



## **Community Gardens Program Details**

Reservation of garden plots require:

- a. A completed Garden Plot Registration and Release Form,
- b. An annual fee,
- c. A refundable security deposit, and
- d. A commitment to gardening for the entire season.

### Plot Registration and Assignment:

1. Applications for garden plots will be accepted from February 1 through March 15, with priority given to City of Carver residents. Each applicant is limited to one plot per person at this time. Plots will be assigned after the March 15 deadline. If more applications are received than plots are available, a random drawing will be conducted at that time. Applications not drawn for a plot will be placed on a waiting list.
2. After the assignment of plots is completed (after the registration deadline), any open plots will be assigned to City of Carver residents on a “first come” basis through May 1. If there are any remaining open plots after the final assignment of plots to City of Carver residents is completed (after May 1), applications from non residents can be awarded via a random drawing.
3. After the initial year and in subsequent years, the City of Carver will offer returning gardeners in good standing an opportunity to apply for a priority reservation. Two-thirds of the raised bed plots will be offered to returning gardeners (and one-third of the raised bed plots will be held until the March 15 deadline). In addition, one half of the ADA compliant planter boxes will be offered to returning gardeners (and the other half of the ADA compliant planter boxes will be held until the March 15 deadline).
  - a. January 1 through January 31: If a gardener had a plot in the previous season and is in good standing, they may submit an application before the application period opens to the general public (after March 15). The City of Carver will not accept any applications from new gardeners during this registration period. If more applications are received at this time than designated plots, a random drawing will be conducted after the February 28 deadline. Those not selected will then be included in the March registration selection. Returning gardeners can be assigned the same plot they had the previous season whenever feasible.
4. All required fees and the signed agreements are required to confirm reservation of a plot. No work may begin in any plot until the reservation has been confirmed.
5. After May 15, no refund of fees for cancelled reservations will be issued unless someone is willing to rent the plot.

6. Subleasing of garden plots is prohibited.

### Community Garden Rules

7. The Community Gardens will generally be available May 15 through October 15. Garden plots will open as soon as they are ready for the season. This means the frost is out of the ground and the soils are dry enough to till. Garden plots will be closed for the season on October 15.
8. Gardening is allowed between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.
9. Garden plots should be cared for at least once a week. If City staff is notified of a plot that is not in compliance, the gardener will receive a letter of non-compliance. The gardener will have seven (7) days to act to remedy the issue. If a gardener fails to respond and take action, the plot will be revoked and the gardener will not be able to apply the next season.
10. Gardeners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot. Watering, weeding, harvesting, and any other garden-related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener.
11. Water from the available irrigation system can only be applied while the gardener remains at the plot (do not leave the garden area with the water running).
12. The use of herbicides (commercial weed, insect or fungal killers) on garden plots is prohibited.
13. Gardeners will maintain their plants within their plots and will trim any plants that extend beyond their plot boundaries. Gardeners are asked to be aware of the height of accessories or plants to ensure they do not shade into the neighboring plots.
14. The City will provide fencing around the garden plots.
15. Items not allowed in the gardens include: illegal or poisonous plants (including but not limited to marijuana cultivation), plants that will spread into neighboring plots, bee hives, tires, hazardous materials, and any other items that are dangerous and/or illegal in nature.
16. Gardeners may only harvest items from their own plots.
17. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant materials and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring. Security deposits will not be refunded if the plot is not cleared by October 15.
18. The City of Carver does not assume any responsibility for theft, acts of vandalism, weather conditions, or any other factors that may affect the gardens. The City will not reimburse for any expenses incurred due to acts of theft, vandalism, weather conditions, or any other factors.