



Community Garden Guidelines

Welcome

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District's (THPRD) community gardens are safe, inclusive spaces where community members can grow fresh produce and flowers. These guidelines support a positive, healthy gardening experience for all.

By registering, you agree to follow all guidelines listed here, posted at garden sites, and included in THPRD policies. Not following the guidelines may result in losing your plot or being suspended from the program.

Registration & Renewal Schedule

- Garden fees must be paid in full along with a completed registration form before the season begins
- A current THPRD account with up-to-date contact information is required
- October 1 – October 31: Returning in-district gardeners may renew (one plot max per household)
- December 1 – 30: Remaining plots offered to in-district patrons on the waitlist
- February 1: Remaining plots made available to out-of-district patrons for the current season only
- No refunds will be issued after 30 days of payment

Garden Season

- Garden season runs from November through October and includes winter gardening
- By April 30: Plots must show signs of activity such as weeding or soil preparation
- By June 1: Plots must show visible planting or garden growth
- Year-round maintenance is required, even if not winter gardening
- By October 31: Plots must be cleaned and winterized if not renewing
- Water is available from March 15 through October 15, weather permitting

General Garden Guidelines

- Gardens are open from dawn to dusk
- Gardeners are responsible for their assigned plot for the entire season
- Plot transfers are not permitted

Plot Maintenance

- Keep plots weeded and actively tended
- Gardeners must maintain any pathways and fence lines that border their plots
- Replenish wood chips on paths as needed or notify staff if gravel paths become unsafe
- Overgrown or neglected plots will receive a warning by email, mail, or phone

- Gardeners will be given a deadline to bring plots into compliance
- Failure to act by the deadline will result in forfeiture of the plot
- Gardeners may contact staff to discuss a garden plan if receiving a notice
- See [Community Garden Plot Cleanup & Forfeiture](#) process for more info

Layout and Design

- All plants, tools, planters, and hoses must be kept within plot boundaries
- Items are not allowed in common pathways or along perimeter fencing
- Plot expansion is not allowed
- Non-standard designs within a plot must be approved by the garden coordinator
- Trellises and arbors may not exceed six feet in height, must not cause shading of neighboring plots, and may not be permanently installed

Respect for Others

- Do not plant or build anything that excessively shades neighboring plots
- Do not pick from or handle other gardeners' plots
- Do not move another gardener's belongings

Reporting Issues

Immediately notify THPRD staff of the following:

- Water or irrigation issues
- Theft or vandalism
- Rule violations
- Pest or disease problems

Waste Management

- THPRD provides green waste bins/areas for garden waste only.
- Do not leave garbage, plastics, garden structures, containers, or other non-compostable items in or near the bins.
- To report illegal dumping, contact:
 - Garden Staff: 503-629-6300
 - Safety Services: 971-246-0169

Equipment and Water Use

- Gardeners provide their own tools, hoses, and supplies
- Motorized vehicles and tools (except small rototillers with approval) are not allowed in the garden
- Water plants by hand, preferably before 10 am or after 6 pm
- Altering or tampering with water lines or faucets is strictly prohibited
- See [Community Garden Automatic Timer Guidelines](#) for a full description on timer use
- See [Tilling in Community Garden Plots](#) for more information

Rodent Prevention

Gardeners are responsible for preventing rodent issues. THPRD does not trap or poison rodents. To help prevent rodents:

- Keep plots weeded and free of debris
- Harvest ripe produce promptly
- Remove standing water from containers
- Collaborate with neighboring gardeners on rodent prevention strategies
- See [Trapping in Community Gardens](#) document for more information

Cleanliness and Safety

- Keep plots clean and free of trash
- Glass containers are not allowed
- Furniture, umbrellas, and unrelated storage items are not permitted
- Gardeners must remove all materials from plots upon leaving the program

Prohibited Plants and Practices

- Growing is for personal use only - no commercial gardening is allowed
- Pesticides and chemical weed killers are not permitted
- Hydroponic gardening is not allowed
- Do not plant trees, grapevines, raspberries, blackberries, or invasive perennials (including mint, fennel, lemon balm, horseradish, bamboo, hops, etc.)
- Prohibited plants may be removed without notice
- Marijuana is not permitted on THPRD property
- Existing grape, berry, or tree plantings from before November 1, 2021 may be allowed if approved by staff and maintained within specific size limits. Staff have the right to request removal of any pre-existing plant at their discretion.
- Newspaper mulch is not allowed
 - Landscape fabric for winter ground cover is permitted with prior approval
- Do not use tires or rocks in garden plots

Garden Access and Deliveries

- Fenced gardens will have gates and locks. Please keep gates closed and locked when not in use.
 - Bethany Lake, Kennedy, John Marty, and Welch Centennial gardens do not have locked gates
- Soil or compost deliveries must be approved by maintenance staff in advance

Children and Guests

- Gardeners are responsible for the supervision and behavior of their children and guests
- Pets are not allowed in garden areas, except for service animals

Garden Service Hours

- Gardeners must complete at least two hours of garden service per season
- Opportunities are available at various THPRD events, not limited to the gardener's specific site
- Gardeners must register through the [Volgistics](#) system and log their hours online beginning November 1, 2025
- For alternatives to THPRD-organized events, gardeners must contact the garden coordinator
- See [Community Service Hours Requirement](#) for more info

Garden service options: <http://www.thprd.org/connect/volunteer/event-one-day>

Conflict Resolution

- Get to know your garden neighbors - open communication helps prevent issues
- If a conflict arises and cannot be resolved among gardeners, contact the garden coordinator
- Constructive, respectful communication is essential to a successful community gardening experience
- See [Community Garden Social and Behavioral Guidelines](#) for more information

Fee Schedule (2025–2026 Season)

Fees per season are scheduled to increase annually.

Plot Size	In-District	Out-of-District
Small (<100 sq. ft.)	\$30	\$38
Standard (10x10 to 15x15)	\$43	\$54
Large (>255 sq. ft.)	\$68	\$85

Contact Information

Jessica Kittleson
Community Gardens Coordinator
Phone: 503-614-4006
Email: j.kittleson@thprd.org or communitygardens@thprd.org

Jessica Justice
Community Gardens Program Assistant
Phone: 503-629-6300
Email: j.justice@thprd.org