March 17, 2019

Dear GreenThumb Garden Liaison:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows gardeners registered with GreenThumb to use City fire hydrants to water and maintain gardens if they obtain a permit to do so.

**Please note**

- Your garden must have a DEP Hydrant Permit to use water from the hydrant, and
- Each garden must have a reduced pressure zone device (RPZ), which can be obtained through DEP, and
- DEP Hydrant Permits dates run only from April 1st - October 31st

In order to request a DEP Hydrant Permit and have it uncapped for the 2019 season, please do the following:

1) Bring this letter and envelope to any of the DEP offices. Locations are listed on the back of this letter

2) Request a DEP Hydrant Permit for your community garden this season. Explain that you are a garden registered through NYC Parks GreenThumb. You should also know the address closest to the hydrant you plan on using. If possible, provide your block and lot numbers, which can be found at the bottom of the license agreement and registration materials, or provided by your GreenThumb Outreach Coordinator.

3) The associated fees for the permit will be waived by DEP.

If the hydrant nearest to your garden is capped with a custodial lock, please do the following:

1. Obtain a DEP Hydrant Permit as outlined above.
2. Mail or fax a copy of the permit to GreenThumb (Attention: GreenThumb Hydrant Request)
   (See mailing information above.)

Please also include the following information:

- Complete Garden Name
- Complete address of the building nearest to the hydrant
- Description of hydrant location (*ex: north side of street, close to 2nd Avenue*)
- Request for hydrant to be unlocked

For questions, please contact your GreenThumb Outreach Coordinator.

Thank you,

GreenThumb

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**REMEMBER: BE WATER WISE!**

*Water when it's cool,* usually before 9 a.m. or after 7 p.m., when the evaporation rate is low. Morning is best to prevent the growth of fungus on wet leaves during the night.

*Use a watering wand,* can, or any other container instead of a hose to water each plant individually.

*Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses* when possible.

*Water deeply and less frequently* to encourage deep root systems.

*Collect rainwater* from the roof of a casita, garden shed or adjacent building.

*Be a good steward!* Report any damaged hydrant or open hydrant wasting water by calling 311.

*Safety first!* Take the necessary measures to ensure a safe environment for pedestrians by putting signs and hose protector bumps. And always use the RPZ.
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Borough Offices

**Manhattan**
Bureau of Customer Service
Manhattan Borough Office
1250 Broadway, 8th Floor
New York, New York
(212) 643-2215

**Bronx**
Bureau of Customer Service
Bronx Borough Office
1932 Arthur Avenue, 6th Floor
Bronx, New York
(718) 466-8460

**Brooklyn**
Bureau of Customer Service
Brooklyn Borough Office
250 Livingston Street, 8th Floor
Brooklyn, New York
(718) 923-2647

**Queens**
Bureau of Customer Service
Queens Borough Office
96-05 Horace Harding Expressway, 1st Floor
Queens, New York
(718) 595-4619

**Staten Island**
Bureau of Customer Service
Staten Island Borough Office
60 Bay Street, 6th Floor
Staten Island, New York
(718) 876-6831