



# Young Farm Community Garden 2023 Manual

Owned and Managed by Essex County Greenbelt

## CONTACT

Please renew your membership on our website or mail payments, direct any questions, and for information about obtaining a plot, please contact us at:

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## MANAGEMENT

The Young Farm Community Garden is owned and managed by Essex County Greenbelt Association (Greenbelt), a private nonprofit land trust. The garden has been active for over 25 years, and consists of 42 plots, which are tended by mostly Lanesville residents.

## HISTORY

In 1984 the Young family donated their property to Greenbelt. Historically, the property had been tended as a dairy farm. In 1985, one of the founding garden members suggested that Greenbelt established a community garden, as a way to retain its agricultural heritage. In 1995, the garden was finally established by Greenbelt with the help and support of a group of Lanesville residents. In 1996, the garden was expanded to include additional plots in the back garden.

## 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 Young Farm Fund can be made at any time. This money goes directly into the Young Farm Fund, which helps to offset the cost of the garden (new tools, compost, hose supplies, etc.).

## GREENBELT EXPENSES

Staff spend 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 very few rules that Greenbelt requires gardeners to follow, and what you plant in your plot is up to you. Most gardeners say that what they love the most about the garden is seeing the creativity and variety of gardening methods. However, we do have a few easy-to-follow rules. Gardeners that do not follow the rules of the garden will lose their garden privileges.

#### RULES:

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 Agreement, 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. If you are planning a late season crop, please seed in a cover crop for the summer months. Plots not maintained will be revoked unless other arrangements have been made ahead of time. No exceptions. This rule is intended to maintain maximum usage of the plots and to respect those on the waiting list for plots.
5. Winterize your plot at the end of each growing season (November). 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 spring in the event that a gardener gives up their plot. Seeding in a cover crop is preferable.
6. Attend the Spring and Fall community work days. There are two scheduled work days each year, one in the spring, and one in the fall. Gardeners must attend at least one per year, unless other arrangements have been made.
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.

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. Never leave a hose running unattended, and always turn the water off when you leave the garden. 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 are not allowed within the fenced area of the garden. All dogs must be kept on a leash or under voice control at all times on the main walking paths of the Young Farm property.
11. Trash management. Remove all trash from the property, as Greenbelt does not provide trash removal at the garden. City trash bags should not be left at the entrance to the garden. Compost area is next to the back garden.
12. Maintain your fence line and paths. Keep the paths and fences adjacent to your plot clear of tall grass, weeds, trash, and ROCKS. The paths are common space; please keep them free of obstacles and rocks for ease of maintenance. Please do not expand your garden into these common spaces.
13. Personal belongings. Any personal belongings such as chairs, tables and benches shall be removed before or during the fall workday.

#### PLOT INFORMATION

- Gardeners cannot transfer plots to another gardener without Greenbelt's permission.
- There is a two-plot maximum for gardeners.
- Gardeners currently assigned more than one plot may be asked to relinquish one of their plots if the wait list exceeds 10 people.
- If there are no gardeners on the waitlist, then current gardeners can obtain a second plot on a year-to-year basis. Gardeners will be asked to give up their second plot if there is a wait list.
- Gardeners with more than one plot must maintain a Supporter Level membership for each plot they hold. For example, gardeners with two plots each must join Greenbelt at the \$100 level.

#### NEW GARDENER INFORMATION

Garden plots are assigned year-round by Greenbelt staff. New gardeners must provide a daytime or mobile phone number, mailing address, and an email address. A brief meeting will take place with a Greenbelt staff person at the garden to introduce you to the garden and help familiarize you with the water system, plot locations, compost locations, etc. At the time that you accept the plot, you will be expected to sign the annual garden agreement and pay your annual membership dues. Membership dues and garden agreements will then be due in the Spring of each year, regardless of when you first joined during the year.

#### ANNUAL MEETINGS/WORK DAYS

Each year, there are two mandatory cleanups, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Each gardener is required to attend at least one cleanup day, however gardeners are encouraged to attend both cleanups.

Meetings may be held over the course of the year to discuss management and other

garden issues. All are welcome but not required to attend. The meetings are typically held at the garden or the Lanesville Community Center. You will be notified of any meeting date via email.

#### TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Greenbelt provides community tools and wheelbarrows for gardening. All gardeners have access to these tools in the community shed. Please be sure to place tools back in the shed, and if you damage any tools, please let us know. Do not store personal tools or equipment in the shed. This is a community area, please respect it and keep it organized as best you can.



## 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.**

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Name of Participant under the age of 18

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Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date