



WHEELER COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICIES

The Wheeler Community Garden is a gardening opportunity for Wheeler resident. The community garden is located at Upper Park, near the intersection of 2nd and Rowe. The community garden is a grass-roots effort by citizens who expressed an interest in joining a community garden and is supported by the city. The city developed the garden space with tilling, initial soil amendment and fencing. Individual rental plots are available year-round for residents of Wheeler. Every effort will be made for gardeners who have amended and diligently tended certain plots to be assigned the same plot(s) from year to year. The remainder will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for a very modest rental fee and clean-up deposit. These individual plots provide families and individuals access to land to grow the plants of their choice. Gardeners are responsible for planting and tending their plots, and must agree to the following Garden Guidelines when they register for a plot.

GARDEN GUIDELINES

- Organic gardening methods are required. Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides must be OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) approved.
- The garden is intended for annual vegetables and flowers that attract pollinators. Perennials (plants that come back every year) are not allowed.
- If you are having pest or disease problem, please call the Tillamook County Master Gardener program office at (503) 842-3433 and ask for assistance that is organic in nature. They will work with you to find a solution.
- Gardeners are welcome to garden from dawn to one hour after dusk seven days a week. Expect to spend a minimum of 3-4 hours per week tending your plot during peak gardening times (May - September). Your ability to commit time and energy to your plot will provide you with an ample harvest, and will protect your plot and your neighbors' from unwanted weeds, slugs, and insects. Using healthy soil building techniques provides quality produce for the current gardener and an improved site for future gardeners.
- In the spirit of bringing "community" to this garden, gardeners are expected to contribute a minimum of 10-hours per gardening season to help with general garden maintenance and beautification. During the growing season (May-September), there will be monthly 2-hour work parties when the gardeners all work together for a couple of hours to maintain and beautify the commons areas. All gardeners are expected to participate.
- For the safety of all, keep common areas and paths clear. Do not pile hoses, tools, mulch, weeds, rocks, or other supplies in these areas.
- Respect other gardener's plots. Do not harvest from other's plots without permission. Be careful not to drag hoses over other gardener's plots!
- Pets and smoking are not allowed in the garden. A responsible adult must accompany all children under 14 years of age.



REGISTRATION

The city will register garden plots for yearly use. Every effort will be made for gardeners who have amended and diligently tended certain plots to be assigned the same plot(s) from year-to-year. The remainder will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Gardeners must pay for their plots when reserved. Non-returning gardeners must apply for clean-up deposits in order to receive them, at the end of their gardening season. Returning gardeners' clean-up deposits are transferred from one season to the next, however the plot rental is due each year.

Gardeners must provide current contact information to the city so they can be reached promptly when necessary.

TOOLS & PEST MANAGEMENT

Gardeners provide their own tools. It is highly recommended that you label any tools you bring and take them with you when you leave. The city is not responsible for lost or stolen supplies.

Slugs are the most prevalent pest problem in our area. OMRI approved slug bait is available that is non-toxic to pets and birds. Other techniques to use include small shallow tin cans of beer with a rock or loosely fitting lid to prevent dilution by rainwater. The slugs are attracted to the yeast in the beer, crawl into the beer and cannot get back out. Another practice to reduce slug damage is hand picking after dark with a flashlight or putting rough textured materials such as broken oyster or eggshells around delicate plants.

PLOT MAINTENANCE

- The city will maintain the water system and urge gardeners must be conscientious about water use. Do not leave hoses or sprinklers on overnight or untended. Please use mulch to conserve water. As a rule of thumb - water 1" twice a week.
- All garden plots must be maintained. Plots may not be left bare or fallow. The right to garden here may be revoked if plots are not well-maintained as spelled out in these guidelines.
- You are responsible for cleaning up your plot at the end of the growing season. All dead plant matter and weeds should be pulled and discarded, and all decorative items removed. Plots must be cleaned up by December 31st in order to request a refund or transfer of clean-up deposit.
- Do not walk on your garden as it compresses the soil and makes it harder for desirable plants to grow and creates a difficulty in weed removal. Mulching helps greatly to keep weeds down, build healthy soil and conserve water. Master Gardeners can give you information about mulch types and sources.
- Weeds must be kept under control. Weeds more than 2" tall or starting to flower indicate an untended plot. After other gardeners observe a plot looking abandoned, it will be reported to the city and attempts will be made to contact the registered gardener for one-week. If contact is made, the gardener has one additional week after the contact date to restart their garden work. If contact is not made, or if the additional one-week period expires without the gardener restarting their garden work, the city will classify the plot as abandoned. The gardener's rental fee, deposit, and use of plot will be forfeited for the season.
- Please do not let produce go to waste. If you are unable to keep up with your garden and its production, notify another gardener or donate your additional harvest to the Food Bank.

