



Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards

Recognizing Our Beautiful and Sustainable Gardens

Following a wildly successful inaugural year in 2017, The Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards (CEGA) return this season with the goal of adding urban agriculture to the categories of honored gardens. The awards provide recognition to the hard work and creativity that make our city a healthier, more beautiful place. They support the pride we take in our neighborhoods and help us build our communities.

This year, we are eager to reach out to even more gardeners in the City of Chicago. Last September, at an inspiring ceremony at the Chicago Cultural Center, we were pleased to be able to present awards to nearly 50 gardens, representing 26 different Chicago wards. Our goal this year is to reach out to all 50 wards.

Categories include ornamental, vegetable, container and specialized gardens for small and large residential buildings, schools and organizations, as well as separate categories for community gardens and—new this year—urban farms. The contest is open to residents of the City of Chicago.

This year's competition is presented by *The Mike Nowak Show*, University of Illinois Extension: Cook County, *Natural Awakenings* Chicago magazine, Shedd Aquarium, Chicago Community Gardeners Association, the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, the Chicago Park District and Advocates for Urban Agriculture (AUA). Awards will be provided by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. *Chicagoland Gardening Magazine* is a media sponsor for the event and GreenMark Public Relations is providing marketing and media relations.

Should You Enter?

Yes! If you are proud of the garden that you, you and your fellow building tenants or your neighborhood has created, you should consider filling out this application. It's free and you'll enjoy sharing your garden's story with our judges.

Categories include ornamental, vegetable, container and specialized gardens for small and large residential buildings, schools and organizations, as well as separate categories for community gardens and urban farms. For 2018, the contest is open to residents of the City of Chicago only.

How Do You Enter?

Here are the basics. There will be more specific instructions later in this application. The first round of judging is based on this application and the photographs you submit. If your garden advances to the second round, judges will visit your garden in person. Among their criteria, they will be looking for a garden that is well-planned, well-maintained, artistic, creative, and connected to the community. But they will especially be looking for signs that the garden is environmentally sound—that it treats the earth gently, features native plants wherever possible and caters to birds and wildlife.

Entry Instructions:

1. Submit only ONE application per garden entry.
2. Include TWO photographs of your garden either by submitting digital photos with this application (preferred) or by regular mail. Printed photos should be clearly reproduced and sized between 4" x 6" and 8" x 10". *Note:* images will not be returned. Please no bound presentations, staples, paperclips or tape.
3. Online applications must be submitted by June 20, 2018. Mailed applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2018. Judging will begin in July 2018.
4. Complete the online application at: <https://chicagogardeningawards.org>

OR

Complete this form and mail along with your photos to:

Attn: CEGA
Natural Awakenings Chicago
PO Box 72
Highland Park, IL 60335

Contact Information:

Contact fields are required. Your contact information will not be sold or given to any organization. Applications without an email address or phone number will not be accepted.

Garden Name (or your name if your garden doesn't have a distinct name):

Exact Garden Address (if no specific address or on a campus, provide location landmarks)

Neighborhood: _____ Ward: # _____

Contact person: _____

Organization / company name (*if applicable*): _____

Mailing address: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Can the garden be judged when you are not present? _____ Yes _____ No

How did you hear about this competition? (check all that apply)

- Social media
- Website
- From a friend
- Postcard or neighborhood poster
- Chicago Community Gardeners Association
- The Mike Nowak Show
- Natural Awakenings Magazine
- Chicago Flower and Garden Show
- Advocates for Urban Agriculture
- Chicago Park District
- Entered last year
- Other _____

Garden Category You are Entering:

Residential Small (*up to four units in building*)

Ornamental Garden

Vegetable Garden

Container Garden

Specialized Garden (*including green roofs and walls, rain, enabling, and others*)

Description _____

Residential Large (*five or more units in building/s*)

Ornamental Garden

Vegetable Garden

Container Garden

Specialized Garden (*including green roofs and walls, rain, enabling, and others*)

Description _____

___ School (*Pre K–12*)

___ Ornamental Garden

___ Vegetable Garden

___ Container Garden

___ Specialized Garden (*including green roofs and walls, rain, enabling, and others*)

Description _____

___ Other Organization (Business, Church, Fire Department, etc.)

___ Ornamental Garden

___ Vegetable Garden

___ Container Garden

___ Specialized Garden (*including green roofs and walls, rain, enabling, and others*)

Description _____

Community Garden: A community garden is defined for this competition as a shared green space that is planned, designed and maintained by community members.

___ Ornamental Garden

___ Vegetable Garden

___ Specialized Garden (*including green roofs and walls, rain, enabling, and others*)

Description _____

Urban Farm: An urban farm is defined for this competition as production-oriented farm that includes commercial activity or community distribution.

___ For profit

___ Non-profit 501(c)(3)

Description _____

If your garden wins an award, please print how the award should read:

Print your name/organization name as you want it to appear on award

Print address or location as you want it to appear on the award

EXAMPLES:

Mary and John Smith
1234 W. North Avenue

Smith Elementary School
789 Garden Drive

Green on McLean Community Garden
1234 W. Garden Heaven

GARDEN TOUR

If we were to organize a self-guided tour of the winning gardens, would you participate?

Yes

No

Comments _____