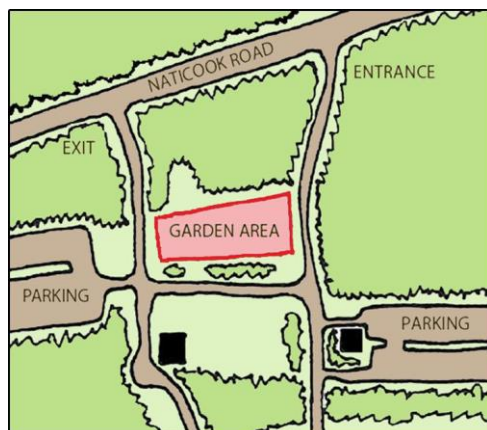


## Garden Location



The Community Garden is located by the entrance/exit of Wasserman Park.

## Community Garden Background

In 2009, the Merrimack Agricultural Commission focused on finding an area where residents could garden. The search for suitable locations was performed with the help of the Parks and Recreation Department. When a plot of land at Wasserman Park was identified, garden rules were written with help from the Town Council.

Due to the Wasserman Park location, permission was granted from Merrimack Village Water District, the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Department and the Conservation Commission.

## 2018 Schedule of Events

7-Mar	Table at Winter Market, John O'Leary Center, 3:00-6:00 p.m. for information and applications
15-Mar	Renewal registration period for returning gardeners begins.
12-Apr	Registration period for Merrimack residents begins.
3-May	Non-resident registration and additional plot requests begins.
10-May	Water turned on at gardens.
25-May	Garden opens
1-Oct	Water shut-off.
14-Oct	Garden is closed by end of day

## About the Agricultural Commission

The Community Garden is a project of the Merrimack Agricultural Commission. The commission was created to protect agricultural lands, preserve rural character, provide a voice for farmers, and encourage agriculture-based businesses and education within the town of Merrimack.

Monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, to discuss agricultural topics that are relevant to the town. These meetings are televised on Merrimack PEG Access TV, channel 20.



**Bob McCabe, Garden Manager**

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## How the Garden Works

For the 2018 growing season, individual plots of 10 ft x 10 ft are available. Garden plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Gardeners may request additional garden plots (if available).

A donation of \$10 (\$15 for non-residents) per garden plot, payable to the Town of Merrimack, will help fund improvements to the garden.

The *Merrimack Community Garden at Wasserman Park 2018 Gardener's Agreement* outlines the rules gardeners must follow. To request a copy, please contact the Garden Manager.

The Garden Manager will be processing completed agreements weekly starting March 15, 2018. You will be informed of your acceptance in the garden via mail.

Once the spring garden preparation has been completed, plot numbers will be mailed to the gardeners, normally by the first week of May.

## Spring Planting

Please keep in mind the following when planting your garden:

- Some plants cannot tolerate cold evenings and need to be covered in case of cool temperatures.
- Plants started from seed should be conditioned to the outside before planting. Bring the plant outside for an hour or two during the day, for a day or two before planting.
- Make sure you water your plants often during the first few weeks. They need extra water until their roots are established.
- Think before you plant! When mature, tall plants shouldn't shade neighboring plants and vine plants will take up lots of space.

Gardeners normally visit the garden 3-5 times a week during spring planting.

## Maintaining Your Garden

Once plants are established, gardeners must tend their plots by weeding, watering and harvesting.

- Mulches that are permitted include straw, newspapers (not glossy), grass clippings or untreated wood chips **ONLY** no plastic at all.
- The use of fungicides, herbicides, insecticides or pesticides is not allowed.
- Water should be conserved. Unattended watering or using hoses is prohibited.

Once plants are mature, gardeners visit their plots 1-3 times a week.

If you find that maintaining your garden plot is too much work, please contact the Garden Manager as soon as possible.

## Fall Clean Up

All debris must be cleaned up by close of the garden on October 14, 2018. Failure to remove all foreign debris from plots by the fall cleanup deadline will be assessed a \$50.00 clean up fee.