

## **Chatham Community Garden 2025**

The Chatham Community Garden is preparing for the 2025 gardening season. The garden is located at 87 Woodland Road, just east of Madison. The Community Garden Committee oversees the operation of the Garden, including the governing rules for the Garden. A copy of the Chatham Community Garden Rules is attached. They are typical of the rules utilized by community gardens in the U.S. All gardeners are expected to keep their own plots in good order and volunteer for assignments for the benefit of the whole garden community.

The Chatham Community Garden has two (2) different sized plots: full-sized plots at 10 ft. by 10 ft. (\$45 Fee), half-sized plots at 5 ft. by 10 ft. (\$23 Fee). Existing members who currently have a quarter plot will be charged \$10 fee.

Existing Plot Holders who are returning from last year and are not changing their plot size, need to submit an application. We strongly encourage all members to use the online payment method to renew and pay for their plots.

**PLEASE NOTE: There is a nominal convenience fee for using the online payment.**

Members can also send an application and check made payable to The Borough of Chatham by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There are two pages to the application, please make sure you complete both pages. You can drop off or mail your application and check to Janice Piccolo, Community Service Department. If you are changing your plot size, please fill out the paper version and mail or bring to Chatham Borough Hall. Please do not send or attach a check. Payment will be required once you are told you have been given a different plot. The address is below.

**IMPORTANT: Deadline to submit your application is firmly set to December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Applications received from New Applicants (or existing Plot Holders who are changing their plot size)** will be accepted on an ongoing basis throughout the season. Checks should not be sent in until the committee determines and allocates the plot size (which determines the cost.) Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have been assigned a garden plot, and if so, the size of their new plot. Checks made payable to the Borough of Chatham must be received for the annual Garden Fee (the fee is based on plot size) within 30 days of notification. If there aren't any plots, they will be placed on a waitlist and accommodated as soon as possible.

**Mail all applications and checks to:**

Chatham Borough Hall  
54 Fairmount Avenue  
Chatham, NJ 07928

Attn: Janice Piccolo - Community Service Department

We welcome all applications, but before sending one in, please understand having a garden plot requires:

- A substantial time commitment to develop and maintain your plot.
- Mandatory volunteering for the benefit of the community garden: 6 hours for a 10x10 plot and 3 hours for a 5x10 plot
- An expenditure of money on essentials needed for your plot (in addition to the modest annual garden fee)
- Compliance with the Chatham Community Garden Rules

**Chatham Community Garden Application 2025 Season**

**Please fill in the following information: PRINT CLEARLY IN INK OR TYPE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chatham Borough resident \_\_\_\_\_ Chatham Township resident \_\_\_\_\_ Other resident \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (please print clearly or type;

**email account should be able to receive garden messages sent from gmail)**

Are you an existing Plot Holder: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Plot No. \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what size plot did you have last year: Full (10x10) \_\_\_\_\_ **Half (5x10)** \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter (5x5) \_\_\_\_\_\*

**(\*Quarter plots only for existing quarter-plot holders).**

Do you want to change the size of your plot: No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

If yes (and a different size plot is available), what size plot would you like next year:

Full (10x10) \_\_\_\_\_ Half (5x10) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a Wait List Applicant or a New Applicant, **please indicate 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices.** You will be notified via email of which plot size you received; checks are made payable to **The Borough of Chatham** regardless of where you reside:

Full (10 x 10: \$45 Fee) \_\_\_\_\_

Half (5 x 10: \$18 Fee) \_\_\_\_\_

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Volunteer jobs preferred:

Adopt a Beneficial Bed \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Shepherds (Adherence to Rules) \_\_\_\_\_

Irrigation/plumbing \_\_\_\_\_

Maintenance & Fencing \_\_\_\_\_

Pest control \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site Design & Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Please complete both pages of the application.**

**Chatham Community Garden Application 2025 Season (continued)**

**Please read the following Statement and sign in the space provided below:**

Neither Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, nor the Community Garden Committee will be responsible for any accidents, injuries, damage to, loss of, or replacement of any belongings, equipment, materials, tools, or plantings. **I therefore agree to hold harmless and indemnify Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, and the Chatham Community Garden Committee for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests.** There is no security for any personal belongings. Failure to follow any garden or public area rules and regulations, after reasonable attempts to notify Gardener, may result in loss of your gardening plot. The Gardener may seek to re-establish gardening privileges but will be asked to stay out of the gardening area until the issue is resolved. The Gardener will not be eligible for any refund or reimbursement for any seed, plantings, or other materials left at the gardening site. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the above Statement and will abide by the Chatham Community Garden Rules.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact us with suggestions or questions at: [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com)

For Office Use Only:

Gardener has been assigned plot

No plot available: applicant will be placed on waitlist

# Chatham Community Garden

## ~ General Information, Garden Rules, and Garden Etiquette ~

WE'RE NOT JUST GROWING PLANTS... WE'RE GROWING COMMUNITY!

The goal of the Chatham Community Garden is to provide an area for individuals and families to grow a garden, to build and nurture community friendships, and to share and grow gardening skills. The information provided below will help ensure that all gardeners have a successful and enjoyable gardening season.

### General Information

- The Chatham Community Garden is located at 87 Woodland Road, just east of Madison. Parking is available at the site.
- Garden plots are available in two different sizes: 10x10 and 5x10.
- The garden has water spigots and a perimeter deer fence with gates.
- Annual Fees for a single plot are as follows: \$35.00 for 10x10, \$18 for 5x10, and \$10 for 5x5.

### Annual Allocation of Garden Plots

- In October-November of each year, existing Plot Holders will be notified if they wish to renew their plot for the upcoming gardening season.
- Members will be required to send in an application and check (made payable to the Borough of Chatham) for the annual Garden Fee by November 30th. Individuals on the current Wait Lists (maintained by Chatham Borough) will also be notified they must send in a Garden Application by December 31<sup>st</sup> if they still would like to be allocated a garden plot. Additionally, appropriate media notices will be released advising Chatham Township and Chatham Borough residents applications are being accepted for garden plots for the upcoming gardening season and depending on how many existing Plot Holders don't return to the new gardening season, will determine how many new garden plots may be available.
- The Garden Committee will determine how many plots will be available for the upcoming gardening season. Existing Plot Holders who indicated in their application a desire to move to a larger or smaller plot will be accommodated first. If necessary, a lottery will be held to allocate different plot sizes to these existing Plot Holders. The Garden Committee will then allocate available plots to applicants that are on the existing Wait List that is maintained by Chatham Borough, based on the application's time-stamped place on the Wait List. Finally, the Garden Committee will allocate any remaining plots to New Applicants, again based on the applicant's date-stamped application.<sup>1</sup>
- Existing Plot Holders requesting a change in plot size will be notified as to whether or not they have been assigned a different plot size. Wait List Applicants and New Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have been assigned a new plot. Existing Plot Holders that requested a change in plot size, and those Wait List Applicants and New Applicants assigned a new plot, must all send in a check made payable to the Borough of Chatham for the annual Garden Fee within 30 days of notification. Those Wait List Applicants and New Applicants (not assigned a new plot) will be accommodated off the Wait List as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Civic organizations will be given priority in the allocation of garden plots to maximize the number of residents who get to use the garden. Children under 18 may be allocated a plot, but a Parent must submit the Application on the child's behalf and take full responsibility for supervising the child's gardening activities during the gardening season.

## Garden Rules

Community Gardeners commit to observing the following rules, which are based on generally accepted rules of community gardens across America. Not following these rules may result in the forfeiture of a plot.

- I will clean my plot of weeds, dead plants, debris and will put wood chips in my respective aisle by May 1<sup>st</sup> and will plant my garden plot promptly by June 1.
- I will provide my own seeds, seedlings, tools and other supplies. The garden may or may not be locked, so anything left in the garden is done at the gardener's risk. The shed is for storage of CCG equipment only. Please do not leave any personal items in the shed.
- I will not use any pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers other than those labeled "**Organic**" (endorsed by OMRI, MOFGA, NOFA-NJ or nationally recognized authorities following the National Organic Program rules). For the health of our community, it is the goal of the Community Garden to have an organic garden using only natural weed and pest controls and other organic methods. The use of chemicals such as Miracle Grow and Round Up are prohibited.
- I will devote adequate time each week (estimated 4 hours per week for a 10x10 plot) to properly maintain my garden plot, including weeding. I will be notified if my plot is excessively weedy and will be given a reasonable period to clean it up.
- I will weed and maintain my garden regularly as weed seeds spread quickly in garden plots and beyond. Reminder to remove all weeds and have a plant-ready garden bed by May 1.
- Volunteerism: it is required that all Plot Holders volunteer for the benefit of the entire Chatham Community Garden in addition to the maintenance of their own plot. For 10x10 Plot Holders: 6 hours; for 5x10 Plot Holders: 3 hours; for 5x5 Plot Holders. Examples of duties/tasks needed are listed on the Chatham Community Garden Application.
- I will make sure that all plants are located such that they do not interfere with any neighboring plots. Any size plant that causes shade on a neighboring Plot Holder's plot will need to be cut back by the Plot Holder within 48 hours after being contacted by the Garden Committee or it will be cut back or removed by the Committee.
- I will not plant invasive species such as mint, comfrey, horseradish, strawberries, etc., directly in the soil/garden bed as they may spread to other areas of the garden.
- I will not extend my garden past the plot markers. This includes plants, supports, netting, strings, border materials, etc. I will be asked to remove plants or other materials that extend past the markers, and if not done within a 2-week period, plants or other materials may be removed without additional warning by the Garden Committee.
- I will not use the fence to grow plants of any kind and will not store any garden supports such as stakes or cages as these actions will compromise the integrity of the fence.
- I will maintain/add wood chips to the connecting path on the east [front gate] side of my plot, and keep it weed-free; I will maintain and remove weeds from the clover within 18 inches from my plot. This practice must begin by May 2 and be maintained throughout the season.
- I will remove all weeds and discarded plant material from the Community Garden and **carry out all compost materials to a home composter or municipal site on a regular basis**. All garbage must be carried out of the garden and taken home for disposal.
- I will keep aisles and walkways free of tools, stones, or other materials that would cause a hazard to others.
- I will hand-water my plot with a water can or hose. Soaker hoses (or other automated irrigation devices) cannot be used in the garden.
- I will not permanently attach any water hose or device to the water spigots.
- I will organically treat and/or remove diseased plants and pests as soon as they appear in order to eliminate disease and infestation.

- I will make sure dead plants, weeds, gardening tools (such as tomato cages), plant supports, watering cans, etc. are removed by November 15th. Winter crop-producing plants such as leeks, celery root, carrots, beets, etc. may remain through the winter for harvesting, if gardeners remove them if they die. Gardeners who do not comply may not be invited to renew the following year.
- I will notify the Garden Committee at [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com) as soon as possible if I must abandon my plot.
- Pets **are not allowed** in the garden.
- The garden gate **must be closed properly and locked** at all times to keep animals out.
- Commercial operations are prohibited.

### **Garden Etiquette**

- Introduce yourself and build a stronger community!
- Keep gardening activities to daylight hours. The Community Garden is closed from dusk to dawn.
- Do not borrow tools from another gardener without permission.
- Do not pick any plants from another plot even if you think that plot has been abandoned or neglected, unless authorized by the Committee.
- Please walk with care, and do not trample surrounding plants in other plots.
- Do not remove plot markers; if you are unsure of your boundaries please contact the Garden Coordinator.
- Children are welcome at the Community Garden; however, they must be accompanied by an adult; please watch them and monitor their activities so that they do not disturb fellow gardeners or their plots.
- Use personal music players instead of radios in the garden, and no loud cell phone use please.
- If you have a concern or issue with a gardening neighbor, please address it with him/her in a neighborly manner. If the issue cannot be resolved, contact the Community Garden Committee at [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com) for their assistance.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please share them! We are looking forward to many years of happy gardening and to expand gardening in our community.

You may contact [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com) if you have an questions or concerns.