

PROCEDURES FOR RECALL OF ABANDONED OR NEGLECTED PLOTS

Approved by CGC officers February '24

It is each gardener's responsibility to prevent invasive weeds from running rampant or going to seed within assigned garden plots. Additionally, out of respect for fellow gardeners, gardeners are required to control weeds in the immediate area surrounding their plot.

At the beginning of each growing season, it is especially critical that weeds that have wintered over are removed. On or about March 15th, garden managers will inspect the plots. Owners of plots that have not been cleared of weeds will receive a verbal warning. Gardeners may turn the soil, weed, mulch, or cover with black plastic to kill the weeds until ready to plant. However, if satisfactory actions have not begun within 14 days, a final warning will be issued via USPS letter alerting the gardener that the plot will then be subject to forfeiture and reassignment if the weeds are not cleared by 14 days. Gardens should be planted by May 1st (unless prior arrangements have been agreed upon by the gardener(s) and the garden managers) or may also be subject to reassignment on May 15 if satisfactory actions have not begun by that date.

Additionally, if invasive weeds are allowed to run rampant **at any time during the garden season**, the garden managers will issue an email and/or verbal request that the gardener take action to clean up the problem. If no correction has been made within two weeks, another warning will be issued via letter or phone call. If no response or correction is made within two more weeks, a final written notification will be issued that the plot and gardening privileges are forfeited. The plot will then be reassigned.

All warning communications will be recorded and held by club officers. The number of warnings will be included in the minutes of the monthly officers' meeting of the club. Gardeners forfeiting a plot will not be allowed to apply for another plot until after one full year from the date of forfeiture. If an application is made for another plot after 12 months, it will be placed at the end of the existing waiting list. Approval of these applications will be at the discretion of the Garden Club Officers.

NOTE: If illness or a family emergency prevents a gardener from properly caring for his or her plot, the gardener should notify the club and efforts will be made to provide aid. Managers and fellow gardeners are very willing to lend a helping hand if needed. Likewise, if the gardener is taking an extended trip it is the gardener's responsibility to plan for the proper maintenance of the gardener's plot by another **garden club member**.