

A photograph of a community garden. In the foreground, there are large green leafy plants, possibly squash or zucchini, and some red flowers. To the right, a green metal trellis structure is visible, with some climbing plants. In the background, there are more plants and a parking lot with several cars. The image is framed by decorative wavy borders in shades of green and blue.

# Anchorage Parks & Recreation Community Gardens Handbook



# Introduction to the Gardens

Welcome to the Municipality of Anchorage Community Garden Handbook! Our community garden plots are dedicated to the growing of food, herbs, and flowers, providing a space for residents to cultivate their own green oasis.

The demand for community garden spaces in Anchorage dates back over 50 years. In the early days, many residents lacked access to gardening space at home but still wanted to grow their own food. In response to this need, the Municipality of Anchorage opened its first community garden in 1974 at the C Street Community Gardens.

Since then, interest in gardening has only grown, leading to the expansion of more community gardens across the city. Today, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department manages five community gardens: C Street, McPhee, Bragaw, Fairview, and Chanshtnu.

Participating in a community garden offers numerous physical, mental, and social benefits. Gardeners stay active while cultivating fresh, locally grown produce, contributing to improved physical health. The time spent outdoors under the sun fosters mental well-being, while the sense of accomplishment that comes with tending a garden is truly rewarding. Community gardens also provide a great opportunity to connect with neighbors and build a strong, supportive community, leading to healthier, happier lives for all.

The Anchorage community gardens are open for gardening from April through October. Due to high demand, each participant is typically allowed one plot per person. Garden plots that are well-maintained may be eligible for renewal in future seasons.

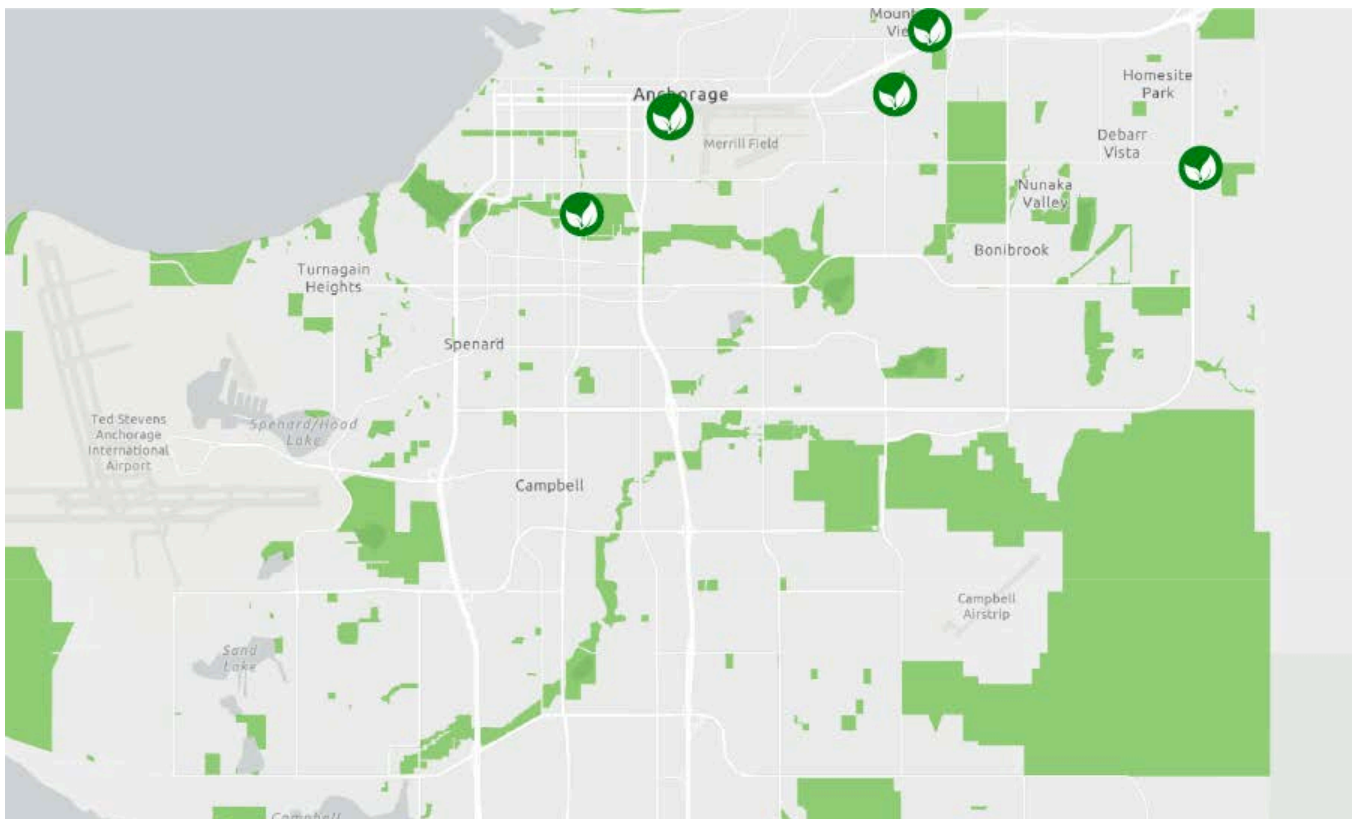
McPhee  
Community Garden  
N. Pine St & McPhee St  
Number of Plots: 50 Plot  
Size: Approx. 10' x 20'

Bragaw  
Community Garden  
368 Bragaw St  
Number of Plots: 44  
Plot Size: Varies

C Street  
Community Garden  
C St & W. 19th Ave  
Number of Plots: 67 Plot  
Size: Approx. 10' x 20'

Fairview  
Community Garden  
E. 8th Ave & Karluk St  
Number of Plots: 32  
Plot Size: Approx. 10' x 15'  
Raised Beds: 3' x 8'

Chanshtnu  
Community Garden  
8100 Debarr Road  
Number of plots: 50  
Plot size: Approx 10'x 20'  
Raised Beds: 3' x 8'



Garden amenities vary from site to site. Sites should have portable toilets, garbage bags available and parking. Other available amenities may include picnic tables and a small area for children to play. Parks and recreation staff monitor all garden plots and amenities.

# Community Garden Timeline

Garden plot renewals occur from January to February. New gardeners must submit their applications for the Community Garden Lottery by the end of February. Staff will notify the lottery winners by mid-March. Gardening season starts in late April. Garden preparation may involve weeding, soil conditioning, planting, and cleaning the garden pathways.



A thriving garden requires both time and dedication. To keep your plot in optimal condition, it's recommended that each gardener spend 3 to 5 hours per week tending to their garden.

Please remember that all gardening activities must take place within the park's regular operating hours, from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

## Important Notice to Gardeners

Gardens must be planted by the **end of the first week in June** to ensure proper use of the plot. If a plot is not planted by this deadline, it will be considered abandoned. In this case, the plot will be forfeited, and no refunds will be provided.

It is **crucial** to communicate with Parks and Recreation staff if you are unable to meet this timeline as there are ways we can help. Failure to communicate will result in the loss of your plot.

Please take this deadline seriously and plan accordingly.



### **Garden Progress**

By mid-June, gardeners must have planted and worked at least half of their plot. By the third week of June, the entire plot should be fully planted. Throughout the season, weeds must be kept under six inches in height to allow Parks and Recreation staff to properly assess garden progress.

Community gardens are a shared space and should be welcoming, positive environments for gardeners and visitors alike. To ensure everyone's safety and access to the gardens, please keep debris, weeds, and large rocks out of the gardens.

### **End of Season**

Each gardener is for cleaning and/or preparing their plots for the next season. This includes removing dead plants, rocks, temporary supports/structures, and other debris from their plots and the adjacent walkways.

### **Mid-September**

The city water to the gardens is shut down for the winter season.  
nd of October

### **End of October**

All cleanup must be finished by this deadline. If not, the Parks and Recreation staff will inform the gardener, giving them five days to complete the cleanup or risk losing their renewal privileges for the following year.

**Community Garden Headquarters**  
**Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet at Russian Jack Springs Park.**  
**1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane, Anchorage, AK 99504**  
**Ph: 907-343-6992**

## **Plot Renewal & Lottery Registration**

January 15 - February 28

Renew on line or in person

Lottery winners for new garden plots are  
announce in March



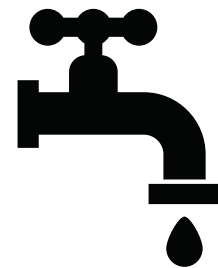
## **Access to the Gardens**

April - Lock Combinations will be given to  
gardeners and they may begin working their plot



## **Mid-May - Water Turn On**

Water will be turned on at gardens, weather permitting



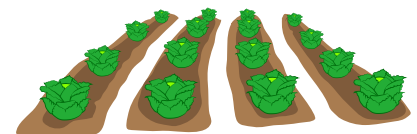
## **Mid-June - Planting in Progress**

Gardeners should have half of their plot planted



## **Third week of June - Full Plot Planted**

Gardeners should have their full plot planted



## **Mid-September - Water Shut Off**

Water will be turned off to all the gardens





# Community Gardens Guidelines

The intent of these guidelines is to make sure our community gardens are safe and productive. By participating in the community gardens, the gardener agrees to abide by the guidelines outlined below and any that are posted at garden sites.

## **Gardens**

Plant vegetables, herbs, flowers, and small fruit plants to be harvested for consumption. If you are unable to consume all 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.

## **Compost**

Weed and compost receptacles may be provided at your garden. Please place your garden waste in the proper container to keep the gardens clean.

## **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 remove the plot marker stakes or extend their plot past the plot markers or into the garden pathways.

## **Structures**

Garden structures must not be more than four feet tall and four feet wide and should be in the center of the plot (see Hoop Houses on the next page). Be careful not to block sunlight from reaching your neighbors garden plot. Structures must not block the garden pathways or access to other plots or swing into the walkways.



### **Hoop Houses**

Small, semi-portable structures can be used for warming soil, starting seeds, and growing vegetables. Hoop houses should not exceed four feet in height, shadow neighboring plots, or obstruct garden pathways. Most hardware stores sell PVC piping in 8-10 ft sections. This length is perfect for making structures that do not exceed the four-foot height restriction.

### **Fencing**

Fencing system must remain inside the plot markers and be four to six feet in height. Fence posts must be metal or composite. Fencing that is unsafe, outside the plot markers, blocking the walkways, or failing to meet the height requirements will be removed. The following materials are not allowed for fencing.

### **Pathways**

Each gardener is responsible for weeding their pathways surrounding their plot. These pathways 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.

### **Garden Waste**

Garbage bags are picked up weekly. Gardeners should use the bags provided for depositing their organic materials. All bags should be placed outside the fence in a designated area.



## **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. The waterlines are turned by Mid-May and turned off in Mid-September (actual dates will vary based on weather conditions).

## **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 907-343-4554. It is your responsibility to pay for any repairs necessary from damaging a water line.

## **Organic Gardening**

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

## **Parking**

Use the designated parking area provided or legal street parking. Motor vehicles are prohibited from entering the community gardens or driving on the grass.

## **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.

## **Litter**

Please pick up any litter or plant waste from the pathways and common areas. Do not place rocks or other heavy items into waste receptacles or throw rocks and weeds over the garden fence.

## **Children**

Children are encouraged to learn the many benefits of gardening at a young age. Please supervise your children to make sure they respect the neighboring garden plots, walkways, and other gardeners.

## **Pets**

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

## **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.

## **Garden Neighbors**

Get to know your neighbors and keep an eye on the community garden. Aware neighbors and gardeners will help to prevent vandalism and theft by non-gardeners. Fencing is provided at the gardens to discourage negative activity and keep animals such as moose out, but these things may still happen.

## **Maintain Communication**

Notify the Community Garden Coordinator at 907-343-4463 or [communitygardens@anchorageak.gov](mailto:communitygardens@anchorageak.gov) 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.

## **Forfeiture of Plot**

Failure to follow these guidelines could result in forfeiture of your gardening privileges. A written notice of a violation will be posted in your plot, emailed and letter sent to address on your rental agreement. It is your responsibility to provide up to date address and contact information to Parks and Recreation Staff. You may update this information by calling 907-343-6992 or updating your own registration profile online. You will have five days to correct the violation. If there is no response to the warning your plot, plot fee, and deposit will be forfeited for the year. Forfeited plots are not eligible for preferential plot renewal for the following season.

# McPhee Community Garden



Address: N. Pine St & McPhee St

Number of Plots: 50

Plot Size: Approx. 10' x 20'



# Bragaw Community Garden

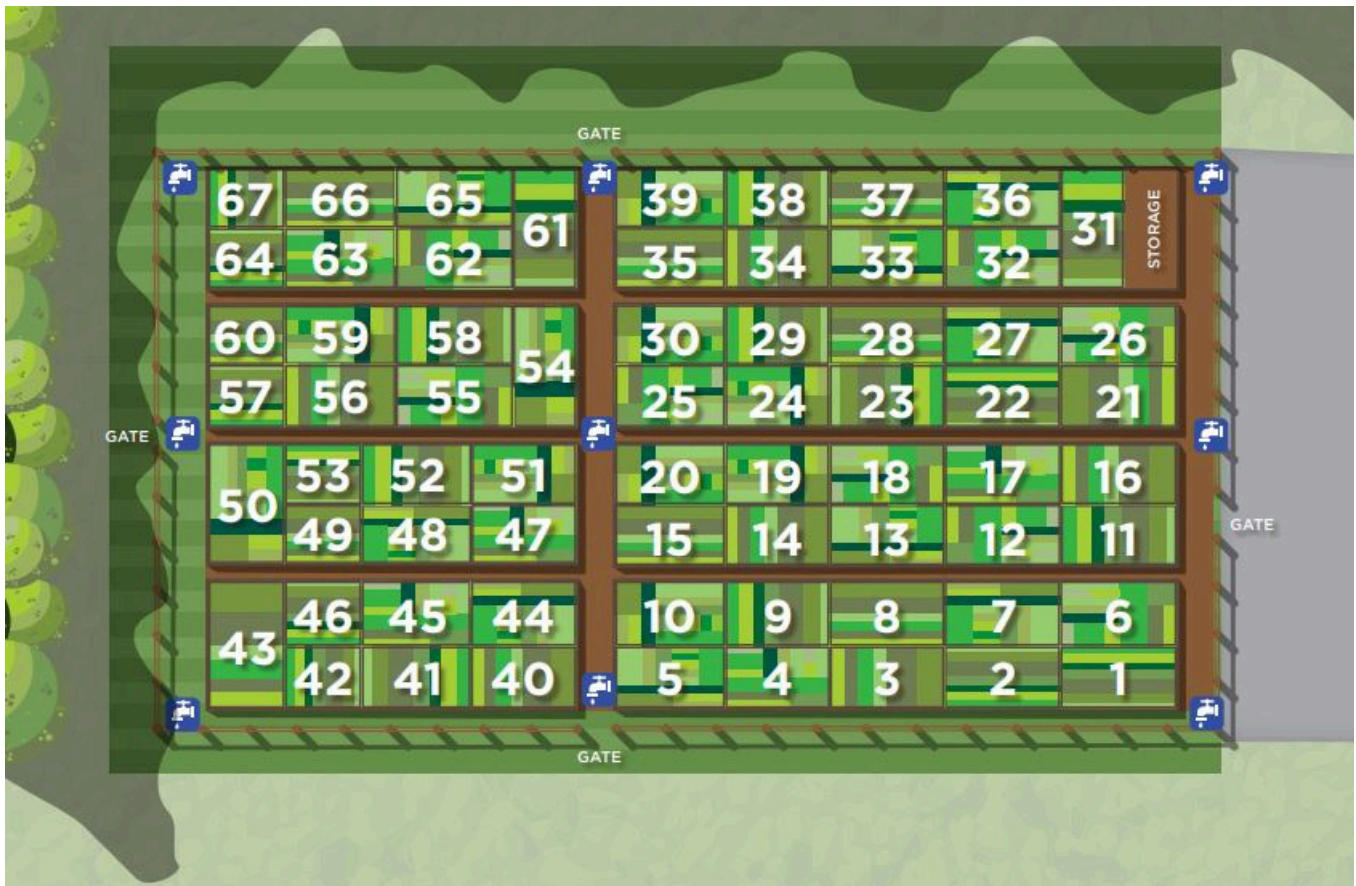


Address: 368 Bragaw Street

Number of Plots: 44

Plot Size: Varies

# C Street Community Garden



Address: C St. and W. 19th Ave

Number of Plots: 67

Plot Size: Approx. 10' x 20'

# Fairview Community Garden



Address: E. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and Karluk St.  
Number of Plots: 32  
Plot Size: Varies



# Chanshtnu Community Garden



Address: 8100 Debarr Rd.

Number of Plots: 50

Plot Size: Approx. 10' x 20'

Raised Beds: 11 Plots; Approx. 3' x 8'



**Community Gardens Coordinator**  
**907-343-4463**  
**[communitygardens@anchorageak.gov](mailto:communitygardens@anchorageak.gov)**