

# The Farm at Stratford

Pirhala Fields Community Garden Application – 2009 Season

Date Rec'd

Plot # (s)

**Welcome! Thank you for your interest in community gardening!**

Soundkeeper Inc. and the Town of Stratford are truly excited by your interest in becoming a community gardener. You are a part of a growing trend in urban agriculture and local food production. Whether your interest lies in growing organic produce or flowers, you are a steward of public land. You are agreeing to share use of land, on which you will garden, with other members of your community.

**Fee are “per season”, non-refundable.** Please complete this application and waiver agreement and make a check out to Pirhala Fields Community Garden. **Payment is due upon plot reservation. -- Credit Cards are NOT accepted.** Please provide proof of Senior/Low Income Status.

Check One	Resident	Non-Resident	Senior/Low Income	Sen/L.I./Non-Res
4' x 40' Plot	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 15	\$ 20
8' x 20' Plot	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 15	\$ 20
Share the Harvest plot	\$ 10		50 % of Harvest must be shared with Local Food Bank	

<b>Primary Gardener</b> (Please Print)	<b>Phone</b> (Home)
<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b> (Cell)
	<b>e-mail</b>
<b>Emergency Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Primary Gardeners Signature:</b> X	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Additional Participant's Signature:</b> X	<b>Date:</b>

Mail check and both forms to Pirhala Fields Community Garden, 54 Booth St, Stratford, CT 06614.

There are 90 Garden Plots. Applications will be dated and plot assignments will be on a first come basis until there are no more plots. A waiting list, if necessary, will be developed based on receipt of the applications, time stamp and in case of cancellations, this list will be used to fill vacancies. You will receive a copy of your application, notifying you of your plot assignment or position on the waiting list. As long as fees are current, refilling each year is not necessary. The plot assignment is yours until you cancel or the contract is terminated because of non-compliance with the Pirhala Fields Community Garden Guidelines. We will also maintain the waiting list and add names to said list as we receive them, maintaining our time stamp philosophy.

## Pirhala Fields Community Garden Guidelines Agreement

With this consent, you are participating in a shared agreement with both rights and responsibilities. You may keep your plot as long as you like, as long as you abide by this agreement. Community garden members are welcome to use a plot and share care of the garden with the following understandings:

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## Your rights as a community gardener

1. You have the right to garden as long as you wish. Automatic renewal is based upon living up to this garden agreement.
2. You have the right to the following basic amenities such as access and water.
3. You have the right to equal opportunity and non-discrimination.
4. You have the right to a reasonably harmonious environment, and to appropriate conflict resolution measures when necessary.
5. You have the right to garden in this space, and to the non-commercial use of the bounty your labors provide.
6. You have a right to an orientation to your garden by the Garden Coordinator or other assigned garden office-holder.

**From rights stem responsibilities.** Because you and your fellow gardeners have these rights, you also share a collective responsibility. You agree that these responsibilities include things that are standard in all gardens and others that have specifically been decided by your community garden.

**Adhere to these guidelines. Consequences will be enforced as follows:** One warning will be given. If you have not adhered within the specified time, your plot will be given to someone that wants to follow the guidelines.

## Your responsibilities as a community gardener:

I agree to follow all of the rules established by Pirhala Fields Community Gardens and to submit a signed copy of this agreement along with the **Release and Hold Harmless Agreement and return to the Garden Coordinator**. Anyone you wish to garden with you in your plot, at the time you sign this agreement, must also sign this agreement. Garden Coordinator/Garden approval is required for adding someone at a later date. If approved, the new gardener signs this agreement

## Plot Maintenance

- I will actively garden in my plot. I understand that I am responsible for watering, weeding, fertilizing, soil amendments and caring for my plot.
- If I choose to skip a season (i.e. doesn't want to winter garden) I will give up my plot. I will be able to have a new garden plot assigned to me in the spring.
- No altering of the dimensions of a plot or of the surrounding area
- Plots cannot be given away by you to anyone else.
- I am responsible for maintaining the appearance of my garden plot and 2 feet of bordering pathways. This includes cleaning up trash, litter, pulling the weeds, rolling up hoses, removing dead/dying plants and rotting vegetables and putting tools away.
- I will maintain my plot within its confines without plants encroaching into common areas or other plots. No plants may be higher than 6 feet over soil level in plots. Beds may not be raised higher than 2 feet
- If my plot becomes un-kept at anytime, I understand I will be given 2 weeks notice to clean it up. If it remains in non-compliance, it will be re-assigned. **I understand this is a one time courtesy.**
- I will harvest my produce in a timely matter. If I am unable to pick my vegetables, I will notify the Garden Coordinator that my plot needs to be harvested and produce donated to the food pantry. If the vegetables in my garden bed are un-harvested the Garden Coordinator has my permission to harvest and donate them for me unless otherwise communicated (i.e. saving seed).
- In case of illness, pregnancies, travel et al, inform your Garden Coordinator about your situation. Either party finds a temporary person to garden in your stead; this person signs a temporary version of this agreement to end on a date of no longer than a three-month duration.
- I will not pick produce from any other gardener's garden.
- If I must give up my plot for any reason, I will notify the Garden Coordinator immediately.
- I will not grow noxious weeds, illegal substances, or vegetables, vines or fruit that will interfere with other gardener's enjoyment of their gardening experience.

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- I will report any problems, vandalism or damage to the Garden Coordinator by calling XXX-XXXX.

## Water

- I will water my garden. I will water responsibly. Minimize water waste.

## Organic

- I understand that Pirhala Fields Community Garden is an organic garden. No herbicides or pesticides may be used, except for organic-based materials, such as iron phosphate for snail and slug bait. If I am in doubt about a fertilizer, I will check with the Garden Coordinator.

## Tools

- I am allowed to use the onsite tools only for the purpose for which they were designed. I must clean the tools and return them to their proper place.
- I will store all supplies in the appropriate place.

## Pets

- No pets of any kind are allowed on Pirhala Fields Community Garden premises.

## Children

- I will encourage my children to come with me to Pirhala Fields Community Garden. I understand that it is my responsibility to keep my children focused on the garden activities. Gardeners agree to respect the peace and quiet of the surrounding neighborhood. I will instruct children and guests to refrain from walking on garden plots, or damaging or taking plants, or fruits, that do not belong to them

## Tobacco Products

- I will NOT have tobacco plants or products on site. I will not smoke and/or chew tobacco on site. Tobacco carries the Mosaic Virus that is easily transmitted to other plants and kills them.

## Illegal Substances

- I will not consume alcohol or grow or consume illegal substances on Pirhala Fields Community Garden premises.

## Park and Grounds

- I will help maintain the grounds by keeping litter picked up.

## Personal Responsibility.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to adhere to all guidelines as stated above to garden a Pirhala Fields Community Garden plot. I understand that, neither SoundKeeper, Inc. nor the Town of Stratford is responsible for my actions.

Participants' Signature	Date

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## Hold Harmless Agreement for Participation in Community Garden Activities

In consideration for being permitted to participate in Soundkeeper Inc and the Town of Stratford's Pirhala Fields Community Garden activities, the undersigned releases Soundkeeper, Inc and the Town of Stratford, its officials, departments, agents and employees from any claim for injuries and/or damages arising from or in any way relating to my participation in the program, plot and tool use.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless, Soundkeeper, Inc and the Town of Stratford, its officials, departments, agents and employees, for all losses, damages, attorney's fees, costs or expenses resulting from any injuries or damages which I may suffer during my participation in the Community Garden or other activities on the property and from any and all damages, losses or injuries I may cause another during the course of the activities.

I understand my participation is entirely voluntary and will involve moderate physical activity. I agree to participate at my own risk and acknowledge that reasonable physical capacity is required. I also understand that there are risks of accident from participation that may result in injury. To my knowledge, I am not affected by a physical condition or disability that would prohibit me from safely performing in any aspect of the activity.

I further understand that, as a former commercial farm, certain currently limited access portions of the farm were exposed to pesticides approved for farming use at the time they were applied. I understand that there may be some residual health risk associated with consuming produce grown in said soils. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless, Soundkeeper, Inc and the Town of Stratford, its officials, departments, agents and employees, for all losses, damages, attorney's fees, costs or expenses resulting from any injuries, illnesses or damages that may result from either consuming produce grown in or from making contact with the soils. I also understand that I am entitled to documents relating to said soil contamination upon written request to the garden coordinator to be used in any analysis I may deem fit prior to my participation and my signing of this document

*I also understand that if I am injured during my participation in the community garden activities that I will not be eligible for workers' compensation benefits.*

## I Have Carefully Read and Understand the Above Release and Indemnity Agreement

Participant (Please Print)	Phone (Home)
Address	Phone (Work)
Emergency Contact	Phone
Participant Signature: X	Date:
Participant Signature: X	

**\* Parental Endorsement (\*required for all student participation in Pirhala Fields Community Garden activities)**  
This Parental Endorsement Must Be Completed If The Participant Is Under 18 Years Of Age

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE release and indemnity agreement and agree to its provisions as they apply to my son/daughter and also agree to be fully bound by them. I certify that my son/daughter is physically capable and medically able to participate in these activities. I further assume full responsibility for my son/daughter relating to any and all activities of the activity and/or covered by this Release and Indemnity Agreement.

Parent /Guardian Signature X	Date:
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