

**Town of Perinton
Recreation and Parks Department**



2026 Community Garden Handbook

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Contact Information and Access

Perinton Parks Department
585-223-5050 ext. 2029
gardencoord@perinton.org

2026 Community Garden Hours

8am to 10pm daily

Seasons 2026

October 16th, 2025 - April 30th, 2026 off season with limited access to resources

May 1st, 2026 – October 15th, 2026 main growing season

Parking

Potter Park at 53 W Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450 (Parking lot off Potter Place)

Street Parking on Potter Place

Please do not drive on grass, basketball courts, or sidewalks

All registered families are welcome. Service animals only.

To Register

1. Fill out registration form
2. Pay and submit form to community center
3. Fill out community garden member agreement - sent by email

Bed assignments will be distributed once registration confirmation and community garden member agreement have been received by the community garden coordinator.

2027 Registration

Opens Fall 2026

Community Garden Mission, Vision and Goals

Mission

The Town of Perinton Community Garden seeks to steward the beautification of a safe, positive, and healthy space for members to deepen their connections, knowledge and grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

Vision

The vision of the Town of Perinton Community Garden is to celebrate the rich heritage of 'Victory Gardens' by nourishing community connections with educational programs, food donations and sustainable living and gardening.

2026 Goals

- Donate 275lbs of food to nourish the community
- Repair and replace damaged garden boxes
- Create additional garden plots
- Beautify fence areas

About the Garden

Established in 2011, the Town of Perinton Community Garden is located in Potter Park. The garden was once the original site for a WWII Victory Garden. Victory gardens were vegetable gardens planted by community members coming together to ensure adequate food supply for civilians and troops.

The garden offers a fenced in area with 105 raised garden beds to Fairport/Perinton community members. The plots are 8ft x 4ft and members can grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The garden also offers vertical gardens, community beds, a vermiculture composting system, garden stand and pollinator gardens.

The Town of Perinton provides garden members with a cleared bed, compost, water and limited tools.

Community Garden Member Agreement

- Members agree to **regularly maintain their garden plots** from May 1st through October 15th, including but not limited to **planting, weeding, watering, harvesting** and **winterizing**.
- You must give a minimum of a **two (2) week notice** if you are **unable to tend to your plot** and would like coverage
- Plots **unmaintained for more than four (4) weeks** from May 1st to October 15th will be considered **abandoned**
- Plots can be **used to grow food, flowers and herbs**.
Invasive/intrusive species, including mint, are not permitted. Growing cannabis is prohibited.
- You agree to **only plant, harvest and water the plot(s) assigned to you**. Theft will not be tolerated. Please request permission from the community garden coordinator to plant in vertical or community gardens.
- Members are **prohibited to use herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides**, and agree to report any disease or bug infestation on your plot. Organic methods of gardening are to be followed.
- Members agree to **share the space** harmoniously, be friendly, respectful and settle conflicts peacefully.
- Garden members must **keep aisles clear** of plants, materials, debris and tools when not in the garden.
- **Organic matter should be brought to the green organic matter totes** located in the garden. No organic matter should be left in the tool shed or discarded in park garbage cans.
- **Alterations to garden boxes** or community garden property is **prohibited**.
- Members will **keep tool shed orderly**; cleaning tools before returning them to proper places
- You must **winterize your plot** and bring personal supplies home by **October 15th**, unless you have renewed for the 2027 gardening season.
- Members have **read through the handbook** for additional information pertaining to guidelines of the community garden

Community Garden Core Member

A community garden core member vouches to volunteer 15 hours or more annually.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to;

- supporting the mission of the community garden
- help at special events, attend core meetings
- contribute to the goals of the garden
- support other garden members
- assist the community garden coordinator with necessary tasks

Bed Assignments

Bed assignments will be *emailed* no later than March 1st, 2026 for members who have active registration **and** filled out the community garden member agreement form.

Bed assignments will be assigned within seven (7) business days of registration if members join after March 1st, 2026.

Members waitlisted will be notified, required to register, complete the community garden member agreement form and then assigned a bed within seven business days (7).

Renewing members will have the option to keep their same plot if renewed from September 23rd, 2026 to October 15, 2026.

New members and returning members who have not renewed by October 15th, 2026 are assigned plots at the garden coordinators discretion.

Town Provided Garden Resources

Tools

A limited number of tools including shovels, rakes and hand tools are accessible to all garden members in the tool shed. Please clean tools before returning to their proper places in the shed. Members are encouraged to bring their own tools.

No personal items should be left in the tool shed throughout the season. The town is not responsible for personal tools lost or forgotten in the garden. The town is not liable for any personal items damaged while maintaining the garden plot. Please notify the garden coordinator of any damaged or broken tools or if you would like to make a tool donation to the shed.

Water

Water is accessible for member use during the main growing season, weather permitting. Members will be notified when water is turned on and shut off for the season. Watering in the early morning and close to the soil surface is advised to avoid mildew and plant disease.

Compost

The Town of Perinton provides a limited amount of organic compost for garden members to use.

Abandoned Plots

Plots that have not been planted by **June 12th** will be considered abandoned and reassigned.

Plots unmaintained for more than four (4) weeks from May 1st to October 15th, 2026 will be considered abandoned.

If you fall two (2) weeks or more behind in garden maintenance, the garden coordinator will contact you.

Abandoned plots will be cleaned out and reassigned or winterized without reimbursement. If you no longer want your plot, please reach out to the garden coordinator.

Best Practices

Garden Planning

Planning your garden will be useful throughout the growing season and years to come. When creating a plan, choose the items you want to grow and will enjoy. Order your seeds early. Plan where, when and how you will be planting. Writing down or drawing your plan can be fun and will be very useful throughout the season. Know the final and first frost dates. Have a good understanding of what can be planted in cool soils and warm soils. Plan on starting some seeds indoors or buying transplants. Spread your planting throughout the spring. Consider replacing early cool season crops with warm season crops after the cool season crops are no longer producing. To extend your growing season and continuously enjoy your garden's abundance, consider succession planting. This can be achieved by planting items such as lettuce, spinach, carrots, radishes, green beans, and many others in short rows or blocks every 1-2 weeks throughout the spring and summer. Companion planting can help save space in the garden, increase productivity, repel insects and help some vegetables thrive. Build crop rotation into your plan to help protect your plants from disease, damaging insects and certain nutrient deficiencies. Rotate crops by planting your varieties to new locations for two years before returning to the original location. Plan to reduce disease, save space, and increase productivity by trellising. Be sure not to shade out plants that need full sun.

Maintenance

Water early in the day to allow plants to dry out and reduce the risk of disease. Water deeply and close to the soil surface to encourage the roots to grow down. Do not let the soil dry out. Weed frequently or every day if possible. Early season is most effective. Use mulch such as cardboard, black plastic, leaves, straw, and wood products to reduce weeds. The mulch layer should not be more than 3 inches and should never pile up against the stem of plants.

Soil

Best soils tend to be light and airy, alive with organisms and bacteria. Utilizing compost will improve soil quality by releasing nutrients and holding moisture.

A limited supply of compost will be provided by the town.

Organic or sustainable liquid or granular fertilizers are permitted.

Please contact the garden coordinator if you have any questions pertaining to what you can mend the soil with.

Supporting your Garden

The use of plastics, fabrics, plant coverings, trellises, netting, tomato cages, or other like items are permitted. *The town does not provide plastics, fabrics, plant covers, trellises, netting, tomato cages, or other like items.* Items available have been donated and are available for use on a first come basis. Items should not diminish the aesthetics of the garden or park. Please refrain from using bright or neon colored items. Dark green or black are preferred. Items used to support your garden should be adjusted to not shade or interfere with other members' plots or ability to garden. All items must be contained within the interior bounds of the garden box(s) to avoid snags or damage from routine maintenance.

Winterizing Plots

Members who have not renewed their plots by October 15th, 2026 must winterize their plots.

How To Winterize Plot

1. Remove plant matter, weeds, and debris in your plot
2. Remove weed barrier, trellising, trash, and miscellaneous items from plot
3. Cover plot with provided winter plastic by laying plastic flat over bed, adding a large scoop of compost/soil to each corner, a scoop on each long side of the bed, and two scoops in the middle (8 scoops in total, this will hold down the plastic for the winter)



Throughout any point in the season plots can be winterized. If you no longer want to participate in the community garden, please reach out to the garden coordinator.

“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond” – Robin Wall Kimmerer