

2026 GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN MEMBERS

Each garden has one or more volunteer Site Coordinators from the community who are the liaison between you and VINES. Please appreciate all the hard work they do to keep your garden running and respond to their communications throughout the season. Please read through the rules below. Note: **Volunteering in the garden is MANDATORY** & essential to keep the gardens affordable for all.

1. I will pay a fee each year for each garden plot requested (as specified on the application) unless I have been given a discount.
2. **I will volunteer at least 1 hour each month (per plot) April – November toward common garden maintenance** (in addition to time spent on my own plot). A few possible tasks: weeding common areas, helping on workdays, mowing. I will contact my Site Coordinator for help finding tasks. If I rent 2 plots, I will double my volunteer commitment.
3. I will attend my garden's mandatory orientation set by my Site Coordinator. If I cannot make the date, I will arrange a make-up date with my Site Coordinator.
4. I will obtain my own seeds & plants for my garden bed. I will not be reimbursed for any items I purchase unless approved ahead of time by VINES Staff.
5. My plot will be planted by **May 31th** or within 7 days of renting the plot if after specified date.
6. My garden plot and the pathways around my bed will be weeded throughout the season.
7. If my plot becomes overgrown, I will be notified by my Site Coordinator who will give a deadline for cleanup. I understand that if I fail to maintain my garden plot or follow these guidelines, the Site Coordinator may reassign my plot within 15 days and I may not be able to rent a plot in future years.
8. My plot and surrounding pathways and fences will be kept clear of litter, trash, and tools.
9. I will not pick crops from other member's beds unless given permission by them.
10. I will not use any chemical pesticides, fungicides, rodenticides or weed killers on my plots or elsewhere in the garden. And I will only use **OMRI certified** soil amendments.
11. I will not grow any plants that are illegal under local, state or federal law, including but not limited to cannabis/marijuana.
12. I will not plant any plants identified by local, state or federal as invasive species. I will also not plant other aggressive garden plants (plants that may take over the bed and make it difficult to grow other things in future years), including but not limited to mint, spearmint, catnip, and raspberries.
13. I will not bring pets or other animals to the garden.
14. If I must abandon my plot, I will notify the Site Coordinator immediately.
15. I understand that the fees are not refundable. However, with the permission of the Site Coordinator, the plot may be transferred to someone else.
16. VINES is not responsible for items lost/stolen in and around my garden bed.
17. Community Garden Members may not use a community garden space for personal social activities, political campaigns or the promotion of any private or religious organization.
18. I understand that VINES has a sexual harassment policy in place and that the details of this policy, as well as any and all concerns, can be addressed to VINES Executive Director, Amelia LoDolce, at any time by phone at 607-205-8108 or by email at amelia@vinesgardens.org.

VINES provides access to community gardens without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, political affiliation, affectional orientation or gender identity, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sex, age, or any other protected characteristic as established by law.

VINES COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATION... NEXT STEPS

Keep for your reference

FIRST

After we receive your application, we will figure out if there is an available garden plot at the garden you've requested. If there is, you will be assigned a garden. If there isn't, VINES staff will be in touch with you to see if there is another option for you. Once that is figured out, we will add you to the following communication systems:

- **VINES' Email List:** You will receive VINES updates on other programs, free workshops, and events
- **REMIND** for VINES: REMIND is an automated service that will provide you with community garden updates & tips directly by text or email (whichever you preferred on your application) and is how VINES communicates with its 400+ garden members!



Please note: Returning garden members will be able to apply for garden plots first. Applications from new garden members are held until March 1, when applications are open to the public.

THEN

VINES will provide your garden Site Coordinator with your contact information and they will follow up with you with the date of the orientation which is mandatory for both new and returning garden members.

At orientation you will:

- Tour the Garden & receive your bed assignment
- Learn composting basics
- Obtain the lock combo to the garden
- Learn where and how tools are to be stored & the function of each tool
- Determine your monthly volunteer task
- Meet your fellow gardeners and begin building a community!



WORKDAYS AND PLANTING

Be on the lookout for emails & texts from your Site Coordinator about workdays, seeds and seedlings. VINES will provide some free seeds and seedlings that you can get through your Site Coordinator.

Workdays are really valuable because you'll get together with other gardeners to share gardening knowledge and help keep the garden looking beautiful! If you need help getting started, workdays provide great opportunities to learn from others.



**Questions? Contact VINES at: 607-205-8108 or
communitygardens@vinesgardens.org**

VINES Community Garden Application

Name(s): _____

Address, City, Zip code: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Preferred contact method: Phone Email Text

Primary language spoken in home, if not English: _____

Plot Options: plots are 4x10 foot raised beds and 16 inches tall, unless otherwise stated. Other bed options at some locations are: 1) In ground plot: garden is not elevated and is in the ground, 2) Elevated bed or Tall box: is generally 4x10 foot and 22 inches tall, 3) All Accessible Beds: is 30 inches x 10 feet and 30 inches tall & can be used standing or with a wheelchair, scooter or other mobility aid.

Please write how many plots you would like at each garden. Due to demand, you may be limited to just 1-2 plots at some gardens. Prices are below.

Community Gardens	
<p>Binghamton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbott Street, 19.5 Abbott St. [\$30] _____ • All-Accessible Bed [\$30] _____ • Corbett Ave, 26 Corbett Ave. [\$30] _____ • Cunningham, 26 Columbus Pk E [\$30] _____ • Front Street, 250 Front Street [\$30] _____ • Gregory Lane, 10 Gregory Lane [\$30] _____ • All-Accessible Bed [\$30] _____ • Laurel Ave, 128 Laurel Ave. [\$30] _____ • Liberty Street, 79 & 90 Liberty Street [\$30] _____ • Elevated Bed [\$30] _____ • Mather St, 26 Mather Street [\$30] _____ • New St, 20 New Street [\$30] _____ • All-Accessible Bed [\$30] _____ • BC Veterans Center, 530 State St. [\$30] _____ • Oak St, 150 Oak Street [\$30] _____ • Elevated Bed [\$30] _____ • Park Street, 46 Park Street [\$30] _____ • Phelps Park, 600 State Street [\$30] _____ • Pine Street, 67 Pine Street [\$30] _____ • United Presb Church, 42 Chenango St. [\$30] _____ <p><i>(note: all beds at this site are elevated)</i></p>	<p>Endicott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mersereau Pk, 604 South Loder Ave. [\$30] _____ • Squires Ave, 310 Squires Ave. [\$30] _____ • Elevated Bed [\$30] _____ <p>Endwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davis Ave, 1701 Davis Ave. • In ground plot (20x20 feet) [\$30] _____ • Elevated Bed [\$30] _____ • Raised bed [\$30] _____ <p>Dickinson & Hillcrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otsiningo Park, 1 Bevier St. • In ground plot (20x20 feet) [\$30] _____ • Raised bed (4x12 feet) [\$30] _____ • All-Accessible Bed [\$30] _____ • Tall Raised Bed Box (4x10 feet) [\$30] _____ • Chenango Street, 1182 Chenango St. (Children's Home) [\$30] _____ <p>Johnson City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floral Ave, 179 Floral Avenue [\$30] _____ • All-Accessible Bed [\$30] _____ • Sherman Street, 52 Sherman Street [\$30] _____ (Family Enrichment Network) <p>Vestal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deerfield, 4737 Deerfield Place [\$30] _____ (Temple Israel)

Did you garden at this site last year? Yes No If yes, do you want the same plot? Yes No

Please indicate plot #'s _____

What volunteer tasks are you be interested in at your garden? mowing weed whacking group projects weeding flower beds compost turning organizing social events
 Other: _____

Payment

- I am requesting a free or discounted rental fee (VINES does not turn anyone away from a garden plot due to a lack of funds. **You may pay any amount you are able** or pay no fee if it will be a hardship)
- I am including a donation of \$ _____ (The average cost to operate each plot is over \$200 per year. If you are able, please consider giving more to support the continuation of the program for everyone.)

Total Payment Submitted \$ _____

I have read and agree to the guidelines for VINES Community Garden Participants. I agree to hold harmless VINES, the City of Binghamton, Broome County, and the owners of the garden property for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or my guests.

Signature

Date

To submit your application & payment:

- 1) Mail to: VINES, 157 Susquehanna St., Binghamton, NY 13901 or 2) give to your Site Coordinator

Applicant Information

We encourage everyone to complete this section. All personal information will be kept confidential. We use this information to track our success in serving a diverse range of people.

- 1. ETHNICITY (select only one):

Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

- 2. RACE (select one or more):

American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White

- 3. ASIAN RACE (if you selected Asian above, select one or more below):

Chinese Filipino Hmong Indian Japanese

Korean Laotian Vietnamese Other: _____

- 4. GENDER

Female Male Non-Binary Transgender Other: _____

- 5. HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

\$0-\$14,999 \$15,000-\$24,999 \$25,000-\$34,999 \$35,000-\$49,999 \$50,000-\$74,999

\$75,000-\$99,999 \$100,000+

- 6. How many family members live in your household (including yourself)?

_____ adults and _____ children (under age 18)

- 7. Do you identify as having a disability?

Yes No Prefer Not To Answer If Yes, please describe _____