

Guidelines

The following guidelines are intended to create safe and productive gardening environments for gardeners and community members. By participating in the community gardens, the gardener agrees to abide by all of the guidelines outlined below as well as any additional guidelines posted at the garden sites.

1) **Gardens:** Plant vegetables, herbs, flowers, and small fruit plants to be consumed at home. If you are unable to consume all of your garden yield yourself, please consider donating any extra fresh produce you have to a local food pantry or shelter. Please do not use your garden space to make soil or plant trees or other plants that will shade neighboring garden plots.

2) **Compost:** Weed and compost receptacles are provided at each garden. Please place your garden waste in the proper container to keep the gardens clean and producing usable compost.

3) **Plot Markers:** All garden work is to be kept within the plot markers that are in the corners of each garden plot. Gardeners must not touch or remove the plot marker stakes when gardening or tilling or extend their plot past the plot markers or into the garden pathways.

4) **Structures:** Garden structures must not be more than six feet tall and four feet wide and should be in the center of the plot. Be careful not to block sunlight from reaching your neighbor's garden plot. Placing doors as gates and greenhouses are not allowed in the community gardens, and structures must not block the garden pathways or access to other plots or swing into the walkways.

5) **Fencing:** Use only four to six foot wire fencing and metal or composite posts to surround your plot and keep fencing within the plot markers. Fencing that is outside the plot markers, blocking the walkways, of hazardous materials, or fences that fail to meet the height requirements will be removed. The following materials are not allowed to be used for fencing: twigs, branches, visquene sheets, plastic sheets, tarps, orange snow fencing, and flagging.

6) **Pathways:** Each gardener is responsible for the pathways surrounding their plot. These walkways must remain at their original width and free from weeds and other obstructions. Plants are not allowed to grow into or hang over the paths. Tools and garden refuse may temporarily be in the pathway while you are working in your plot, but must be removed when you are finished for the day.

7) **Water:** Be conscientious of your water use. Keep your hoses leak free and do not drag hoses over neighboring gardens. Be courteous and limit your use of watering time when others require water or water when few other gardeners are present.

8) **Water Emergency:** Be aware of where water lines are located when you till and dig. If you hit a waterline, notify the Park Maintenance Hotline at 343-4554. It is your responsibility to pay for any repairs necessary from damaging a water line.

9) **Organic Gardening:** Organic gardening is required. Chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are prohibited in the community gardens. Contact Parks and Recreation staff if you would like more information about organic gardening.

10) **Parking:** Use the designated parking area provided or legal street parking. Motor vehicles are prohibited from entering the community gardens.

11) **Harvesting:** Harvest crops once they have matured. This may reduce the frequency of free pickers entering the gardens in search of ripe produce and will minimize excess waste and garden rot.

12) **Litter:** Please pick up any litter from the pathways and common areas. Do not place rocks or other heavy items into the garbage cans or throw rocks and weeds over the garden fence.

13) **Children:** Children are encouraged to learn the many benefits of gardening at a young age. Children must be supervised and make sure children respect the neighboring garden plots, walkways, and other gardeners.

14) **Pets:** Pets are not allowed in the community gardens and must remain on-lease in the parking areas, per Municipal Ordinance. Animal waste and urine create health hazards for gardens and produce.

15) **Tools:** Gardeners are expected to bring their own seeds, gardening tools, hoses, and other supplies for their plots. Power tools may be used by adults if they supply their own power. Electrical hook ups are not provided at the gardens.

16) **Be a Good Garden Neighbor:** Get to know your neighbors and keep an eye on the community garden. Aware neighbors and gardeners will help to prevent vandalism and non-gardeners from entering the gardens to take produce. Fencing is provided at some gardens to discourage negative activity and keep animals such as moose out, but these things may still happen.

17) **Notify Margaret Timmerman at 343-4217** if you are leaving town and will not be tending your plot for a short time. If you are abandoning your plot for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible to close out your paperwork and deposit.

Following these guidelines should keep you from receiving violation notifications. Failure to maintain your garden plant in an attractive manner, and after due warning, could result in forfeiture of your gardening privileges. A written notice of a violation will be posted in your plot and mailed to the address on your rental agreement. You will have five days to correct the violation. If there is no response to the warning and letter, your plot, plot fee, and deposit will be forfeited for the year. Forfeited plots are not eligible for preferential plot reservations for the following season.