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City of New York
Parks & Recreation

GreenThumb

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October 16, 2018

Re: Snow and Ice Removal Responsibilities at GreenThumb Community Gardens on NYC Parks property

Dear GreenThumb Gardener:

Congratulations on another great season at GreenThumb! Together, you have stewarded over 550 community gardens on nearly 100 acres of open space, and volunteered over 1 million hours toward the beautification of our city and the strengthening of our neighborhoods. We at GreenThumb are grateful for your contributions and proud to work alongside you in our collective effort to bring the benefits of community gardens to as many New Yorkers as possible.

I am writing to offer a friendly reminder about snow and ice removal responsibilities at GreenThumb gardens. As a licensee to the space, **the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks following a winter weather event is the responsibility of GreenThumb gardeners.** Keeping pedestrian corridors in front of gardens clear and passable is not only important in keeping members of your community safe, but it's also the law. A failure to clear the sidewalks in front of gardens located on City-owned property is a violation of the GreenThumb license¹ and of the NYC Administrative Code. In addition, the Department of Sanitation requires that snow and ice be removed according to the attached schedule.

Garden maintenance and stewardship reflects on us all as members of the gardening community. I encourage all garden groups to develop a snow removal plan now to insure that they have a process in place to quickly remove snow and ice when it comes. If your garden group would like assistance in developing a plan, please contact your Outreach Coordinator, who will be glad to provide assistance.

When clearing sidewalks, please be sure to dress warmly, take breaks, and not overdo it. To support garden groups in meeting this responsibility, GreenThumb will once again distribute snow shovels and calcium chloride at the **Winter Supply Distribution on October 27th**. Details are included in the attached document.

Thank for your continued dedication to stewarding safe and inviting open spaces throughout New York City. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Director, GreenThumb

¹ Section C(ii) of the GreenThumb license states that:

“Upon execution of the License, the Licensee agrees to...keep sidewalks, passageways, and curbs adjacent to and within the Garden clean and free from snow, ice, garbage, debris, and other obstructions.”