



Old Schoolhouse Community Garden 2026 Plot Agreement

Our mission is to connect the community by growing relationships and nutritious food through sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly practices.

We envision a garden that will nurture, educate, and inspire neighbors, especially school age children to get outdoors, to eat nutritious food and to give back to the community.

Raised Bed - \$50.00 per growing season.

- I understand I am responsible for my plot(s) unless it is reassigned.
- I will not modify size/dimensions of plot assigned to me. The plot size is approximately 4x8.
- I understand plot limits below and will not take over someone's plot without permission from committee.
- One plot limit for first-time plot holders
- Two plot limit per household (if there is no waiting list)

Wheelchair accessible available upon request and consultation

Garden Agreement

- I understand I am responsible for preparing my plot for gardening.
- I will remove debris, weed and plant my plot(s) by **May 31, 2026**.
- I agree to weed and maintain the mulch pathways the entire gardening season.
- I agree to use only organic gardening methods and will not use synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides.
- I will use seed-free, non-colored mulch to conserve water and reduce weeds.
- I understand the garden will provide water, woodchips, compost (when available) and some tools.
- I agree if I am away for an extended period, I will plan for someone to care for my plot.
- I will notify the Garden Coordinator if I am unable to harvest or care for my plot(s).

- 🔗 I will not shade neighboring plot(s). I will not plant tall plants such as corn or sunflowers unless located in northern plot (ex. 19 & 20)
- 🔗 I will not harvest produce from other plot holder's plot(s) unless I have worked out an agreement with plot holder.
- 🔗 For conservation of water and time, watering will be handled by a timed drip irrigation system.
- 🔗 When I visit my bed, I agree to spend time weeding inside and around my garden bed.
- 🔗 I agree if I receive a notice for my plot(s) being unkempt or weedy, I will address and resolve the issue within one week. If I receive 3 plot notices in one gardening season I understand my plot may be reassigned or turned over.
- 🔗 I will prepare my plot(s) for winter by the last work day as designated by Garden Coordinator, including removal of diseased plants to discourage the spread of plant diseases and pests.
- 🔗 I will place dead plant material in the designated areas, containers, or trucks. No seeds, or seed filled fruit or vegetable should be placed in the compost bin.
- 🔗 I will keep trash and litter picked up in my plot(s) and adjacent areas, and deposit in proper receptacles. No organic matter in trash, and no trash in compost.
- 🔗 I will leave numbered stakes in plot(s) where they have been placed so each plot is identifiable.
- 🔗 I understand if I give up a plot(s), then ask for a plot(s) later, I will be placed on a *first come/first served* waiting list if a plot is not available.
- 🔗 I understand plots are non-transferable.
- 🔗 I understand individual fencing cannot extend beyond plot borders into pathways.
- 🔗 I understand plastic fencing and plastic or large decorations are not allowed.
- 🔗 I understand that if I have multiple plots, I will maintain the pathways between adjacent plots.
- 🔗 I will close my plot by October 25, 2026.

Common Area

- 🔗 I understand the land and schoolhouse is owned by Immanuel Lutheran Church. When and if a group is utilizing the Old Schoolhouse for religious or social reasons, I will respect their privacy and not enter the Old Schoolhouse. These dates will be posted on the Garden Calendar and/or information will be emailed to you.
- 🔗 I will not use tools that are clearly marked with a name without obtaining the consent of that gardener. Please clearly mark tools you do not wish to share. OSHCG and the Garden Coordinator are not responsible for any lost or missing tools.
- 🔗 I will share woodchips, tools, and other garden materials fairly.
- 🔗 I will not take community tools or garden materials out of the garden for personal use or use in excess.
- 🔗 I will care for and respect community tools by cleaning and returning them to the designated community storage area. Please turn wheelbarrows upside down to prevent water from pooling.
- 🔗 I will not obstruct walkways with fencing, unwound hoses, or plants, including vines.
- 🔗 I will not leave sheds, compost bins or doors opened or unlocked.
- 🔗 I will not give lock combinations to another person.
- 🔗 I will park in the OSH lot, if parking is not available, I will park along Westwood Drive. I will not park in the Retail Parking lots unless permission has been given by the property owner.
- 🔗 I will harvest my produce in a timely manner. The garden will be gleaned each week on Thursday by volunteers. Gleaned produce will be donated to the local food pantries.
- 🔗 I agree to spend ten hours doing general garden maintenance in the common areas; this can be done in coordination with organized workdays or by communicating with Garden Coordinator to identify common area tasks to be completed on your own time or risk losing plot.
- 🔗 I agree to utilize shared use tools and supplies at my own risk. I agree to hold the Old Schoolhouse Community Garden and Immanuel Lutheran Church free from all liability while in the garden, including but not limited to scheduled and unscheduled volunteer workdays, classes, tours, community events and while tending to my own garden bed.

Community Principles

- 🔗 I will help keep the garden site looking respectable.
- 🔗 I will use appropriate language and exhibit respectful behavior towards staff, gardeners & visitors.
- 🔗 I will notify Garden Coordinator of vandalism, theft, inappropriate behavior, or other questions or concerns.
- 🔗 I will receive permission before entering the other gardeners' plot(s) except for retrieving community tools.
- 🔗 I will harvest my plot(s) and only my plot(s) unless asked by another gardener for help.
- 🔗 I will keep pets outside of the garden beds and leashed per city ordinance.
- 🔗 I will be responsible for guests and/or children at the gardens.
- 🔗 I understand I cannot use my plot for commercial activity.
- 🔗 I understand I cannot use church property or church resources to promote or endorse political campaigns, private or social issues.
- 🔗 No private or family parties allowed on premises without shared use agreement with Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- 🔗 No alcohol allowed on premise.
- 🔗 I understand, per Illinois Law, the cultivation of Marijuana is strictly forbidden.
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3992&ChapterID=35>
- 🔗 I understand and agree with the mission and vision of the OSHCG.

2026 Garden Workdays 1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month May through October - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Old Schoolhouse Community Garden
4733 Cermak Road
Hillside, IL 60162
oldschoolhousegardens@gmail.com
www.icahillside.org/communitygarden
Tom Czubernat, Garden Coordinator - 708-257-4502
Mailing Address - 2329 S. Wolf Road Hillside, IL 60162

Immanuel Lutheran Church reserves the right to add to or amend garden policies as they see fit.

I agree with all the terms and conditions stated in OSHCG Plot Agreement. I understand this agreement is for the 2026 growing season (April - October) and a new application must be filled out and presented each year.

_____ Date _____
Plot Grower / Gardener

_____ Date: _____
Old School House Community Garden Representative

Community Garden Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

E.C. Phone Number: _____

New gardeners will receive the best available plot. Returning gardeners will receive current plot unless a request is received for new one.

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed

Please return this page with your payment. Please make your check payable to Immanuel and mail to Immanuel Lutheran Church (post office will not deliver to the Old Schoolhouse).

Immanuel Lutheran Church Old Schoolhouse Community Garden
2329 S. Wolf Road
Hillside, IL 60162

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To be completed by OSHCG Rep:

Plot # _____ Date _____