



CITY OF NEWPORT COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Community Garden Policy is to recognize community gardens as a valuable community activity that fosters the development of a community identity and spirit, contributes to health and well-being, encourages positive social interaction, community development, environmental education, connection to nature, and utilizes open space for nutritious food production. The City of Newport encourages community gardening by collaborating with local civic groups and non-profit organizations in the development and support of community gardens.

COMMUNITY GARDEN DEFINED

A community garden is a plot of land that is managed and maintained by community gardeners and the City to produce food crops, flowers, or plants for private use, consumption, or donation. City parks or designated natural open spaces are not to be used for community gardens but the City may assist in establishing community gardens on other public or private parcels of land.

GARDEN PLOTS

There are 8 plots that are 10 feet by 10 feet and 8 plots that are 5 feet by 10 feet. Garden plots will be staked out by the City and marked with an identification tag and may not be enlarged.

Garden plots are assigned on a first come / first serve basis. Returning Gardeners from the prior year who did not violate the community Garden Policy will be able to register their previous year's plot from **February 1 through the 2nd Monday of March**. Returning Gardeners who fail to register their plot by the end Monday of March will have their plot forfeited. New gardeners who are Newport City residents may register for an available plot from the **2nd Monday in March through the 2nd Monday in May**. Any plots not reserved by the 2nd Monday of May, may be rented on a yearly basis by non-Newport residents or may be rented as a second plot by existing plot holders. Gardener's who wish to obtain a second plot must determine which plot will be their primary and which will be the secondary plot. The secondary plot will not be available for renewal until after the 2nd Monday in May if available. Community garden plot holders who had two plots in 2018 will be grandfathered in and may keep their two plots for 2019 and subsequent years if they register prior to the 2nd Monday of March.

GARDEN HOURS

Participants may garden at their own convenience from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

GARDEN COST

To help cover the cost of water and occasional clean-up by the City, each garden plot will cost \$10.00 for a 5' x 10' plot and \$20.00 for a 10' x 20' plot. An additional \$20.00 deposit will be collected by check with the application to ensure that the community gardener cleans up their plot no later than **November 10th**. This deposit will be refunded at the end of the season after the gardener has cleared all plant material and structures out of his or her plot. However, gardeners discontinuing use of their plot before this day will have their deposit returned upon verification of clean-up by the City.

GARDENER AGREEMENT

In an effort to keep the community garden vibrant and healthy for all participating members, the following rules have been established and will be enforced:

The community gardener agrees to:

1. Keep their plot, and the paths bordering their plot, free of weeds, rotting or diseased vegetation, and other items that may harm the community garden.
2. Supply their own seeds, fertilizer, and tools for proper preparation and cultivation of crops.
3. Harvest produce only from their garden plot.
4. Remove paper, trash, and debris from their garden plot area. Place any rocks removed from their plots in the designated rock barrel.
5. The gardener must not expand their plot beyond the staked-out dimensions or into paths or other plots.
6. Harvest all crops and clean up their garden plot by **November 10th**. Plots not cleaned up will result in a non-return of the deposit and forfeiture of the plot for the following year.
7. If a garden plot is not used or attended to for 21 days, or if the garden is not planted by **June 1st**, will be considered a voluntary forfeiture of the plot and the City may lease the garden plot to another gardener. Any plot forfeited for non-use will not be eligible for the deposit to be returned.
8. Comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
9. Community gardener shall either remove unwanted organic waste from the premise or place organic waste in the designated compost site located on the premise. **The only material to be put in to the compost site is plant material from the garden plots.** Gardener are encouraged to properly maintain the compost site as needed.

RESTRICTIONS

1. The community garden is intended solely for personal use. Gardening for commercial purposes is prohibited.
2. Garden plots may not be used to grow trees or illegal plants of any kind.
3. Dumping debris onto other garden plots is prohibited.
4. Gardeners are discouraged from using synthetic or organic chemical herbicides or pesticides.
5. No smoking within 25 feet of the Garden. Tobacco smoke can transmit tobacco mosaic virus to tomatoes and other plants.
6. Fresh manure is prohibited; well-aged manure may be used.
7. Rocks and wood chips are prohibited.
8. Un-attended water sprinklers are prohibited. Hand sprinklers may be used within the gardener's plot.
9. Permanent structures, fixtures, or equipment, or temporary items creating a nuisance in the Garden is prohibited. Ex; shadows un-reasonably casting onto other garden plots, inhibiting paths/use of other plots, connecting to the garden fence, etc.
10. Leave adequate space for plant growth so plants will not overhang onto paths or other plots. Crops, plants, vines, and vegetation must be contained within the boundaries of one's garden plot.
11. Gardeners whose plots are adjacent to the boundary fence must not allow plants to grow on the fence or attach items to the fence due to problems with deer.
12. Gardens may be fenced with a maximum fence height of five (5) feet.
13. Loud music and pets are prohibited in the community garden.
14. On-street parking is allowed on 15th Street and 4th Avenue.

LIMITATIONS

The City of Newport reserves the right to have full access to all garden plots at any time in order to ensure that all rules, regulations, and laws are being observed, and if necessary, may terminate a garden plot lease or activity for any reason.

*Gardeners are considered in good standing if they have adhered to all of the conditions laid out in this policy.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

The City of Newport assumes no liability for any injury, damage, theft, or loss of property belonging to garden user participants, before, during, or after their usage and / or lease. The community gardener agrees to assume all responsibility and to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City against all actions, claims, damages, or demands which may be brought or made against the City's interest in the premises by reason of anything done by the community gardener, in the exercise or purported exercise of the right and privileges herein granted.

The City may terminate a community gardener's use of City property under this Agreement immediately for any reason.

THE CITY OF NEWPORT ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS OR INJURY TO PARTICIPANTS OR OTHERS EITHER ON OR ADJACENT TO THE GARDEN AREA. NEITHER DOES THE CITY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTS OF VANDALISM OR LOSS OF CROPS OR PERSONAL PROPERTY DUE TO THEFT.

I agree to abide by these conditions set forth for the Community Gardener.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Requested Plot Number: _____

For City Use

Check #: _____ Date Paid: _____ Plot Number: _____

Deposit Received: _____ Deposit Returned: _____ Deposit Destroyed: _____