



Garden Opening & Closing Day Suggested Events and Tasks

OPENING DAY

Opening day is an exciting time for gardeners to get to know each other. In order for a garden to be successful, gardeners should work together to complete the following tasks:

- Measure and stake garden plots. (The Registrar should bring a map of the whole garden with plots assigned for each gardener. CAC has maps of each garden that you can use as a base.)
- Post map of garden plots, put up bulletin board with other pertinent information.
- Get out hoses, tools, and water barrels if you use them
- Prepare common areas with mulch, planting and weeding
- Remove trash that has collected over the winter
- Fix any broken or leaky hoses with the spare hose parts in your water kit

Materials that may be needed:

- Wooden stakes to mark corners of plots and to label each plot with gardeners' name
- Hammers or mallets for driving in stakes
- Cotton string to mark the perimeter of each plot
- Permanent marker to label stakes with gardeners' names
- Long measuring tape and calculator
- Bulletin board
- Set of Garden Tools – CAC can provide at least 2 shovels, two rakes, and one hoe
- Water Kit – CAC can provide a plastic box with everything you need to fix leaky hoses: plastic replacement parts for mending hoses, pruners, a screwdriver, and plastic washers.

CLOSING DAY

At the end of the season, it is important to work as a team to tidy the garden and get it ready for winter so that it can be successful again the next year. Gardeners should work together to complete the following tasks:

- Drain water system if needed. Coil hoses and put them in a tool shed or somewhere out of the weather.
- In a no-till garden, care for paths and mow any plots that have been abandoned.
- Remove all stakes, fencing, tomato cages, and long vines (like tomatoes and squash), in order to get the garden ready for tilling
- Take down bulletin board and store it inside if you want to, to preserve it from the winter weather.
- Clean tools and organize them.
- Straighten up common areas. Compost or dispose of garden refuse. Take home trash or put it out for curbside pickup.
- Store tools and other materials on site or with neighbors who garden or contact CAC for help finding storage space.