

Essex Community Gardening Guidelines

1. Plot registration is on a first come first served basis.
2. Each plot of 10' x 10' is \$30.00. Checks should be made out to **CRERPA** (Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency). This is required with the signed waiver and application before you begin gardening. Unclaimed/unworked plots will be reassigned after June 1. In this event the plot fee will not be returned.
3. The outhouse, by the barn, is where the garden tools are kept. All other buildings around the garden property are OFF LIMITS (except to connect and disconnect the water). If you don't want to drink from a garden hose, bring your own water. Restrooms are at town hall during town hall hours. There is limited parking. Pratt house is open for tours every Saturday and Sunday thru the end of Sept from 1 – 4. Usually there is one docent and only a few people that stop in each time – so there should be plenty of room for visitors and gardeners. There is a tenant, he has two cars and usually parks straight to the end of the driveway (left side). Leave him a space and park next to his cars. Leave the parking closest to the barn for visitors.
4. Family members are welcome to the garden site. Please supervise those under 18 years of age. Pets are not allowed in the garden area.
5. Plot corners are clearly marked with stakes. Please do not remove the stakes during the season. Individual fencing of plots is allowed as long as fences do not block the sun from neighboring gardens. Be considerate of your neighbors. Do not allow sprawling crops or tall ones to interfere with others' plots. Harvest only from your assigned plot. Keep insects and weeds under control.
6. We require that gardeners volunteer at least one day in the spring to help prepare the garden for planting and to install the fencing, and at least one day in the fall to help clean up the garden after last harvest.
7. Organic gardening is strongly encouraged. There are experts who can help with any questions to advise us. NO herbicides or non-organic pesticides may be used at any time in the gardens. Do not use Preen or RoundUp. Dispose of weeds and plant materials in designated compost areas. No debris of any kind should be left at the site. Keep rocks out of pathways and borders.
8. Please conserve the use of water. To get water up to the garden area, gardeners have to go to the south side of the Pratt house and connect the hose from the bushes to the hose-bib at the house. Use what water is needed and disconnect the hose when you are finished. Unattended watering is not permitted. Notify the garden administrator if there are any leaks in the hose or problems with the watering line. Mulch gardens with leaves, non-treated grass clippings, or hay to reduce water evaporation.
9. The bulletin board, in the outhouse, is a way for all of us to stay in touch. Please use it for any garden related questions, suggestions, or complaints; please contact the garden administrator.
10. Notify garden administrator if you are no longer able to tend your plot; will be absent for a long period of time; or have asked a friend to tend your garden.
11. We are allowed to share the use of the outhouse (small shed behind the barn) for tool storage. It will also be used for tool storage by the Pratt House. Keep tools marked and together.

Thank you and happy gardening!!!!