

# Culverhouse Community Garden (CCG) Guidelines to Successful Gardening

## 2019-2020 Membership Responsibilities:

- Membership is a **12-month commitment** to maintain a plot and adjacent paths through 3 crop seasons (autumn, winter and spring) and the rainy season of July, Aug, and September. This means keeping a plot **fully planted** during the three growing seasons, with timely harvesting. For extended absences of eight weeks or more, gardeners cover plots with weed barrier cloth or cardboard, adding mulch or straw on top.
- Membership agreement defines **active gardening** as at least two hours per week. That is the barest minimum to be a successful community garden member.
- Garden Managers notify the County program director if members fail to meet their Membership Obligations [after two nudges]. Termination of membership may follow if situation warrants it.
- Plots are kept weed-free and the plot paths fully mulched. **Neither fresh manure nor wood chip mulch** is put directly on plot soil. Plot frames construction materials are limited to **untreated wood, wood treated with *Eco Wood Treatment*, or Trex.**
- **The CCG water system is solar powered and requires vigilance.** Members are expected to learn how the water system works and how to avoid damage to the system. They are expected to know the location of underground pipes, how to use and care for hoses and faucets, including turning off faucets before coiling hoses. Members must attend a water system tutorial provided by the garden managers.
- County membership requires gardeners to **conserve water.** Gardeners are expected to learn how to water their plants in a way that minimizes evaporative water loss [namely-watering the roots.]
- County community gardens are **strictly organic**: Insect control materials must follow County Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guidelines including **timely harvesting**, and **removal of infected and/or infested plants.** Gardeners receive a copy of the IPM information at orientation.
- Gardeners are encouraged to plant a small patch of **flowers** to attract pollinators. [Up to 15 % of plot.]
- Gardeners carry away their own **trash.** We are not allowed to use the park trash containers.
- Communications are effected through an **e mail Garden Messages** system, an entry A-frame bulletin, and the shed door bulletin board.
- Volunteers maintain a **Garden Resource Notebook** [in shed] with planting and garden information.
- Squirrels, insects, drought, heat and humidity, flooding, and fire ants are common problems. Gardeners are encouraged to plan and dress accordingly. For safety sake, we keep our **Tetanus shots up to date.**

## **Community Garden Volunteer Jobs:**

- Each gardener selects a job to maintain the common grounds and abandoned plots, providing at least the required **16 hours/year of community work.** The Jobs Manager helps you with that selection. We record those hours and attendance on the sign-in sheet, with **Year-to-date totals** posted periodically.
- **Caring for your own plot and surroundings does not count as community work.**
- Gardeners are encouraged to help in areas needing attention, even if it is not specifically the job selected.
- The CCG **orchard and other tree plantings** are maintained and **harvested by their owners.** Tree planting requires the Park Department approval.
- A team of gardeners maintains extensive **composting systems**, using harvest debris, composted horse manure, coffee grounds, spent beer grains, etc. We place **no whole plants or heavy stalks** in these compost piles as this creates a burden for the volunteers. These items are bagged and taken home for yard waste curbside pickup.
- **Woody trash, palm fronds, stripped heavy stalks** are placed on the County wood pile outside the garden.
- **Composting or planting in common plots or areas:** Gardeners who use common land are required to maintain that area.
- **A mowing and weed whacking team** strives to maintain the lawn and fence line.