

# Community Gardens



## General Information

Thank you for your interest in the City of Gresham's three Community Gardens:

- City Hall campus, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway
- Thom Park in SE Gresham, 1135 SE 9th Street
- Yamhill Park in Rockwood, 19309 SE Yamhill St.
- Nadaka Park in West Gresham, 17550 NE Pacific St.

The Gresham Community Gardens mission is to provide:

- An opportunity to grow fresh produce and flowers
- A connection to the outdoors and the environment
- A social connection with neighbors and community

## Registration Process

Registration is limited to people who live and work in Gresham. A Community Garden Permit is required annually with priority given to existing gardeners. Garden plots may be rented for a one-year period. Renewal letters go out in Fall, with renewals beginning October 1st. Gardeners typically retain the plot currently assigned, but may request a different plot during renewal. Registration opens to new gardeners February 1st. Garden plots are limited to one plot per individual. Two plots per household after June 1st only, if available. A signed Garden Agreement Form must be on file before using the garden. If your desired garden location is unavailable, please contact the Community Gardens Manager to be placed on a waiting list.

## Payment

On-line registration using a credit card is now available. Annual permits are \$25 and are non-refundable if cancellation occurs more than 14 days after registration. Register on-line using a credit card at [www.greshamoregon.gov/gardens/](http://www.greshamoregon.gov/gardens/), or in person at the utilities desk at Gresham City Hall, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, ground floor. The City accepts cash, check, money order, Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Do not send cash in the mail. If you are unable to register on-line or have questions, contact Gresham Community Gardens Manager Adam Kohl at 971-231-4191.

## Growing Season

By May 1, garden plots should be in the "getting started" stage. Gardeners are encouraged to weed and plant earlier, as weather allows. Minimum requirements include:

- Weeding.
- Working/tilling the soil in preparation for planting.
- Pathway clean-up. Gardeners may organize work parties to replace chips in the pathways or perform other tasks.
- Crops must be legal, for home use and not for commercial purposes.
- Compost bins are provided. Weeds, dirt and rocks

should not go in the compost bins.

## Garden Basics

Community Gardens are "working gardens" and must be maintained, planted and stay within plot boundaries. Gardeners who have consistently weedy, unsightly, or unplanted plots will be notified to remedy the problem within 14 days or the plot may be reassigned to a gardener on the wait list.

Gardeners must keep the pathways next to their plots free of weeds, garbage and plants. No newspapers, plastic or carpet should be used to line the paths. Do not allow plants to shade other's garden plots, grow into or hang over into the walking paths. City staff will deliver bark chips for mulching on an as-needed basis. Gardeners are responsible to spread bark chips on adjacent pathways to reduce weeds.

Community Garden Permits only partially cover the cost of operating the Community Garden Program. Please water only your assigned plot and do not let water drip or flood other plots or pathways. Mulch helps to conserve water.

## Ecologically Friendly & Organic Gardening

Organic gardening is encouraged and expected. Chemicals such as herbicides (weed killers), and insecticides (insect killers) are not allowed. The Organic Materials Review Institute has developed organic gardening guidelines. Please visit [www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org) to learn more. Basic organic practices include, but are not limited to:

- Organic fertilizer and pest control only
- Use cover crops over winter
- Mulch to conserve soil moisture and reduce weeds
- Rotate crops annually
- No treated lumber
- No chemical slug bait

OSU Master Gardener hotline:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/extension-ask-an-expert>  
503-445-4608 / [mcmastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmastergardeners@yahoo.com)



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## Harvest Time

Annual crops should be harvested and the plants cleaned up, composted or prepped for winter crops by October 31. Water will be turned off for the season by this time. Harvest only from your assigned plot(s). Harvesting from another gardeners plot is theft and may be reported to the police.

## Children & Pets

Children should not be left unattended, or have access to the garden without parental supervision. Pets must be leashed and not allowed to run free. Clean up after your pets.

## Housekeeping

Please notify the Community Garden Manager of any issues that prevent you from tending your plot or if you will be gone for an extended period of time. Failure to communicate may prompt staff to conclude that the plot is abandoned. Gardeners who do not keep their garden plots maintained will forfeit their plots.

## Sharing, Transferring, and Nonprofit Use

Garden plots are not transferable, but you are welcome to invite others to help you garden. Nonprofits are also encouraged to use the gardens with their clients. However, anyone who is not a member of the registered gardeners household must complete and return the gardener agreement to the Community Garden Manager before working in the garden plot unattended. This does not make the additional person a registered gardener, and does not give them a status as a returning gardener the following season.

## Additional Garden Plots

Until June 1, no household may have more than one plot. After June 1, a second individual in the same household may request an additional plot for \$25, if available. Second plots are available for one growing season only.

## Theft and Vandalism

Report all incidents of theft or vandalism to Gresham Police using the Police Online Reporting System located at <http://greshamoregon.gov/PoliceReports>. Please call the Community Garden Manager to follow-up, or to discuss any concerns.

## Volunteers

The City welcomes volunteer assistance and has many ways to involve community members in parks, trails and natural areas. For more information on such opportunities, please contact the Office of Neighborhoods & Community Engagement at 503-618-2482.

## Contact Information

Please contact the Community Garden Manager, Adam Kohl, with your feedback or suggestions. The City is always looking for ways to improve the community gardening program in Gresham.

Adam Kohl  
Community Garden Manager  
971-231-4191  
[adam@outgrowinghunger.org](mailto:adam@outgrowinghunger.org)

