



Essex County's Land Trust

Hamilton Wenham Community Garden

At Dodge Farm

Owned and Managed by Essex County Greenbelt

CONTACT

Please renew your membership on our website or mail in payments. For information about obtaining a plot, please contact us at:

Essex County Greenbelt
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Essex, MA 01929

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MANAGEMENT

The Hamilton Wenham Community Garden is owned and managed by Essex County Greenbelt Association (Greenbelt), a private nonprofit land trust. Located on Porter Street adjacent to Pingree Park in Wenham, the Hamilton Wenham Community garden features 56 garden plots (4'x12'), a community blueberry patch, and a butterfly garden.

HISTORY

The garden was founded in 2012 by a group of volunteer gardeners working with the Hamilton Wenham Open Land Trust (HWOLT) and Hamilton Wenham Green. In 2022, Greenbelt acquired the land from HWOLT and has since made improvements to the walking paths and the tree farm.

DUES

There are no dues for a plot at the community garden, though we require gardeners to maintain a membership with Greenbelt at the Supporter level (\$55), renewed annually. If a gardener has

2 plots, then we offer a discounted rate of \$100. An additional voluntary contribution toward the Hamilton Wenham Garden Fund can be made at any time. This money goes directly into the Hamilton Wenham Garden Fund, which helps to offset the cost of the garden (new tools, compost, hose supplies, etc.).

GREENBELT EXPENSES

Staff spends a significant number of hours a year toward the management and maintenance of the community garden. Each membership and every donation you make helps offset the cost of water, hose repair, and garden maintenance.

ANNUAL MAILINGS

Each gardener will receive a spring mailing including a garden agreement, membership renewal information and a meeting schedule for the year. Gardeners must return the garden agreement and their membership by the spring cleanup in April of each year.

GARDEN INFORMATION

There are a limited number of rules that Greenbelt requires gardeners to follow, and what you plant in your plot is up to you. We do have a few rules, and gardeners that do not follow the rules of the garden will lose their garden privileges.

1. Maintain an annual family membership to Essex County Greenbelt Association (Greenbelt) (\$55) per plot, due each spring by April 15 (unless otherwise directed) (tax deductible). If two garden plots are desired and available, the total amount will be \$100.
2. Sign the Garden Plot Registration Form and Release annually, due with your garden membership payment. The garden agreement is an agreement that indicates that you understand your responsibilities as a gardener, and that if you do not follow the guidelines, your plot may be revoked. If you are sharing a plot with another individual or family, they must also fill out a Registration Form and Release
3. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot, and for keeping their plot in reasonably good order and appearance. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to tend their plots.

4. Plant and maintain your plot throughout the growing season. Plant-by date is the first weekend in June. Plots not maintained may be revoked unless other arrangements have been made ahead of time. This rule is intended to maintain maximum usage of the plots and to respect those on the waiting list for plots.
5. Winterize your bed in the fall (November 1, unless otherwise noted). Trellises, hoop houses, row cover and other season extension devices are encouraged, but are to be removed at the end of the growing season. If you are planning to maintain your garden past November 1, please contact Dave McKinnon at Greenbelt.
6. Gardeners must prepare their garden for the winter by removing past growth and cutting back old vegetation. The garden should be ready for planting in the spring in the event that a gardener gives up their plot.
7. Each gardener has access to the shed for tools and watering equipment. Please clean and return all tools before you leave for the day. A limited number of tools, hoses and watering equipment will be available in the community garden storage shed for use during the posted Pingree Park hours.
8. We encourage organic gardening. Only certified organic mulch, fertilizers, pesticides and sprays are allowed. The application of herbicides (weed killers) to garden plots is prohibited.
9. Practice water conservation, and use the rain barrels when available. Never leave a hose running, and turn off water at the main spigots before leaving. We want to be water-wise for environmental and financial reasons. Also, leaving the spigots on can damage the hoses and cause breaks and leaks.
10. Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the garden.
11. Carry out your trash. There will be a compost area for organics.
12. Please be considerate of shading your neighboring gardeners when planting especially tall crops or trellises.
13. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times.
14. Maintain paths adjacent to your plot(s). The paths are common space, please keep them free of weeds and obstructions.

15. For those gardeners who have a second plot, if there is a waiting list for plots in subsequent years, you may be asked to give up your second plot so that everyone has a chance at having at least one plot.

16. Primary access to the garden shall be through the Pingree Park entrance on Porter Street in Wenham. Parking in the Pingree Park parking areas near the tennis courts. There is also a new 3 car lot at the Dodge Farm entrance off Porter Street if that is a more convenient location (though do not drive into Dodge Farm past the parking area).

17. Garden plots were first assigned in 2012, and thereafter any new gardeners will have plots awarded by a lottery system. Preference for next year's plots will be given to this year's participants first.

18. Preference will be given to those who had a garden plot in the previous year.

19. Gardeners may harvest vegetables and flowers from their garden only unless other arrangements have been made.

20. Please be courteous to our neighbors and keep noise to a minimum.



Essex County Greenbelt Association Community Garden Waiver

Young Farm
Hamilton Wenham Community Garden

Please read this entire document CAREFULLY before signing.

All gardeners must sign this document and a parent or legal guardian must also sign if the participant is under the age of 18. In consideration of accepting my participation, I hereby waive any and all claims that I may have against Essex County greenbelt Association, Inc. (ECGA), its volunteers, staff and board members and any and all other persons and organizations affiliated with the garden, including but not limited to the organizers and supporters of the garden and ECGA board members which arise from my participation in and travel to and from the garden and from my use of ECGA's equipment or facilities.

Activities associated with the garden may include inherent and other risks, hazards and dangers that can cause or lead to injury or property damage to participants or others. Some, but not all of these risks include: hazardous and unpredictable terrain, weather conditions; misjudgments made by participants or others; equipment that can fail or malfunction; the potential that the participant or others (e.g. other participants, medical and rescue personnel) may act carelessly or recklessly. I understand that ECGA cannot assure my safety or eliminate these risks. By participating in the garden, I (participant and parent/guardian of a minor participants) assume and accept full responsibility for all risks associated with the garden (both known and unknown) and for any injury, damage, death or other loss suffered as a result of participation in the garden.

PARTICIPANT AND PARENT OF A MINOR PARTICIPANT AGREE: I HAVE CAREFULLY READ, UNDERSTAND AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS DOCUMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT SHALL BE EFFECTIVE AND BINDING UPON ME, MY MINOR CHILDREN AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, AND MY HEIRS, EXECUTORS, REPRESENTATIVES AND ESTATE. Parent(s) must sign below, both in their capacity as a participant, and as Parent(s) of any minor child identified below.

Name of Participant under the age of 18

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date