

# Happiness Gardens Community 2021

## Information, Policies, Regulations, and Procedures

All Gardeners are responsible for being familiar with, and obeying all garden rules. If you have any questions regarding these rules, please contact:

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### Community Garden Program:

- The garden season runs from April 1st until November 1st. Gardeners are welcome to work garden plots only between these dates.
- Gardens are open sunrise to sunset.
- Water & hoses are available June 1st through October 15<sup>th</sup>, **weather dependent**.
- Some tools & wheelbarrows are available on site.
- Trash (for non-plant material), composting dumpster (for plant material), wood mulch and a portable toilet are provided by the City, on site.
- Key information, important dates including garden events and notice of city maintenance activities to the gardens will be communicated through email and the garden kiosk.

### Gardeners are responsible for:

- A clearly-worked, weeded and harvested plot all growing season
- **Clear, weed-free pathways around their assigned plot – plants should not grow into pathways** – so plan accordingly.
- Seeds and plants
- **Organic** Fertilizer
- Hand tools
- Row covers/cages/trellis etc.
- Tools
- Maintaining current address, phone numbers and email address with the City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Staff through the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center.
- Obeying all municipal, park and garden rules.

### Plot Assignments:

- Gardeners may register for a single plot or a maximum of 2 plots per household. **Please keep in mind, there is no guarantee that the second plot will be adjacent to your first plot.** An adult is considered to be 18 years of age or older.
- Registration occurs in person, at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center.

- The community garden plot fee is charged annually, and must be paid prior to receiving a plot assignment and working a plot.
- Returning gardeners who qualify for early registration will already have their plot assignments.
- New gardeners and those who register beginning in March will be assigned a plot on a first come/first serve basis.
- Gardeners will receive their plot number within 2 weeks before April 1st.
- Garden plots are non-transferable (to other gardeners) except through the City.

### **Refunds/Revocation:**

- If a garden plot is voluntarily relinquished and notification given to the city by May 1<sup>st</sup>, the plot fee will be refunded minus a \$5.00 processing fee. **No refunds will be given after May 1st.**
- The City has the right to revoke plots for any reason, including failure to comply with these stated rules.
- No refunds will be issued for plots that have been revoked.
- Plots which remain unplanted after June 1st, or have become overgrown with weeds at any point in the season will be classified as “abandoned’ by the City. At this time, the City will attempt contact with the gardener via a) email, or b) a phone call. If arrangements cannot be made to maintain the plot, access to the plot will be revoked.

### **Plot Neglect/Abandonment:**

- Plots must be obviously worked and weeded by May 1st, weather permitting.
- By June 1st any abandoned or unworked plots will be reassigned and no refund given.
- Plots eligible for reassignment will be made available first, to the wait-listed registrants (by June 15th approx.) and then to existing gardeners on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- During the season, if a gardener is unable to keep or maintain their plot, the gardener must contact the City (email or phone call). Then the gardener will need to make arrangements for their plot to be maintained temporarily or the plot will need to be reassigned for the remainder of the season. These situations will be considered on a case by case basis according to the gardener’s circumstances.

### **Sharing Surplus:**

- **No sales of produce can occur at the Happiness Community Garden.**

### **Plot Maintenance Requirements:**

- Plots must be reasonably maintained, which means weeds under control and plants are regularly cared for, pruned, watered and harvested.

- Plants must not exceed plot boundaries. Gardeners are required to keep plants in their allotted space.
- Those gardeners with plots that border fencing or garden boundaries are required to maintain pathways, as designated, between any plants (at maturity) and the fence/boundary. **No plants or plant growth is allowed in this pathway.** City personnel require access to all fencing and the boundaries of the gardens.
- **By November 1st**, all garden accessories must be removed, such as walls of water, fencing to keep out animal pests, buckets, irrigation/drip line, row covers, wire cages, trellises, stepping stones, stakes, rocks, bricks, etc.
- Plant material may be left in the garden for the goats that will arrive right after November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Leaves/organic matter/ yard waste/kitchen scraps may not be stockpiled or stored in plastic bags or under tarps on the plot.

### **Pathway Maintenance:**

- It is each gardener's responsibility to keep their paths clear, weed-free, and mulched.
- Mulch is provided for gardeners to apply on the pathways to discourage weed growth.
- **Gardeners are required to weed and maintain a 7 foot-wide pathway for hose bibs, and a 3 foot-wide pathways around each plot.** Gardeners with 2 adjacent plots can eliminate the 3 foot path between the two plots.
- Access paths around each plot are to be 3 feet wide, 7 feet wide for paths with hose bibs.

### **Mechanized Equipment:**

- In keeping with local noise ordinances, no person shall operate mechanized equipment including roto-tillers and similar mechanisms, between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday-Friday and between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

### **Weed Control:**

- Gardeners are responsible for weed control. If weeds occupy more than 50% of the assigned plot, contact will be made by the city (via email or phone). If there is no return communication from a gardener, or resolution of the weed issue has not been solved within 1 week of call/email, the plot will be revoked.
- Noxious weeds require immediate removal by the gardener.
- The City will **assist** with weed control in the common areas, shelters, around the enclosures for portable restroom, etc.

### **Chemical Use:**

- Gardeners may not use non-organic/synthetic herbicides and pesticides (i.e., those also disallowed under current U.S. organic agricultural regulations).

- Please use natural fertilizers such as aged manures (*no horse manure*) or compost.

### **Fencing and Accessory Garden Structures:**

- Rock or gravel may not be brought in or used in the garden plots.
- The only furniture allowed in plots, is a bench/chair for use by the plot's gardener.
- **No structure or crop** in the garden may exceed a height of 5 feet. This includes, corn, sunflowers, hops, trellising, fencing, stakes, cages, posts, and hardware.
- Fencing (except chicken wire or wire mesh used to keep out animal pests) is not allowed.
- **Decorations, props, signs, statues, flags, etc. are not allowed.**
- Please do not leave tools in plots.
- Cold frames will only be allowed from April 1<sup>st</sup> thru November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Water & Hoses:**

- Watering should be carefully controlled; a gardener should ensure that watering remains within their assigned plot.
- **Gardeners may not leave hoses in use, unattended; this includes soaker hoses.**
- Return hose to hose bib when done using. Disconnect hose from spicket, especially if there is a possibility of freezing.
- Report any leaks in faucets/hoses to the City, immediately.

### **Not Allowed in the Gardens:**

- Marijuana or Hemp cultivation, tires, pressure-treated wood, carpet, barbed wire, smoking, music (except on personal, electronic devices and ear buds) and unleashed pets are not allowed. Children must be supervised at all times.
- The City of Wheat Ridge reserves the right to deny re-registration to a gardener with a track record of non-compliance to the rules, neglect, and forfeiture of garden plots. Additional information pertaining to plot revocation procedures is available upon request.