

# TOWN OF PUTNAM



**Dr. Robert R. Johnston**

## COMMUNITY GARDEN OF RHODESVILLE

**41 Smith Street  
Putnam, CT 06260**

Urban agriculture improves the quality of life for urban residents by creating green spaces and enhancing the connections between garden participants.

Community gardeners must be committed to caring for their garden plot, for the benefit of their own success and the gardening success of all fellow community gardeners.

Garden participants must agree to comply with the Dr. Robert R. Johnston Community Garden rules and regulations, as outlined in this document, for the duration of the use of the garden.

Gardening season is May through November, annually.

Please keep the copy of garden rules and only return the application page.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Garden, please contact the Town's Economic & Community Development Department at 860-963-6800 ext. 200 or contact [susan.ramos@putnamct.us](mailto:susan.ramos@putnamct.us)

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **GENERAL:**

1. Gardeners are responsible for completing and signing an application (included with this document).
2. Garden fee will be submitted with the application. For the current year growing season, raised beds (8 ft. x 4 ft.) will be \$15.00 and ground beds (approximately 18 ft. x 12 ft.) will be \$30.00.
3. Gardeners, in good standing, will have first preference and may choose either the same plot or a vacant plot.
4. Every gardener will be provided with a key to the garden gate and the garden shed. Please be sure to secure the garden lock when you are the last to leave the garden. Do not assume that someone else will take care of this. There will be a \$20.00 key deposit, payable at registration, which will be refunded when the key is returned at the end of the season.
5. Any personal gardening tools or supplies which are left in the garden are done so at the gardener's own risk.
6. Pets are not allowed in the garden.
7. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times. Children should not be allowed to disturb or walk-through garden plots.
8. Drugs, alcohol, smoking, and chewing tobacco are not allowed in the garden.
9. Theft, vandalism, or unusual activities should be reported to the garden leadership.
10. It is understood that neither the garden group nor the owners of the land (the Town of Putnam) are responsible for my actions.

### **GARDENERS RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. In addition to attending opening and closing day clean-up/work-days, every gardener is required to work three (3) hours per gardening season to help maintain communal spaces. A list of tasks will be posted in the garden shed. A monthly "time sheet" will be posted in the garden shed. Monitoring hours worked is the responsibility of the garden members.
2. Gardening hours are from sunrise to sunset. For your safety, only garden during daylight hours.
3. Garden meetings and workdays are scheduled throughout the season. Please plan to participate to get to know your fellow community gardeners and assist with garden projects. Meeting dates will be posted in the garden shed and you will be notified by email by the Community Garden Liaison.
4. Only vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flower plants are allowed.
5. Tall crops should not be planted where they will shade neighboring plots.
6. Plots are to be used for growing plants for non-commercial use.
7. Gardeners will only harvest from their own plots and not from other plots, unless receiving permission from another gardener.

8. The application of herbicides (weed killers) to the garden plots or pathways is prohibited.
9. Fertilizers and insecticides that will in any way affect other gardens are prohibited.
10. Gardeners are responsible for removing weeds and putting them in the compost bin. **NO** diseased (i.e., blight, powdery mildew) or bug infested weeds, ie, squash bugs/eggs, cucumber beetles/eggs, etc.) are to be put in the compost bin.
11. Any invasive bug infestation, which may affect all gardens, will be aggressively handled by appropriate means in all plots. Gardeners will be notified of bug infestation and prompt attention will be required by each gardener.
12. All trash (including diseased and infested plant material) should be bagged and removed from the Community Garden. "What you carry in, please carry out." Please be sure to remove empty plant containers.
13. Only compostable materials are to be placed in the compost bin. To aid in composting, large plant material should be cut up into smaller pieces.
14. Gardeners are responsible for the care of the pathways to the Harrison Street and Cleveland Street sides of their plot. Paths can be mulched, mowed or weed whacked.
15. Garden plots should be cared for a minimum of once a week. It is the gardener's responsibility to notify the leadership if they are unable to care for their plot.
16. Access to water is available using the key to the garden gate and shed. Unattended watering is not allowed. As with the garden gate, please assure that the water lock is secured when you are the last gardener to leave the garden. Do not assume that someone else will take care of this.
17. Gardeners have full use of all tools in the garden shed. Please return tools to the shed in a clean condition. It is helpful to all if the shed is kept organized. Contact leadership if there are any broken tools.
18. **Uncared for gardens are a detriment to the success of the Community Garden.** Gardeners agree to keep their plots free of weeds, diseased or insect- infested plants, and over-ripe vegetables. If a garden is not maintained, a warning will be given by the garden Liaison. If conditions do not improve, the plot will be considered abandoned. Plantings will be removed from abandoned plot(s) or harvested for charity and gardener may not be eligible to return the following year. Garden key must be surrendered, and key deposit returned to the gardener.

# 2026 Season Application

**Dr. Robert R. Johnston  
Community Garden of Rhodesville  
Smith Street, Putnam, CT 06260**

Please complete the information below and drop off or mail to the Town of Putnam c/o Economic & Community Development Office, 200 School Street, Putnam, CT.

The community garden program annual fee is \$15.00 for raised beds and \$30.00 for ground plots (plus a \$20.00-refundable key deposit). Payment is due at the time of registration and may be made to the Town of Putnam by check or cash. Participants must agree to abide by the rules and regulations, made available with this application. Failure to abide by the rules may result in reassignment of your plot, with fees forfeited, and suspension of your privilege to reapply in the future.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Raised Bed or Ground Bed

Please Check One:

\_\_\_ I have gardened at this location in the past and would like plot # \_\_\_\_, if available.

\_\_\_ This is my first year at the Community Garden

\_\_\_ I would like a plot near a friend; friend's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Declarations:

I have read and will comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Robert R. Johnston Community Garden of Putnam, CT. I am 18 years or older.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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

Plot # \_\_\_\_\_

# Gardening Resources

## Websites

Dave's Garden	<a href="http://davesgarden.com">davesgarden.com</a>
Mother Earth News	<a href="http://motherearthnews.com">motherearthnews.com</a>
Veggie Gardener	<a href="http://veggiegardener.com">veggiegardener.com</a>
Reformation Acres	<a href="http://reformationacres.com">reformationacres.com</a>
UCONN Home & Garden	<a href="http://homegarden.cahnر.uconn.edu/">homegarden.cahnر.uconn.edu/</a>

Facebook, Pinterest, and YouTube have many gardening and community gardening ideas.

Ask your fellow gardeners—the true benefit of community gardening!  
We all have different methods, experiences, and ideas.