



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Community Garden FAQ

Q: What is a community garden?

A: A community garden is a private or publicly owned parcel of land, divided into separate plots that are rented out to the local community who can cultivate and grow their own produce and flowers for personal use. Community gardens allow families and individuals the opportunity to produce food and provide a place for gardeners to share knowledge and skills.

Q: What are the benefits of gardening?

A: Not only can gardeners harvest healthy fresh fruits and vegetables from their plots, gardening is also a great source of physical activity. Spending time in the garden with the other gardeners also helps build a sense of community for the local neighborhoods that take part in the experience and can share their expertise with fellow gardeners. Community gardens also have the ability to bring together diverse backgrounds for sharing cultural traditions and learning opportunities for all ages.

Q: How many community gardens does THPRD have?

A: Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District has 17 community garden sites with over 500 plots for rent each season. Most of the gardens are adjacent to new or existing THPRD parks/trails with the exception of Kennedy Garden, Southminster Garden, and Welch-Centennial Garden. The following are the locations for THPRD's community gardens:

A.M. Kennedy Park	10200 SW Kennedy Street
Barsotti Park	16610 SW Blanton Street
Bethany Lake Park	NW 185 th & NW West Union Rd (along the Rock Creek Trail)
Cedar Hills Park	2300 SW Cedar Hills Blvd
Eichler Park	13710 SW Farmington Road
Harman Swim Center/Park	7300 SW Scholls Ferry Road
Howard M. Terpenning Complex	15707 SW Walker Road
Jackie Husen Park	10955 NW Reeves St
John Marty Park *	Powerline Corridor between Charlais & Somerset Drive
Kennedy Garden	SW 103 rd & Kennedy
Mountain View Champions Park (MVCP)	5915 SW 170 th Ave
Pío Pío Park	2135 SW 187th Ave
Recuerdo Park	SW Marty Lane
Ridgewood Park	SE Corner of Highway 217 and Wilshire
Evelyn M. Schiffler Memorial Park	Access off Bonnie Brae, Erickson or Berthold
Southminster Community Garden	Southminster Presbyterian Church, 12250 SW Denney Road
Welch-Centennial Garden	SW 10 th & SW Erickson

** Organic Garden - has specific rules for its gardeners.*

Q: How much are the garden plots?

A: Garden fees must be paid at the time of the application. Plots come in a variety of sizes and costs. An agreement must be signed and returned with payment. Approval from the district must be granted **before** you can begin gardening.

Garden Fee Schedule (cost per season November-October)

Fees are subject to increase each season

Plot size	In-district	Out of district
Small (<100 sq. ft.) <i>Raised beds and 5'x10' plots</i>	\$30	\$38
Standard plot 10'x10'x 12'x12', 15'x15'	\$43	\$54
Large (>255 sq. ft.) 12'x23' and 20'x20'	\$68	\$85

Schedule for renewal of garden plots:

- October 1-31: Returning in-district registration with a maximum of one (1) plot per household
- December 1-30: Remaining plots made available to those in-district residents on the wait list who do not have a plot
- February 1: Remaining plots made available to out of district gardeners, for that season only

Q: What are the sizes of the garden plots?

A: Typically, garden plot sizes are 12' x 12'. A.M. Kennedy Park and Barsotti have plots that are 10' x 10'. Some smaller or ADA raised beds are available at A.M. Kennedy, Bethany Lake, Pío Pío Park, Recuerdo Park, Schiffler Park, and Welch-Centennial. Smaller or raised beds range from 4' x 8' to 4' x 12' or 5' x 12'. Harman has 15' x 15' and 15' x 23' plots, and Kennedy and Welch-Centennial gardens have 20' x 20' plots.

Q: How do I get a plot?

A: In order to obtain a plot, one must be available for you (determined by community garden coordinator). Gardeners will need a valid THPRD account. [Getting a THPRD membership is free and easy](#). If you do not have one and you live within the THPRD boundaries, you can visit any THPRD office with valid photo ID to show proof of residency. You will need to fill out the reservation form, sign the community garden agreement and pay the fee for the plot **before** you begin gardening.

Q: What if I have no experience gardening?

A: All levels of experience are welcome! A great way to get started is to ask your fellow gardeners. The more experienced gardeners are always willing to share advice and help out new gardeners. There are many great books that are available at your local library that will be a great source of information as well. For online help, visit <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/> for more information.

Q: Will I be guaranteed a plot next season if I have one this year?

A: Yes, unless you forfeited your plot due to non-compliance of the guidelines or missed the deadline to renew your space. Returning gardeners have first right to renew if they are in good standing.

Q: What if all the plots are full? Can I get on a wait list?

A: Yes. If all the plots are rented, wait lists for each garden are available. You may complete the [wait list form](#), call 503-629-6300 or email your contact information, including name, address, phone number, and preferred sites to communitygardens@thprd.org. Your information will be added to a wait list at no charge. If a plot becomes available, staff will contact the first person on the list and offer it to them. At that time, if you choose to take the plot, you will be responsible for payment. Wait lists carry over from year to year.

Q: If I am on a wait list, when will I be notified that a plot is available?

A: Gardeners on a wait list will be notified when a plot becomes available in their name at any time during the year. Generally, those on a wait list are contacted after returning gardener registration has been completed, or when a plot is vacated mid-season.

Q: What are acceptable plants/items allowed in the garden?

A: Vegetables, small fruit plants, herbs and flowers are all appropriate for the community garden space. No trees, grapevines, bramble plants, or large structures that may cause excessive shade on other plots are allowed. Non-gardening items such as buckets, rubber totes, or furniture are not permitted in the garden. Items of this nature must be removed at the end of each day as to not clutter the garden with unnecessary debris. Hoses may be kept on-site but must be coiled neatly within your plot and not out in the pathway as this makes it difficult for gardeners to safely navigate the garden.

Q: Are the gardens organic?

A: There are plots that have been designated organic at John Marty Park. The use of pesticides and herbicides are not permitted in any garden.

Q: Does THPRD provide any tools or equipment for the garden?

A: No. THPRD provides the plots and the water for the garden only. All other gardening items, such as, tools, hoses, seeds and soil amendments are the gardeners' responsibility. The water is turned on mid-March through mid-October (weather permitting).

Q: What if I see a gardener violating the rules/regulations in the garden?

A: Please call the Administration Office at 503-629-6300 if you notice gardeners who are violating the rules, if there is a problem or a maintenance issue that needs to be addressed. The office is open Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm. Safety Services can also be notified and can be reached at 971-246-0169.

Q: Are pets allowed?

A: No. Gardeners are not permitted to bring pets into the garden, with the exception of service animals.

Don't see your question here? If you have a question that is not answered here, please contact the Administration Office at 503-629-6300 or email communitygardens@thprd.org and the garden coordinator will assist you.