

Happiness Community Garden

Program Guidelines and Information

Participation in the Community Garden

Happiness Community Garden is a program of stewardship that aims to create a positive gardening experience and community where everyone feels welcome. Individuals participating in the Community Garden are encouraged to contribute to the cooperation, positive communication and camaraderie needed to build a successful and inclusive community garden for all. With this in mind, we have developed a set of guidelines for participation in the program. All Gardeners and their guests are responsible for being familiar with the guidelines and respecting this space.

Community Garden guidelines are designed to protect the safety and enjoyment of the community. From time to time, circumstances may arise that require the City of Wheat Ridge to issue new guidelines. In the event of a change, garden participants will be notified in writing (via email). If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please contact the Happiness Community Garden Coordinator.

Contact Garden Coordinator,
Krystyn "Yy" Dennis
303.882.4770
kdennis@ci.wheatridge.co.us

Plot Information and Registration

Full Plot 10' x 20': \$50 Resident \$60 Non Resident

Half Plot 10' x 10': \$25 Resident \$30 Non Resident

Market Growing Areas \$ 350 for 1/16 acre \$ 700 for 1/8 acre

Flower Plot 6' x 25': \$30 Resident \$35 Non Resident

Raised bed: \$10

- You must be 18 to register for a garden plot.
- Register online by clicking [here](#) or in person, at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center.
- Garden plots are an eight-month rental from April-November, paid annually.
- Community members may register for a maximum of two plots per household.
 - There is no guarantee the plots will be adjacent to each other
- Returning gardeners
 - Register in February and usually keep their plot from the previous year.
 - However, The City of Wheat Ridge reserves the right to deny re-registration to a gardener that abandoned their plot.
- New gardeners
 - Can register in March and are assigned plots on a first come first serve basis.
- Gardeners will receive confirmation of their plot assignment mid-March.
- Plots transferable through the city Garden Coordinator.

Happiness Garden Policies

- Happiness Garden is open from April 1 thru November 1.
 - From sunrise to sunset
- Registered gardeners are welcome to tend garden plots between these dates and times.
- Water and hoses are available **weather dependent** from June 1 thru October 15
- Some tools and wheelbarrows are available

- Please clean and return them when finished using
- Dispose of trash (non-organic material) in dumpster any plant (organic) material goes to the compost area
- Gardeners MAY NOT use synthetic (non-organic) herbicides or pesticides (use only those allowed under current US organic agricultural regulations)

Community Gardener Responsibility

- It is the gardener's responsibility to understand, review and follow garden and municipal policies
 - Maintain current address, phone number and email address with the City of Wheat Ridge parks and rec department.
 - Check for important information via email and at the garden kiosk. We will communicate information like dates, events and notice of city activities.
- Provide your own seeds and plants
 - Hand or specialty tools
 - Row covers, tomato cages, trellis, etc.
- Use only organic fertilizer or pesticides
- Clearly tend and harvest your garden plot all season
 - Plots must be reasonably maintained, which means weeds under control and plants are regularly cared for, pruned, watered, and harvested.
- Maintain plants within your allotted space. Plants must not exceed plot boundaries.
- It is each gardener's responsibility to keep their paths clear, weed-free, and mulched.
 - Maintain clear pathways around your assigned plot(s). Access paths around each plot are 3 feet wide, and main paths are 7 feet wide for hose bibs.
 - Do not allow plants to grow into pathways
 - Gardeners with 2 adjacent plots can eliminate the 3-foot path between the two plots.
- 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 and other personnel require access to all fencing and the boundaries of the gardens.
- By November 1st, all garden accessories must be removed, such as fencing, buckets, irrigation line, wire cages, trellises, stones, stakes, and rocks.
 - Plant material should be left for the goats that arrive the first week of November.
 - Goats support our regenerative soil plan.

Not Allowed in the Garden

- Marijuana or Hemp cultivation
- Tires, pressure-treated wood, carpet, barbed wire
- Smoking, music (except on personal devices with earbuds)
- Pets must be on a leash
- Children must be supervised.

Fencing and Garden Structures

- Small rock or gravel may not be brought in or used in the garden plots
- Limit furniture to a bench or chair for use by the gardener
- No structure or crop in the garden may exceed the height of 5 feet. This includes corn, sunflowers, hops, trellising, fencing, stakes, cages, posts, and hardware.
- Fencing such as chicken or mesh wire to keep out pests is allowed
- Decorations, props, signs, statues, flags, etc. are not allowed.
- Please do not leave community tools in plots
- Cold frames allowed from April 1-November 1

Water & Hoses

- Watering should be carefully controlled; a gardener should ensure that water remains within their plot.
- Gardeners may not leave hoses in use, unattended; this includes soaker hoses
- Return hoses to bib when done using.
- Disconnect hoses from spigot when there is a freezing possibility.
- Gardeners must be present while watering
- Report any leaks in hose spigots to the city, as soon as possible.

Weeds

Our primary focus is to increase soil health and use natural fertilizers to encourage the growth of the plants we desire. (A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.) The primary weeds our garden faces are bindweed and thistle. We recommend cutting these plants with garden shears at the soil surface then cover the area with mulch (such as cardboard and wood chips or compost.) Try to keep the 'weeds' off your crops and cut before they go to seed. We will offer more information on weed mitigation through the season.

Plot Abandonment/ Neglect

- If a garden plot is voluntarily relinquished, refunds will be given (minus \$5.00 processing fee) if notification is given before May 1st. **No refunds will be given after May 1st.**
- By June 15th any abandoned or unworked plots will be reassigned, and no refund will be given.
 - Plots eligible for reassignment will be made available first, to the waitlisted registrants 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 (by email or phone). The gardener can make a temporary maintenance plan, re-assign the plot, or use sheet mulch or other regenerative practice to rest the bed for the remainder of the season.
 - These situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to the gardeners' circumstances.
- The city has the right to revoke the plot for any reason, including failure to comply with these stated rules.

Mechanized Equipment

- Local noise ordinance states, "no person shall operate mechanized equipment between the hours of 7am-7pm Monday-Friday and 8am-7pm Saturday and Sunday. Please observe this ordinance.

Sharing Surplus

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

Events

- Many Hands days/community workdays. Join gardeners and participate in work projects that benefit the community. These workdays are optional and encouraged. We will work on path maintenance, building compost and soil amendments.
 - This is also an opportunity to request help from the community for personal garden plot projects.
- This is a 2-hour block of time where we will work together and in small groups. Come for some or all and help as much as you want.
- Potluck dinners are offered throughout the season. The city will provide a grill and grilling tools. Gardeners can bring a dish to share and something to grill. Please label ingredients in case of allergies. These are zero waste events please bring your own cutlery including plate, napkin and utensils.
- Master Garden Clinics: join CSU Master Gardener for pastries and coffee in your plot. Troubleshoot, plan, and identify issues in your plot.
- Harvest Festival: our year end celebration to show off our gardens and share in the harvest.

Happiness Garden Calendar

February

6-17 Early Registration- open to returning gardeners

March

6-17 Registration for any remaining plots

April

1 Happiness Garden opens

1 & 18 Many Hands 8-10 am

12 Regenerate Wheat Ridge Workshop: Seed Starting 8:30-9:30 am

May

6 & 16 Many Hands 8-10 am

10 Regenerate Wheat Ridge Workshop: Regenerative Ag 101 8:30-9:30 am

TBD Plant Give away (weather dependent)

June

3 & 20 Many Hands 7-9 am

11 Master Garden Clinic 8-10 am

14 Regenerate Wheat Ridge Workshop: Peek into a Bee's Life 8:30-9:30 am

29 Meet and greet Potluck 6-8pm

July

1 & 18 Many Hands 7-9 am

9 Master Garden Clinic 8-10 am

12 Regenerate Wheat Ridge Workshop: Goats @ Lewis Meadows 8:30-9:30 am

27 Potluck 6-8pm

August

5 & 15 Many Hands 7-9 am

9 Regenerate Wheat Ridge Workshop: Regenerative Farming Showcase 8:30-9:30 am

13 Master Garden Clinic 8-10 am

September

9 Many Hands 7-9 am

10 Harvest Festival 3-5 pm

13 Regenerate Wheat Ridge Workshop: Preserving the Harvest 8:30-9:30 am

October

7 & 28 Many Hands 9-11 am

11 Regenerate Wheat Ridge Workshop: Putting the beds to bed 8:30-9:30 am

November

1 Closing date: All hardscape material must be removed. All organic material left for goats