

Conshohocken Community Garden

BY-LAWS

August 30, 2011

1. Membership

As is anticipated that after a few seasons and maybe earlier, the plots in the community garden will be “sold out”, the membership guidelines establish a fair way of gardeners getting plots. The plots are reserved for taxpayers in the Borough (with minimal exceptions), as the garden is on Borough land.

- Priority for membership for the Conshohocken Community Garden will be given as follows:
 - Residents
 - Business owners
 - Business employees that work in the Borough
- Up to four plots may be reserved for schools.
- Up to four plots may be reserved for other community organizations or others as approved by the members.
- Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis.
- Applicants for garden plots will be accepted according to plot availability. A waiting list will be maintained for applicants for whom no plot was available.
- Gardeners from the previous season will have first preference and may choose either the same plot or a vacant plot if one exists.
- **New and existing members must sign the Gardening agreement and make payment annually no later than April 15.** Plots held or reserved by gardeners who have not signed and returned the gardening agreement with payment by April 15 each year will be assigned to applicants on the waiting list.
- There is a \$45.00 annual registration fee per calendar year, payable to the Borough of Conshohocken.
 - A special \$20 fall fee will apply to new members for the fall term (Sept-March).
 - The registration fee may be waived for those showing economic need.
- **Plots must be planted by the end of Memorial day weekend** each season, or the plot may be given to someone on the waiting list.
- Unless approved by the membership or if there is excess availability, no household or business may have more than 1 plot.
- All plots must be “planted” and actively maintained, or the plot will not be renewed for the following season.

2. Meetings

The garden is operated by the gardeners (not the Borough), and therefore the members will meet regularly to ensure the garden is well-maintained, the rules are consistent, and fruits and vegetables grow bountiful. Therefore members must be active and meet regularly.

- Monthly March, April, May, and Sept, Oct.
- One vote per plot.
- Each gardener must attend at least 50% meetings per season to retain membership in the garden or have an

excused absence.

- The Secretary will maintain attendance records for each meeting.

3. Community Garden Leadership

As with any organization, there needs to be a structure for leadership.

- **Officers**
 - Elections will be held at the March meeting.
 - Officers will be elected to a two-year term.
 - No officer may be serve for more than two terms consecutively.
 - The officers are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary.
- **By-Laws and Rules Committee**
 - The By-Laws and Rules Committee will have 3 members.
 - The Chair of the garden will chair the By-laws and Rules Committee.
 - A quorum of 50% of the members is required to pass any by-law recommendation.
 - By-Laws suggestions may be presented by any gardener at any membership meeting for consideration by the committee at its next meeting.
- **Inspection Committee**
 - The Inspection Committee will have 5 members.
 - Two of the members will be Officers.
 - The Inspection Committee:
 - Checks all garden plots and aisles to make sure that they are clean, weed-free, hazard free, and follows the garden guidelines.
 - Conducts at a minimum a monthly inspection.
 - Warns gardeners whose plots do not meet the criteria and follows up as appropriate.

4. Garden Criteria

Garden Criteria help make a successful and bountiful garden for everyone.

- Gardens must be planted no later than Memorial Day, or they will be given to the next person on the waiting list and 50% of the plot fee returned to the original applicant.
- Each gardener is responsible for weeding and clearing his/her plot AND the paths around it.
- Each gardener is expected to visit their plot at least once per week or send a designee.
- Gardening activity and plant growth is restricted to the gardener's plot. Make sure your plants, roots, watering, tilling, and other activities do not invade or impact neighboring plots.
- Each gardener is responsible for trash and recyclable removal. Trash must be bagged and left at the front gate for Monday or Thursday morning trash pick-up. Recyclables must be placed in the recycling container for Monday morning pick up.
- Each gardener will mulch all soil in the plot and in the paths around the plot in compliance with the gardening guidelines and rules.
- Non-compliance with these rules will lead to warnings. More than 2 warnings means you may lose your plot and be expelled from the Community Garden. If you are expelled, your plot fee will not be returned.

- Gardens in weedy & uncared for condition by August 5 will be cleared or rototilled. They will be given to existing gardeners for fall planting only. They will be open for new gardeners in the following season.
- Growing or using illegal substances in the garden will lead to immediate expulsion with no return of the plot fee.
- Pesticide and other chemicals used by gardeners is regulated by the gardening guidelines and rules. Violators will lose their plots, and their plot fees will not be returned.
- Gardeners must follow the guidelines and rules issued upon acceptance of their application.

5. General Rules

- Grievances are to be brought to the Garden Leadership for resolution.
- No digging for worms anywhere in the garden.
- Stay out of other people's plots unless specifically invited.
- Pets brought into the garden must be restrained on a leash, and the person responsible must clean up any droppings, food, etc.
- If, for any reason (health, vacation, work pressure), you will be temporarily unable to maintain your plot, inform a garden officer. If you have a substitute gardener, inform the committee chairs. If you need a substitute, inform the committee chairs. Substitute gardeners must follow the garden agreement rules about mulch and pesticide use.

Conshohocken Community Garden Guidelines and Rules (2011)

I WILL

- Begin work on my garden plot within three weeks of the date I am assigned the plot (if it is after April 15) and plant no later than Memorial Day.
- Conserve water at all times. No more than 15 minutes of watering at a time.
- Turn off the water completely when finished.
- Keep my garden plot at least 75% planted between Memorial day and Labor Day.
- Keep my plot free of weeds and dead plants when lying fallow.
- Keep my plot free of Bermuda grass, morning glory and all other weeds.
- Plant all plants in the ground.
- Plant crops that grow over four feet in height in the center of my plot.
- Keep my garden plot free of overripe, rotting and spoiled fruit and vegetables.
- Use only metal fencing around the plot or other fencing that has been approved by the Board of Directors.
- Refrain from token plantings or planting a cover crop, unless specifically approved by the Board of Directors.
- Put trash in the appropriate container.
- Coil the hose on the storage rack in a neat manner when not in use.
- Take care to straighten all kinks while coiling the hose.
- Report problems with hoses to any Board Director.
- I WILL NOT cut or damage any hose.
- Allow a right of way through my garden for others to run a hose to water their garden.
- Compost appropriately
- Participate in developing and maintaining common areas.

I WILL NOT

- Use pressure treated wood in my plot.
- Bring or dump trash from home or from outside the garden.
- Construct a fence in excess of 18 inches in height from path level around the plot, including vegetable fences.
- Allow the soil height to exceed the boundary board on my plot.
- Store excess/unused tomato cages, trellises and/or stakes in my plot or leave them in the common areas of the garden.
- Have trellises, supports or cages that exceed five feet in height and will not let them shade neighboring plots.
- Construct any shade structures or greenhouses or use black shade cloth as a fencing material.
- Erect any statues, flags, or banners or other ornaments in my plot.
- Use synthetic chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or rodenticides. If I have a question on what is considered organic, I shall check with the OPCG Board of Directors.
- Let plants over four feet in height shade my neighbors plot
- Bring grass clippings to the garden.
- Leave any dead plants in my plot.

I will not plant any illegal or poisonous plants, plants that spread through underground runners, canes or other such means, or any plants deemed by the Board to be unsuitable.

Examples of unsuitable plants include:

Bamboo	Mint
Cactus	Morning glory (flower or weed)
Cane berries	Passion fruit
Castor bean	Plumeria trees
Chaote squash	Sorghum
4 O'clock (the flower)	Sugar cane
Jerusalum artichoke	Wisteria

Rose types that spread through underground runners

I will not plant any perennial that grows to over 4 feet tall.

Corn is only permissible to be planted in plots that are directly along Elm Street.

