

# Opening Day & Closing Day

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**Opening Day** is a time for gardeners to get to know each other at the beginning of the season. Some gardens require that everyone come to either the Opening Day or the Closing Day.

At or before Opening Day, the following tasks should be completed:

- 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.
- Put up bulletin board, post map of garden plots and other pertinent info.
- Get out hoses, tools, and water barrels if you use them.
- Mulch, plant, weed common areas including paths and around tool shed or compost piles.
- Remove any trash that has collected over the winter.
- Fix any broken or leaky hoses with the spare hose parts in your water kit.
- Materials 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
  - Calculator to figure dimensions of plots
  - Bulletin board (some gardens remove these in the fall and put them back up in the spring)
  - 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** is a time to tidy up common areas and plots to prepare for winter.

- 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.
- If you are preparing for tilling, remove all stakes, fencing, tomato cages, long vines (like tomatoes and squash), which can make it difficult to till.
- 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.