



# Town of Cromwell

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NATHANIEL WHITE BUILDING  
41 WEST STREET  
CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT 06416

## TOWN OF CROMWELL 2017 COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICY

*PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS!*

Cromwell Community Garden plots are available to TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY (proof of residency required) at Evergreen Park.

Applications are available through the Town Planner's Office and online at ([www.cromwellct.com](http://www.cromwellct.com)). Allowing someone else to use the assigned plot is not allowed. Every Primary Gardener must complete and sign an agreement form. Co-Gardeners must include their name, address, and phone number. Residents may obtain a maximum of one full-size plot per season.

Applications for first-time gardeners will be accepted by mail or in-person at the Town Planner's Office at Town Hall beginning on April 1, 2017. Town Hall is located at 41 West Street in Cromwell. Priority is given to apartment and condominium dwellers.

Please note that this year due to the high demand for the garden plots we are Asking that you have your garden planted by June 1, 2017. Any plot not planted by June 1, 2017 will be passed on to the next gardener on our waiting list.

Special Needs: Special needs gardeners will be given priority access to the Lower Level site, at plots closest to the parking lot. Please mention any special needs on the "Notes" line of the application.

## **2014 APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### New Applications

New applications may be submitted in person or by mail beginning April 1, 2017. Plots will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis, but condominium and apartment residents will have priority over homeowners.

### Renewal Applications

Returning gardeners may keep the same plot as last year, but they must inform us that they wish to renew by submitting a new application not later than May 1, 2017. Plots which are not renewed by May 1, 2017 will be made available to new applicants.

### Change in Assigned Plots

Returning gardeners who would like to move to a different area from last year may indicate that a new location is desired on their renewal application. Gardeners seeking a new location may request a specific plot if that plot is available. Returning gardeners will have priority over new gardeners for plot assignment and will be prioritized on the basis of special need (if applicable) and seniority as a returning gardener.

## **2017 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### Opening Day:

The community garden will be open on May 1, 2017. **BE SURE YOU WORK ONLY THE PLOT ASSIGNED TO YOU! ONLY ONE PLOT IS ALLOWED FOR EACH PROPERTY ADDRESS. NO TWO PERSONS LIVING AT THE SAME ADDRESS CAN HAVE TWO PLOTS. ONLY ONE PLOT PER HOUSEHOLD IS ALLOWED.**

### Closing Day:

Plots must be cleared by October 25, 2017. Remove any non-organic materials by the deadline. If your plot is not cleared properly, you may be denied a plot next

year. Acceptable materials which may be left behind in your plot include anything that can be safely turned into the soil, such as plant stems, leaves, crops you don't want, and organic mulches.

**Personal items left in plots are the responsibility of the Primary Gardener and may NOT be stored over the winter on any Community Garden property and MUST BE REMOVED by Closing Day. Such items will be disposed.**

#### Garden Maintenance:

Individual garden plots and adjacent pathways shall be maintained by the persons assigned the plot. If a problem occurs with the garden site, such as severe erosion or water leaks, please contact the Public Works Department at (860) 632-3420.

#### Do Not Remove the Corner Stakes:

These are the boundaries of your plot. As the season progresses you may find they will need to be pounded in again or replaced. If possible, connect your four stakes with string, or you may construct a small, temporary fence. No orange fencing, rusted fencing, or barbed wire is allowed. Please keep plants within your plot. Be considerate of your neighbors when planting tall plants along boundary lines, which may block sunlight from adjacent plants. All walkways in front of your plot must be kept clear and are not considered part of your garden space.

Neglected plots are a potential source of weed seeds and pests and detract from the beauty of Evergreen Park. Neglected plots may be cleared and/or assigned to someone else if the gardener does not take appropriate action within two weeks of notification by the Town Planner. Gardeners who habitually neglect or abandon their plot will forfeit their privilege to obtain a plot during the next garden season. If you plan to be on vacation for an extended period of time, please ask a neighbor gardener, relative, or friend to care for your plot in your absence. If you wish to discontinue using your plot, please contact the Town Planner's Office at (860) 632-3422.

#### Compost and Mulch:

Compost will be provided at the garden areas as it becomes available and while supplies last. Residents may also pick up extra mulch free of charge from the Town Recycling Center on County Line Drive. For weed suppression, gardeners may use their own biodegradable mulch such as straw, biodegradable mats, woodchips, etc. Materials that do not decompose, such as, carpet, black plastic, etc. are

discouraged. Gardeners must remove all non-biodegradable material by the end of the season.

#### Refuse:

An area is designated at each garden site for organic waste to be composted. Another area is designated for rocks. Litter, meat products/bones, and non-bulky organic waste should be placed in the garbage can located at each garden site. Do not throw litter or refuse elsewhere in the garden area.

#### Pesticides:

To prevent over-spray contamination and other problems affecting your neighbors and the environment, inorganic chemical pesticides and herbicides are prohibited in Cromwell Community Garden. Only organic gardening techniques and organic chemical compounds may be used to control pests and weeds. Gardeners found to be using non-organic chemical pesticides or herbicides risk losing their gardening privileges. For more information on organic gardening techniques, please contact the Director of Health at (860) 632-3424 or your local garden center.

#### Vandalism:

Security is not provided. Vandalism and theft can be a problem especially during harvesting season. If you notice unauthorized people or suspicious activity, please help your gardening neighbors by calling the Police Department at (860) 632-2256.

#### Water, Hoses and Sprinklers:

The water faucets are shared with other gardeners. The Town does not supply hoses, but many people will share their hoses. Please be considerate of other gardeners near the water faucets when moving hoses. **NO SPRINKLERS ARE TO BE LEFT UNATTENDED.** Unattended hoses may be disconnected.

### **BE NEIGHBORLY!**

**Be a good neighbor to your fellow gardeners. Do not exceed your own garden boundaries.** Be considerate when using water, hoses, mulch, fencing, etc. Please discard unwanted or unnecessary items properly. Please supervise children while gardening. Keep pets out of the garden area. Do not pick crops that do not belong to you unless given permission by the plot user.

Thank you for complying with the Rules and Regulations listed above. Your cooperation will ensure a more abundant and pleasant gardening season for you and your neighbors. Please call the Town Planner's Office at (860) 632-3422 or [spopper@cromwellct.com](mailto:spopper@cromwellct.com) if you have any questions.