

The Bridge Community Garden
1819 South High Street
- Gardener Authorization and Responsibilities -
- Maintenance Guidelines -

The following guidelines outline the management of the Community Garden and its site property. These guidelines have been established by the Garden Steering Committee and the University of Denver. The University of Denver provides gardeners with the authority and permission to use the garden site. We, as a community, have a responsibility to keep our garden managed effectively. The garden is a privilege and everything works more smoothly when people are involved in its overall upkeep. Please also remember to treat your fellow gardeners as you would like to be treated.

With your signature below, you acknowledge as a participating gardener responsibility for the following:

1. Submitting annual dues totaling \$25.00 for each plot. You will have access to your plot for both the summer and winter growing season. If you choose not to participate in the winter season your plot will be made available to other interested parties; the annual fee will not be prorated.
2. If for any reason you find that you cannot care for your garden, you are required to notify the Steering Committee and make arrangements with other gardeners to water and maintain your plot during your absence. If a garden appears neglected/abandoned (unwatered and/or overrun with weeds) you will be given ten (10) days notice to maintain your plot. After this time your plot will be re-assigned.
3. Water restrictions and conservation measures must be followed. A gardener **MUST** remain on the premises while his/her garden is being watered unless using a gravity-fed drip irrigation system. The garden cannot allow excess water to drain onto the street or adjacent property. We do not allow the use of overhead watering. Multi-function hose nozzles will be provided as well as drip irrigation if requested.
4. It is our policy to prohibit the use of non-organic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
5. The maintenance of Common areas and furnishings, fencing, trees, trash receptacles, compost bins, street and alley right-of-way, and water lines are the shared responsibility of all gardeners.
6. Gardeners must have their plot substantially planted with seasonally appropriate crops by May 25th or the plot will be forfeited and reassigned.
7. Each gardener is responsible for clearing and tilling his/her plot before the close of the season. All dead plants, weeds, trash, tools, sticks and cages are to be removed or stored by November 1st. This does not apply if a gardener chooses to extend the growing season through the use of cold frames, hoops, or other methods. All gardeners must tend their plot in compliance with the steering committee's Maintenance Guidelines (see below).
8. The Garden Steering Committee shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability, in its garden membership and the administration of its programs.

WAIVER AND RELEASE

1. I desire to participate voluntarily in the gardening and other activities sponsored and

- coordinated by the University of Denver at the High Street garden site.
2. I understand, accept, and assume the risks associated with participation in any and all activities. I also assume the responsibility of conducting myself in a civil manner which is mutually beneficial to all participants. Unacceptable conduct generally includes, but not limited to, vegetable theft, tool theft, profanity, and any offensive behavior.
 3. I assume full responsibility for any injuries which may occur to me, as well as the safety of my family and guests, and do hereby fully and forever discharge and release the University of Denver, its employees, board members, officers, agents, authorized volunteers, students, faculty, representatives, consultants, insurers and sureties, and their successors and assigns (collectively, the "Released Parties"), from any "Claims." "Claims," as used in this document, mean any and all claims, demands, damages, rights of action or causes of action, present or future, whether the same be known, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of my presence or the presence of my family members and guests on the garden, activities at the garden, the use or intended use of the garden, and/or participation in activities connected with the University of Denver including, without limitation, any of the foregoing resulting from or arising out of the negligence of a Released Party. Further, I hereby waive any and all Claims against a Released Party.
 4. I expressly acknowledge that participation in the garden is for my purposes and convenience and not for the purpose and convenience of any one or more of the Released Parties.
 5. In the event that a dispute arises between gardeners, or between a gardener(s) and the designated garden steering committee, and a resolution of the dispute cannot be reached by these parties, I agree to have Denver Urban Gardens act as the arbitrator of the dispute, and I further agree to adhere to Denver Urban Gardens' decision as final.

- Maintenance Guidelines -

The University of Denver requires the Garden Steering Committee (GSC) to ensure participants keep their garden sites clean, attractive and orderly at all times – especially during the winter. The garden must have a year-round unified appearance to landowners, city officials, and the general non-gardening public. To this end, the GSC established the following requirements of all participants. The benefits of a well-maintained garden are at minimum three-fold:

- 1. the use agreement for the garden remains in good standing with the University of Denver ,**
- 2. owners, neighbors and non-gardeners enjoy and recognize the garden as a community asset,**
- 3. your garden will harbor fewer pests and weeds, and will be healthier from season to season.**

Please remember, it is very difficult for a few gardeners to do all the work; everyone must do their share. View participating in a community garden as a privilege. Not maintaining this communal space runs counter to our goal of empowering the garden to be self-sufficient. The GSC is, however, committed to assisting gardeners with cleanup, if the garden is out of compliance with these guidelines and is in jeopardy of losing its use agreement.

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

1. GARDEN PLOT: Each plot must be kept clear of weeds, spent plants, debris and trash. Each fall, turn compost and organic material into the soil and cover it with a layer of mulch to regulate soil temperature and retain moisture throughout the winter. This makes a garden plot look cared for to the passer-by. It's important to recognize all gardens have a significant role and responsibility regarding the sustainability of the garden. Any perennials in your plot must appear well kept. In addition, you are responsible to maintain the area immediately adjacent to your plot including paths, compost bins, trash collection areas, fences and the garden's other common spaces.

2. VERTICAL STRUCTURES: Structures to encourage vertical growing including arbors, trellis, tree branch frames, fence sections, and cages are only allowed during the growing season if they are functional, orderly, safe and attractive. Vertical structures used for growing must appear in good condition and contribute to the garden's overall visual continuity. Tomato cages, bean poles, stakes or small trellis(s) must be made of thin wood or wire. All growing structures must be disassembled and removed during the off-season. Any permanent structures in the garden will be allowed to remain if they are in good condition and attractive from the street.

3. "OFF-SEASON" STORAGE: the following items are not authorized to be left standing during the off-season, and must be disassembled and stored in the garden shed or removed from the site when not in use:

- chairs and individual benches,
- shoes, clothes (shed only),
- wire cages, fencing,
- plastic plant pots, tools,
- piles of brick and stone,
- water bottles, milk bottles,
- sticks, steel "t" posts, • wheel barrows, wagons • bags of compost or leaves
- buckets, plastic containers, • pipe, hoses and nozzles • non-permanent garden art

4. COMPOST BINS: Individual compost bins are not allowed; they typically distract from the visual continuity of the garden. We do, however, encourage using and maintaining community compost bins. All material used in compost bins must be chopped in one to three inch pieces before being added. Please do not add diseased plant material. Plastic bags of spent plants, grass clippings and leaves are not allowed to be stored in your garden at any time. To "passers-by" they appear as bags of trash. Unopened bags of topsoil, compost or manure are also not to be stored next to your plot. Please use designated storage areas. Chop and spread these materials in your plot immediately, allowing for decomposition and integration with your existing soil. Consider trench or pit composting techniques.

5. PLOT BOUNDARIES: Interior "boundary fences" around individual plots are discouraged; they are hard to weed and can quickly make the overall garden unsightly. The preferred boundary is a weed-free edge between your plot and the adjacent path or neighbor. The GSC has decided to use burlap sacks filled with dirt for plot boundaries. As the burlap sacks decompose, gardeners may choose to install another edge material. We also discourage the use of pressure treated landscape timbers and wood; sustainably harvested cedar is a non-toxic alternative. We do encourage you to divert waste materials from landfills and creatively

reuse them for your plot boundary.

6. THE GARDEN IS A “COMMUNITY” RESPONSIBILITY: Everyone must take responsibility for maintaining the common areas of the garden such as:

- compost bins and tool shed • trees, flower beds and lawn
- pathways and courtyards • trash containment areas
- street fronts and sidewalks

Gardeners will be assigned one or two communal features that they are in charge of maintaining. This will be determined at the beginning of each summer growing season and addressed as needed.

GSC RESPONSIBILITIES

The GSC is available to assist with irrigation, basic gardening skills, tree pruning, tools and new communal features. By following the “Garden Maintenance” Guidelines, you also contribute to ensuring community gardening continues citywide. Please remember our garden can be either a positive or negative example of a garden project, affecting the ability for the GSC to secure garden space in other neighborhoods surrounding the University of Denver for new projects.