of outdoor work, I participate at my own risk.
- the Dept. of Rec and Parks reserves the right to refuse or cancel rental agreements for any reason. In consideration of the privilege given to me to participate in the City Farms Program, the undersigned for him/herself/themselves and their heirs and personal representatives, hereby releases, waives, and forever discharges the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore ("City"), its elected/appointed officials, employees, agents, and volunteers, from and against any and all claims, liabilities, demands, suits, actions, and proceedings whatsoever, in law or equity, of every name and description, arising from, as a result of, or which the undersigned may have against the City, its elected/appointed officials, employees, agents and volunteers on account of participation by the undersigned in the City Farms Program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_