



E.J. Szulwach Community Garden Agreements

1. You are not just renting a plot; you are a member of a community. Your cooperation in observing the following agreements¹ will make it possible for all garden members to have an enjoyable and prosperous gardening season.
2. You are responsible for keeping your plot(s) clean and as weed free as possible. Gardeners with unkempt/abandoned plots will be notified via email and asked to address the issue. If the issue is not resolved and/or no response is received, gardening privileges will be revoked and the plots reassigned. Gardeners who repeatedly do not uphold garden agreements are at risk of having their privileges revoked. No refunds will be given to gardeners who have lost their gardening privileges. Please notify a member of the CAC staff or email us at maria@chesteragcenter.org if you are no longer able/interested to tend to your plot.
3. The garden is open seven days a week from sunrise to sunset. Village ordinance prohibits presence in the garden between 9pm and 6am. You may be subject to a village fine if you are there during those hours.
4. Speed limit is 15 MPH at all times. Please go slowly.
5. Park in designated areas. Do not drive onto or past the culvert.

Keep in mind that throughout the growing season, plot checks are conducted monthly during the first two weeks of the month, beginning in May, and ending in November.

Membership

- Open to the general public.
- No plot will be assigned until payment is received either in cash, check or money order by the Garden Manager.
- Plot holders have the option of keeping the same plot year after year.
- Garden plots are assumed on an “*as is, where is*” condition.
- When no new plots are available, a first come first serve waiting list will be established.
- The E.J Szulwach community garden follows the guidelines established by the USDA National Organic Program. If you wish to use a product on your plot and are unsure of its status as organic, please contact a CAC staff member for clarification. Organic seeds and plants are easily found in our local markets and by mail order. Look for the USDA Organic seal. Please check with Chester Agricultural Center farmers for offerings of seeds and seedlings. More information on organic standards can be found [here](#).

¹ Garden agreements may be revised, as needed, by the Chester Ag Center’s Garden Manager.



E.J. Szulwach Community Garden Agreements

ing between plots is discouraged. If installed, these fences must be removed by the end of the season. No internal fencing shall be higher than 14 inches. Trellising for vertical crops may be only as tall as required to grow the crop.

Prohibited items include:

- Glass (including windows for cold frames), plastic fencing/netting, plywood, tires, wood and plastic pallets, large rocks, gravel, cinder blocks, and pressure treated lumber.
- Inorganic mulches, including tarps, plastic sheeting (including plastic products labeled biodegradable), landscape fabric, rubber mulch, and carpets. Wood chips, straw, leaves, pine needles and untreated grass clippings ARE acceptable mulches. Brown cardboard and non-glossy newspaper can be used but must be completely covered by compost or mulch so it adheres to the ground and does not house voles.
- Herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, repellents and fertilizers not labeled for use in organic gardening.
- Saplings, trees (including fruit), illegal plants, shrubs that grow over 6' tall, invasive plants that reseed or form colonies and spread into neighboring plots, making them difficult to remove (examples include jerusalem artichoke, rose of sharon, lilac, elderberry, among others).
- Piles of organic debris or compost in plots, as they provide shelter and breeding habitat for voles.
- Accumulation of containers, wood posts/board on ground, or any other items that are not actively used in gardening. Do not store bags of mulch, compost or manure in plots (vole habitat).
- Yard signs (e.g., campaign signs, etc.), flags, advertisements, banners, or other non-E.J. Szulwach Community Garden signage that could detract from the garden's serenity and tranquility.
- Noisemakers, such as wind chimes, suspended pie tins, sonic rodent repelling devices, or anything else that intrudes on your neighbor's serenity.
- Structures that are hazardous or that shade a neighboring plot. CAC reserves the right to remove such structures. Arbors, pergolas, or similar structures must be approved by CAC before erecting.

Prohibited activities include:

- Entering another gardener's plot without permission. Harvest what you have planted.
- Commercial growth.
- Growing plants outside of your plot's delimitations.



E.J. Szulwach Community Garden Agreements

vaping in the garden.

- Using water sprinklers or any unattended irrigation devices in plots.
 - Obstructing pathways with wheelbarrows, carts, hoses, bicycles, gates, and plants.
 - Playing radios or any device without headsets. Please use cell phones courteously.
 - Allowing pets inside the garden paths and plots. Trained service dogs are allowed.
 - Beekeeping.
6. Treat other gardeners with respect.
 7. Use the water system conscientiously and courteously. It will be switched on in the springtime after the danger of frost and turned off in the fall before the first frost. Recoil all hoses after using. Unattended watering is prohibited.
 8. Clean and return tools, carts, and wheelbarrows to the shed before you leave the garden. Members may also bring their own tools for use but must take these with them when they leave the garden. If any shared tools become damaged, please notify the garden manager. Requests for additional tools can be made to the garden manager.
 9. **At the end of the season, clear out plots.** The garden is disked at the beginning of the growing season so it's important that items of inorganic nature be removed before snowfall. Fall plot inspections are to be completed before December 1. All annual plant residue should be placed in compost bins. Properly dispose of plastic items and manmade materials when they are no longer in use.