

Root-Riot Community Gardens By-Laws & Gardener Contract

2908 W. Warren Blvd, Chicago. (Kuumba Tre-Ahm)

Version 1.4, April 20, 2012

1. Membership:

- First priority will be given to residents of the surrounding community at each location.
- Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis.
- Applicants for garden plots will be accepted according to plot availability. A waiting list will be maintained for applicants for whom no plot was available.
- Each gardener must sign a copy of the *Root-Riot Urban Ag Network By-Laws and Gardener Contract* annually. This will be done at the time of payment.
- Gardeners from the previous season will have first preference and may choose either the same plot or a vacant plot if one exists.
- Plots held by gardeners who have not signed the annual gardening agreement by April 30 will be assigned to applicants on the waiting list.
- The option of maintaining more than one plot is predicated on availability.

2. Meetings:

- Meetings will be held the second Monday of every month between April and October at 7PM (Location to be determined).
- Meeting length: 1 hour
- One vote/plot.
- Each gardener must attend at least 3 meetings per season to retain membership in the garden.
- The Secretary will maintain attendance records for each meeting.

3. Election of Officers: Beginning 2011

- Elections will be held at the March meeting;
- Officers will be elected to a two-year term;
- No officer may be serve for more than two terms consecutively;
- The officers are: Chair, Vice. Chair, Treasurer, Secretary;
- The officers and the row captains will constitute the Garden Council.

5. Garden Criteria:

- Gardens must be started no later than May 31 or they will be given to the next person on the waiting list and the plot fee returned to the original applicant;
- Each gardener is responsible for weeding and clearing his/her plot AND the paths around it;

- Weeds over 6" tall or vining plants that are growing into the aisles or neighboring plots are not allowed
- Gardeners must provide their own garden tools;
- This is a non-chemical. Non-organic chemicals/methods or soil amendments are not permitted at any time.
- Pets (dogs, cats, etc.) are not permitted in the garden.
- Children are welcome, they must be supervised at all times.
- Garden hours are from dawn until dusk, 7-days a week.
- Motorized equipment such as trimmers, cultivators or tillers are not allowed.
- Use only biodegradable mulches. Synthetic mulches such as rubber mulch are not allowed.
- No trees or illegal plants may be planted in raised rental beds.
- Temporary plant supports such as cages and trellises must be removed at the end of the season.
- Each gardener is expected to spend at least 3 hours/week working on his/her plot and the surrounding area;
- Gardening activity and plant growth must be restricted to the gardener's plot;
- Each gardener is responsible for trash removal. Trash must be bagged and left in the appropriate trash bin. NOTE: Aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles are to be put in appropriate recycling bins.
- Garden waste that is not diseased or infested should be put in the compost bin.
- No animal (non plant) materials are to be up in compost.
- No compost is to be brought from outside the site.
- Gardens in weedy & uncared for condition by August 5 will be cleared. They will be given to existing gardeners for fall planting only. They will be open for new gardeners in the following season. (No Refund will be given)
- Growing or using illegal substances in the garden will lead to immediate expulsion with no return of the plot fee.
- Excessive warnings will result in forfeiture of plot.

8. General Rules:

- ALL gardeners will participate in garden activities and events like:
 - clean up days
 - preparation for/participation in special events
 - Special Events
 - Fund Raising
- Grievances are to be brought to the Garden Committee for resolution.
- No digging for worms anywhere in the garden.
- No digging outside of existing beds and no digging below grade in your bed.
- Each person is responsible for making sure their beds are kept free of weeds and debris;
- Stay out of other people's plots unless specifically invited.
- If, for any reason (health, vacation, work pressure), you will be temporarily unable to maintain your plot, inform a member of the Garden Committee. If you have a substitute

- gardener, inform a member of the committee. Substitute gardeners must follow this agreement.
- You MUST sign this form and return it to the a member of the Garden Committee before you can work your plot!
- Do not leave tools lying about. Any common tools used such as the garden hose, sink or community shovels etc. must be neatly and thoughtfully put away at the end of your work session.
- Any problems with the common equipment such as rain barrels, garden hose etc. must be reported to a committee member immediately.
- The car pad along the alley is for loading and unloading only. Please be courteous, and move your car so that others can do the same.
- The garden space belongs to everyone. If you see something, say something.

Plot Assignment

Full Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I preferred to be contacted by: *(Please provide)*

Phone _____ Email: _____

Rental Period: May 20th through November 1st

Rental Fee: _____ \$50* For the First year or _____ \$120 For three years.

Total Due: _____

Make checks payable to: "To Touch A Life"

Agreement

Signature _____ Date _____

*I understand that this location is gifted to the community for three growing seasons. While the current owners are completely supporting the effort, this property is on loan to the Root-Riot folks and at this time we can not guarantee this location past this time period.

[] Initial Here.

This agreement is not valid unless the 2908 W. Warren Waiver form is also signed and returned by May 31st.

[] Initial Here.