



FarmWorks Community Garden Program 2026 Membership Policies & Code of Conduct

Zip Code Requirements

- Community garden members need to be current residents of Garfield Park or Humboldt Park.

Bed Reservation Policies

- Beds cost \$10 each for the 2026 season, which runs from April to November. Fees cannot be pro-rated.
- There is a maximum reservation limit of 2 garden beds per household.
- A bed is considered reserved on the date we receive payment. No beds can be reserved without payment. Open beds are rented on a first come first served basis.
- Beds will only be held for returning members from the 2025 season who will have until May 1st, 2026, to renew payment for their beds. After this date, all unpaid beds will be considered available for rent on a first come first served basis.

Bed Reservation Refund Policy

- We are unable to provide refunds for bed reservations for any reason.

Bed Maintenance Policy:

- We ask that you do not allow your beds to become overgrown with weeds throughout the season, as this will spread weed seeds to neighboring beds and the gravel areas.
- Please note that any pesticides or fertilizers used must be approved for organic production.

Initial Planting Requirement

- Members will need to have something planting in their beds by June 1st to show they are committed to engaging in the program. New gardeners that join the community garden program after June 1st must clear their bed of weeds and plant something in their bed within the first two weeks of reserving it.

Abandoned Beds

At any time during the season, if a bed is marked abandoned, the renter will be notified via email and their bed will be made available to rent. The member will not be permitted to rent another bed within that same season but is free to apply for membership in future seasons. No refunds will be given for beds marked as abandoned.

A bed will be considered abandoned in the following situations:

- If we notice a reserved bed has still not been planted in by June 1st (or within the first two weeks of its reservation for members joining after June 1st), we will reach out to the member to discuss solutions. If we do not hear back from the gardener within two weeks of us reaching out and the bed has still not been planted in, we will consider the bed abandoned. If we do hear back and more time is needed, we will offer a two-week grace period for planting. If this extended due date is missed, we will consider the bed abandoned and available for rent.

- If a reserved bed becomes overgrown with weeds any time during the season, we will reach out to notify the member that they have two weeks to come by and weed the bed. If we do not hear back within those two weeks, we will mark the bed as abandoned. If we hear back and more time is needed, we will give an additional two weeks for the gardener to clean up the bed. If the bed is not cleaned out after the extended deadline, we will mark the bed as abandoned and available for rent.

Please note: We ask that you communicate with us if circumstances arise that will hinder you from caring for your bed or meeting garden due dates. We will do our best to support you in keeping your membership.

Gate Access

The 2026 gate passcode will be sent to new and returning gardeners once we receive payment for the membership fee of \$10 per bed.

- **Please note:** If you are asking a friend or family member to assist you in caring for your beds at any point during the season, please give us a heads up! We want to ensure that we know who has access to our gate codes and who is coming into the community garden.

Pets

Dogs are allowed inside the community garden if they are kept on leash and stay in the graveled areas. Owners need to ensure they clean up any excrement their dogs may leave behind and dispose of it properly in one of our garbage cans onsite, as well as ensure there is no peeing or defecation inside the beds. The owner is responsible for any damage or harm that may occur to garden property, individuals, or other pets within the garden.

Membership Code of Conduct

Purpose:

The purpose of the FarmWorks Community Garden Program is to create a shared green space to grow food, build connections with fellow community members, share knowledge and resources, and beautify our corner of the neighborhood.

The FarmWorks Community Garden Program is, first and foremost, a community, and we are committed to creating a green space that is welcoming, inclusive, and respectful. All things grow best in a kind and caring environment.

To pursue this commitment, this code of conduct policy affirms that Chicago FarmWorks Community Garden is an environment that is respectful, safe, accepting of religious and cultural differences, and free from inappropriate or abusive behavior. This policy covers FarmWorks staff, volunteers, garden members, visitors, and others who participate in and engage with the Garden and is a condition of membership.

Expected Behaviors

1. Be welcoming
2. Be kind
3. Be considerate
4. Be respectful

Unacceptable Behaviors

Chicago FarmWorks is committed to maintaining an environment where all members of the organization and community garden treat one another with dignity and respect.

- Discrimination, bullying, or harassment of others is not tolerated. All members will respect the knowledge, experiences, identities, beliefs, and abilities of others.
- Do not harvest other gardener's crops unless given permission.
- Garden members may harvest from the herbs, strawberries, and raspberry bush located in the shared community beds, but they may not remove these plants from the shared beds for any reason. If you need help located these shared plants, please ask a FarmWorks staff member.

Revocation of Membership

Should a member fail to meet the conditions in this Code of Conduct, Chicago FarmWorks may, at its sole discretion, decide on the appropriate action to take. In the event that a member violates the membership Code of Conduct, Chicago FarmWorks reserves the right to terminate the membership, as well as reject membership applications for future seasons.

Incident Reporting

Please reach out to a FarmWorks staff member if you have any concerns regarding your own and/or another member's safety and wellbeing or to report any inappropriate conduct that has occurred.

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As a Member of Chicago FarmWorks Community Garden Program, I acknowledge that I have read and will abide by the policies and code of conduct set out in this Membership Policies and Code of Conduct document.

First and Last Name (printed)

(Signature)

(Date)