

# Conshohocken Borough Community Garden Application

**To become a gardener, simply complete the applications, read, and acknowledge the Rules and Bylaws, and then mail or drop off the application and a check for \$45 to:**

Conshohocken Community Garden  
c/o Conshohocken Borough  
1 West 1st Ave Suite 200  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

*Gardeners receive:*

- A 10x10 plot of healthy soil
- Water (and a hose to supply it)
- Access to tools, shovels, wheel barrels, and other equipment you may need
- Compost
- Camaraderie, help, and fun as part of a community of gardeners
- Produce from common crops that we will all share

The Conshohocken Borough Community Garden is located on East Elm Street (between Cherry and Apple Street)



How much would this have cost you at the grocery store?



A typical days picking



Everything grew wonderfully well

# Conshohocken Borough Community Garden Application

Annual Dues \$45

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Site Number Preference (leave blank to have the site assigned by the garden)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (If returning, note "same as last year")
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Check the appropriate item:

- Resident of Conshohocken Borough
- Business or Property Owner in Conshohocken Borough (Name of business or address of property \_\_\_\_\_)
- Employee of business in Conshohocken Borough (Name of business \_\_\_\_\_)

## Make checks payable to: "Conshohocken Borough"

Send this form and appropriate payment to:

Conshohocken Community Garden  
c/o Conshohocken Borough  
1 West 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Suite 200  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

I the undersigned member of the Conshohocken Community Garden hereby agrees to hold harmless The Conshohocken Borough and the Conshohocken Borough Authority from and against any damage, loss, liability, claim, demand, suit, cost and expense directly or indirectly resulting from, arising out of or in connection with the use of the Conshohocken Community Garden by the garden group, its successors, assigns, employees, agents and invites. *Additionally, I agree to abide by the Rules and By-Laws of the Conshohocken Community Garden.*

<p>Signature _____</p> <p>_____ Date</p>	<p>Office Use Only:</p> <p>Payment received: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Check number: _____</p> <p>Amount: _____</p> <p>Site Number: _____</p>
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# Conshohocken Borough Community Garden BY-LAWS

February 22, 2014

## 1. Membership

As is it anticipated that after a few seasons, the plots in the community garden will be “sold out”, the membership guidelines establish a fair way of assigning gardeners 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 and property 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 or for applicants that do not meet priority criteria until availability is determined.
- 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 Garden application 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 Conshohocken Borough.
  - 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.
  - First-year gardeners are limited to one plot regardless of availability. In the event of excess availability following a complete spring sales season, second plots may be approved by the membership for returning gardeners in good standing.
- Founding year members that have maintained their original two-plot membership in good standing and never relinquished, will remain allowed two plots they relinquish one or both plots.
- All plots must be “planted” and actively maintained, or the plot will not be renewed for the following season. Inspection committee will determine status of members plot at monthly intervals or as needed and at the end of the 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 from March through September and optionally in October as needed.
- One vote per plot. However, no member shall have any more than one vote.
- Each gardener must attend at least 50% meetings per season and one work weekend or general garden maintenance contribution 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 October meeting and again in March if necessary.
  - Officers will be elected to a two-year term.
  - The officers are: Chair (Membership & outreach), Vice-Chair (Maintenance Committee Head), Treasurer, and Secretary, Bylaws & Rules Committee (Inspections)
- 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 at least 3 members, up to 5 members.
  - At least one of the members will be Officers; two must be non-position holding members.
  - 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. When not at capacity or on a wait list, the planting deadline will move to June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Each gardener is responsible for weeding and clearing his/her plot AND the paths around it.
- Each gardener is expected to visit his or her 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. Currently, the rules do not require mulching pathways as natural pathways have been agreed upon as most manageable.
- 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 are regulated by the gardening guidelines and rules. Currently, chemical pesticides and fertilizers are prohibited along with pressure treated lumber. 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, walked in around the exterior perimeter or middle pathway, tethered safely in the rear community picnic space a safe distance from other members and plots, and the person responsible must clean up any droppings, food, etc.
  - Violators of the dog guest guidelines will be asked to keep his or her pet at home for future visits without further warning.
- If, for any reason (health, vacation, work pressure), you will be temporarily unable to maintain your plot, please 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 (2014)**

## **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 or in raised beds. 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 or other equipment promptly 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 40 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. Abandoned materials are property of the garden after November 15<sup>th</sup> to be used for common spaces or donated plots.
- 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 greater than 24 inches in height. I will not have any more than two of the above items in my plot.
- Use synthetic chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or rodent repellants. If I have a question on what is considered organic or acceptable, I shall check with the 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.

## **Other rules:**

- 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

Castor bean

Chaote squash

Jerusalem artichoke

4 O'clock (the flower)

Sugar cane

Wisteria

- I will not plant 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 or along the rear fence in shared community space as decided by the membership.**