



Village of Antioch – Environmental Commission

2017 Community Garden Agreement

“If you tickle the earth with a hoe, she laughs with a harvest.” – Douglas William Jerrold

Welcome to the Antioch Community Garden ~ A Growing and Giving Effort:

Garden Guidelines:

By accepting this community garden plot, you agree to the following rules for the garden:

1. Gardening courtesy and communication:

One of the main goals in community gardening is to work together or next to each other in relative harmony. Please be courteous in all interactions. Respect the peace of neighbors; no loud noise or music, foul language or disrespectful conduct, alcohol or drug use is permitted at the Community Garden. Smoking must be kept outside the garden area as tobacco can carry viruses which are harmful to vegetables.

Contact the Community Garden Coordinator at (847) 395-6963 or melonnieh@hotmail.com for guideline clarifications or plot delineation. Garden managers will check plots regularly to encourage productive use by participants.

2. Definition of a “working garden”:

A garden plot must be maintained, planted or mulched, and stay within its boundaries. Plots must not be consistently weedy, untended or filled with debris. During the growing season, gardeners are expected to spend at least two hours per week (on average) tending the plot.

3. Gardening Hours:

Gardening hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The use of power equipment is restricted to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

4. What is appropriate to grow:

Vegetables, herbs, flowers and small fruit plants for home consumption and donation are appropriate. No large structures, trees, or large collection of non-plant items are allowed. Crops must be legal and for personal use or donation.

5. Gardening Season:

Gardeners are responsible for keeping the plot gardened, cover-cropped or mulched. For most gardeners, the growing season will be from April or May until August or September. Some gardeners, however, will put in early spring crops as early as February, and others may have crops growing late in the fall.

No matter what crops you decide to plant, you are responsible for basic plot maintenance. Weedy plots are subject to warning and loss of garden privileges. Perennial crops and some annual hardy winter crops may be over-wintered, but should be maintained.

6. Water Availability:

Water in the gardens is turned on by April 1 and shut-off by October 31.

7. Spring Preparation & Planting:

By **May 1** your garden should be in the “getting started” stage. This deadline exists to motivate our gardeners to show that they are going to use the garden plot, and not waste it. Some garden plots are reserved with the best of intentions, but end up not being planted. If you haven't started preparations by



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this date, there is probably someone who would be willing to take over your plot. The minimum requirements of “getting started” include:

- Weeding and planting; edging weeds along borders
- Working the soil in preparation for planting
- Harvesting of crops, if appropriate
- Pathway clean-up

8. Summer Planting and Growing:

PLANTING: By **May 15**, there should be substantial progress towards a productive garden, which includes:

- At least half of the plot(s) worked and planted
- Removal of remaining weeds
- Establishing and caring for plants
- Continued pathway maintenance

By **June 1**, there should be gardening activity, and weeding throughout the entire plot. If these deadlines are not met, your plot will be offered to the next person(s) on the waiting list and your registration fee will be forfeited.

9. Fall Harvest and Clean-up:

Annual crops should be harvested and the plants cleaned up and composted. Garden plots should be cover-cropped, and/or mulched around perennial plants by October 31.

10. No Garbage Service:

There is no garbage service at the Community Garden. Please keep trash and litter cleared from your plot and take it home for disposal.

11. Mandatory Work Days:

Each gardener is required to attend one work day (1-2 hours) per season to help maintain the overall garden area. Tasks to be shared are weeding, mowing, edging, mulching pathways, maintaining compost bins, picking up trash, etc.

12. Pets in the Garden:

Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the garden area.

13. Plot Registration and Fee Required Annually:

Plots are \$25.00 each annually and are **not** transferable without the permission of the Environmental Commission Community Garden Committee. Gardeners are responsible for keeping addresses and phone numbers current with the coordinator. If, for any reason, you need to relinquish your space, contact Melonnie at (847) 395-6963 or email melonnieh@hotmail.com.

14. No refunds:

The garden registration fee you pay only partially covers the costs of operating the Community Garden Program. If you give up your garden plot after you have registered or if you fail to maintain your plot and it is transferred to another gardener, your plot fee **will not** be refunded.

15. Pathways:



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The Village does not mow or provide regular upkeep to the pathways or other common areas at the Community Garden. Rather, each gardener is responsible for keeping the surrounding pathways weeded and well tended. Your garden space may stop at the edge of your plot—but **your responsibility includes the pathways surrounding your garden.**

Everything you plant must remain within the perimeters of the designated plots, allowing adequate space for growth and keeping pathways clear. Allow for access within your own plot.

16. *Vegetable Theft:*

Any gardener reported for taking vegetables, flowers or supplies from another's plot may have their garden privileges revoked. Gardeners are encouraged to harvest your crop regularly to reduce the temptation of theft by others.

17. *Natural Gardening Encouraged:*

Use of herbicides and/or weed killers is prohibited. Use of chemicals or propellants banned by the federal, state, or local government, shall be grounds for forfeiture of the privilege to use the Community Garden. Gardeners are encouraged to use natural gardening techniques. Free brochures will be available with suggestions for natural gardening techniques.

18. *Children in the Garden:*

Children are encouraged to garden with their parents, but they must stay on the paths of their assigned garden without going through the plots of other gardeners.

19. *Rodents, Other Animals and Fences:*

Because rodents and other wild animals may be prevalent in the undeveloped area surrounding the various garden sites, it will be the responsibility of the individual gardener to control these pests within their own garden space. **Non-permanent fencing is allowed, but may not cross garden pathways.**

20. *Composting:*

On-site composting is encouraged, but must be limited to compostable materials **produced at the community garden site** or your personal residence.

21. *Newspaper Mulching:*

Newspaper is not allowed as a mulching agent/weed barrier. Although this may be an acceptable practice in home-gardens, the Environmental Commission does not want complaints from other gardeners and from area residents, about newspapers blowing around the area because they were not adequately covered up and maintained.

22. *Gleaning Program:*

Often times a problem that arises with community gardens is that produce goes to waste in the field during harvest time. We will be partnering with Open Arms Mission by collecting "extra" produce for donation to the food pantry which serves approximately 200 families per week. Gardeners wishing to participate in the "Growing & Giving" gleaning effort will be notified in advance when to harvest what they need. Any ripe produce left in your plot will be collected, washed, chilled, prepared and delivered to Open Arms Mission the next day.



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Contact Information:

Gardener Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Information: Phone _____ Cell _____

Email Address: _____

~ How did you hear about the garden? _____

~ Can we contact you to volunteer with garden improvement projects? Y N

~ Are you interested in a 'Garden Get-Together' or 'Workshop' on an afternoon or evening to meet other gardeners and learn about various gardening topics? Y N

~ Are you interested in sharing your harvest through the Gleaning Program? Y N

~ Are you interested in being part of the "gleaning team" to harvest the produce? Y N

Garden Agreement:

By signing this agreement, I agree to abide by the Community Garden rules. I also assume all risks associated with gardening, including but not limited to falls, cuts, scrapes, insect bites, exposure to sun and weather, with all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, I release the Village of Antioch, the Environmental Commission, the Community Garden Committee and their representatives from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in the Antioch Community Garden.

Gardener signature: _____ Date: _____

Gardener printed name: _____

Gardener signature: _____ Date: _____

Gardener printed name: _____

***Please return this page of the application, signed and dated, with your \$25.00 payment by March 17, 2017 either by mail or in person. Please keep a copy for your records. Thank You!**

Return application to:
Environmental Commission Community Garden, **Village of Antioch**, 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002

Life is a Garden - - Dig It!

EC Com Garden Use Only: Date received: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Plot # _____