



## Community Garden Rules

Renters agree to maintain their plots under the following guidelines. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in forfeiture of the opportunity to rent next year.

### **General Information**

- Garden plots are available in both 10' x 8' and 10' x 12' sizes. Accessible table beds are also available for gardeners with disabilities.
- Garden plots are rented to a specific person/household and are not transferable. Each household will be allowed only one plot.
- Gardeners agree to plant by June 1 and to maintain the garden for the entire season. Plots not used by June 1 will be canceled and rented to the next person on the waiting list. No refunds are issued for unused gardens.
- Gardeners will notify the city in advance if they must abandon their plot. Failure to notify the city will result in forfeiture of future use of the community garden.
- Gardeners must supply their own seeds, plants, organic fertilizer, and equipment for proper growing, cultivating, and harvesting of their crops.
- Gardeners agree to only plant annual crops of vegetable, fruit, herbs, or flowers (to attract pollinators). Gardeners are not allowed to grow hemp/marijuana, perennial flowers, perennial fruits (i.e., raspberries), woody vegetation, shrubs, or trees.
- Gardeners should use fencing to delineate and protect their garden. Orange or bright colored fencing is not permitted. Fences shall not be taller than 6 feet or encroach walkways.
- The yard waste carts are for plant material (including weeds and inedible produce) only. Please put any garbage in the trash carts located elsewhere in the park. Putting rocks or trash in the yard waste carts creates problems because the compost facility will likely reject the load which means it's landfilled.
- Absolutely no dumping of any materials onto adjacent park property.
- No pets allowed in or around the gardens.

### **Be a Good Neighbor**

- Please get to know your neighboring gardeners. Let them know if you are temporarily unable to water, weed, or harvest your garden. If you can't harvest when things are ripe, let a neighboring gardener, friend, or family member know and they may be able to help you by picking your produce and finding a home for it. There is no point in letting good produce go to waste.
- Please be respectful of your neighboring gardeners and their crops. Never place weeds, rocks, or debris in someone else's plot.
- All vegetation must remain inside fences and out of the way of the areas to be mowed. Please keep vining plants from growing into adjacent plots.
- Gardeners planning to erect tall trellises, fences, or plant supports must consider their neighbors and place those structures so as not to shade adjacent plots.
- Plots are rented in "as is" conditions based on how it was left by the previous gardener. Please garden knowing that someone else will inherit that plot.

### **Weeds**

- Gardens should be kept clean and free of weeds. This includes any walks adjacent to or bordering other sections of the garden.
- Use of pesticides or herbicides is not allowed. Use only certified organic fertilizers in a way that doesn't affect other plots. Gardeners who violate this policy will forfeit their plot.
- Gardeners may use landscaping fabric but must remove it at the end of the season.

- If a plot has excessive weeds, gardeners will be given a two-week notice to clean the plot up. If not cleaned up after that time, the plot will be re-assigned and cleared. Gardeners who neglect or do not keep their plot free of weeds will not be allowed to get a plot in the future.

#### **End of the Season**

- All produce should be harvested and all non-plant supplies (such as stakes, fencing, supports, string, row markers, landscaping fabric, etc.) should be removed by October 23 or first frost, whichever is later. At the end of each gardening season, the grounds will be tilled by the City.
- Gardeners will be responsible for pulling or unearthing all plants, stems, stalks, and roots at the end of the season. The City will communicate with gardeners via email instructing them where to place the plants they pull.
- Any items left behind after October 23 will be forfeited. Staff time, dumping fees and any other costs associated with cleanup of leftover materials will be billed to each plot renter as applicable.
- Gardeners who fail to properly clean up their plot at the end of the season will not be allowed a plot in the future.