



## **Gardener Eligibility & Engagement Policy**

### **Eligibility**

Preference is given to people whose primary residence is in greater Cape Henlopen School District. Gardeners must be willing to grow organically. Lewes Community Garden is run completely by volunteers. Everyone must do their share by participating in garden workdays and other tasks throughout the growing season. Beds are available at no charge for those in need.

### **Policy**

All gardens require work, from planning to harvesting, to reap the rewards. Being part of a community garden means that gardeners help with running and maintaining the full garden, as a member of a community, not just individual garden beds. By signing the Garden contract, gardeners agree to join the community and help maintain the Lewes Community Garden (LCG) as a whole.

The LCG understands that individual gardeners have many and varied obligations in their lives, including unexpected changes. LCG will provide a variety of opportunities for gardeners to engage and be a member of the community. Gardeners who actively engage in committee work and/or take on leadership responsibilities (such as a team leader), will be eligible for a 4x16 garden bed.

### **Levels of Engagement**

The LCG offers different levels of engagement in addition to varied ways to be engaged. The levels of engagement also determine whether you can keep your bed the following year and whether you are eligible for a larger bed. If a gardener cannot meet the engagement levels for any reason, or if there is a personal emergency, s/he should notify the Gardener Support & Education Committee or the Steering Committee. If possible, the LCG will work out an alternative plan with the gardener.

- Minimum Engagement:
  1. Maintain and weed your garden bed using only organic gardening methods
  2. Keep paths around beds weeded and mulched
  3. Harvest your crops not letting produce rot on the ground
  4. This level has minimal engagement in the larger LCG, therefore will return to the lottery the following year due to lack of participation in maintaining LCG
  5. A gardener who fails to meet the minimum engagement criteria relinquishes their bed
  
- First Level Engagement:
  1. Meet all minimum standards above
  2. Engage in several of the following activities:
    - a. Participate in workdays
    - b. Attend monthly garden meetings
    - c. Volunteer as a Garden Captain
    - d. Assist with harvest donations
    - e. Join a garden team
    - f. Other options as needed
  3. At this level, gardeners regularly participate in the maintenance of the LCG, and therefore are eligible to keep a garden bed the next year without re-entering the lottery
  
- Second Level Engagement:
  1. Meet all first level engagement standards
  2. Actively engage in committee work and/or take on leadership responsibilities (such as a team leader)
  3. Gardener is available to do planning and grounds maintenance in the non-growing season
  4. At this level, gardeners are eligible for a 4x16 garden bed the following year if a larger bed is available
  
- Continued Second Level Engagement:
  1. Meet all second level standards
  2. Meet second level requirements each year to continue eligibility for the larger bed